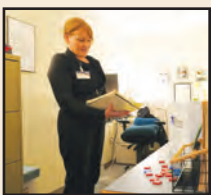


LOCAL

After launching in December, Guthrie's dyslexia diagnosis program has been in high demand.



Page 3

SPORTS

Cortland baseball notched a win in the first round of the Sec. III Class A tournament over Carthage Tuesday.



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# Cortland Standard

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024

CORTLAND, N.Y.

## City votes to re-negotiate sales tax deal with county

By JACK LAKOWSKY  
Staff Reporter

jlakowsky@cortlandstandard.com

The City of Cortland seeks to keep a larger share of sales tax revenue generated within its borders, and to that end the Common Council voted, 6-0, Tuesday to cancel the agreement with Cortland County.

Renegotiations with the county now formally begin, city Mayor Scott Steve said.

Steve said sales tax revenue to the city has been falling for years. He said

ideally the city and the county can come to an agreement, but he's willing to preempt sales taxes generated in Cortland. This way the city would collect it all inside the city — leaving the county and other municipalities to share what's generated outside the city.

This serves as a six-month notice of the city's intent to end the contract, which will terminate in November.

"Either way we're canceling the contract," Steve said. This is a necessary step to beginning negotiations.

Steve said the county has been buy-

ing more properties within the city, which houses many nonprofits and government and education facilities serving the whole county.

"We're still over 60% nontaxable properties," Steve said, a designation including nonprofits, government and religious properties. "It's hurting us."

According to the 10-year agreement, which began in 2019, the county gets \$1.5 million off the top of sales tax revenue. After that, it got 54% of the rest of the revenue; the city got 17.75% and towns and villages got 28.25%, for the

first five years of the agreement.

After the first five years, the share changed. The county gets 55% of the distributed sales tax, plus the \$1.5 million off the top, while the city's share fell to 17.38% and the towns and villages went to 27.62%.

Cortland County finished 2022 with \$39.2 million in sales tax revenue, show data from the state Comptroller's Office. In 2023, the county budgeted for \$36.5 million in sales tax revenue.

Based on the 2022 figure, and the formula from the first five years of the

agreement, the county received \$21.9 million, the city received \$6.7 million and the towns and villages received \$10.7 million.

Depending on negotiations, the city's share could increase. If it does, city residents would pay less in property taxes at the cost of other county residents, which would pay more. However, the city's share could also decrease. If it does, city residents would pay more in taxes while other county residents

See CORTLAND, page 6

## One 'dairy' sweet trail

X marks the ice cream on Experience Cortland map

The trail

To get a free Ice Cream Trail Map, go to [experiencecortland.com/request-visitors-guide](http://experiencecortland.com/request-visitors-guide)

Participating locations:

- D's Dairy Treat, Cincinnatus
- Little Treat Shoppe, Cortland
- Footie's Freeze, Cortland
- The Frosty Caboose, Cortland
- Truxton Outpost, Truxton
- Poole's Drive-In, Cortland
- Mountainside Cones & More, Virgil
- Frosted Bakery, Cortland
- Shipwreck Amusement Center, Cortland
- Super Cream Dairy Bar, Homer
- So Good Ice Cream, Homer

By LILY BYRNE  
Staff Reporter

lbyrne@cortlandstandard.com

One ice cream after another, and down the hatch it goes. Before you know it, you've made 11 stops.

The stops venture throughout the Cortland County Ice Cream Trail from Experience Cortland, where participants can get prizes, and maybe a \$100 gift card, just for grabbing a cone at each participating ice cream stand.

"With 11 fantastic locations and 13 weeks of summer, you can enjoy a different ice cream spot each week, and still have time to revisit your favorites," said Candace Rozansky, content creator for Experience Cortland.

Rozansky recommends syncing your visits to the more-distant locations with the yearly events, such as the Cincinnatus Field Days, Truxton Community Yard Sale and the Route 90 Garage Sale.

"We just go wherever is closest," said Jeremy Currie of Cortland, a visitor Monday at Footie's Freeze on Route 13 in Cortlandville. His favorite flavor is chocolate.

"My favorite's a chocolate and vanilla twist," said Stephanie Giroux, another



Margaret Mellott/Staff Reporter

Jeremy Currie and Stephanie Giroux of Cortland enjoy ice cream at Footie's Freeze, 1041 McLean Road, Cortlandville. The two don't have a favorite local place for ice cream, they'll just go wherever is closest, Currie said.

Footie's Freeze visitor.

Participants will receive a hole punch on their Ice Cream Trail map upon ordering a treat from any of the participating locations. Once the map is all punched, it can be brought or mailed to the Cortland County Visitors Center at 42 Main St., Cortland.

People who complete the map will get a Cortland County Ice Cream Trail enamel pin and sticker, and be entered into a drawing to receive a \$100 gift card to their favorite ice cream shop in Cortland County.

The trail, which was developed more

than seven years ago, was revamped with a new logo and art by artist Molly Reagan, who does murals through her company Good Neighbor Art. Reagan's go-tos are the dole whip from Footie's Freeze and the Satisfaction Sundae from the Frosty Caboose.

"People should do the trail to get out of town, try something new and see all of the great stuff Cortland County has to offer," Reagan said. "And hello! You get to eat ice cream. Maybe you'll find a new favorite."

See ICE CREAM, page 6

## Biden to release 1M barrels of gas

Move is a bid to lower prices at the pump

By MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration said Tuesday it is releasing 1 million barrels of gasoline from a Northeast reserve established after Superstorm Sandy in a bid to lower prices at the pump this summer.

The sale, from storage sites in New Jersey and Maine, will be allocated in increments of 100,000 barrels at a time. The approach will create a competitive bidding process that ensures gasoline can flow into local retailers ahead of the July 4 holiday and sold at competitive prices, the Energy Department said.

The move, which the department said is intended to help "lower costs for American families and consumers," follows a mandate from Congress to sell off the 10-year-old Northeast reserve and then close it. The language was included in a spending deal Congress approved in March to avert a partial government shutdown.

The Energy Department said the sale of 1 million barrels, about 42 million gallons, was timed to provide relief for motorists as the summer driving season begins.

Gasoline prices average about \$3.60 per gallon nationwide, up 6 cents from a year ago, according to AAA. Tapping gasoline reserves is one of the few actions a president can take by himself to try to control inflation, an election year liability

for the party in control of the White House.

"The Biden-Harris administration is laser-focused on lowering prices at the pump for American families, especially as drivers hit the road for summer driving season," Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in a statement. "By strategically releasing this reserve in between Memorial Day and July 4th, we are ensuring sufficient supply flows to the tri-state and Northeast at a time hardworking Americans need it the most."



Biden

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said release of gas from the Northeast reserve builds on actions by President Joe Biden "to lower gas and energy costs — including historic releases from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and the largest-ever investment in clean energy."

Biden significantly drained the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in 2022 following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, dropping the stockpile to its lowest level since the 1980s.

The election year move helped stabilize gasoline prices that had been rising in the wake of the war in Europe but drew complaints from Republicans that the Democratic president was playing politics with a reserve meant for national emergencies.

The Biden administration has since begun refilling the oil reserve, which had more than 367 million barrels of crude oil as of last week. The total is lower than levels before the Russia-Ukraine war but still the world's largest emergency crude oil

See GAS, page 6

## UN halts food distribution in Rafah after running out of supplies

By SAMY MAGDY, LEE KEATH and TIA GOLDENBERG  
Associated Press

CAIRO — The United Nations suspended food distribution in the southern Gaza city of Rafah on Tuesday due to a lack of supplies and an untenable security situation caused by Israel's expanding military operation. The U.N. warned that humanitarian operations across the territory were nearing collapse.

A senior United States official said Israel has addressed many of the Biden administration's concerns about a full-scale ground invasion of Rafah aimed at routing out Hamas fighters there. U.S. President Joe Biden had previously opposed a total military assault on a city filled with displaced civilians if plans

did not prioritize the safety of innocent Palestinians. The U.S. official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

The official said the administration stopped short of greenlighting the Israeli invasion plan, but said Israeli officials' changes to the planning suggested they were taking the American administration's concerns seriously.

Over the past two weeks, hundreds of thousands of people have fled Rafah in a chaotic exodus, seeking shelter in new tent camps or crowding into areas already devastated by previous Israeli offensives. Some 400,000 people are believed to still be in Rafah after around 900,000 rushed to escape, according to

COGAT, the Israeli military office in charge of Palestinian civilian affairs.

Getting aid to displaced civilians has been hampered by closed and chaotic land crossings, as well as problems plaguing the U.S. military's new floating pier meant to provide an alternative sea route for aid into Gaza. Over the weekend, hungry Palestinians took aid from a U.N. vehicle convoy coming from the pier, and the U.N. said since then it had been unable to receive trucks there.

Pentagon press secretary Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder told reporters in Washington that for the past few days, forward movement of aid from the pier was paused but it resumed Tuesday. There

See RAFAH, page 6



AP Photo/Hatem Ali, File

Palestinians line up for free food during the ongoing Israeli air and ground offensive on the Gaza Strip in Rafah, on Jan. 9.

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WEATHER



Partly sunny  
Tomorrow's Weather:  
High near 75  
Chance of showers  
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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.com](mailto:news@cortlandstandard.com).



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## Weather

### Local

**Rest of today:** Showers and possibly a thunderstorm, mainly before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Low around 62. South wind 3 to 6 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Thursday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 75. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

### Skies Today

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**  
 Sunset today 8:27 p.m.  
 Sunrise tomorrow 5:35 a.m.  
 Normal high temperature 69  
 Normal low temperature 46  
 Average temperature 57  
 Full moon May 23

### Extended

**Thursday night:** A slight chance of showers before 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53. Calm wind. Chance of precipitation is 20%.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 79.

**Friday night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58.

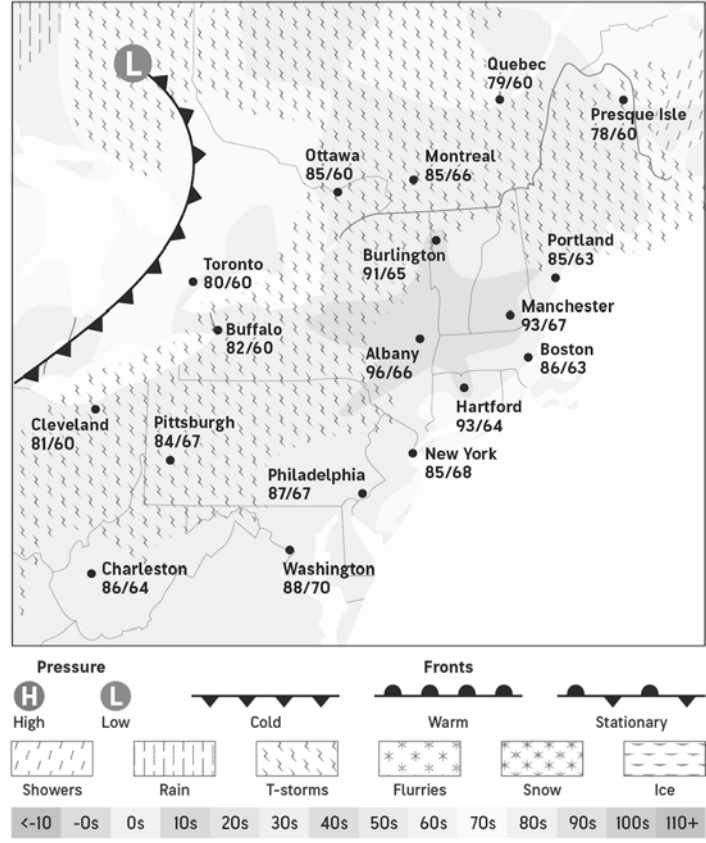
**Saturday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms after 8 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 76. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

**Saturday night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 54. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

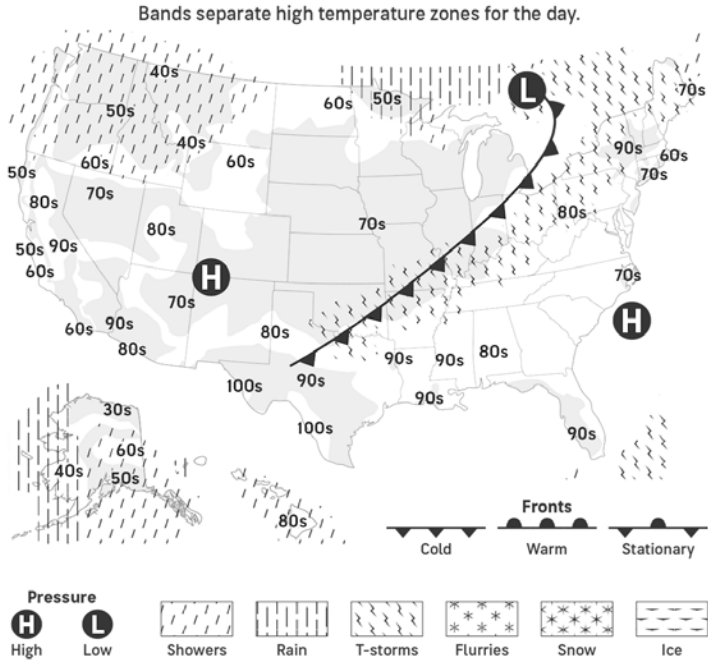
### Precipitation

May 20-21 None  
 Month to date 1.97 inches

### Forecast for Wednesday, May 22, 2024



### Forecast for Wednesday, May 22, 2024



**NATIONAL SUMMARY:** Locally severe thunderstorms will fire along and ahead of a front that will press east from northern Texas to the interior Northeast today. Many storms will bring downpours, hail and strong winds. Rain from a departing storm will taper off in the Upper Midwest. A new storm will spread rain and mountain snow showers across the Northwest.

©2024 AccuWeather, Inc.

## Lottery Winners

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

**Numbers:** Midday: 2-2-1, Evening: 6-6-1; **WinFour:** Midday: 0-7-5-9, Evening: 1-4-5-6; **Pick 10:** 2-3-6-12-16-21-25-29-32-34-39-48-52-55-58-62-63-72-73-78; **Take Five:** Midday: 3-12-30-33-35, Evening: 7-20-25-32-36; **Cash4Life:** 5-30-38-51-56, Cash Ball: 1, **Mega Millions:** 2-5-8-28-69, Mega Ball: 14, Megaplier: 2

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The Cortland Standard will print corrections and clarifications of news articles in this space. If you find mistakes or omissions, call the managing editor at 607-756-5665 x 166.

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# Trump's NY hush money trial enters a new phase after the defense rests



Dave Sanders/The New York Times via AP, Pool  
**Former President Donald Trump, left, sits in a courtroom next to his lawyer Todd Blanche before the start of the day's proceedings in Manhattan Criminal court, Tuesday, in New York.**

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump's hush money trial moved into a new phase Tuesday, drawing closer to the moment when the jury will begin deciding his fate after testimony concluded without the former president taking the stand in his own defense.

"Your honor, the defense rests," Trump lawyer Todd Blanche told the judge. Trump's team ended with a former federal prosecutor who was called to attack the credibility of the prosecution's key witness, one of two people summoned to the stand by the defense. The Manhattan district attorney's office called 20 witnesses over 15 days of testimony before resting its case Monday. The jury was sent home for a week, until May 28, when closing arguments are expected, but the attorneys returned to the courtroom to discuss how the judge will instruct jurors before deliberations, a sort of road map meant to help them apply the law to the evidence and testimony. The two sides haggled over word choices, legal phrases and how to describe various campaign-related issues.

Trump, the first former American president to be tried criminally, did not answer questions about why he did not testify.

Trump had previously said he wanted to take the witness stand in his own defense, but there was no requirement or even expectation that he do so. Defendants routinely decline to testify. His attorneys, instead of mounting an effort to demonstrate Trump's

innocence to jurors, focused on attacking the credibility of the prosecution witnesses. That's a routine defense strategy; the burden of proof in a criminal case lies with the prosecution. The defense doesn't have to prove a thing.

Yet even as Trump denounces the trial as a politically moti-

state Legislature then separately codified the abortion coverage regulation into law in 2022. The religious groups sued over the regulation, not the law.

The Court of Appeals case had larger significance because the state's law could be challenged

vated travesty of justice, he has been working to turn the proceedings into an offshoot of his presidential campaign. He's capitalized on the trial as a fundraising pitch, used his time in front of the cameras to criticize President Joe Biden and showcased a parade of his own political supporters.

Prosecutors have accused the presumptive Republican presidential nominee of a scheme to scoop up and bury negative stories in an illegal effort to influence the 2016 presidential election. Trump has pleaded not guilty to falsifying business records to conceal the alleged scheme and denied any wrongdoing. It's the first of Trump's four criminal cases to go to trial, and quite possibly the only one before the 2024 presidential election.

"They have no case," Trump said outside court. "There's no crime."

He also again attacked the prosecutor, despite repeated warnings from Judge Juan M. Merchan not to violate a gag order that bars him from publicly commenting on witnesses, prosecutors, court staff or the judge's family.

# Insurance rule for abortions upheld in NY

ALBANY (AP) — New York can continue to require companies with health insurance plans to cover medically necessary abortions, the state's highest court ruled Tuesday.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and other church

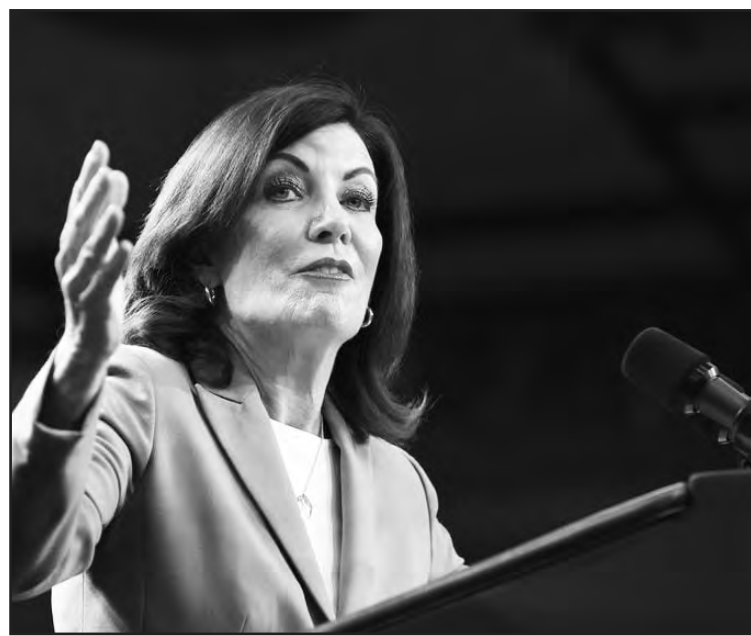
groups challenged the rule, arguing that the policy's exemption for religious employers was too narrow and would force some businesses to violate their religious freedoms.

State financial regulators approved the policy in 2017. The

state Legislature then separately codified the abortion coverage regulation into law in 2022. The religious groups sued over the regulation, not the law.

The Court of Appeals case had larger significance because the state's law could be challenged

using a similar legal argument, if the religious groups were successful in their case against the regulation. Arguments before the high court last month centered on whether the state's criteria for religious exemptions were too vague.



Dennis Nett | dnett@syracuse.com  
**Gov. Kathy Hochul talks about the jobs that will be created when Micron is built during a press conference.**

# NY names director of agency focused on semiconductors

By BRAD RACINO  
 syracuse.com (TNS)

Gov. Kathy Hochul has named a leader for the new state agency tasked with developing New York's semiconductor industry and coordinating efforts around Micron's \$100 billion investment in Central New York.

Merideth Andreucci will become the first executive director for the Governor's Office of Semiconductor Expansion, Management and Integration (GO-SEMI) within Empire State Development.

Andreucci comes from the state's Energy and Research Development Authority, where she worked as the assistant director of economic development to champion clean energy manufacturing in New York.

Before that, Andreucci was the program development manager at the Golisano Institute for Sustainability at the Rochester Institute of Technology. She also spent five years at ESD working in part to attract semiconductor companies to the state as the senior director of industry development.

"As an economic development professional who's been working in Upstate New York most of my career — to have this type of opportunity is truly a treasure," Andreucci told Syracuse.com | The Post-Standard prior to the governor's announcement. She'll be paid \$180,000 a year in the position.

Hochul announced the creation of GO-SEMI during her State of the State address in January 2023.

The governor included \$45 million for GO-SEMI as part of her 2024 budget, but its staff size and scope of authority is yet to be determined.

The new office will initially draw from the expertise of ESD staffers who have been working to lure semiconductor companies to the state for the past several years.

But how will it play alongside existing stakeholders?

CenterState CEO — Central NY's economic development agency — is involved in two big semiconductor-focused workforce initiatives: the Future-Ready Workforce Innovation Consortium, which is composed of more than 40 members including Syracuse University, Le Moyne College and Onondaga Community College; and the forthcoming ON-RAMP facility in Syracuse that will help expand workforce opportunities for disadvantaged populations.

Additionally, Onondaga County, which helped attract Micron, will oversee billions in water, wastewater, infrastructure and tax investments and incentives.

How GO-SEMI will work alongside partners like these, who are already participating in the semiconductor space, is undefined.

# NYS Senate eyes e-bike safety bill

By TIM BALK  
 New York Daily News (TNS)

As burning e-bike batteries wreak havoc across New York City, lawmakers in the state Senate debated a package of bills on Tuesday aimed at snuffing out the trend.

The Albany blueprint includes provisions that would set quality standards for batteries that power the devices, and require that e-bike shops carry sufficient fire-fighting equipment such as Class B extinguishers.

The legislative package would layer on similar city-level provisions. Its planks require approval from the Assembly and Gov. Kathy Hochul. But some parts of the package, including the battery quality standards measure, have already passed the Assembly.

"We're hoping we can push through all different angles to address the issue," said state Sen. Iwen Chu, the Brooklyn Democrat who is sponsoring legislation establishing fire safety standards for e-

bike businesses.

Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the majority leader and a Westchester County Democrat, said in a statement that the package is a "significant step forward in addressing the dangers" posed by e-bike batteries.

Still, some parts of the package may not reach Hochul's desk this year. Assemblyman Chris Eachus, the Orange County Democrat who is carrying Chu's store safety legislation in his chamber, said Monday that he did not expect it to pass the Assembly this session.

In 2018, New York City lifted a prohibition on riders zipping through city streets on e-bikes. The move greased pandemic-era food deliveries and offered locals an easier way to get around.

But e-bikes are powered by lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat, generating ferocious, fast-moving infernos with toxic dark smoke. The city has faced a multiyear surge in the battery blazes.



Theodore Parisienne for New York Daily News  
**Firefighters examine the damage done by an e-bike fire in New York City earlier this year. The city has faced a multi-year surge in the battery blazes.**

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# Company pitches two solar fields in Dryden, Groton

By DOUG SCHNEIDER  
Staff Reporter

dschneider@cortlandstandard.com  
A company from a small Sullivan County town has proposed two five-megawatt solar farms in Dryden and Groton.

The proposal from Delaware River Solar, based in Callicoon, calls for a solar farm in Groton and another in the village of Dryden, documents filed with the municipalities show. The Groton proposal was filed slightly earlier than in Dryden. The town of Groton has posted hundreds of pages on its website

related to the application, which is for a site near 801 S. Main St., outside the village.

The Dryden proposal is a site off Morris Road, which is Delaware River Solar's third project in the town. The company now operates 25 megawatts of "community solar assets," said company official Matt Mihaly, town minutes show.

Dryden Planning Director Ray Burger said he expected discussion and review of the proposal to last "for the next couple months."

"It'll be in front of the plan-

ning board at the next two meetings, and then the town board will have it again," Burger said. "They'll have to vote on whether to approve or reject it." Dryden's Planning Board meets at 6 p.m. Thursday.

Draft minutes from Dryden's April 25 Planning Board meeting show Delaware Solar told planning officials the project has:

Little visual effect.

No battery storage planned, unlike a solar project announced earlier this spring for the old Caswell Road Landfill site

in Dryden.

No identified endangered species on the site.

Planning board members asked the company to work with Dryden's fire department and to minimize the visibility of poles it sets up to neighbors across Morris Road.

The company is calling the Groton project NY Groton 1. Work would encompass 28 acres of a 102.2-acre parcel; the company indicates construction would require about six months from issuance of its building permits. It says that solar collec-

tors would be less than 12 feet high.

The company has submitted nearly 600 pages of documentation regarding the project. Much of the documentation, posted on Groton's website, is stormwater-pollution-prevention plans of nearly 500 pages.

The town referred questions to Supervisor Donald Scheffler. He was out of the office Monday.

"The objective of the 'community solar program' is to offer electricity at a discount (versus) the utility's regular rate," the

company said in its application. The company said it would allow homes and businesses in the town the chance to enroll in a community solar program.

Advantages of the project include, the company says:

No waste materials or air-pollutants, including carbon emissions.

Minimal noise would be produced during daytime hours, and none at night.

Minimal visual effect.

Minimal disturbance to the ground while the project was built.

## Priest's Homer trial delayed

Rev. Nathan Brooks accused of sexual abuse

Court proceedings Tuesday in Homer for a priest charged with touching a underage girl were delayed until June 18, the court reports.

In a second case involving the same victim, but in Cortland, the Rev. Nathan Brooks' case is next scheduled June 12 in Cortland City Court, though this is not an in-person appearance and is for scheduling purposes, said Chief Clerk Diana Davis.

Brooks' Homer and Cortland appearances have been set back several times since January.

Brooks was charged in Homer with forcible touching, endangering the welfare of a child and third-degree sexual abuse, misdemeanors.

He faces other charges in the city of Cortland, forcible touching, regarding the same victim.

Brooks is accused of touching the victim's genitals from outside her bathing suit while in a pool in the summer of 2020 or 2021.

He was charged with forcible touching and third-degree sexual abuse because the girl was younger than 17 and older than age 14.

He was 33 or 34 years old at the time.

The girl told police she met Brooks after he was assigned to St. Mary's Church and St. Anthony of Padua Church in 2019 and 2021.

She said Brooks made her uncomfortable by giving her long hugs, sitting very close to her and touching her hand.

Brooks pressed his body against the girl on several occasions, she told police.

The girl's mother told police in a written statement that she and her husband became concerned around Sept. 9, 2020, about Brooks grabbing and touching the girl, especially in the pool.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse announced after his arrest that Brooks had been removed from his parish assignment.

— Jack Lakowsky

## New dyslexia diagnosis program at Guthrie is booked and busy

By MARGARET MELLOTT  
Staff Reporter

mmellott@cortlandstandard.com  
Up to 20% of Americans have dyslexia, which explains why people drive from Elmira, Horseheads — even Pennsylvania — to see Gretchen Porter in Cortland.

Porter is a speech language pathologist at Guthrie Cortland Medical Center, running the hospital's new dyslexia diagnosis program. The program started in December; Porter's been busy ever since.

"The response has been overwhelming," said Porter, who hopes to expand the program. "Parents just want answers for their kiddos — they've been struggling with what is going on, how can I help my child? The kiddos are struggling and when they come into the treatment program, it's just great to see their response with, 'Oh my gosh, someone understands.'"

The prevalence of dyslexia varies between sources — some say less than 5% of the U.S. population has it, while others estimate as high as 20%, show data from the National Institute of Health. The variance can come from differing definitions — some require poor performance in academic settings — and the unreliability of commonly used identification practices.

Dyslexia, a language processing disorder, causes difficulties in deciphering and using written language.

"Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that's greatly misunderstood," Porter said. "The biggest myth you'll hear is, 'Dyslexia, isn't that where people see things backwards?' Guess what, it has nothing to do with vision ... It's also not related to lack of motivation; it's not due to a lack of intelligence. Most of these kids are average or above average intelligence. It's due to a difficulty



Margaret Mellott/Staff Reporter

Gretchen Porter, speech language pathologist at Guthrie Cortland Medical Center, demonstrates a trick to help people differentiate between the letters B and P. The balloons and pigs trick — a thumbs down resembles the letter P, for pigs, which are close to the ground. A thumbs up resembles a B, for balloons, which float up.

with language processing. Their brains are wired differently."

"The entire issue around dyslexia and everything reminds us that literacy in itself is a complex, complicated process that involves multiple skills and strategies," said Nance Wilson, a literacy department professor at SUNY Cortland. "It's something that all kids need, and all people need, to function in our modern world. And there is no quick fix."

Parents or patients interested in seeking a referral should

visit their primary care doctor and explain the signs and symptoms, then ask for a script and send it to Guthrie.

"The referral comes in and I spend time with the parent taking a history," Porter said. "Then from there, I schedule approximately three to four sessions to evaluate. It takes three to four sessions, because of the number of tests, the battery of tests, that I need to give and I want to give the kiddos obviously time."

"From there, I schedule another session to review the

results with the parents and fine tune the evaluation," she added. "Then the treatment program ensues, if they want the treatment. Not all parents will want the treatment — the reason being a lot of them like to have the accommodations."

Accommodations vary — some might need additional time to do certain tasks, while others need things read aloud for them — but a diagnosis can help better inform patients, Porter said.

Porter's favorite part of her job — watching her patients

### Dyslexia not a hurdle

Here's a list of people who are or were dyslexic, yet gained their fame in ways that heavily involved processing language:

Agatha Christie  
Orlando Bloom  
Walt Disney  
Leonardo Da Vinci  
Whoopi Goldberg  
Cher  
Chaz Bono  
Albert Einstein  
Steve Jobs  
Richard Branson  
George Lucas  
Bill Gates  
John Lennon  
Henry Ford  
Anthony Hopkins  
Winston Churchill  
Tom Holland  
Steve McQueen  
Alyssa Milano  
Gwen Stefani  
Anne Bancroft  
Eddie Izzard  
Terry Goodkind  
Jim Carrey  
Auguste Rodin  
Chris Rock  
Billy Bob Thornton  
George Patton  
John Irving  
Henry Winkler  
Jay Leno  
Erin Brokovich  
W.B. Yeats  
F. Scott Fitzgerald  
John F. Kennedy  
Elon Musk  
Abraham Lincoln  
SOURCE: Neurodiversity-matters.com

grow as they learn to cope with dyslexia.

"It's really just seeing the growth in kids," Porter said. "A light bulb goes off in their head, you can see those — I'll call them auditory confusions — that come through their ears. For example, they might mix up their P's and their B's — I give them a little trick called balloons and pigs. They use the trick and you can just see the light bulb go off like, 'Oh, I don't have to guess anymore. I can use the trick to prove my knowledge right now.'"

## County

### Unemployment rises to 4.1% in Cortland

Unemployment in Cortland County rose to 4.1% in April as 100 more people were without jobs, but the labor force lost 500 workers.

The state Department of Labor reported Tuesday that 900 of the county's 22,200 workers were unemployed. In April 2023, 800 of 22,700 workers were unemployed, an unemployment rate of 3.3%. Statewide, the unemployment rate was 3.9%, up from 3.6% as the la-

bor force shrank by 19,300 workers to 9.28 million while the number without jobs rose by 31,400 to 379,300.

Regionally, unemployment in metropolitan Syracuse rose to 3.7% from 2.9% in April 2023. Metropolitan Binghamton's unemployment rose to 3.8%

from 2.9%. Metropolitan Ithaca's unemployment rose to 2.9% from 2.2%, the lowest rate in the state.

Cayuga County unemployment rose to 3.8% from 2.9%. Chenango County's unemployment rose to 3.4% from 2.7%.

— Todd R. McAdam

## High school scientists descend on Cortland for Envirothon

By BRIAN BOSCH  
Contributing Writer

SUNY Cortland will bring 300 of the best young scientists from across the state together today and Thursday to compete in solving environmental problems as the new host of the New York State Envirothon.

Around 50 teams are expected on campus for the annual competition, which is sponsored by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation District. State winners go on to compete in the National Conservation Foundation Envirothon, which has participants from 44 states and seven Canadian provinces.

Students will compete in five categories: renewable energy for a sustainable future; aquat-

ic ecology; wildlife forestry; soils; and land use.

"I hope that they (competitors) see that there's other people of the same mind and that they learn — whether they go into an environmental field or not — about their environment and how they can protect it for the future," said Blanche Hurlbutt, chair of the New York State Envirothon Committee.

Hurlbutt, who also is the executive director of the New York Association of Conservation Districts, became involved as a member of the committee 24 years ago and has been its chair for almost a decade.

The first Envirothon was in 1979 in Pennsylvania, under the then-name of Environmen-

tal Olympics. It was designed as a competition for high school students to encourage interest in natural resource conservation and other environmental issues. New York joined other competing states in 1990.

In recent years, the New York Envirothon has been hosted at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva.

This year, however, Hobart is hosting the national competition and Cortland was selected as its successor for the statewide event for at least the next two years. After that, it will be considered among other applications to possibly continue the role.

Among the biggest reasons Cortland was selected are its

central location, its facilities and access to test sites with the varied environments needed for the competition. Those areas are kept secret from the students.

Todd Malone, director of campus event management, said he would love to see the school become a long-term host for the Envirothon, and that the university's effort to host the event was in the works even before he began in his position last year. Officials from the Envirothon contacted President Erik J. Bitterbaum and Vice President of Finance and Management Mark Yacavone to see if there was interest from Cortland in hosting the event.

Hurlbutt said animal pelts,

soil pits and streams and plants are among the items the young scientists will use during the competition.

Problem-solving and leadership will be key components for successful teams.

"They're doing hands-on stuff that they probably have already learned within class, and they're experiencing it out in the field and seeing it firsthand," Hurlbutt said.

It won't all be hard work on hard data — in the students' off time there will be an ice cream social, movie and outdoor fun like Frisbee and basketball. John Bartow, executive director of the Empire State Forest Product Association, will be a guest speaker at the event.

Malone believes this is also a new way to highlight campus. Prospective students who may not have considered Cortland before will get to see exactly what the university has to offer.

But it's a lot of work so soon after commencement.

"There are many details that not one office can handle on their own," he said. "So we rely heavily on good communication amongst all those involved to make sure that the Envirothon Committee is set up for success as soon as they step on to campus."

Brian Bosch is assistant director of communications at SUNY Cortland.



## Skeptical mom longs for female friends

DEAR AMY: I'm in my 40s. I have grandchildren, and also my own toddler at home.

I feel very blessed to have had a baby at my age, but something that has eluded me is female friendships.

I live in a rural area, but I know that's not really the problem.

I long to have a trustworthy friend.

My only friend died over two years ago, and since then I've been fooled by women who later turned on me.

I've always had more guy friends than women friends, but most of those friendships with guys never worked out, as they had ulterior motives.

Are there any online sites I could look to for friends?

I'm warm, friendly, and caring.

I know social media glamorizes people's lives, but I see women every day with loving and close friendships.

It makes me feel even more like an outsider.

Are some of us made to have few or zero friendships?

— Friendless

**DEAR FRIENDLESS:** Modern media meant to celebrate women's friendships tends to characterize gal pals as bonding over cocktails and sharing late-night confessionals, but most actual human beings do not behave in such tidy and agreeable ways. Friendship can be messy, but it is a relationship to treasure.

I don't think you are "made to have zero friendships," but you are the common denominator for all of your relationships. According to you, most men have ulterior motives; women fool you and then turn on you.

It would be useful for you to review your own past patterns of behavior to see if there are ways you could rewrite your friendship future. Your only friend has died. Your grief over this loss might be a factor in how you perceive others, now.

It is easier to use the internet to meet a stranger for a hookup than it is to find a friendship, but social media sites like Facebook and Instagram can be a good place to start, because you can find people who live near you and who might share common interests. You can also witness how people react to others. Are their comments kind and supportive? Are their interests or hobbies similar to yours? If so, they might be good friendship material.

You should also try to meet other women who have young children. Many of these women might be substantially younger than you, but your unique situation: "I have grandchildren who are older than my

toddler!" is a potentially great conversation starter.

I have often recommended [meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) as a great way to find things to do (and people to do these things with). Check within your ZIP code to see if you can join an activity or club. I hope you click with a new friend soon.

### Ask Amy

By Amy Dickinson

© 2023

The Chicago Tribune



DEAR AMY: I've been with my girlfriend for eight months. Most of the time, we're really happy. I believe we are very well suited for each other. We have common interests and our values seem to be in sync.

Here's the problem: It seems like any time we disagree, she very quickly says things like, "If you don't want to be here, why don't you just leave?"

In my opinion, this is completely disproportionate. I don't ever know how to respond. I wonder if you can give me some ideas for how to deal with this.

— Lost Guy

**DEAR LOST:** It sounds as if your girlfriend is displaying her deepest fear as a way to control the narrative. This might be as a result of how her family of origin deals with conflict (perhaps she feels abandoned by her father or another important family member).

She does not want to argue or disagree, because she doesn't know how.

Learning how to engage in conflict is ultimately a path to greater intimacy.

You two can start this important work by reading the latest book by researchers Julie Schwartz Gottman and John Gottman: "Fight Right: How Successful Couples Turn Conflict Into Connection" (2024, Harmony).

Read this book together, and practice resolving your conflicts peacefully.

DEAR AMY: I believe you might have missed something with your response to "No Longer Lonely in Long Island." This guy said he had fallen in love with another woman, and now he resents his wife calling him an adulterer.

You called him out as an adulterer, but he never reported having sex with this other woman — only falling in love.

— Avid Reader

**DEAR READER:** Given that he was leaving and divorcing his wife to be with this other woman, I think I made a good call.

You can email Amy Dickinson at [askamy@amydickinson.com](mailto: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.



Todd R. McAdam/Managing Editor

Beef barley stew is a bowl full of comfort. The barley absorbs much of the liquid, creating a creamy, if carby, texture.

## A beef barley stew for your inner carbivore

By TODD R. McADAM  
Managing Editor

[tmcadam@cortlandstandard.com](mailto:tmcadam@cortlandstandard.com)

The spousal unit is a carbivore.

Potatoes, pasta, white rice — if it has so little flavor that anything dresses it up, and such a soft texture that chewing isn't necessary, she's on board.

Which isn't, mind you, necessarily a bad thing. I look at a serving of carbs, about a handful, and think that's a mouthful, not a meal.

But there's this thing called fiber that has some value, and whole grains come with a bit of protein and more B-complex vitamins than white food.

So when the spouse flipped through a book on Irish cooking — that I've always been skeptical of because so many of the dishes involve beef, which is often beyond the budget of a lot of Irish cooks — I knew she had a hankering. "Beef barley stew?" she suggested.

"Anything like my soup?" It's a good soup, with lots of vegetables and a stock supple-

mented by tomatoes, one of her favorites.

"Maybe."

I looked the recipe over. The ratios were very different than my soup, and I thought it looked a little bland. But using barley to thicken a soup into a stew was intriguing, and I had the ingredients hanging around.

The first attempt was, as I feared, bland. But the texture was all comfort food, filling up all your corners without feeling weighed down, like fried foods might do.

I used pearled barley, which has some fiber but not as much as hulled barley, which (despite the name) still has much of the hull. But the pearled barley gave it a rich, creamy texture. The second effort came with additional spices. And should I do it again, I'm thinking hulled barley and peas, because I really like peas in a stew.

### BEEF BARLEY STEW

For the stock

1 beef shank

3 cloves whole garlic  
6 cups water  
5 peppercorns  
3 whole cloves  
2 bay leaves  
6 juniper berries (optional)

Assorted celery and carrots

For the stew

1 1/2 to 2 pounds beef chuck or round, cut into 1-inch cubes  
6 cups water  
12 ounces dark beer, such as a porter or stout

3 bay leaves  
2 tsp. smoked paprika  
1 Tbs. dried thyme  
1 pound carrots, diced  
1 cup barley  
1 russet potato, peeled and cubed  
1 medium onion, diced  
3 cloves garlic, crushed or minced

Sear the beef shank in a Dutch oven in a slight amount of oil until both sides are browned, perhaps 2 to 3 minutes a side. Add the garlic and spices, then a handful each of carrot and celery, roughly broken up. Pour in the water;

bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer and let simmer for three hours. Separate the solids from the stock and reserve the shank. Refrigerate the stock overnight, then remove and discard the fat disk that forms.

Sear the beef cubes in a small amount of oil in a Dutch oven until browned. Remove to a plate, then sweat the onion in the remaining oil for 5 to 7 minutes. Add the garlic and sweat another minute longer. Return the beef to the pot (adding the shank meat, if you'd like), add the bay leaf, thyme, paprika, beer, stock, carrots, potato and barley. Bring to a boil, then let simmer for about one hour.

Serve with a side salad. (There's enough carb here that you won't want bread.)

**Play with it:** We added smoked paprika, but you could try sage, or perhaps rosemary. A pinch of cayenne pepper would add just a touch of heat. And you can add other stewing veggies, such as peas and mushrooms. It's supposed to be an Irish recipe, so a bit of turnip wouldn't be out of line.



## 3 sweeteners your gut will thank you for

(TNS) — Whether you're getting older or have a low tolerance for the sweetener, the gastrointestinal tract can be fickle when digesting sugar.

Caving in to cravings can be satisfying, but depending on what you eat, you could pay for it later. Most sweets could contain artificial sweeteners that, according to Woman's World, taste anywhere between "100

to over 700 times" as sweet as sugar. If you can't ditch the sweets, there are other ways to satisfy the craving without grabbing the sugar packets or artificial stuff.

### HONEY

When it comes to finding the right sugars, it's only fitting to think of nature's candy — honey. It's rich in antioxidants, can

help maintain blood sugar levels, improve heart health, and help heal burns and wounds, all while taking it easy on your gut.

### WHOLE FRUITS

If you have some fruit laying around, and a mallet, mixer or blender, then it's time to get creative. Creating your own apple sauce, banana purees and sherbet ice cream is a great way

to take advantage of natural sugars that are easier to digest.

### MONK FRUIT EXTRACT

Monk fruit extract and stevia derive from plants and are great options for those wanting a little sweetness without the calories. An added bonus to monk fruit is mogroside, a compound that helps keep cholesterol low by reducing inflammation.

### Quick Fix

## Chicken Milanese with spaghetti pomodoro adds taste of Italy



Linda Gassenheimer/TNS

This chicken Milanese dish comes together fast as the thin cutlets take less than 5 minutes to cook.

By LINDA GASSENHEIMER  
Tribune News Service (TNS)

Bring a taste of Italy to your table with this quick and easy dinner. Thin chicken cutlets with a light, crisp coating is a winner. The thin cutlets take less than 5 minutes to cook. They're finished off with some capers and lemon juice. I serve them with spaghetti and tomato sauce, spaghetti pomodoro.

### HELPFUL HINTS

Any type of pasta sauce can be used. Look for one that has reduced sodium. Any style of long pasta such as linguine, fettuccine or spaghetti can be used.

### SHOPPING LIST

To buy: 3/4 pound chicken cutlets, 1 container plain panko breadcrumbs, 1 small piece Parmesan cheese, 1 bottle ground oregano, 1 small bottle capers, 1 lemon, 1 bunch fresh basil, 1 package spaghetti and 1 bottle reduced-sodium pasta sauce.

Staples: olive oil, egg, salt and black peppercorns.

### CHICKEN MILANESE

3/4 pound chicken cutlets  
1/4 cup plain panko breadcrumbs  
2 Tbs. freshly grated Parmesan cheese  
2 tsp. ground oregano  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 egg, slightly beaten  
2 tsp. olive oil  
1 lemon cut into wedges  
1 tsp. capers

Place chicken cutlets on a cutting board and cover with plastic wrap. Pound the cutlets flat to 1/4 inch thick with a meat bat or heavy skillet. On a plate, mix panko crumbs, Parmesan cheese, oregano and add salt and pepper to taste. In a small bowl, slightly beat egg with fork. Dip the chicken cutlets into the egg and then into the panko crumb mixture, making sure both sides are covered. Heat oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat and add the cutlets.

Cook 2 minutes, turn over and cook second side 2 minutes. A meat thermometer should read 155 degrees. Divide the cutlets between 2 dinner plates and squeeze juice from the lemon wedges on top. Sprinkle the capers over the chicken.

Yield 2 servings.

### SPAGHETTI POMODORO

4 ounces spaghetti  
1 cup reduced-sodium pasta sauce  
1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, torn into small pieces

Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
Bring a large saucepan 3/4 full of water to a boil. Add the spaghetti and cook for 9-10 minutes or according to package instructions. Remove 1/4 cup pasta water to a bowl. Drain the spaghetti and add to the bowl with the pasta sauce. Add the basil and salt and pepper to taste. Toss well. Divide into 2 portions and serve with the chicken Milanese.

Yield 2 servings.



## Our Opinion

### Why hide from public scrutiny?

For years, Carter's Tree Service has used a plot on Route 215 in Cortlandville illegally, storing vehicles and equipment for the business on land that's zoned R-1 residential. It was cited in February 2021 and again last November. In fact, a member of the Cortland County Planning Commission suspects the company bought the property in 2016 planning to use it inappropriately all along.

The company's owner tells us the town in March gave it until September to come into compliance with the law. The town clerk reports the town has no record of such an agreement, and other town officials refer comment to Town Attorney John DelVecchio, who declines comment.

This is not a good look for the town. The application Carter's filed for a use variance was denied because it couldn't demonstrate a fiscal hardship that it did not create itself. And R-1 properties can be used only for single-family homes, private garages and storage sheds. Other uses allowable by special permit include home offices, workshops and public utility substations. This use pretty clearly does not apply.

Giving the company a certain amount of time to come into compliance (and we don't see how that can be done without actually removing the equipment) is not unreasonable. Nor is giving the company six months, although one might think the clock should have started ticking when its latest citation was issued six months ago.

So why all the secrecy? Why the hush-hush?

The town has a long history of actions that don't hold up under the light of public scrutiny.

It lost a pair of Article 78 suits in 2016 and 2017 over granting permits to expand a Route 13 business, owned by a town board member, without following a proper environmental review process.

In 2018, a plan to build a Byrne Dairy convenience store and gas station on Route 13 died when the public learned the town would have to "spot zone" the parcel to allow it, in violation of the law.

In 2020, the state comptroller's office released an audit stating the town of Cortlandville improperly spent \$22,600 in public funds in 2015 to create a boat launch on a board member's private property in Blodgett Mills. The state Constitution prohibits spending town money for the benefit of private parties, the comptroller said, and the town failed to put up signs indicating the boat launch was for public use, nor was it listed on the town website.

In 2020, the town allowed two residents to post campaign signs for one presidential candidate outside the time period allowed under town law, but fined others who posted signs, not actually supporting another candidate, but opposing the one for whom signs were allowed.

Last fall, Town Justice Mary Beth Mathey sued the town, alleging the town board met illegally when it met to craft a referendum to eliminate her job. The suit was rendered moot only when voters decided to keep the position before the case could be heard.

Should we keep going? The point here is this: The town of Cortlandville needs to do the job cleaner and more transparent than it has, if for no other reason than each misstep undercuts faith in its ability to do the job responsibly. Each of the examples we cite show an incident or allegation where town officials either subverted the law, or were willing to.

Government shouldn't operate that way, and the town's reluctance to discuss how — or whether — it will properly enforce its zoning law only feeds the concern.

If the town is doing the job enforcing the law regarding the Carter's site, it should show us — and you. If it's not doing the job, then hiding from public scrutiny is the wrong answer.

## Your Opinion

### No summer vacay for Legislature

To the Editor:

As county legislator for District 10 (Homer), I will vote "no" on Agenda Item #2 at this Thursday's general session. Agenda Item #2 is referred from the Government Operations Committee and would amend our legislative calendar by canceling all of our meetings in July 2024.

This is the third consecutive year that this same consideration has appeared on our legislative agenda. At a time when Cortland County has a record number of people living and sleeping out on the street, it is hard to understand why a majority of county legislators would consider taking a paid vacation in the middle of the summer. Short of an emergency meeting, all county business would be pushed off until August.

When I ran to represent the taxpayers of Homer (the same taxpayers who ultimately foot the bill for my legislative salary), it was to occupy one of seventeen seats on a legislative body which follows a predetermined schedule of, at minimum, a general session on the last Thursday of the month. I was unaware of the county Legislature's self-granted power to reduce the number of months within a year from twelve to eleven. As a freshman legislator, I find this power deeply troubling. I am also quite sure that many of the individuals who are currently without shelter in our county would jump at the chance to give themselves a vacation from homelessness. As far as I am aware, they lack that power.

As a legislature, we ought to think long and hard about both the explicit and implied responsibilities of public service which our constituents have entrusted to us. I take these responsibilities very seriously, and this is why I strongly encourage any members of the public to voice opposition to Agenda Item #2 at Thursday's general session.

Reed Cleland  
Homer

## Good Old Days

May 22, 1974

Members of the Twentieth Century Club and their guests enjoyed a musical program, "Spring Fantasy," at their annual Club Day Luncheon yesterday at the clubhouse in Courthouse Park.

Students of the Cortland Junior High School, under the direction of Eugene Attleson and James VanDusen, presented a variety of solos, duets, trios and group numbers for the group. The program was introduced by Mrs. E. E. Attleson, chairman for the day.

Participants included Linda Brownell with a flute solo, "Sonata No. 3" by Handel; a clarinet duet by Beth Ralston and Lisa Zado, "Greensleeves"; and a trumpet solo by Kelly Egan, "Airs" by Bach, with Lorraine Wildman accompanying on the piano.

May 22, 1999

SUNY-Cortland Police Officer Chauncey Bennett was awarded the college Student Government Association's "Outstanding Staff Person of the Year" award at a banquet held April 28 at Corey Union, on the college campus.

## Letters

The Cortland Standard welcomes letters from readers for publication on this page. All letters submitted must be signed by the writer and include the writer's home address and daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and content.

Letters are limited to 300 words in length. Letters endorsing or opposing the election of candidates for public office are limited to 200 words. Thank-you notes will not be accepted.



"BUT IF YOU STEP ACROSS THIS LINE..."

## A speaker of consequence

Marc Thiessen



In a matter of six months, Mike Johnson has gone from accidental House speaker to one of the most consequential House speakers in a generation.

That's not hyperbole. Despite presiding over one of the smallest and most restive House majorities in history, he has managed to navigate the warring factions of his party to pass a raft of critical legislation, including a government funding bill that averted a catastrophic shutdown; reauthorization of a foreign surveillance law critical to disrupting terrorist attacks; a lethal-aid package for Ukraine that staved off imminent defeat, plus vital military assistance for Israel and Taiwan; legislation that allows the United States to seize Russian assets and use them to aid Ukraine; bipartisan legislation to ban TikTok in the United States if it is not sold to a new parent company that is not Chinese within about a year; and new sanctions against China, Iran and Russia. And in the wake of those legislative victories, accomplished with bipartisan support, he defeated an effort by Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) to oust him, which was rejected by a 359-43 vote amid a cacophony of boos from her GOP colleagues.

Name me another speaker who has accomplished so much, in so short a time, against such overwhelming odds. He wasn't even supposed to be in the job. Johnson was chosen only after a three-week standoff in which three other nominees failed. When he ascended to the speaker's post,

few in Washington had even heard of him. Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) told CNN she planned to do a Google search to learn who he was. Johnson had never even chaired a congressional committee and went from serving as vice chairman of the House Republican Conference (the No. 6 leadership position) to second in the line to the presidency virtually overnight.

From the moment Johnson assumed the speakership, many assumed his job was doomed. Just weeks after he was elected, Politico reported that Republicans were "already asking behind closed doors whether Johnson might meet the same fate as the deposed [former speaker Kevin] McCarthy." Later, he was described as a "leader in name only" whose "grip on his fractious conference appears to be slipping" and who was having a "bad, very, very bad, awful time leading the House Republican conference," which had become a "hot mess, devoid of ideas and accomplishments."

The release of the annual Social Security trustees' report is usually the occasion for some dolorous lament that we have inched another year closer to disaster. This year, however, I have good news! The industrious actuaries at the Social Security Administration, having ground through all the data, now think our nation's looming entitlement meltdown looks slightly less catastrophic than it did last year. They now forecast that the combined Social Security Trust Funds won't be exhausted until 2035, a year later than they expected in 2023. They also see some improvement in the program's long-term finances, primarily because of more favorable assumptions about productivity growth and disability rates — though that happy news is, they write, "partially offset by a decrease in the assumed long-term total fertility rate," which has now gone from 2 children per woman to 1.9.

There's only one wee fly in this optimistic ointment: This positive news depends on the fertility assumptions being correct, and they're probably not. They're probably still much too high. The report's authors have helpfully provided a guide to their underlying demographic assumptions, including a chart illustrating the evolution of fertility for women in various age groups. It shows that birthrates have fallen sharply for women in their 20s, plateaued for women in their early 30s, and risen significantly for women in their late 30s and early 40s. However, because women in

strong leadership of this body, and we must not waver." The next day, he told Sean Hannity, "We can't allow Vladimir Putin to prevail in Ukraine, because I don't believe it would stop there, and it would probably encourage and empower China to perhaps make a move on Taiwan. ... We're not going to abandon them."

But first, he had to lay the groundwork with his conference. He invited members to attend intelligence briefings showing how, without U.S. aid to Ukraine, Russian forces would begin breaking through the nation's defenses, carpet-bombing Ukrainian cities, slaughtering civilians and marching toward Kyiv. To his chagrin, many anti-Ukraine Republicans declined to attend. "They're making monumental decisions with global implications not completely informed about the facts," he told Ben Shapiro before the vote. "I think that's dereliction of duty." As the moment of truth arrived, Johnson was the epitome of resolve. "History judges us for what we do," he declared at the Capitol. "This is a critical time right now. ... I can make a selfish decision and do something that is different, but I'm doing here what I believe to be the right thing. ... I'm willing to take personal risk for that." Johnson did exactly that. He put his speakership on the line — knowing that his predecessor had been ousted for less — in order to do the right thing. That is the essence of leadership.

## The fertility rate and Social Security

Megan McArdle



their 20s are in general much more fertile than women in their 40s, the net effect has been a decline in the overall number of children per woman. That number was over 2.0 in 2005, slightly higher than the number needed to replace the current population. Since then, it has fallen to a little over 1.6, with no real signs of a rebound.

Yet the Social Security Administration assumes a rebound, starting this year. In their graph, the birthrate in the 20-24 age group, which has been falling steadily for 20 years, suddenly plateaus, while the rate among women aged 25-29, which has been falling for the last decade, hits bottom and starts to increase again. Meanwhile, births among women in their 30s move sharply upward, until they are actually outpacing the birthrates of their grandmothers during the baby boom.

Maybe the Social Security Administration knows something I don't, and this is the year that American women have decided to step up and really do their part to help fix Social Se-

curity's finances. But it seems more likely that they couldn't bear to tell us the whole truth all at once: We aren't replacing ourselves anymore, and without enough workers to support us, we can't all spend decades in retirement.

That base reality is often obscured by the terms of the debate — by the arguments over the solvency of the trust funds, the size of cost-of-living adjustments, the merits of Social Security vs. traditional employer pensions vs. newfangled 401(k)s. But if you drill down to fundamentals, all retirement plans represent the same thing: a legal claim on the output of some future worker. If we assume the long-term birthrate stays about where it is now, Social Security's deficit would increase by roughly 20 percent, to 4.2 percent of taxable payrolls over the 75-year forecast period. That problem gets worse the longer it goes on — by the end of the forecast period, in 2098, the difference is about 2.5 percent of total payrolls. And of course, it assumes

that birthrates don't fall further.

Now, that problem can be finessed in one of two ways. If productivity grows fast enough, both workers and retirees can increase their living standards, even though the number of workers is shrinking. And maybe breakthrough technologies such as AI will deliver that happy future. But many of the services the elderly consume, such as nursing home care, are so far proving particularly resistant to automation. Also, current breakthroughs in the medical field could conceivably increase life spans even further — a boon to humanity, but a big problem for retirement systems.

Alternatively, we could import workers through immigration. Undoubtedly, that will be part of the solution. But right now, that solution is triggering a fierce political backlash. Moreover, birthrates are also falling in the countries from which we draw immigrants, often precipitously. Latin America, for example, fell below replacement rate in 2016; the Economist reports that now "the region is home to some of the fastest-falling fertility rates in the world."

Many migrants will still come for the unparalleled opportunities the United States offers, but others will decide to stay home on the farm, now that its output doesn't have to be shared among a half-dozen siblings. Still others will be deterred by the same question worrying us: What will happen to my parents with no one at home to take care of them? Unfortunately, there's no easy answer to that question.



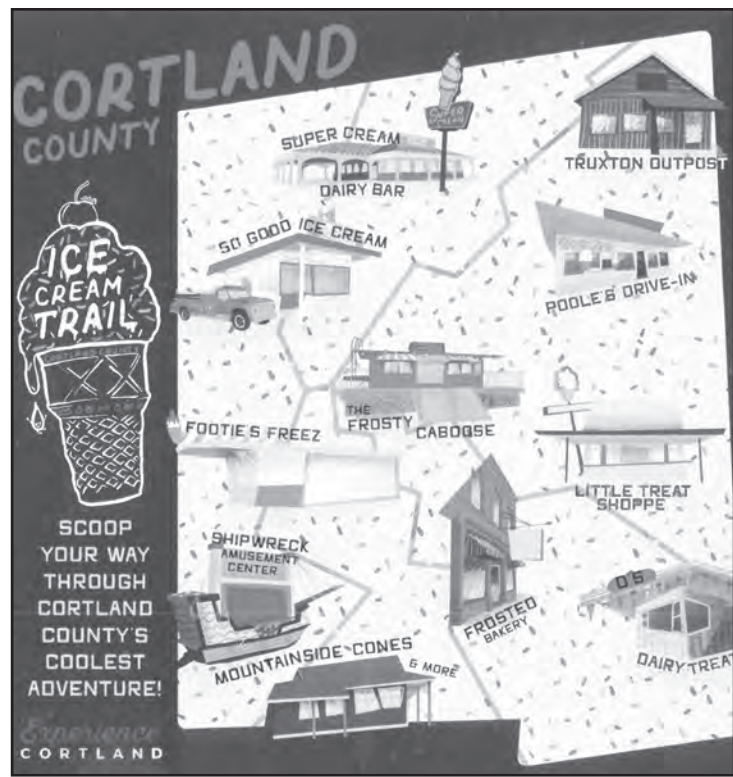


Image provided by Experience Cortland  
Experience Cortland's newest ice cream trail stretches from Cincinnatus to Cortlandville, and Truxton to Virgil.

## ICE CREAM

continued from page 1

"We hope this initiative not only highlights our thriving food scene, but also promotes local businesses and fosters community engagement," said Michelle Enright, executive director at the Cortland County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Maps can be picked up at the visitor's center, or mailed to you.

"This trail is a testament to the quality and diversity of our local establishments," Enright added. "We have an incredible array of ice cream spots that showcase the creativity and passion of our local entrepreneurs. We encourage everyone to discover the hidden gems right here in their own backyard."

Staff Reporter Margaret Mel-lott contributed to this report.

## CORTLAND

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would pay less.

But gauging how much sales tax revenue is generated inside the city is difficult. And many of the most lucrative generators — car dealerships — do business outside the city.

County Legislature Minority Leader Beau Harbin (D-Cortland) said he has consistently voted against the sales tax agreement between the city and the county.

"I want us to receive our fair share of sales tax, no more, no less than what we deserve, and I don't believe the current calculation allows for a fair share for the city," Harbin said Tuesday. "I think it's great you're actually making a formal intent to cancel the contract and move forward."

Harbin said data on pre-emption of sales taxes is hard to come by, and that he gets push-

back from county officials when he tries finding it.

City Alderperson Kate Silliman (D-2nd Ward) said it was about time the city began contesting its tax agreement.

Before Tuesday's meeting Steve said another route would be an "assessed value" approach. The share of sales taxes would be based on a municipality's assessed value. Smaller towns likely don't have the same overhead as the city.

"We provide infrastructure for them as well," Steve said. "There's lots of shared resources."

Now Steve enters formal negotiations with county officials, sharing ideas and estimating some figures.

Pre-emption, Steve said, doesn't mean things have soured between the city and the county.

"We mutually agreed to get this contract dropped so we can renegotiate," he said.

## GAS

continued from page 1

supply. The Northeast sale will require that the 42-million-gallon reserve is transferred or delivered no later than June 30, the Energy Department said.

Congressional Republicans

have long criticized the Northeast reserve, which was established by former President Barack Obama, saying any such stockpile should have been created by Congress.

A 2022 report by the Government Accountability Office

## RAFAH

continued from page 1

was no confirmation from the U.N.

The U.N.'s World Food Program said it was running out of food for central Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of people are now living.

"Humanitarian operations in Gaza are near collapse," said Abeer Etefa, a WFP spokesperson. If food and other supplies don't resume entering Gaza "in massive quantities, famine-like conditions will spread," she said.

The warning came as Israel seeks to contain the international fallout from a request at the world's top war crimes court for arrest warrants targeting both Israeli and Hamas leaders. The move garnered support from three European countries, including Israel's key ally France.

"Use of starvation as a method of warfare" was among the accusations against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant by the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Court — charges they and other Israeli officials angrily deny. The prosecutor accused three Hamas leaders of war crimes over killings of civilians in the group's Oct. 7 attack.

The U.N. says some 1.1 million people in Gaza — nearly half the population — face catastrophic levels of hunger and that the territory is on the brink of famine. Throughout the war, Rafah has been filled with scenes of hungry children holding out pots and plastic containers at makeshift soup kitchens, with many families reduced to eating only one meal a day.

The humanitarian crisis deepened after Israeli forces pushed into Rafah on May 6. Tanks and troops seized the vital Rafah crossing into Egypt, and it's been closed ever since. After May 10, only about three dozen trucks made it into Gaza via the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing from Israel because fighting made it dangerous for aid workers to reach it, the U.N. says.

Israel insists it puts no restriction on the number of trucks entering Gaza. COGAT said 450 trucks entered Tuesday from its side to Kerem Shalom and a small crossing in northern Gaza. It said more than 650 trucks are waiting on the Gaza side of Kerem Shalom to be retrieved, blaming "lack of logistical capabilities and manpower



AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed

Israeli military vehicles are seen during a raid in the West Bank Jenin refugee camp, Tuesday.

gaps" among aid groups.

For months, the U.N. has warned that an Israeli assault on Rafah could wreck the effort to get food, medicine and other supplies to Palestinians across Gaza.

Asked about the ramifications of suspending aid, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said simply: "People don't eat." Etefa said the WFP was still passing out hot meals and "limited distributions" of reduced food packages in central Gaza, but "food parcel stocks will run out within days," she said.

The U.S. touted the \$320 million pier project as a route for accelerated deliveries. The first 10 trucks rolled off a ship onto the pier on Friday and were taken to a WFP warehouse. However, a second convoy on Saturday was met by Palestinian crowds who removed all the food from 11 trucks, and only five truckloads made it to the warehouse, Etefa said.

No further deliveries came from the pier Sunday or Monday, Etefa said.

"The responsibility of ensuring aid reaches those in need does not end at the crossings and other points of entry into Gaza — it extends throughout Gaza itself," she said.

At the same time, battles have escalated in northern Gaza as Israeli troops conduct operations against Hamas fighters,

who the military says regrouped in areas already captured in offensives months ago.

One of the main hospitals still operating in the north, Kamal Adwan, was forced to evacuate after it was "targeted" by Israeli troops, the Gaza Health Ministry said. Around 150 staff and dozens of patients fled the facility, including intensive care patients and infants in incubators "under fire from shelling," it said. The Israeli military did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

The nearby Awda hospital has been surrounded by troops the past three days, and an artillery shell hit its fifth floor, the hospital administration said Tuesday. A day earlier, the international medical aid group Doctors Without Borders said Awda had run out of drinking water.

The war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas-led militants crossed into Israel and killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 250 hostage. ICC prosecutor Karim Khan accused Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif and Ismail Haniyeh of crimes against humanity, including extermination, murder and sexual violence.

Israel responded to the Oct. 7 with an offensive that has laid waste to Gaza and killed more than 35,000 Palestinians, ac-

cording to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between noncombatants and fighters in its count.

Monday's call by Khan for arrest warrants deepens Israel's global isolation at a time when it is facing growing criticism from even its closest allies over the war. France, Belgium, and Slovenia each said they backed Khan's decision.

Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz headed to France on Tuesday in response, urging it to "declare loud and clear" that the request for warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant "is unacceptable to you and to the French government."

His meetings there could set the tone for how countries navigate the warrants — if they are eventually issued — and whether they could pose a threat to Israeli leaders. A panel of three ICC judges will decide whether to issue the arrest warrants and allow a case to proceed. The judges typically take two months to make such decisions.

Israel still has the support of its top ally, the United States, as well as other Western countries that spoke out against the decision. But if the warrants are issued, they could complicate international travel for Netanyahu and his defense minister, even if they do not face any immediate risk of prosecution.

life," De Haan said. "That's why there's really no nation that has an emergency stockpile of gasoline" other than the U.S.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve has vastly more quantities of oil needed in an emergency, he said.

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# Nikki Haley facing a key decision on potential Trump endorsement

By STEVE PEOPLES,  
MEG KINNARD  
and THOMAS BEAUMONT  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Nikki Haley is perhaps the highest-profile Republican in the nation who has refused to fall in line and endorse Donald Trump's presidential bid.

It's unclear how long that might last.

Some allies believe she may be forced to endorse him before the November election to avoid permanently alienating the Republican Party base. Some even suspect that Haley will re-emerge on Trump's short list of vice presidential contenders in the coming months, despite Trump's recent statement to the contrary.

But if Haley submits to Trump, as so many of his GOP critics have done, she also risks destroying her own coalition of independents, moderates and anti-Trump Republicans, who are still showing up to support her in low-profile primary contests from deep-red Indiana to deep-blue Maryland. Today, she gets another chance to demonstrate her sustained strength in Kentucky's presidential primary contest, which comes more than two months after she suspended her campaign. Haley's decision on Trump in the coming months will be closely watched not just by her supporters, but by allies of Trump and President Joe Biden. What she decides to do — and whether her coalition follows — could have a profound impact on this year's general election and her future as a top-tier Republican whose brand appeals to many people



AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez, File

Republican presidential candidate former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley speaks at a campaign event in Forth Worth, Texas, March 4.

outside her party.

"Nikki Haley could be the person that unites us," said Thalia Floras, a 62-year-old retail manager from Nashua, New Hampshire, who was a lifelong Democrat before casting a ballot for Haley in her state's January primary.

But Floras also has a warning: "Nikki Haley has a good place with me now. But if she goes with Trump, I'm done."

Those close to Haley, a 52-year-old former governor and U.N. ambassador, say it's unclear what she'll do.

Haley and Trump haven't spoken in months. That includes the period after she bowed out of the GOP primary

campaign in early March, according to a person with direct knowledge of Haley's private conversations who was not authorized to speak about them publicly.

And while some Republicans who supported Haley will certainly drift back to Trump organically, the Biden campaign is working to win over her supporters, whom they view as true swing voters.

Biden's team is quietly organizing a Republicans for Biden group, which will eventually include dedicated staff and focus on the hundreds of thousands of Haley voters in each battleground state, according to people familiar with the plans

but not authorized to discuss them publicly.

The Democratic president hasn't kept his intentions a secret.

Biden issued a statement thanking Haley for her courage to challenge Trump just minutes after she bowed out of the primary race in March.

"Donald Trump made it clear he doesn't want Nikki Haley's supporters. I want to be clear: There is a place for them in my campaign," Biden said at the time.

Trump, meanwhile, said in late January that Haley donors would be permanently banned from his "Make America Great Again" camp.

# Hunter Biden presses appeals court for delay in fed gun trial set for June

By L. WHITEHURST  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hunter Biden pressed for a delay in his federal gun case on Monday, asking an appeals court to pause the Delaware trial set to begin next month.

Defense attorneys for the president's son argued there isn't an urgent need to start the trial on the June 3 date set by the federal judge overseeing the case. They also cite the short time between the Delaware trial and the start of another trial on tax charges in California.

Hunter Biden has pleaded not guilty to lying about his drug use in October 2018 on a form to buy a gun that he kept for about 11 days in Delaware. He has acknowledged an addiction

to crack cocaine during that period, but his lawyers have said he didn't break the law.

The lawyers are asking the full 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to hear a bid to dismiss the prosecution. It was rejected by a three-judge panel that did not rule on the merits of his claims, but said the court doesn't have jurisdiction to review the matter.

The lawyers are also appealing a separate decision from U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika rejecting a claim that the case violates the Constitution's Second Amendment on firearm ownership.

Those rulings paved the way

for the Justice Department to bring President Joe Biden's son

to trial in the midst of the president's reelection campaign. Hunter Biden is separately charged in the tax case in California that is tentatively scheduled to go to trial in late June. The investigation had looked ready to wrap up with a plea deal last year, but the agreement imploded after a judge

raised questions about it. Biden

was subsequently indicted. Under the deal, he would have gotten two years' probation after pleading guilty to misdemeanor tax charges. He also would have avoided prosecution on the gun charge if he stayed out of trouble.

His attorneys have argued that prosecutors bowed to political pressure to indict him amid heavy criticism of the plea deal from Donald Trump and other Republicans. They had also challenged the appointment of Delaware U.S. Attorney David Weiss as special counsel to lead the prosecution.

Prosecutors countered the evidence against him was "overwhelming," including cocaine residue found in the pouch where he stored his gun.

Noreika, who was appointed to the bench by former President Trump, said that the defense had provided "nothing credible" to suggest that lawmakers or anyone else had any impact on the special counsel, adding: "It is all speculation."



Biden



AP Photo/Mariam Zuhaib, File

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Board of Directors Chairman Martin Gruenberg testifies, Nov. 15, 2023, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

# Top Democrat calls for Biden to replace the FDIC chairman

By KEN SWEET  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The most powerful Democrat in Congress on banking and financial issues called for President Joe Biden to replace the chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. on Monday, saying the agency is broken and there must be "fundamental changes at the FDIC."

This follows a damning report about the agency's toxic workplace culture released earlier this month and the inability of FDIC Chair Martin Gruenberg to convince Congress in testimony last week that he is able to turn the agency around despite the report saying Gruenberg himself was often the source of the problems.

"After chairing last week's hearing, reviewing the independent report, and receiving further outreach from FDIC employees to the Banking and Housing Committee, I am left with one conclusion: there must be fundamental changes at the FDIC," said Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and chairman of the Senate Banking Committee.

Up until Monday, no Democrats had called for Gruenberg's replacement, although several came very close to doing so in their own statements. Brown's statement will likely lead to other Democrats to now call for Gruenberg's removal.

In his statement, Brown did not call for Gruenberg to be fired. He is in the middle of his six-year term as chairman of the FDIC and if Gruenberg were to step down, Vice Chair Travis Hill, a Republican, would lead the agency. Brown instead called on President Biden to nominate a new chair for the FDIC "without delay," which the Senate would then confirm.

Republicans have been calling for Gruenberg to step down for some time. At Thursday's hearing, Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C.

and the top Republican on the committee, detailed several stories of female FDIC workers who outlined extreme harassment and stalking by their co-workers, complaints that were dismissed by supervisors, according to the report.

"Marty — you've heard me say this to you directly — you should resign," Scott said. "Your employees do not have confidence in you. And this is not a single incident. This spans over a decade-plus of your leadership at the FDIC."

Scott, who called for Gruenberg to step down in December when the initial allegations were made public, is now calling for the Banking Committee to hold a separate hearing on the FDIC's workplace issues.

Gruenberg has been involved in various levels of leadership at the FDIC for nearly 20 years, and this is his second full term as FDIC chair. His long tenure at the agency at the highest levels of power has made him largely responsible for the agency's toxic work environment, according to the independent report outlining the problems at the agency.

The report released Tuesday by law firm Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton cites incidents of stalking, harassment, homophobia and other violations of employment regulations, based on more than 500 complaints from employees.

Complaints included a woman who said she was stalked by a coworker and continually harassed even after complaining about his behavior; a field office supervisor referring to gay men as "little girls;" and a female field examiner who described receiving a picture of an FDIC senior examiner's private parts.

The FDIC is one of several banking system regulators. The Great Depression-era agency is best known for running the nation's deposit insurance program.

# While many remember solid economy under Trump, his record also included tax cut hype, high debt and disease

By JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was a time of fear and chaos four years ago.

The death count was mounting as COVID-19 spread. Financial markets were panicked. Oil prices briefly went negative. The Federal Reserve slashed its benchmark interest rates to combat the sudden recession. And the U.S. government went on a historic borrowing spree — adding trillions to the national debt — to keep families and businesses afloat.

But as Donald Trump recalled that moment at a recent rally, the former president exuded pride.

"We had the greatest economy in history," the Republican told his Wisconsin audience. "The 30-year mortgage rate was at a record low, the lowest ever recorded ... 2.65%, that's what your mortgage rates were."

The question of who can best steer the U.S. economy could be a deciding factor in who wins November's presidential election. While an April Gallup poll found that Americans were most likely to say that immigration is the country's top problem, the economy in general and inflation



AP Photo/Morry Gash, File

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally, May 1, in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

were also high on the list.

Trump may have an edge over President Joe Biden on key economic concerns, according to an April poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs. The survey found that Americans were more likely to say that as president, Trump helped the country with job creation and cost of living. Nearly 6 in 10 Americans said that Biden's presidency hurt the

country on the cost of living.

But the economic numbers expose a far more complicated reality during Trump's time in the White House. His tax cuts never delivered the promised growth. His budget deficits surged and then stayed relatively high under Biden. His tariffs and trade deals never brought back all of the lost factory jobs.

And there was the pandemic, an event that caused historic job

losses for which Trump accepts no responsibility as well as low inflation — for which Trump takes full credit.

If anything, the economy during Trump's presidency never lived up to his own hype.

## DECENT (NOT EXCEPTIONAL) GROWTH

Trump assured the public in 2017 that the U.S. economy with his tax cuts would grow at "3%," but he added, "I think it could go to 4, 5, and maybe even 6%, ultimately."

If the 2020 pandemic is excluded, growth after inflation averaged 2.67% under Trump, according to figures from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Include the pandemic-induced recession and that average drops to an anemic 1.45%.

By contrast, growth during the second term of then-President Barack Obama averaged 2.33%. So far under Biden, annual growth is averaging 3.4%.

## MORE GOVERNMENT DEBT

Trump also assured the public that his tax cuts would pay for themselves because of stronger growth. The cuts were broad but

disproportionately favored corporations and those with extreme wealth.

The tax cuts signed into law in 2017 never fulfilled Trump's promises on deficit reduction.

According to the Office of Management and Budget, the deficit worsened to \$779 billion in 2018. The Congressional Budget Office had forecasted a deficit of \$563 billion before the tax cuts, meaning the tax cuts increased borrowing by \$216 billion that first year. In 2019, the deficit rose to \$984 billion, nearly \$300 billion more than what the CBO had forecast.

Then the pandemic happened and with a flurry of government aid, the resulting deficit topped \$3.1 trillion. That borrowing enabled the government to make direct payments to individuals and small businesses as the economy was in lockdown, often increasing bank accounts and making many feel better off even though the economy was in a recession.

Deficits have also run high under Biden, as he signed into law a third round of pandemic aid and other initiatives to address climate change, build infrastructure and invest in U.S. manufacturing. His budget deficits: \$2.8

trillion (2021), \$1.38 trillion (2022) and \$1.7 trillion (2023).

The CBO estimated in a report issued last week that the extension of parts of Trump's tax cuts set to expire after 2025 would add another \$4.6 trillion to the national debt through the year 2034.

## LOW INFLATION (BUT NOT ALWAYS FOR GOOD REASONS)

Inflation was much lower under Trump, never topping an annual rate of 2.4%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The annual rate reached as high as 8% in 2022 under Biden and is currently at 3.4%.

There were three big reasons why inflation was low during Trump's presidency: the legacy of the 2008 financial crisis, Federal Reserve actions and the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump entered the White House with inflation already low, largely because of the slow recovery from the Great Recession, when financial markets collapsed and millions of people lost their homes to foreclosure.

The inflation rate barely averaged more than 1% during Obama's second term.



## Climate change impacts many in India. But some politicians skirt the issue

By SIBI ARASU  
Associated Press

BEED, India — Almost 970 million Indians are voting in general elections amid sweltering heat and unpredictable weather extremes exacerbated by human-caused climate change, leading to loss of livelihood, forced migration and increasingly difficult living conditions for millions across the country.

Voters are looking for politicians who promise relief, stability and resilience to the wide-ranging and damaging effects of a warming climate. In their election manifestos, India's top political parties, including the governing Bharatiya Janata Party and the main opposition, the Congress party, have made multiple promises to act on climate damage and reduce emissions of planet-heating gases.

But there has been little talk about climate change on the campaign trail.

"Climate change is still not among the headlines during these elections despite its obvious impact on millions of Indian lives," said Anjal Prakash, author of multiple United Nations climate reports.

The Indian subcontinent — surrounded by ocean on three sides and the Himalayan ranges to its north — is vulnerable to sea level rise, severe storms, heavy floods and melting glaciers. It's also experienced extreme heat spells and severe drought as global average temperatures climb. A report by the New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment said India experienced extreme weather on nearly 90% of the days last year. Here's a look at how climate change is influencing voters.

### LONGER DROUGHTS IN WESTERN AND CENTRAL INDIA

Vaibhav Maske's millet farm was dry to the bone in early May, even though he dug three borewells 600 feet deep looking for water. The 25-year-old lives in Marathwada, one of the most acutely affected heat and drought-prone regions in western Maharashtra state, and farmers there say the current summer is the worst major drought in almost a decade. But politicians haven't been paying attention.

"Politicians are only talking about religion and caste. No one is talking about the environment or farmers issues," said Maske. "They are saying Prime Minister Modi is giving money to farmers, that's good. But at the same time, the taxes are so high on everything including our farm equipment, so how can we make ends meet this way?"

Since February 2019, a federal government scheme transfers \$70 to around 100 million farmers a year to supplement their income. But Maske said it's of little use as farm expenses like water, fertilizers and farm gear now cost him up to \$180 a month.

Instead, Maske said local and federal governments need to prioritize providing a water source for farming. "They need to dig canals or divert some water from rivers in nearby areas, so we have some steady supply of water. No one has done anything about this," he said.



AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool

Vaibhav Maske, a farmer, carries water in a vessel at his farm outside Beed, India, Friday.

### STRONGER CYCLONES FOR COASTAL REGIONS

India's eastern coasts have long been prone to cyclones, but the number of intense storms is increasing along the country's coast. Last year was India's deadliest cyclone season in recent times, killing 523 people and costing an estimated \$2.5 billion in damage.

Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, said their studies found that "floods have increased threefold since the 1950s and cyclones have increased by 50% since the 1980s." It's making disasters a political focal point for the regions worst affected by them. Around 25,000 people in the Ennore neighborhood in Chennai planned to boycott the Indian general elections in part due to lack of government support post Cyclone Michaung, which devastated the eastern coasts of southern India in Dec. 2023.

"Politicians just come asking for votes making promises," said Subhashini Ravi, a 37-year-old resident of Ennore. "Once elections are over, they just disappear."

Still, the boycott was called off at the last minute after the regional government said it would address the issues post-election.

Issues related to religion, caste and employment still determine most Indians'

political preferences, but Koll said that at local levels, climate is playing a role when "the entire community is affected."

Local and federal authorities have managed to adapt partially to increasingly frequent cyclones by evacuating coastal residents in time and drastically reducing loss of life. But as cyclones get more intense, many residents like Ravi are still worried.

### UNPREDICTABLE AND INCREASED FLOODING IN ASSAM

Thousands in Assam state are dependent on fishing and selling produce like rice, jute and vegetables from their small farms on floating river islands in the Brahmaputra River, known locally as Chars.

When it floods, residents of Char islands often row in makeshift rafts to dry land, and return once it subsides. But floods are now more devastating and unpredictable because of climate change, locals say, making it harder to stay on the islands.

Residents are wary nothing will change no matter who they vote for.

"All the politicians promise to solve problems related to flooding but after elections are over, no one cares about it," said Yaad Ali, a 55-year-old farmer in Sandakhaiti, a village located on a small river island in north eastern India's Assam state.

## As US offers to buyout flood-prone properties, these Texans stay put

By EMILY FOXHALL  
The Texas Tribune

HOUSTON — After the floodwaters earlier this month just about swallowed two of the six homes that 60-year-old Tom Madigan owns on the San Jacinto River, he didn't think twice about whether to fix them. He hired people to help, and they got to work stripping the walls, pulling up flooring and throwing out water-logged furniture.

What Madigan didn't know: The Harris County Flood Control District wants to buy his properties as part of an effort to get people out of dangerously flood-prone areas.

Back-to-back storms drenched southeast Texas in late April and early May, causing flash flooding and pushing rivers out of their banks and into low-lying neighborhoods. Officials across the region urged people in vulnerable areas to evacuate.

Like Madigan's, some places that were inundated along the San Jacinto in Harris County have flooded repeatedly. And for nearly 30 years, the flood control district has been trying to clear out homes around the river by paying property owners to move, then returning the lots to nature.

The recent floods show why buyout programs can be important. These spots typically flood first and worse. Gov. Greg Abbott reported that hundreds of rescues took place in the state while the floods destroyed homes. A man drowned and a child was swept away into the floods. One Harris County resident described climbing on top of his motor home as the water rose before first responders rescued him.

But the disaster and its aftermath also illustrate why buyouts are complicated to carry out even in Harris County, home to Houston, which has one of the most robust buyout programs in the country. The flood control district has identified roughly 2,400 properties as current buyout candidates around the San Jacinto; the district and county have bought about 800 of them.

Nearly all of the district's buyouts are voluntary. If an owner doesn't want to sell, the district can't force them out.

Buyouts make sense for some people who can't be protected from floods, said Alessandra Jerolleman, director of research for the Center on Environment, Land and Law at Loyola University New Orleans College

of Law. But buyouts might not provide lower-income people enough money to get somewhere safer, she said, and they could lose important support like child care from nearby family or neighbors.

"It's not as though it's a guarantee of reducing risks to that family," Jerolleman said.

People who live near the river and who have endured repeated floods explained that they've stayed because it's affordable and, most of the time, peaceful. Where else would they be able to buy anything like it? Some said they didn't think the government would offer them what they consider a fair price to sell their land. Some didn't know the buyout program existed.

Madigan started buying homes more than 15 years ago in the unincorporated River Terrace neighborhood because they were cheap. Last week, the Houston firefighter drank a Heineken and grilled hamburgers for his work crew outside his most damaged house, which he rents to his brother. Sodden rugs baked in the sun on the driveway.

Madigan said he might have taken a buyout if it was a reasonable offer — but he doubted it would be. He said he needed to get the properties ready again for his renters. "I can't wait," he said.

Two blocks away, water had swept through a yellow house Madigan rents to a family with a teenage son. One of the workers fixing the property, 21-year-old Omar Reyna, watched the family throw out pretty much everything they had. Piecing together new laminate flooring with his dad, Reyna kept thinking about a trash bag of Teddy bears and stuffed toys he tossed out for them.

He wondered if the parents had been saving the toys for another kid they might have in the future.

"The faster we get it done, the faster they can come back in here," Reyna said.

Some people choose to live with the risk of flooding.

The San Jacinto is the largest river in the state's most populous county. For years before Harris County's first floodplain maps were drawn up in the mid-1980s, people built homes near its banks. Even today, people can still build in the vast floodplain if the houses are high enough and have enough stormwater detention.

## Fast moving storms and tornadoes hit homes in Kansas, Oklahoma

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — Fast-moving storms with strong winds, large hail and apparent tornadoes swept Oklahoma and Kansas, blowing roofs off homes and blocking roads with toppled trees and downed power lines. Meanwhile, Houston made progress in recovering from last week's deadly storms.

Nearly 20 homes were damaged in western Oklahoma's Custer County, with two people injured in Butler, state emergency officials said late Sunday. Damage to a nursing home was reported in the town of Hydro.

Wind gusts well over 60 mph were reported in many areas as the storms, which began Sunday afternoon and lasted through the night, moved eastward. In central Kansas, a 100 mph wind gust was reported at the airport in Salina, the National Weather Service said.

Jacob Schwein, of Russell, Kansas, told television station KAKE that he spotted a funnel cloud from a storm that damaged his home and ripped apart a garage where he kept his race car, trophies and an array of tools.

"When I left work, I seen it," Schwein said. "I seen it come down right over there on the next road."

Overturned semitrailers were reported in Newton and Sedgewick counties, the office said.

"Due to the damage and debris please do not go out unless absolutely necessary!" the city of Halstead posted online.



Brett Coomer/Houston Chronicle via AP

A truck is covered in debris following a storm on Sunday, in Cypress, Texas.

The weather service said it received 13 tornado reports Sunday from Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado.

Schools were canceled Monday in several communities that were cleaning up. More storms were forecast for later in the day. The National Weather Service warned of an enhanced risk of severe storms late Monday night into early Tuesday in parts of Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. Those storms could have produced large hail, gusts up to 75 mph and some tornadoes.

Parts of Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota might have also seen some flooding with heavy rain swelling rivers and creeks, the

weather service said. Houston-area residents affected by deadly storms last week received some good news as officials said power was restored Sunday to a majority of the hundreds of thousands who had been left in the dark and without air conditioning during hot and humid weather.

Thursday's storms left at least seven dead and brought much of Houston to a standstill. Thunderstorms and hurricane-force winds tore through the city of over 2 million, reducing businesses and other structures to debris, uprooting trees and shattering glass in downtown skyscrapers.



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## NCAA

## Proposed \$2.7B settlement clears 1st approval step

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College  
Football Writer

A potential multibillion-dollar settlement of an antitrust lawsuit has cleared the first of a three-step NCAA approval process, with no change to a payment structure that would have the 27 college conferences not named in the suit cover the majority of a \$1.6 billion portion of the damages.

The Division I Board of Directors finance committee on Monday night passed the proposed \$2.77 billion settlement of House vs. NCAA to the full board with a recommendation to stick with the original finance plan.

The NCAA, Big Ten, Big 12, Atlantic Coast Conference, Pac-12 and Southeastern Conference are defendants in the House case, a class-action lawsuit that seeks back pay for college athletes who were denied name, image and likeness compensation dating to 2016. The NCAA lifted its ban on athletes earning money for sponsorship and endorsement deals in 2021.

The Big 12 became the first conference to approve the settlement Tuesday, with their board of university presidents and chancellors voting unanimously in favor, a person with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the conferences were not making any public statements about the settlement now.

Moving forward, it will be the Big Ten, Big 12, ACC and SEC carrying the financial burden in a proposed revenue-sharing system that asks each of its schools to commit upwards of \$20 million per year to be paid directly to athletes. The overall commitment is expected to be about \$300 million per school over 10 years.

The NCAA office is set to cover the damages portion of the case over 10 years through a reduction of operating expenses, insurance and reserve funds. Withheld distributions to its 352 Division I member schools would cover the rest. The NCAA distributes more than \$700 million per year to its 1,100 member schools in three divisions.

The approved finance plan for the settlement calls for the NCAA to

cover 41% of the \$2.77 billion in damages, with the Power Five conferences accounting for 24% and the other five major college football conferences — the so-called Group of Five — covering 10%.

The conferences that compete in the second tier of Division I football, the Championship Subdivision, would cover 14% of the overall settlement and the non-football D-I conferences would be on the hook for 12%.

The conference commissioners from leagues that do not compete at the highest tier of Division I football, the Bowl Subdivision, have taken issue with the \$1.6 billion in withheld distribution portion of the settlement. The 27 conferences not named in the lawsuit are expected to cover 60% of withheld distributions, with the other 40% coming from power conferences that are currently comprised of 69 schools.

The commissioners of the 22 non-FBS conferences sent a memo to NCAA leadership, proposing the finance structure be flipped so power conference withheld distributions cover 60% of the \$1.6 billion.

Big Sky Commissioner Tom Wistrill said Tuesday the non-FBS conferences were holding out hope for reconsideration.

"We're fighting uphill," he said.

The Big Sky is one of the most successful conferences in the Championship Subdivision, with schools such as Montana, Montana State, Eastern Washington, Idaho State and Weber State.

The settlement proposal still needs approval from the Division I Board of Directors, which was scheduled to meet later Tuesday, and the NCAA's Board of Governors.

The presidential boards of the other four power conferences, also known as autonomy conferences, are also scheduled to meet separately this week to vote on the settlement.

"We believe over 95% of the damages are going to go to A5 football and basketball players. For non-A5 conferences to pay for that is disproportionate. We're asking for a more proportionate structure because our student-athletes are not going to see the money," Wistrill said,

Cortland  
Carthage 10  
3By MATT CZEITNER  
Sports Reporter

mzeitner@cortlandstandard.com

Led by a big offensive game from Ethan Johnson, the No. 5 Cortland baseball team scored in all but one inning to win 10-3 over No. 12 Carthage in the first round of the Section III Class A tournament Tuesday at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex. Cortland moves onto the quarterfinals, where it will be on the road against Westhill at 5 p.m. Thursday.

Ethan Johnson had his best day at the plate of the season on Tuesday, going 3-for-3 with five RBIs. The senior, who has had an up-and-down year at the plate, was happy to come up big in a postseason game. He had an RBI triple in the first, a two-run single in the third, an RBI single in the fourth and a sacrifice fly in the sixth.

"The guys in front of me have just been consistently getting on base all season long and I'm glad it happened again (Tuesday)," Ethan Johnson said. "They put me in spots to succeed and I'm glad I could come through."

Cortland head coach Ben Albright was also impressed with his starting catcher's day at the plate and saw everything they've been working on come together at a big time.

"He definitely stepped up (Tuesday) and was ready," Ben Albright said. "It's huge for him to get hot right now. We've been working on



Matt Czeitner/sports reporter

Cortland's Ethan Johnson steps into the batter's box against Carthage Tuesday at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex. Johnson went 3-for-3 with five RBIs in the Purple Tigers' 10-3 win in the first round of the Section III Class A tournament.

things throughout the season. He's been barreling up a lot of baseballs this season and it's right at people. It's just the nature of the game."

Ethan Johnson led Cortland's offense, but he was not alone. The top of the Purple Tigers' lineup all produced at a high level. Leadoff hitter Owen Johnson went 2-for-3 with three RBIs and a walk, Cal Albright

went 2-for-4 with two runs, Caden Albright went 1-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and three runs and Danny Jackson went 1-for-4 with an RBI batting fifth. Antonio Terrazas and Robbie Atkins each added a hit.

"We're a dangerous team when we're swinging the bats good," Ben Albright said. "When we're able to score 10 runs, we're going to

beat teams."

"I'm glad we're all getting hot at the same time," Ethan Johnson added. "I feel like this whole season we all haven't been clicking at the same time. For it to come now, it's a great time."

Cortland struck first with two

See SCHOOLS, page 11

## High School Softball

## Eaton's hit sends McGraw to walk-off win

McGraw  
Hamilton 6  
5By PAUL CIFONELLI  
Sports Editor

pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

Katelynn Millard hit a triple well over the left fielder's head in the bottom of the seventh, putting her and her team 60 feet from the second round. Once she got the chance to score, it was the longest and most rewarding 60 feet of her life, giving No. 4 McGraw a 6-5, walk-off win over No. 13 Hamilton in the first round of the Section III Class D tournament Tuesday at the Blodgett Mills Softball Field.

Josslyn Eaton's single was a shallow pop fly between the drawn in shortstop and shallow-playing left fielder. The freshman catcher never hesitated, even if she maybe should have.

"My legs were shaking," Millard said. "I was terrified. I should've went back, but I didn't."

Millard hit her triple with two strikes and one out in the seventh. She fouled off a couple Ellie Freeth fastballs low in the zone and finally got a pitch a little higher that she could handle.

"The second she threw it I said to myself, 'That's my pitch. That's my



Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

McGraw's Katelynn Millard, left, hugs teammate Haylee Bassett, right, after scoring the game-winning run Tuesday at the Blodgett Mills Softball Field. Josslyn Eaton drove Millard in for a 6-5 victory.

pitch all the way," Millard said.

Millard raced to third and just beat the throw, then Haylee Bassett dropped down a bunt and reached first when the Hamilton throw went home. Bassett took second after the first pitch to Eaton.

McGraw had to battle back with two runs in the bottom of the sixth to make it a 5-5 game. Eaton scored

the first run of the inning after Hamilton made an error on a Madison Sweeney bunt. Sweeney came around to score on a fielder's choice on a Camdyn Caperton ground ball.

Hamilton took a 5-3 lead with three runs in the top of the fifth. Freeth punished balls at the plate all day and hit an RBI triple in the fifth, Adriana Catania hit a sacrifice

fly and Alexis LaFrance scored on a McGraw error.

The Eagles appeared to have the wind sucked out of them after the fifth, with a couple defensive miscues fueling the Hamilton rally. They regrouped like normal and made sure this wasn't their final game.

"This team really has had each other's back the entire year," coach Kris Terwilliger said. "They're young, but the best part about this team is they're best friends off the field as well. When one thing goes wrong with one person the girls just pick each other up."

"For our seniors, we just did not want that to be their last game," Remi Stull added.

Hamilton opened the scoring in the second with a two-out RBI single from Isadora Catania. McGraw posted three runs in the bottom half, with Bassett and Eaton scoring on wild pitches and Caperton plating Hannah Wilson with a groundout.

Adriana Catania doubled in Freeth in the top of the third to make it 3-2 McGraw.

Stull tossed the first five innings for McGraw, making her sectional debut as an eighth grader. Stull struck out three and allowed five

See MCGRAW, page 11

## National Football League

## Jets QB Rodgers is working hard in return from injury

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Aaron Rodgers is throwing and, more importantly, running again — and officially putting his torn Achilles tendon behind him.

The New York Jets quarterback has no limitations as he practices with the team during organized team activities, which began Monday.

"I feel really good," the quarterback said Tuesday. "It's just about the mental part. These practices have been nice the last couple of days, just to feel what it's like to be out there, moving around and not be thinking about it and see how I respond the next day."

"This is the last part. The strength is good, the movement's good. Just the confidence

to do everything."

The 40-year-old Rodgers tore his left Achilles tendon on the fourth snap of his debut with the Jets in the season opener against Buffalo last Sept. 11. He pushed his rehabilitation with the intention to return at the end of last season, but decided to forgo those plans when New York fell out of playoff contention and he was still not 100% healthy.

Rodgers focused instead on being fully ready for this season — and he appears well on track to do so.

"He's doing everything," said coach Robert Saleh, who added: "There's no limitations to what we're asking him to do at practice."

Rodgers looked sharp and moved well Tuesday during non-contact team drills. Rodgers

had a highlight-reel throw down the middle of the field to a well-covered Xavier Gipson that would have been a touchdown. He also connected a few times with leading receiver Garrett Wilson, including one that zipped through traffic for a short score.

While Rodgers was able to practice toward the end of last season, he acknowledged things

feel a lot different now.

"Back then, I couldn't run. Or, run fast," he said. "I could move a little bit, but now I feel like I can do anything."

Rodgers' return has refueled optimism around the Jets, who were considered a playoff contender a year ago — with talk of a Super Bowl appearance suggested by the quarterback and his teammates.



# Woo pitches shutout ball for 6 innings as Mariners defeat Yankees 6-3

NEW YORK (AP) — Bryan Woo pitched shutout ball at Yankee Stadium for the second straight season, Dylan Moore homered twice with four RBIs and Seattle held on to beat New York.

Ty France and Luke Raley also homered for the Mariners, who dealt the Yankees their first consecutive losses since April 29 and 30 at Baltimore. Seattle rallied from a three-run, ninth-inning deficit for a 5-4 victory in the series opener that stopped New York's seven-game winning streak.

## GUARDIANS 7, METS 6

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Guardians beat the New York Mets 7-6 on Tuesday night, matching their longest win streak of the season at five games.

David Fry added his first career pinch-hit home run, a two-run shot in the sixth inning, for the AL Central-leading Guardians. Cleveland has the fourth-best record in the majors at 32-17 and has won six straight at Progressive Field.

## RED SOX 5, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Jaren Duran homered and stole home as Boston beat Tampa Bay.

Duran scored to make it 4-2 during a double steal with Rafael Devers in a go-ahead, two-run eighth against Jason Adam (2-1). Duran headed home after Rays catcher Ben Rortvedt tried to throw Devers out at second and beat a return throw to the plate with a head-first slide.

## TWINS 10, NATIONALS 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Byron Buxton hit two homers and drove in three runs, Joe Ryan pitched seven scoreless innings and Minnesota halted a seven-game losing streak with a victory over Washington.

Jose Miranda added a two-run homer as the Twins scored eight runs off Nationals left-hander Patrick Corbin (1-5). Willi Castro added a two-run shot off reliever Jacob Barnes as Minnesota responded following a players-only meeting after Monday night's 12-3 loss in the series opener.

## REDS 2, PADRES 0

CINCINNATI (AP) — Andrew Abbott threw seven shutout innings, Elly De La Cruz doubled home a run and Cincinnati shook off a disastrous road trip to beat San Diego.

The Reds went 3-11 on their swing out



AP Photo/Frank Franklin II

Yankees' Gleyber Torres hits a three-run home run during the seventh inning against the Mariners, Tuesday, in New York.

West, losing series to the Giants, Diamondbacks and Dodgers. Back home, they did just enough offensively to win one behind another terrific outing by Abbott (3-4).

## PHILLIES 5, RANGERS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ranger Suárez struck out 10 over seven innings and improved to 9-0 to lead Philadelphia to their MLB-best 35th win, a victory over Texas.

Bryce Harper hit his 11th homer of the season to help the Phillies win for the ninth time in 11 games and continue one of the best starts in franchise history.

This season, no pitcher in baseball has been better than Suárez.

The 28-year-old lefty walked off to a

standing ovation in the seventh after he caught Leody Taveras looking on a 91.6 mph sinker to end the inning. Suárez took a no-decision in his first start of the season before he reeled of wins in nine straight starts.

## WHITE SOX 5, BLUE JAYS 0

TORONTO (AP) — Garrett Crochet and three relievers combined on a two-hitter, Corey Julks and Danny Mendick each had two RBIs and the Chicago White Sox snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Toronto. Chicago's Eloy Jiménez exited after straining his left hamstring while scoring from second base on Julks' two-out single in the top of the fifth. Gavin Sheets took over as the designated hitter in the seventh.

## BREWERS 7, MARLINS 5

MIAMI (AP) — Christian Yelich hit a go-ahead two-run triple in the eighth inning and Milwaukee beat Miami.

William Contreras had two hits and three RBIs, and Willy Adames doubled twice for the NL Central-leading Brewers (28-20).

## PIRATES 7, GIANTS 6

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Nick Gonzales' run-scoring single in the bottom of the 10th inning lifted Pittsburgh to a victory over San Francisco.

Gonzales' leadoff hit up the middle off Erik Miller (0-2) scored automatic runner Connor Joe from second base and ended the Giants' season-high four-game winning streak. The Pirates have won four of their last five games.

## ROYALS 10, TIGERS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Bobby Witt Jr. homered twice as Kansas City beat the Detroit Tigers for their fifth straight win. Maikel Garcia led off the first with a triple and scored on Witt's infield hit. Witt stole second and scored when Salvador Perez hit a single to right. After Kyle Isbel and Garcia singled in the second, Witt hit Casey Mize's splitter 468 feet — the farthest of his career — into the upper deck.

## ATHLETICS 5, ROCKIES 4

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Abraham Toro hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth after Seth Brown hit a tying two-run drive the previous inning, and the Oakland Athletics snapped an eight-game losing streak with a 5-4 win over the Colorado Rockies. Colorado's Ezequiel Tovar hit a pair of solo home runs for his first career multi-homer game and Ryan McMahon added a two-run drive before the A's rallied against Justin Lawrence and Tyler Kinley.

## ASTROS 6, ANGELS 5

HOUSTON (AP) — Kyle Tucker homered twice to give him an MLB-leading 17 and Jeremy Peña's RBI single with one out in the 10th inning lifted the Houston Astros to a 6-5 win over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday night. The Angels intentionally walked Yordan Alvarez with no outs in the 10th and Kyle Tucker on second as the automatic runner. Both players advanced on a fly out by Alex Bregman before Peña singled off Carlos Estévez on a line drive to right field to give Houston the victory.

## National Basketball Association

# Celtics edge Pacers in Game 1 of East finals



AP Photo/Michael Dwyer

Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, center, passes the ball under pressure during the second quarter of Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference finals, Tuesday, in Boston.

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — Jayson Tatum scored 36 points, including 10 in overtime after Jaylen Brown's tying 3-pointer with 6.1 seconds remaining in regulation, and the Boston Celtics rallied just in time for a 133-128 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Jrue Holiday added a season-high 28 points and Brown finished with 26.

Game 2 is Thursday night in Boston.

Tyrese Haliburton had 25 points and 10 assists for the Pacers, who knocked down 13 3-pointers and scored 56 points in the paint against a Celtics team still playing without 7-footer Kristaps Porzingis.

Pascal Siakam added 24 points and 12 rebounds. Myles Turner finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds for the sixth-seeded Pacers, who twice

turned it over with a three-point lead in the final 30 seconds of regulation.

Brown made them pay for the second one, hitting a 3 from the corner with Siakam right in his face to tie it at 117.

Indiana went back ahead 123-121 when Haliburton hit all three free throws after being fouled with 1:46 remaining. Tatum then muscled in a layup and was fouled by T.J. McConnell. He completed the three-point play to put Boston ahead for good.

The Pacers turned it over again, this time by Haliburton. The ball found its way to Tatum at the top of key. He pumped, sidestepped a defender and sunk a 3 to make it 127-123 with 43 seconds left.

Derrick White and Siakam traded layups. Holiday was fouled and hit two free throws to give Boston a 131-125 cushion.

# Towns treasures T'wolves' trip to West finals

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The road Karl-Anthony Towns has taken with the Minnesota Timberwolves to reach the Western Conference finals has been far more lonely and rocky than smooth and straight.

For all the setbacks and struggles over nine NBA seasons that largely overshadowed the success, Towns has seen the payoff this spring for his commitment to — and sacrifice for — a franchise long stuck as the league's most frequent losers.

"You see how at peace and happy he is right now," coach Chris Finch said after Minnesota ousted defending champion Denver in Game 7 of their

second-round series on Sunday. "He had to trust that he was never going to be marginalized. All young players always think they can do it all by themselves, but in this league nobody can. He's been on many teams where he's had to do a lot, and he's got incredible skill to do so, but he's really bought in to doing all the other things we need him to do."

The Wolves host the Dallas Mavericks in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals tonight. Anthony Edwards and Luka Dončić will be the featured attraction on either side, but the Wolves wouldn't be here without Towns.

The four-time All-Star's overachievement on defense against Kevin Durant helped spur a

first-round sweep of Phoenix. His close guarding of three-time league MVP Nikola Jokić contributed to the takedown of Denver. Towns is averaging 18.8 points and 9.3 rebounds over the 11 playoff games, with a 44% hit rate on 3-pointers and just 20 turnovers.

"Ant's game complements KAT's game and vice versa. When you talk about whose team it is, it's kind of a funny phrase. You can see Ant is giving praise to KAT, and KAT's giving praise to Ant," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "When you talk about great teammates, they play together at a high level."

The Wolves are not only in rare position as the series favor-

ite — albeit slight, at minus-185 to win according to BetMGM odds — but they've only made it this far once before.

Towns, the first overall pick in the 2015 draft, was a gangly 8-year-old growing up in New Jersey when NBA MVP Kevin Garnett guided the Wolves to the Western Conference finals in 2004.

"To be here this year with these guys and this team after all that," Towns said, "it's just super satisfying."

Towns was drafted by executive and coach Flip Saunders, who died of cancer four months later. The only time the Wolves made the playoffs in his first six years was 2018, when Jimmy Butler sparked a 47-35 record

— before instigating a conflict around contract demands and disparate personalities on his way out soon after that. The Wolves had a cumulative .361 winning percentage in those other five years.

After Towns played in all 82 games in his first three seasons, the injury bug began to find him. His overall performance in first-round series losses in 2018, 2022 and 2023 was mixed at best. Personally, the biggest blow of all came at the beginning of the pandemic when his mother, Jacqueline Cruz-Towns, died of complications from COVID-19.

"He's been through a lot. I've seen the work he puts in every day," teammate Rudy Gobert said.

# New Cup champion is coming

1st time new team will win it all this century

By STEPHEN WHYNE  
AP Hockey Writer

No matter which team wins the Stanley Cup championship this year it will be a first this century.

The Dallas Stars won the franchise's lone championship in 1999, months before the world worried computers would malfunction at the start of a new millennium. The New York Rangers haven't done it since their magical run in 1994 that ended a 54-year title drought.

The Edmonton Oilers have not done it since the last title of their dynasty in 1990, seven years before current star Connor McDavid was born. The Florida Panthers have never won the Cup since their inception in 1993, when hockey in the U.S. Sun Belt was just starting to become a reality.

"It's something that all these markets are starving for," said Mike Rupp, a NHL Network analyst whose three-point Game 7 performance in 2003 gave New Jersey its third championship. "I love seeing new blood in it."

New blood when it comes to a title but not unfamiliar with this stage of the playoffs. Florida and Dallas were each in their respective conference finals last year (Florida advanced to the Final, too), while New York and Edmonton are back after getting there in 2022.

Thirteen different teams have hoisted the Cup since 1999, including Chicago, Pittsburgh and Tampa Bay doing it three times, and New Jersey, Colorado and Los Angeles twice each.

None of the remaining teams has had the same coach for more than the past two seasons.

Paul Maurice took over the Panthers and Peter DeBoer the Stars in the summer of 2022. Peter Laviolette got the Rangers' job less than a year ago. Kris Knoblauch was an early-season replacement for the Oilers in November.

Part of that is just the cyclical nature of coaching changes in hockey, though the high volume over the past 18 months has gotten the attention of the fraternity, with DeBoer calling it "insanity."

There's still value in experience, though, with Knoblauch the only first-time NHL head coach in the final four. He is eight wins away from being the fourth coach hired in-season to win the Cup that year.

Laviolette is in his sixth head coaching job. He coached Carolina to the Stanley Cup championship in 2006 and took Philadelphia in 2010 and Nashville in 2017 to the final. DeBoer has two trips to the final on his resume: 2012 with New Jersey and 2016 with San Jose. No one has coached more NHL regular-season and playoff games without winning the Cup than Maurice with 1,973.

This isn't quite like the Tampa Bay Lightning going back to back in 2020 and '21 and reaching the final in '22, but these teams have all played a lot of playoff hockey in recent years.

Counting their bubble run to the Cup Final four years ago, the Stars have been in 79 playoff games dating to 2019.

"Dallas has been a good team for a long time, just never able to kind of get over the hump and had some really tough paths in the playoffs," Rupp said.

## Golf Log

KNICKERBOCKER CC MONDAY LEAGUE	
Low Gross:	Dirk Dockstaler (35)
Low Net:	J. Bennett (30)
Standings	
Holy Smoke	19 Cogood 14
Northeast Transformers	17 St. Charles 13.5
Tortie Farms	16 Brew Crew 6
Health Co.	15 Shep's Funeral Home 5.5
KCC	14 Team Farris 5

WALDEN OAKS BILL SWISHER SENIOR LEAGUE	
Low Gross:	Tim Towle (30)
Low Net:	Don Kniskern (30)
Best Ball:	Jim Wainman, Bob Gregory, Jeff Kmetz and Tom Cafano (25)
Most 4s:	Dick Conroe (7)
Most 5s:	Hutch Hutchinson (7)
Most 6s:	Tim Baroni (5)

Standings	
Chirpers	62 Albatross 53
Sandbaggers	60 DUH 52.5
Hackers	59 Clubheads 51
Wanna Be's	58.5 Mistifs 50.5
Charles' Angels	55 Bogymen 50
281 Bow	55 Just Kids 49.5
Big Knockers	54 East Enders 49.5



# NASCAR star Kyle Larson embraces Indianapolis debut

Right down to milking a cow

By DAVE SKRETTA  
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Kyle Larson has been adamant about soaking up the entire Indianapolis 500 experience as the NASCAR superstar prepares to make his debut in “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing” on Memorial Day weekend.

He didn’t expect to find himself under an udder on Tuesday.

One of the most accomplished drivers of any generation is still just an Indy 500 rookie. And one of the somewhat new traditions at a place steeped in them is that rookies, after completing their harrowing qualifying runs and a penultimate practice on Monday, return to otherwise quiet Indianapolis Motor Speedway the next morning for a crack at milking a cow.

“What? Is that a thing?” Larson asked when first informed of the custom.

Told that it was, indeed, a thing, the driver of the No. 17 Arrow McLaren asked: “Do we get to glove up?”

So on a hot, sunny Tuesday at the speedway, there was Larson — just as he had promised — standing alongside a black-and-white Holstein that was quietly munching away. Larson bent at

the waist, reached with his right hand — ungloved, for the record — and gave one of the udders a couple of tentative tugs.

“I grew up in a city,” explained Larson, who was born in suburban Sacramento, California. “I’ve never really been around a cow.”

Just about everything Larson does with a wheel in his hands seems natural to him, but a cow’s udder? Pretty amateurish. Still, Larson got a couple of streams of milk to squirt, and really, that was the point.

On Sunday, he hopes to douse himself in the stuff.

That’s another Indianapolis 500 tradition, of course, begun when parched 1936 winner Louis Meyer climbed from his car and asked for a glass of buttermilk. These days, drivers are asked beforehand what version of milk they prefer — Larson picked whole, should he win — and upon reaching victory lane, generally take a quick swig before pouring it over their heads.

Yet so much is up in the air as Larson prepares for race day, including what would happen if he wins. He qualified fifth in a joint effort between Arrow McLaren and Hendrick Motorsports, his NASCAR team, and plans to run the entire race before flying to Charlotte, North Carolina, and driving in the Cup Series race that night.



Larson

AP Photo/Peter Dejong, File



Chelsea’s coach Emma Hayes gestures during the Women’s Champions League quarterfinal soccer match between Ajax and Chelsea at the Johan Cruyff Arena, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, March 19.

# Coach Emma Hayes’ 1st roster includes 2 first-time call-ups

By ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP Soccer Writer

Coach Emma Hayes has selected her first roster for the United States ahead of a pair of friendlies as she prepares to lead the womens national team at the Paris Olympics.

Hayes, named U.S. coach last November, finished her final season as coach of Chelsea on Saturday, winning the team’s fifth straight Women’s Super League Title with a 6-0

roust of Manchester United.

Her first U.S. roster announced Tuesday includes two National Women’s Soccer League players called up to the national team for the first time, Chicago Red Stars defender Sam Staab and Washington Spirit midfielder Hal Hershfelt.

A notable omission from the roster is veteran goalkeeper Alyssa Naehner, who injured her left thigh while playing in a match for the Chicago Red

Stars on May 12.

The team will play South Korea on June 1 in Commerce City, Colorado, before a rematch on June 4 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The 23-player roster is Hayes’ last chance to look at players before she names an 18-player roster for the Olympics. The United States will play a pair of sendoff matches in July.

“I expect complete commit-

ment from everyone to absorb very quickly the things that I value as the most important so that we can compete this summer. I know they are a highly coachable group and I’m looking forward to challenging them,” Hayes said in a statement. “It’s time to go to work. I can’t wait to meet the fans and it’s really time to get behind the team as we get closer to putting a roster together for the Olympics.”

## Tennis

# US Open champion Coco Gauff calls on young Americans to vote

By ANDREW DAMPF  
AP Sports Writer

ROME — She’s the U.S. Open champion. The highest paid female athlete in the world. And a frustrated Floridian.

American tennis player Coco Gauff has never been afraid to use her voice.

Not when she delivered an impromptu speech at a Black Lives Matter rally at the age of 16. And not now at age 20 when

she’s preparing to vote for the first time in a U.S. presidential election later this year.

Gauff, who will be among the favorites when the French Open starts on Sunday in Paris, addressed the current political climate in her home state during a recent interview with The Associated Press.

She noted that it’s “a crazy time to be a Floridian, especially a Black one at that.”

“We aren’t happy with the current state of our government in Florida, especially everything with the books and just the way our office operates,” Gauff said, referring to a two-year-long controversy over banning books from the state’s schools that started with a bill signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

DeSantis backtracked on the law last month, when he signed

a bill narrowing its focus. He blamed liberal activists for abusing the law, not the citizens whose objections to certain books account for the majority of book removals from school libraries and classrooms.

“At the end of the day, it comes down to the youth and the community being outspoken,” Gauff said at the Italian Open last week. “So I encourage everyone to vote.”

## McGRAW

continued from page 9

runs, four earned, on 10 hits and no walks. She was put into a stressful situation but felt ready for the challenge.

“I was very nervous as an eighth grader on varsity,” Stull said. “I’ve had a few good games leading up to this, so I was just really hoping that my defense could have my back because I know they have a good offense.”

Abby Lakin relieved Stull for the sixth and seventh, dominating the Emerald Knights’ lineup. She went two perfect innings and got out of the top of the seventh on five pitches.

Millard finished with a double, a triple and a run scored, Eaton had two hits, an RBI and two

runs, Bassett singled, walked and scored, Wilson walked twice and scored, Sweeney walked and scored, Caperton and Leah Terwilliger each singled and Stull was hit by a pitch.

McGraw will now host No. 5 Oriskany (18-2) in the quarterfinals at 5 p.m. Thursday at the Blodgett Mills Softball Field. The Eagles will look to continue their best season in 25 years after picking up their 10th win of the campaign.

“This is the most amazing feeling I’ve had,” Millard said.

“It’s crazy because we’ve been playing on the same team since 8U and this is our goal and we’ve finally reached it,” Stull added.

## SCHOOLS

continued from page 9

runs in the bottom of the first inning, but Carthage responded with a three-run second. Those three runs would be the final productive offensive inning from the Comets.

Cortland starting pitcher Cal Albright tossed four innings, allowing three runs on four hits and struck out four. Owen Johnson then threw three scoreless innings in relief, walking four batters, allowing a hit and recording a strikeout.

“Cal has had a great year on the mound, but this was not his best outing,” Ben Albright said. “He battled though and got through four innings. We came in here after that and said, ‘OK, we got the lead, let’s go to the next arm.’ Owen was ready to go and took care of business.”

Cortland is 0-2 against Westhill this year, but the Purple Tigers know they can compete with the Warriors.

“We just got to stay together and get on them early,” Ethan Johnson said. “I think if we can play clean baseball and do the little things right we can compete with anybody.”

“I expect us to go up there and give them a run for their money,” Ben Albright added. “There’s a reason we’re a five and they’re a four seed, it’s because we’re both close to each other in how we play.”

### BOYS TENNIS

#### CORTLAND

Tyler Cranfield won the Section III Division II singles championship by beating No. 3 Evan Lyga 6-0, 6-0 at Oneida High School. Cranfield was the tournament’s top seed and won sev-

en of his eight sets 6-0 to claim a sectional title.

Cranfield will next compete in the Boys Tennis Singles State Championships on May 31 at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing.

### BASEBALL

#### No. 7 CVA 5, No. 10 HOMER 0

Homer was two-hit by CVA ace Logan Judd and the Thunder capitalized on four Homer errors. CVA will play No. 2 New Hartford Thursday in the Section III Class A quarterfinals.

Mitchell Earle tossed all six innings for the Trojans, giving up five unearned runs on four hits, a walk, a hit batter and 16 strikeouts. He finished the game with 117 pitches, 82 going for strikes.

Andrew Kline and Max Franco had Homer’s only two hits, with Evan Sullivan drawing a walk and Tyler VanEtten getting hit by a pitch.

Homer finished its season with an 8-8 record.

#### No. 5 MCGRAW 12, No. 12 COPENHAGEN 8

McGraw opened up an 8-5 lead through two innings and tacked on three more in the fifth to win in the Section III Class D first round. The Eagles will play No. 4 Poland in the quarterfinals Thursday.

Blair Mulcahy led McGraw’s offense, going 4-for-4 with four RBIs and two runs scored. Owen Lea went 2-for-4 with an RBI and two runs, Thomas Lea was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run, Brennan Wilson doubled and knocked in three runs, Calob Sutton singled, walked and scored twice, Jaydon Bas-

sett singled, walked, drove in a run and scored one, Foster Eaton doubled, knocked in a run and scored, Riley VanLiew singled, drew a walk and had an RBI and Owen Mulcahy walked once and scored twice.

Blair Mulcahy threw 4.2 innings, allowing three runs, one earned, on two hits and two walks with seven strikeouts. Owen Mulcahy got two outs and walked a batter and Bassett allowed five runs, four earned, on four hits and a walk with a strikeout in 1.2 innings.

#### No. 6 TULLY 16, No. 11 FRANKFORT-SCHUYLER 9

Four Tully players had three-hit days as the Black Knights advanced to the quarterfinals of the Section III Class C tournament, where they will face the winner of No. 3 Pulaski and No. 14 Weedsport Thursday. Nate Melton was 3-for-4 with two doubles, a walk, four RBIs and two runs scored, Andy Polak went 3-for-4 with four RBIs and three runs, Dan Duffy finished 3-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs and Connor Bastedo was 3-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

Zeke Mohat went 2-for-4 with a walk and two runs, Will Lund walked three times and scored three runs, Ben Fleckenstein drew two walks and scored once, Wyatt Lund had a walk, an RBI and a run scored and Oscar Breitza walked once.

Mohat tossed a scoreless inning with two strikeouts. Wyatt Lund went 1.1 innings, giving up four runs, one earned, on a hit and three walks with a strikeout. Polak threw 1.2 frames, giving up three unearned runs on two

hits and a walk with a strikeout. Jesse Morgan surrendered two runs, one earned, on two hits and two walks with a strikeout in an inning. Oscar Breitza went two scoreless innings, walking two and striking out one.

### SOFTBALL

#### No. 9 ONEIDA 4, No. 8 CORTLAND 3

Cortland had the bases loaded with one out in the bottom of the seventh and failed to score, then Oneida pushed across the game-winning run in the top of the eighth to end Cortland’s season.

The Express will face No. 1 Camden in the Section III Class A quarterfinals Thursday.

Brenna Hogan struck out 18 Oneida batters, giving up three unearned runs on just one hit and four walks.

Hogan also singled and walked three times at the plate, Sophie Mayer had a single, an RBI and a run scored, Madelyn Kim singled, walked and scored once, Nellie Lucas singled twice, Jady N Willey singled once and Natalie Burns and Danika Peck each drew a walk.

The Purple Tigers end their season with a 7-10 record.

#### No. 1 TIOGA 26, No. 8 MARATHON 2

Marathon couldn’t overcome a few errors and a potent Tioga offense in the Section IV Class C quarterfinals. Tioga will face No. 5 Greene in the semifinals Thursday.

The Olympians end their season with a 9-12 record.

#### No. 11 COOPERSTOWN 17, No. 6 TULLY 3

Tully couldn’t overcome eight

errors as the Black Knights’ season ended early. Cooperstown will take on No. 3 Cato-Meridian in the quarterfinals of the Section III Class C tournament Thursday.

Julia Wortley paced Tully’s offense with a double, a home run, two RBIs and a run scored, Hayley Brenchley doubled twice, Susan Kutty singled twice, Anna Pierce singled and scored, Grace McKenna singled and walked, Maria Altman had a hit and Reaghan Flanagan scored a run.

Brenchley gave up 17 runs, seven earned, on 15 hits, three walks and a hit batter with six strikeouts in seven innings of work.

The Black Knights finish their season with a 10-6 record.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

#### No. 3 WESTHILL 17, No. 6 HOMER 4

Maria Partis and Eila Spanbauer each scored twice for Homer, but the Trojans got down 13-2 at halftime. Westhill will face No. 2 Skaneateles in the Section III Class D semifinals Thursday.

Lilly Sorenson added an assist and three draw controls for the Trojans. Spanbauer and Emma Effinger each had two draw controls, Partis controlled a draw and Izzy Small got a ground ball. Aislynn Cobb made eight saves for Homer.

The Trojans finish their season with a 12-6 record.

#### No. 2 FULTON 22, No. 7 SOUTHERN HILLS 11

Mackenzie Loughlin, Aliyah Mattox and Maddy Lund all had hat tricks, but Southern Hills couldn’t contain a potent Fulton offense.

The Red Dragons will face No. 3 Jamesville-Dewitt in the Section III Class C semifinals Thursday.

Loughlin added three assists, Gabby Flatt and Gracie Burns each scored once, Maddie Simmons had two assists and Kameryn Meaney contributed one assist.

Kiera Reed made 13 saves, got four ground balls and forced a turnover for the Storm. Lund controlled three draws, got a ground ball and forced a turnover, Mattox controlled three draws, Flatt had a draw control, a ground ball and two forced turnovers, Simmons contributed a draw control and a forced turnover, Charlotte Hourigan picked up two ground balls, Ellie McElhannon and Wren Lawton each had a ground ball and two forced turnovers, Meaney got a ground ball and Loughlin caused a turnover.

Southern Hills ends its season with an 8-9 record.

### UPCOMING SCHEDULE

#### BASEBALL

No. 3 Moravia at No. 2 Trumansburg, 4:30 p.m. today  
No. 5 Cortland at No. 4 Westhill, 5 p.m. Thursday  
No. 5 McGraw at No. 4 Poland, 4:30 p.m. Thursday  
No. 6 Tully vs. No. 3 Pulaski or No. 14 Weedsport, Thursday

#### SOFTBALL

No. 5 Oriskany at No. 4 McGraw, 5 p.m. Thursday  
at Blodgett Mills Softball Field  
No. 9 Brookfield at No. 1 Cincinnati, 5 p.m. Thursday

#### BOYS LACROSSE

No. 6 Indian River at No. 3 Homer, 7 p.m. today  
No. 7 Tully/F-P at No. 2 Skaneateles, 6:30 p.m. today  
at Corcoran High School

#### TRACK & FIELD

Cortland at East Syracuse-Minoa, 4:30 p.m. today  
Marathon at home, 4 p.m. today  
Dryden at Sidney, 3 p.m. today

#### BOYS GOLF

Dryden, Moravia at Soaring Eagle Golf Course, 9 a.m. today

#### GIRLS GOLF

Moravia at Soaring Eagle Golf Course, 9 a.m. Thursday





AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File

Police advance on pro-Palestinian demonstrators after defying orders to leave at an encampment on the UCLA campus, in Los Angeles, May 2.



AP Photo/Neal Ulevich, File

Police use tear gas and night sticks to break up anti-Vietnam war demonstrations at the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison, Oct. 18, 1967.

# The Israel-Hamas war is testing whether campuses are sacrosanct places for free speech and protest

By LAURIE KELLMAN and JOCELYN GECKER

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Stephen Hawking on the Big Bang. Millions of students for civil rights and against the Vietnam War.

They were provocative in their times, products of an ideal that holds universities as sacrosanct spaces for debate, innovation — and even revolution. But Hamas' deadly Oct. 7 attack on Israel and the resulting war in Gaza are testing that perception, as anger over the brutal military campaign collides with election-year politics and concerns about antisemitism in places where freedom of expression is supposed to rule.

"Where there is much desire to learn, there of necessity will be much arguing, much writing, many opinions; for opinion in good men is but knowledge in the making," wrote poet John Milton, an alumnus of Cambridge University, in his 1644 treatise against censorship in publishing. "Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties."

That lofty principle has clashed with the stark reality of the Israel-Hamas war. Hamas militants who crossed the border killed about 1,200 people

and took about 250 hostage. Israel's drive to root out Hamas has killed more than 35,000 people in Gaza, according to the local health ministry, and left millions on the edge of famine.

Administrators on some campuses have called in local police to break up pro-Palestinian protesters demanding that their schools divest from Israel in demonstrations that Israel's allies say are antisemitic and make campuses unsafe. From Columbia University in New York to the University of California, Los Angeles, thousands of students and faculty have been arrested in the past month.

"Columbia," read one sign held aloft there after arrests on April 30, "Protect your students (Cops don't protect us)."

Historically, universities are supposed to govern — and police — themselves in exchange for their status as "something of a secular sacred ground," said John Thelin, University of Kentucky College of Education professor emeritus and a historian of higher education.

"One has to think of an American college or university as a 'city-state' in which its legal protections and walls include the campus — grounds, buildings, structures facilities — as legally protected, along with a university's rights to confer degrees," he added in an email.



AP Photo/S. Mikami, File

Chinese students shout after breaking through a police blockade during a pro-democracy march to Tiananmen Square, Beijing, May 4, 1989.

Calling in the police, as administrators did at Columbia, Dartmouth, UCLA and other schools, represents the "breakdown of both rights and responsibilities within the campus as a chartered academic institution and community," he said.

The crackdowns are reviving memories of student-led protests during the American civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and the pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Student activism in the 1960s

led campus officials to call law enforcement. And on May 4, 1970, the National Guard opened fire on unarmed students, killing four at Kent State University. Four million students went on strike, temporarily closing 900 colleges and universities. It was a defining moment for a nation sharply divided over the Vietnam War, in which more than 58,000 Americans were killed.

A half-century later, the Israel-Hamas conflict has lit another fuse, with claims that "outside

agitators" have infiltrated the protests to inflame tensions.

"The scale, fierceness, the short time frame since the Hamas attacks, the irreconcilable demands of current competing protesters, and their occasional violence, has tested university leaders on how to respond," said John A. Douglass, a senior research fellow and professor of public policy and higher education at the University of California, Berkeley.

Most major colleges and universities have their own police departments, "but inviting and soliciting help from local community police departments in riot gear, and not only called on to disperse encampments but protect rival protesters from each other, is a relatively new phenomenon," he said.

What's lost when the police are called in?

"Trust between the university and significant parts of its most important constituency: its students," said Anna von der Goltz, a history professor at Georgetown University. The cost, she said, also potentially includes the university's credibility "as a community that is capable of setting its own rules and dealing effectively with violations of those rules."

The wave of pro-Palestinian protests on U.S. campuses took inspiration from demonstrations

at Columbia that began on April 17.

As protesters set up their encampment that day, the university's president, Minouche Shafik, was called for questioning before Congress, where Republicans accused her of not doing enough to fight antisemitism on the school's Manhattan campus. The next day, university officials called in the New York City police, who arrested more than 100 protesters — among them, the daughter of Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, who had questioned Shafik in Washington.

Similar scenes played out across the country: The University of Southern California canceled its main graduation ceremony after disallowing its student valedictorian, who is Muslim, from giving her keynote speech. Police arrested hundreds of protesters at New York University and Yale. At Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, President Sian Leah Beilock called in police to dismantle a pro-Palestinian encampment just a few hours after it went up.

Inspired by the protests in the United States, pro-Palestinian encampments popped up in the U.K. and Europe earlier this month as administrators there confronted the same question: Allow or intervene?

## Even with school choice, some Black families find options lacking after Brown v. Board

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY and KIMBERLEE KRUESI

Associated Press

Since first grade, Julian Morris, 16, has changed schools six times, swinging between predominantly white and predominantly Black classrooms. None has met all his needs, his mother said.

At predominantly white schools, he was challenged academically but felt less included. At predominately Black schools, he felt more supported as a Black student, but his mother, Denita Dorsey, said they didn't have the same resources and academic opportunities.

Seventy years after the Supreme Court ruled separating children in schools on the basis of race was unconstitutional, Dorsey said the options available to her family in Michigan are disappointing.

"Segregation is abolished, sure, but our schools are still deeply divided along racial and socioeconomic lines," Dorsey said. "It makes you think: It's been 70 years but was it worth it?"

The 1954 Brown v. Board of Education ruling and desegregation orders were only the first steps toward the elusive goal of equitable education. For some Black families, school choice has been critical in finding the best available option. And that has not meant necessarily the school with the most racial diversity.

Integration alone is not what Black families have pushed for over the decades, said Bernita Bradley of the National Parents Union, an education advocacy group.

"We wanted integration with accountability and that's not what we received," she said. "That's why choice needs to exist but we still need high-quality options."

Dorsey made what she called a "contentious decision" in 2022, choosing Saginaw High School in Michigan, which is predominantly Black, over Julian's predominantly white charter school.

"I was challenged, and I had arguments with family. But Julian is now getting more support from his teachers and administration than he ever did at his previous schools," she said.

The Brown decision is seen as a key impetus to kicking off the modern school



AP Photo/Paul Sancya

Denita Dorsey poses with her son Julian Morris, 16, in Saginaw, Michigan, May 16.

choice movement.

As many white families began turning to private schools as a way to avoid the court mandate, state lawmakers — primarily in Southern states — began launching school voucher programs.

In Prince Edward County in Virginia, which closed all its public schools in 1959 for five years to evade integration, state and local officials gave white families tuition grants and tax credits to attend private schools. No similar options were provided to Black families. The move inspired other states to adopt similar schemes before they were deemed illegal by the Supreme Court.

The arguments for school choice evolved over time.

Some thinkers in the 1960s such as Milton Friedman argued that giving families money to spend on education how they saw fit would revolutionize education, incentivizing schools to improve or be left behind. At the same time, civil rights

leaders stressed that choice could equalize education for lower-income families, which overwhelmingly include Black and Hispanic students.

Today, some of the loudest advocates for vouchers no longer approach it as a way to push for social justice, said Claire Smrekar, a professor of education and public policy at Vanderbilt University. Rather, the focus is on parents' rights and lifting restrictions that may prevent wealthier families from using the programs at schools of their choice.

"This expansion is really extraordinary when you think about it," Smrekar said. "There are no social justice arguments here for families trapped in poverty and zoned for low-performing schools. The new argument is that everyone should enjoy this subsidy."

Meantime, conservative attacks on how topics related to race and racism are taught in schools have only added to the appeal of alternatives for some Black families.

## 3 professional life tips for new grads

By SHARON RHODES

Associated Press

Graduating college is an incredible achievement and the start of an exciting new chapter. But after the relief of finishing those last exams, making the transition from school to professional life can be a daunting one. These tips can give you a foundation as you embark on your career.

### NAVIGATING A NEW CAREER

Transitioning from an academic environment to the workplace is a culture shock for many grads. The schedule and pace of work change, as do your accountability and interpersonal relationships.

New grads in the workplace no longer have a syllabus with due dates and immediate feedback in the form of grades. Missing a deadline could cause major setbacks. Draw on time-management strategies that worked for you in school and explore new ones. Look to supervisors and coworkers to learn what strategies they rely on and discover how to use those strategies in your own work. As Harvard Business Review notes, new grads might now have to form relationships with customers, managers and coworkers they don't necessarily get along with. Learning to work with different personalities will help you remain professional.

### HEALTHY FOOD FOR A BUSY SCHEDULE

Living on your own and without access to a dining hall, you'll need to plan your meals. Eating every lunch out is an option, but it will be expensive and potentially unhealthy. Instead, consider packing lunches a few days of

the week. A penne pasta bake is a great batch food that will reheat well and last for several lunches.

Healthy snacks can keep you fueled throughout the workday or be a treat when you get home. Almond flour peanut butter cookies are filled with protein to keep you full while still satisfying your sweet tooth. Nuts, vegetables and hummus or fruit and yogurt are other tasty and easy-to-pack workday snacks.

Adding foods to your weekly menu that promote health and reduce stress can help you adjust to working life. An adrenal cocktail, mixing orange juice, coconut water and salt, delivers the vitamins and minerals that support adrenal health.

### SETTING YOURSELF UP FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS

When you secure an income, including from a full-time job, contract work or side hustles, being conscientious about managing your money is key. The financial decisions you make in your 20s can set spending and savings trends over the next decades.

Many students finish college with student debt. Forbes notes that the average debt in 2024 is almost \$30,000 per student borrower. Paying off this debt can be stressful, but there are many resources in place. After graduation, find out which lenders hold your student loans and what your options are for repayment. Auto payment, income-based repayment and other options can help you make on-time monthly payments. With money coming in, the next step is to make a plan for spending. Try tracking all of your spending as you settle into your post-college routine to get an idea of where your money is going.



# States rethink data centers as grid is strained

By KEVIN HARDY  
Stateline.org (TNS)

State Sen. Norm Needleman championed the 2021 legislation designed to lure major data centers to Connecticut.

The Democratic lawmaker hoped to better compete with nearby states, bring in a growing industry, and provide paychecks for workers tasked with building the sprawling server farms.

But this legislative session, he's wondering if those tax breaks are appropriate for all data centers, especially those with the potential to disrupt the state's clean energy supply.

Particularly concerning to him are plans for a mega data center on the site of the state's only nuclear power plant. The developer is proposing an arrangement that would give it priority access to electricity generated at the plant, which would mean less carbon-free power for other users.

"That affects our climate goals," he said. "It's additional demand of renewable energy that we would have to replace."

Needleman, co-chair of the Senate Energy and Technology Committee, is now reconsidering details of the state incentive program as he works on legislation to study the impact of data centers on the state's electric grid. Mistakes now, he said, could lead to "a real crisis."

Compared with other employers that states compete for, such as automotive plants, data centers hire relatively few workers. Still, states have offered massive subsidies to lure data centers — both for their enormous up-front capital investment and the cachet of bringing in big tech names such as Apple and Facebook. But as the cost of these subsidy programs balloons and data centers proliferate coast to coast, lawmakers in several states are rethinking their posture as they consider how to cope with the growing electricity demand.

From the outside, data centers can resemble ordinary warehouses. But inside, the windowless structures can house acres of computer servers used to power everything from social media to banking. The centers suck up massive amounts of energy to keep data moving and water to keep servers from overheating.

Data centers are the backbone of the increasingly digital world, and they consume a growing share of the nation's electricity, with no signs of slowing down. The global consultancy McKinsey & Company predicts these operations will double their U.S. electric demands from 17 gigawatts in 2022 to 35 gigawatts by 2030 — enough electricity to power more than 26 million average homes.

Some states, including Maryland and Mississippi, continue to pursue incentives to land new data centers. But in other states, the growth of the industry is raising alarms over the reliability and affordability of local electric grids, and fears that utilities will meet the demand by leaning more heavily on fossil fuel generation rather than renewables.

In South Carolina, lawmakers have started to question whether these massive power users should continue to receive tax breaks and preferential electric rates.

In Virginia, home to the world's largest concentration of data centers, a legislative study is underway to learn more about how those operations are affecting electric reliability and affordability.

And Georgia lawmakers just passed legislation that would halt the state's tax incentives for new data centers for two years. Georgia is home to more than 50 data centers, including those supporting AT&T, Google and UPS, according to the state commerce department.

Georgia Republican state Sen. John Albers, a sponsor of the Senate bill, said the significant growth of data centers in his state has helped communities and schools by boosting property tax revenues. But, considering factors such as water and electric use, he said the return on the state's investment "is not there" and that "initial findings do not support credits from the state level."

Nationwide, data center subsidies were costing state and local governments about \$2 million



An aircraft takes off from Los Angeles International Airport behind electric power lines at sunset on Aug. 31, 2022.

Patrick T. Fallon/AFP/Getty Images/TNS



Rows of servers fill Data Hall B at Facebook's Fort Worth Data Center. A Dallas company plans a data center near Benbrook, Texas.

Fort Worth Star Telegram/Paul Moseley



A banner hangs during a ceremony announcing a proposed \$300 million expansion of Google's data center operations June 2, 2015, in Lithia Springs, Georgia. Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp, on May 7, vetoed a bill that would have suspended tax breaks for new and expanding data centers.

AP Photo/David Goldman, file



Pictured is an aerial photo of new expansion of Douglas County's Google Data Center (foreground) and a construction site of the new data center Switch (background) in Lithia Springs, Georgia, on Jan. 17, 2020.

Hyosub Shin / Hyosub.Shin@ajc.com

per job created, according to a 2016 study by Good Jobs First, a nonprofit watchdog group that tracks economic development incentives. That figure has certainly ballooned in recent years, said Kasia Tarczynska, the organization's senior research analyst, who authored the report.

The Georgia bill now sits on the desk of Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, whose office did not respond to a request for comment.

The Data Center Coalition, a trade group representing tech giants including Amazon, Google and Meta, is urging a veto.

Josh Levi, president of the organization, said data center companies are investing billions in new Georgia data centers, making metro Atlanta one of the nation's biggest industry hubs.

Levi noted that lawmakers in 2022 extended the state's tax credit program through 2031.

"The abrupt suspension of an incentive that not only has been on the books, but that was extended two years ago, I think signals tremendous uncertainty, not just for the data center industry, but more broadly," he said.

Levi said the data center industry has been at the forefront of pushing clean energy. As of last year, data center providers and customers accounted for two-thirds of American wind and solar contracts, according to an S&P Global Market Intelligence report.

"Fundamentally, data is now the lifeblood of our modern economy," he said. "Everything that we do in our personal and professional lives really points back to data generation, processing and storage."

## 'ELECTRICITY HOGS'

In fast-growing South Carolina, lawmakers have pointed to

data centers as a major factor in rising electricity demand.

As part of a broader energy bill, the legislature considered a measure that would prevent data centers from receiving discounted power rates.

Republican state Rep. Jay West said inducements such as reduced power rates are appropriate for major, transformational endeavors. He pointed to the BMW factory in Spartanburg, which employs 11,000 people, draws in major suppliers and pumps millions into the state economy.

While data centers boost local property taxes receipts, they don't do much for the state, he said, and shouldn't receive preferential rates. And they are being built faster than new energy generation can be added.

"I do not speak for my caucus or the [legislative] body in saying this," he said, "but I don't

think South Carolina can handle more data centers."

The House provision on data center utility rates was quickly struck in a Senate committee, the South Carolina Daily Gazette reported.

Lynn Teague, vice president of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, said that change was made with no public discussion.

Teague, who lobbies the legislature, said South Carolinians, including more than 700,000 people living in poverty, shouldn't have to pick up the tab for tax or utility breaks for major data center firms.

"We have companies like Google with over \$300 billion in revenues a year wanting these folks to subsidize their profit margin at the same time that they're putting intense pressure on not just our energy, but our water," she said.

Lawmakers saw data centers as a possible successor to South Carolina's declining textile industry when they approved the data center incentives in 2012. The State reported at the time. One Republican bill sponsor, then-state Rep. Phyllis Henderson, also cited North Carolina's success with data center incentives, saying South Carolina was "just losing projects right and left to them."

But on the Senate floor earlier this month, Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, a Republican, described data centers as "electricity hogs that aren't really providing a whole lot of jobs."

## 'RIPPLING EFFECTS'

Virginia has been a hub for data centers for decades, touting its proximity to the nation's capital, inexpensive energy, a robust fiber network and low risk of natural disasters. Now, Virginia lawmakers are increasingly scrutinizing the industry.

That's in part because data centers have moved into traditionally residential areas, said Republican state Del. Ian Lovejoy, who represents a Northern Virginia district.

He sponsored two pieces of legislation this year affecting data center land use issues. One would have prevented data centers from building too close to parks, schools or neighborhoods; another would have altered land use disclosure rules for developers.

"There's no way to power the data center inventory that's being proposed and is likely to be built without substantial increases to the power infrastructure and power generation," he said. "And that's going to have rippling effects far away from where the data centers are being sited."

Aaron Ruby, spokesperson for Dominion Energy in Virginia, the state's predominant electric provider, said data centers, like other classes of customers, pay for the costs of their electric generation and transmission.

He said the company forecasts consumers' monthly bills to grow by less than 3% annually over the next 15 years. That increase, he said, is due to the company's significant investment in renewable energy projects. While Dominion is "all in" on renewables, Ruby said it doesn't foresee being able to meet increasing demand with only renewables.

"That's just not physically possible," he said.

Dominion has pointed to data center growth as a key driver of its increasing electricity demand. In one state filing, the company said Virginia's data centers had a peak load of almost 2.8 gigawatts in 2022. That was 1.5 times the capacity of the company's North Anna nuclear plant, which powers about 450,000 homes.

"It is heart-stopping — just the scale at which these things are growing and the power they're sucking up," said Kendi Kobbervig, the advocacy and communications director at Clean Virginia, a well-funded advocacy group pushing for renewable energy, campaign finance reform and greater oversight of utilities.

She said the state must address how data centers could undercut its clean energy goals and how the industry is affecting the utility bills of everyday households and small businesses.

Over the past two years, Clean Virginia has tracked more than 40 proposed bills related to data centers.

Most of those efforts stalled this session as some lawmakers elected to wait on the results of a study announced in December by the state's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.

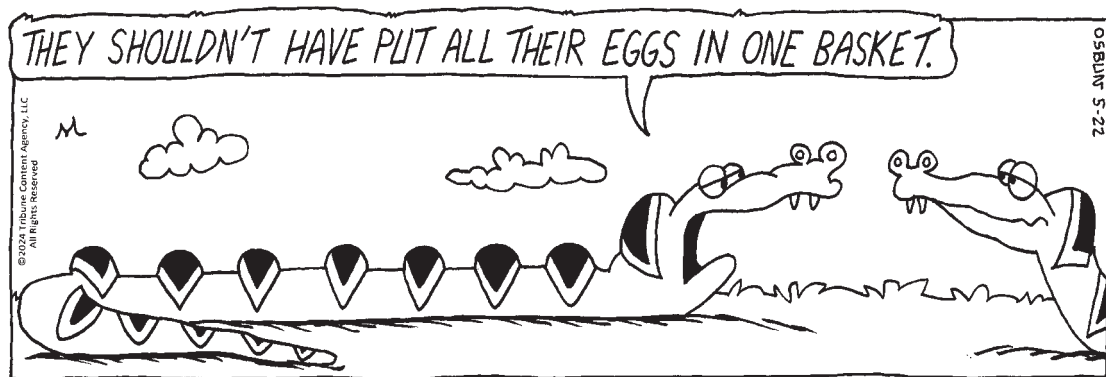
The lack of action frustrated many lawmakers and residents.

"I don't know exactly what the study is going to say that we don't already know," said Democratic state Sen. Suhas Subramanyam, who sponsored a bill that would have required data centers to meet certain energy efficiency and clean energy standards to be eligible for the state's lucrative sales tax exemptions.

"I think we already know that data centers take up a lot of power and present a lot of challenges to our grid."



## ANIMAL CRACKERS



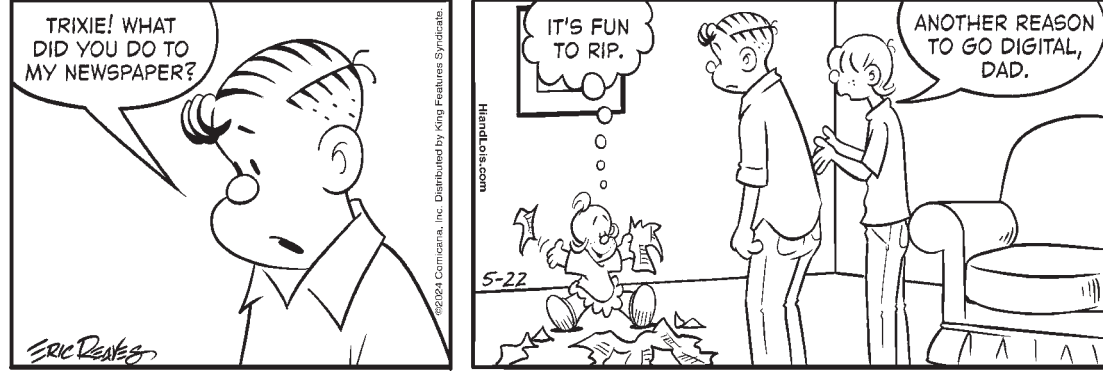
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



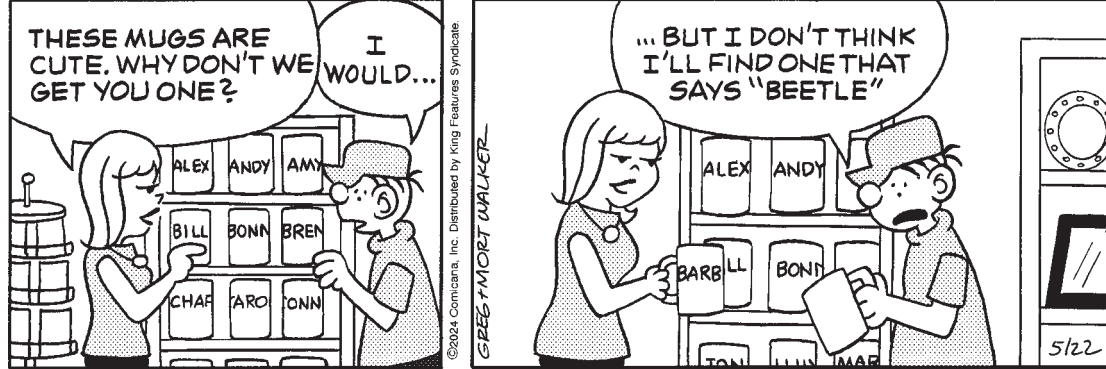
## BABY BLUES



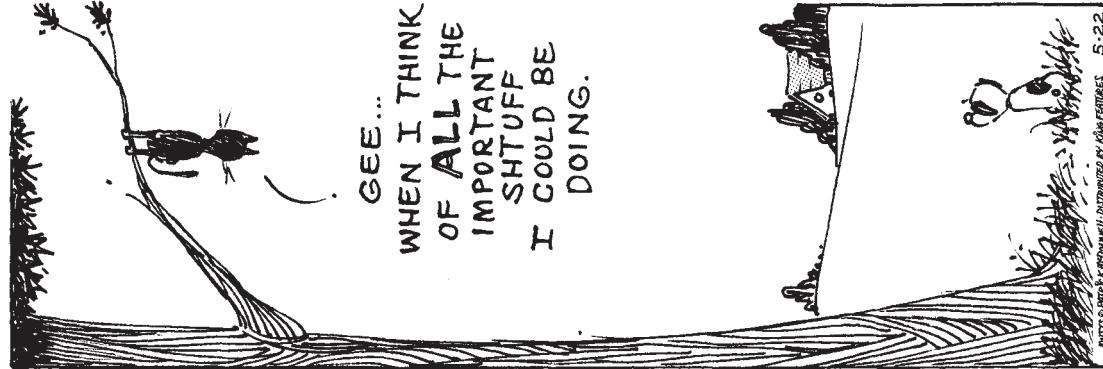
## HI AND LOIS



## BEEBLE BAILEY



## MUTTS



## DUSTIN



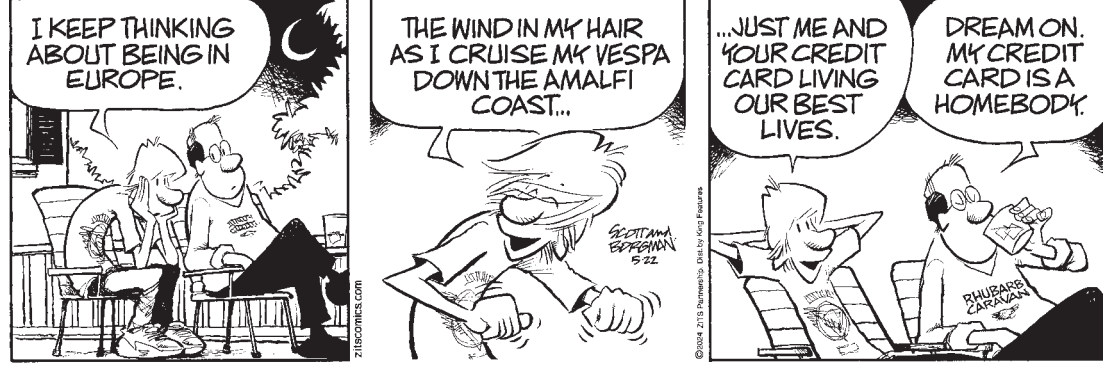
## TIGER



## GARFIELD



## ZITS



## Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena

Thursday, May 23, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You might be more appreciated than usual and leave your admirers in a state of competition. An eye for quality and a great sense of fashion might make this a good day to buy flattering clothing or long-lasting home goods.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Your wishes and desires may be fulfilled when you least expect it. Someone who could be positive and self-assured may reinforce your purpose. You might be surprised to receive impromptu invitations from friends or praise from others.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** While honoring your inner voice is important, it may be just as important to seek the thoughts and opinions of others who bring a new perspective. You might find out whether your decisions could mesh well with others.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Dress for success and the life you want to attract. Consider adjusting your demeanor as well as your outfit to match the occasion. Being friendly and warmhearted are wonderful traits that could make you stand out in every situation.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Plenty of dreams can be pursued and accomplished with commitment and devotion. A minor disagreement could blow over quickly if you lead from compassion and understanding versus from a place of ego or competition.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** At some point, almost everyone may exaggerate their abilities or embellish their skill set to advance to the next level. Put the power of your passions behind whatever you choose to do and it could eventually lead to success.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** The spotlight is big enough for everyone to take a turn sharing their accomplishments. Consider taking strides to create a harmonious environment where everyone thrives. Your charming demeanor could inspire others.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Someone might be looking at you through new eyes and like what they see. You may enjoy receiving admiration and appreciation. The continuity of your day-to-day routine and environment could be one of your top priorities.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Focus on being proactive about your routines rather than waiting for instruction or validation outside of yourself. You may know what needs to be done and are happy to cooperate with others. Proudly share your successes.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You have a clear understanding of your preferences; you can appreciate great art even if you're not an artist. Enjoy the beauty that the world can offer and take pride in the lovely things you create with the skills you possess.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You could possess a powerhouse of determination that allows you to bulldoze your way over any obstacle or objection. Celebrate the rewards you receive with a grateful heart, regardless of size, to keep building them up over time.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Someone may feel rejected if they do not understand your sensitivity to criticism and dislike of noise. Consider expressing yourself authentically and calmly when communicating your viewpoint and pushing for an agreement.

**IF MAY 23 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** Whatever plans you launch during the next two to three weeks could likely prosper or be beneficial in some important way. You may be given a chance to reap some of the rewards you deserve for setting a good example and for all your hard work, so relax and soak it all in. Consider embracing any offers or opportunities that may come along, too, since they may lead to a more comfortable existence.

## Sudoku

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

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

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. 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!

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

## Cryptoquote

A XYDLBAAXR 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.

5-22 CRYPTOQUOTE  
J B Z P N H E E H K Z G E B D R J  
I R B B Z B B ; E N Z P R R V B P R J K V  
Q Z U Z S D B A K Z G E A T G R  
Q A S V B B H G O E N Z S Z Z W M Z I E  
E N R B Z E N H E B H G O Q Z B E .  
— N Z G S D U H G V D F Z

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THAT'S THE THING ABOUT BOOKS. THEY LET YOU TRAVEL WITHOUT MOVING YOUR FEET. — JHUMPA LAHIRI, "THE NAMESAKE"

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS DOWN

- 1 Say "nay," say
- 5 Deep bow
- 11 Touch on
- 12 Kenya neighbor
- 13 Ticked off
- 14 Trusted teacher
- 15 Toe count
- 16 James Brown genre
- 17 Blow one's top
- 19 Lingerie item
- 22 Fragrant wood
- 24 Young pigeon
- 26 Full range
- 27 Spur on
- 28 More loyal
- 30 Singer Jackson
- 31 Part of a match
- 32 Radiate
- 34 National symbol
- 35 Cotillion girl
- 38 Insect midsection
- 41 Toy on a string
- 42 Land of the lei
- 43 Marseille money
- 44 Corrects
- 45 Rose part
- 1 Sweeping
- 2 Bassoon's kin
- 3 Showed up
- 4 Summer, in Paris
- 5 Recap
- 6 Hollywood workers
- 7 Gaunt
- 8 Leaf lifter
- 9 Bother
- 10 Spoil
- 16 Koala coat
- 18 Tear down
- 19 Exhausted from overwork
- 20 Latest fad
- 21 Aid illegally
- 22 Purr producers
- 23 To be, in Paris
- 25 Campus area
- 29 Put down again
- 30 Moon-shine holder
- 33 Cartesian coordinate
- 34 Football's Tarkenton
- 36 Jane of fiction
- 37 Cannon sound
- 38 Start of many titles
- 39 Deli meat
- 40 Need to pay
- 41 "Sure thing!"

F	E	T	A		S	O	A	P	S
A	X	I	O	M		I	N	S	E
T	I	C	K	E	T	T	A	K	E
E	L	K		T	O	E		S	P
S	E	E	S	T	O		T	I	E

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
15				16					
			17	18			19	20	21
22	23				24	25			
26							27		
28				29		30			
31				32	33				
				34			35	36	37
38	39	40					41		
42							43		
44							45		

## Word of the Day

sequester (seh-KWESS-ter)

Definition: (verb) To sequester a person or group is to keep them separate or apart from other people. Sequester is also often used to mean "to bind or absorb (carbon dioxide) as part of a larger chemical process or compound".

Example: The jury was sequestered until a verdict was reached. — Courtesy Merriam-Webster Online



# Stock market today: Wall Street drifts higher to set more records



AP Photo/Peter Morgan

The New York Stock Exchange is shown on Tuesday, in New York.

**By STAN CHOE**  
**AP Business Writer**  
NEW YORK — U.S. stock indexes drifted higher Tuesday to set more records following another quiet day of trading.  
The S&P 500 rose 13.28 points, or 0.3%, to 5,321.41 and surpassed its record set last week. The Nasdaq composite added 37.75, or 0.2%, to 16,832.62, a day after setting its latest all-time high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 66.22, or 0.2%, to 39,872.99 and is sitting just below its high set last week.  
Indexes have climbed to records recently largely on expectations for the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates

later this year as inflation hopefully cools. More reports showing big U.S. companies earning fatter profits than expected have also boosted the market.  
Macy's joined the chorus line of companies delivering a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected, and its stock jumped 5.1% following some early fluctuations.  
The company, which runs Bloomingdale's in addition to its namesake stores, raised the bottom ends of its forecasts for upcoming sales and profit.  
Lam Research also helped support the market after the supplier for the semiconductor industry announced a program to buy back up to \$10 billion

of its own stock. The company said it will undergo a 10-for-one stock split, which would bring down each share's price and make it more affordable to more investors. Its stock rose 2.3%.  
That helped offset a 3.7% drop for Palo Alto Networks. The cybersecurity company delivered a better profit report than expected, but it gave a forecasted range for revenue in the current quarter whose midpoint was a hair below analysts' expectations.  
Trump Media & Technology Group, the company behind Donald Trump's Truth Social network, sank 8.7% after disclosing a net loss of \$327.6 million in its first quarterly report as a publicly traded company.

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

### HELP WANTED

#### Employment



#### BUILDING MAINTENANCE FOREPERSON

The Cortland Housing Authority has an opening for a full-time Building Maintenance Foreperson. Must possess 3 years of full-time or its part-time equivalent experience in general building maintenance or skilled trades. Position requires a high school diploma or GED and a valid drivers license. The hourly rate will be \$28.00 per hour plus overtime and on call pay plus an excellent benefits package. Applicants must complete a Cortland County Civil Service Application, which can be obtained from the Cortland County Personnel Department, 60 Central Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 or by calling 753-5076. Applications are available online at <https://www.cortlandcountyny.gov/266/JobExam-Application>

#### LAFAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL

LAFAYETTE, NEW YORK POSITION AVAILABLE 2024-2025

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[www.olasjobs.org](http://www.olasjobs.org) Please submit cover letter, resume, certification, transcripts along with application.

#### DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

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Maintenance Mechanic Position The Cortland Housing Authority has an opening for 2 full-time Maintenance Mechanic positions. Must possess two years of full-time or its part-time equivalent experience of maintenance work in one or more of the standard trades such as carpentry, plumbing, heating, or electrical. This position requires a valid NYS Drivers License. This position pays \$21.00 per hour plus weekly on-call compensation and overtime. We have an excellent Benefit Package which includes 80 % of Health and Dental paid by employer; clothing allowance; vision allowance; paid time off includes vacation, sick, personal, and floating holidays, along with major holidays. This position is in the New York State Retirement System. Applicants must complete a Cortland County Civil Service Application, which can be obtained from the Cortland County Personnel Department, 60 Central Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045 Applications can also be downloaded from the Cortland County website at [www.cortland-co.org/personnel](http://www.cortland-co.org/personnel)

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#### Special Patrol Officer Exam #85-772

**Salary:** Varies by jurisdiction  
**Examination Date:** 07-13-24  
**Last Filing Date:** 06-13-24 by 4:30 p.m. Send CIVIL SERVICE applications to Cortland County Personnel Civil Service, 60 Central Ave., Cortland, NY 13045. Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the last filing date. EOE

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### HELP WANTED

**The Research Foundation at SUNY Cortland Child Care Center Teacher**  
The Research Foundation at SUNY Cortland has an immediate opening for a teacher at the SUNY Cortland Child Care Center. The teacher at the SUNY Cortland Childcare Center will plan and conduct an effective child development program in a safety conscious manner to meet the physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs of each child at their development level in accordance with the goals, philosophy, and curriculum plan set forth by the Child Care Center as outlined in the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).  
**Required Qualifications:** Child Development Associate (CDA) credential; Certification in medication administration training, infant and child CPR child abuse or first aid; Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education or related field or at least 9 college credits in Early Childhood and two years related experience caring for children.  
**Preferred Qualifications:** Bachelors degree in early childhood education or related field; demonstrated experience as an assistant teacher or teacher in a childcare/daycare center or related organization.

As a Research Foundation employee at SUNY Cortland, this position includes the ability to professional develop in childcare or other areas of interest, for example, leadership, etc. The Research Foundations at SUNY Cortland also provides yearly cost of living increases, retirement benefits, attractive Health Care options, including dental and vision insurances, and paid parental and family leaves. This position also offers paid time off and support of work/life balance. The starting annual salary for this position is \$32,595.

For a full job description, application instructions and to apply, please visit <https://jobs.cortland.edu/postings/8569>

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, The Research Foundation for SUNY will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicants race, color, creed, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, physical and mental disability, criminal record, genetic information, predisposition or carrier status, status with respect to receiving public assistance, domestic violence victim status, a disabled, special, recently separated, active-duty wartime, campaign badge, Armed Forces service medal veteran, or any other characteristics protected under applicable law.

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**GARAGE SALES**  
3702/3710  
Hedgemoor Drive  
May 24/25 8-4  
Kids bikes, tools, furniture, perennials, cat gobels, collectibles, lots more.

### GARAGE SALES

**Hopkins Estate Sale**  
2 Sunset Drive, Homer  
May 24, 25, 9-3 Fri, Sat.  
Extensive collection of items for: **crafters, bakers/cooks-** Pyrex, pans, recipe books, **woodworkers-**drills, saws, routers, wrenches, screw drivers, DIY items, vintage tools, **home entertaining-** barware, **gardeners-**tools & plants, benches, **home starters-** dressers, kitchen table, dining room set, beds, bookcases, books/CDs, vacuum cleaners, patio furniture, crocks, wall art, **all holidays décor-** wreaths, mini lights, (room full).

**SALE**  
**Friday & Saturday**  
**May 24 & 25, 8AM-2PM**  
**91 Evergreen St.**  
**Cortland**

Baby furniture & girl's clothes (newborn to 18 months), table & chairs, desk, antique sewing machine & table and more. Some adult clothes (women's small, men's large), lots more.

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## Contract Bridge

### Pinpoint bidding

South dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

#### NORTH

- ♠ 9 5 2
- ♥ K 10 8
- ♦ K 7 4
- ♣ K 9 5 2

#### WEST

- ♠ K Q 10 7
- ♥ 9 5 2
- ♦ 10 6 5 3
- ♣ 7 3

#### EAST

- ♠ A J 8 6 4
- ♥ 6 3
- ♦ Q J 9
- ♣ 10 8 6

#### SOUTH

- ♠ 3
- ♥ A Q J 7 4
- ♦ A 8 2
- ♣ A Q J 4

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	Pass
6♣			

Opening lead — king of spades.

When a partnership has a choice of playing in a 4-4 or 5-3 trump fit, it is usually better to select the more evenly divided suit. This is because declarer can often gain a trick by playing in the 4-4 fit.

For a typical example, consider this deal where North-South found their heart fit immediately, but then found a secondary fit in clubs on the next round of bidding. At this

point, South realized there might be a slam despite his partner's initial raise to two hearts, ostensibly indicating six to ten points. So he next bid four diamonds, a cuebid showing the ace of diamonds, and North cooperated by raising to five diamonds, promising the king or a singleton.

Applying the principle of playing in the more evenly divided suit, South now bid a slam in clubs, knowing that there might be an advantage to having clubs as trump rather than hearts. And, not surprisingly, this proved to be the case. Had hearts been trump, South would have finished with only the obvious 11 tricks — five hearts, two diamonds and four clubs. There would have been no way to avoid losing a spade and a diamond.

But with clubs as trump, making 12 tricks was easy. West led the king and another spade, and that was essentially the end of the play. Declarer ruffed the spade, drew trump and claimed the balance.

South's 12 tricks consisted of a spade ruff, his four natural trump tricks, five hearts and the A-K of diamonds. The slam depended entirely on the bidding and the all-important decision by South to play in the 4-4 trump fit.

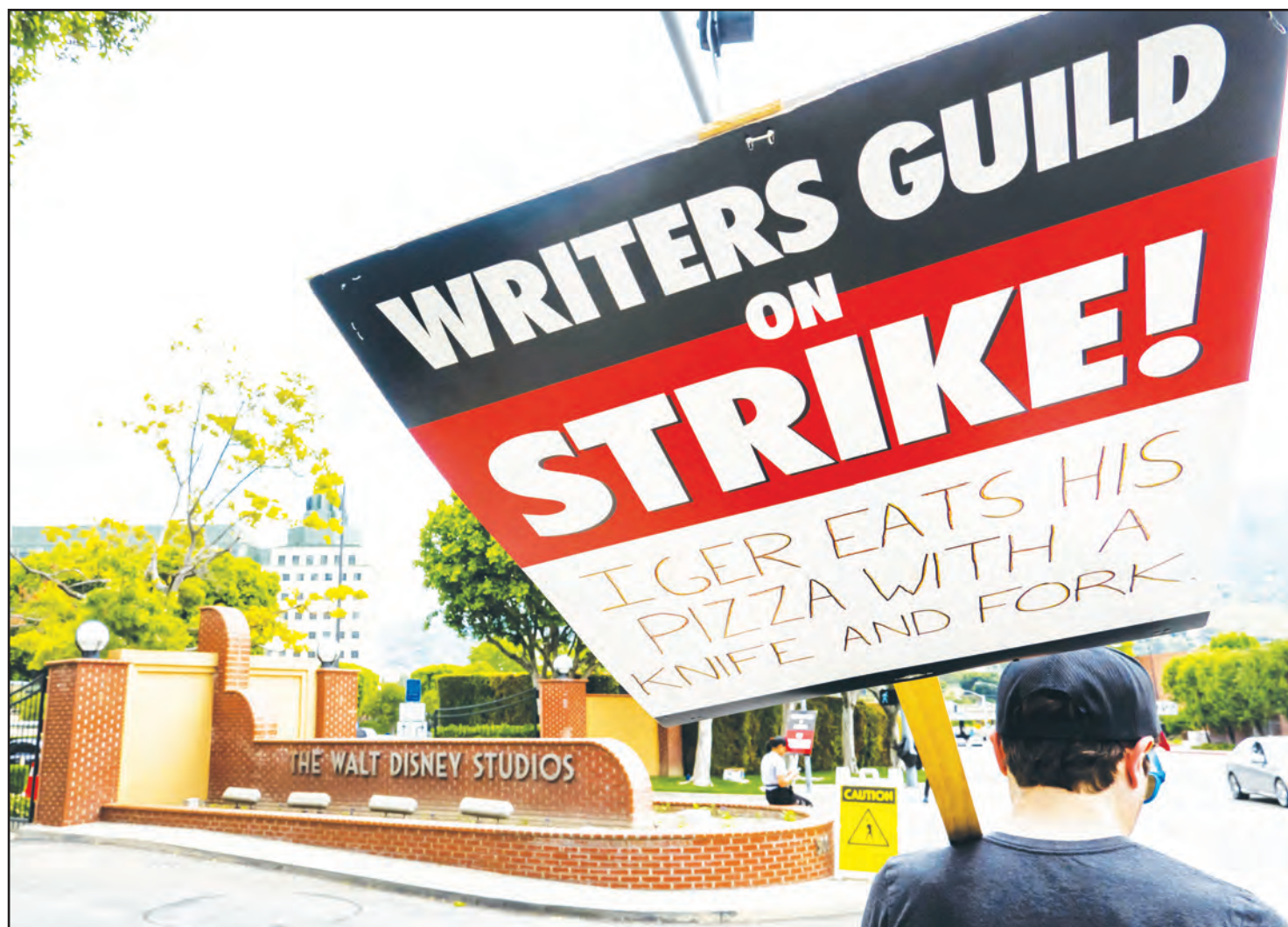
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AP Photo/Mariam Zuhair, File

A picketer shares a message about Walt Disney CEO Robert Iger while walking the picket line outside the Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California, on June 6, 2023.

## 1 year after strike, many writers in Hollywood are still struggling

By **CHRISTI CARRAS** and **STACY PERMAN**  
Los Angeles Times  
(TNS)

**L**OS ANGELES — For 14 straight years, Ted Sullivan was consistently paid to pen stories for the screen. The Hollywood-based, 53-year-old TV writer and producer's résumé boasts credits on hit shows such as "Riverdale" and "Star Trek: Discovery."

Now, he spends seven to eight hours a day writing without pay, preparing for the unforeseeable moment that Hollywood studios start greenlighting projects and hiring writers again. He misses the picket lines of the WGA strike, which, to him, were the next best thing to working in a writers' room, surrounded and supported by colleagues.

He hasn't worked in a real writers' room since the strike began. "I feel like I'm in the worst 'Twilight Zone' ever," Sullivan said, "where I wake up and I'm now 20 years old again writing spec scripts for free in my apartment."

A year after Writers Guild of America members walked out in pursuit of higher wages, enhanced streaming residuals and limitations on the use of artificial intelligence, The Times checked in with multiple writers of varying experience levels spanning film and TV.

Some declined to be named to avoid risking future employment. All said that either they or their colleagues have struggled to find work for at least 12 months amid a contraction that has led to unstable production and employment levels across the entertainment industry.

The so-called peak TV era that enabled 599 original scripted series to land in a single year is over, likely never to return.

Film, TV, commercial and other production activity in the first quarter of 2024 was 20.5% lower than the five-year average, according to FilmLA, a nonprofit organization that tracks on-location production in the Greater Los Angeles area.

Globally, film and TV production lagged by about 7% in the first quarter of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, per tracking company ProdPro.

"We're not seeing this V-shaped recovery in writer employment," said Patrick Adler, principal at Westwood Economics and Planning Associates. "If you squint, maybe it's a slight upward bounce. But ... it's not perceptible in the data that there's been some switch flipped on in the industry."

The slowdown did not originate with the work stoppages of 2023. Writers and other entertainment workers began noticing a decline in employment opportunities long before the writers' and actors' strikes

began. Following the so-called streaming wars — when companies spent exorbitant amounts of money on direct-to-digital content to compete with Netflix — studios have dramatically slowed their pace.

Television networks have been purchasing far fewer shows, "and only from big names," said Jess Meyer, a writer known for "The Flight Attendant." "You need cachet to even sell."

The studios' cost-cutting strategy has left writers in a pinch.

"As a viewer, what is there to watch? How can they make nothing?" Meyer said. "Even producers are saying, 'Let's wait until the right moment.' I don't know what that means."

Some have speculated that entertainment companies are determined to lie low until they can recoup the money lost in the streaming frenzy. A studio executive who was not authorized to comment disputed that idea.

"I've never heard of anyone saying, ... 'We're intentionally going to sell less,'" the executive said.

Another studio source who was not authorized to comment said the pullback was necessary because the TV production boom was "simply unsustainable."

"Factors such as rising production costs, a lack of competitive film and television tax credits here in California, and shrinking advertising revenue certainly play into that, but this contraction is a return to normal more than anything else," the person said.

The shrinking business has been particularly challenging for writers from underrepresented groups. Aiko Little, an early-career writer who serves as vice chair of the WGA's Native American and Indigenous writers committee, said that they began to notice a dip in employment opportunities near the end of 2022.

During the peak TV era, writers in Little's circles encountered more openings than usual thanks to projects centered on Indigenous characters, such as FX's "Reservation Dogs" and Peacock's "Rutherford Falls."

More recently, Little observed, it's been difficult for Native American and Indigenous writers to secure jobs beyond the occasional documentary or revisionist western. "I'm used to the uncertainty," Little said. "But how do you explain to your community that the possible is looking more impossible?"

Some seasoned writers remember the start of the streaming revolution as a boon for writers. One screenwriter, who spoke anonymously to protect job opportunities, compared the advent of streaming to the

arrival of Uber, when it seemed like "anyone with a car" could make a decent living on their own schedule.

Eventually, that started to change. Writing staffs and paychecks began to shrink. Hiring processes became more demanding and expensive, with companies requiring job candidates to participate in "pitch competitions" and prepare "elaborate PowerPoint presentations" hawking their ideas, the screenwriter said.

"It's not enough to go in with a pitch," said Chuck Rose, a 20-year writing veteran with several TV and film projects now in development as well as a series on Amazon. "It has to be based on [intellectual property] ... and networks want them with an actor attached."

Even when the streaming business appeared to be booming, industry leaders had been waiting for the other shoe to drop, said one studio executive who was not authorized to comment.

"I think when the pandemic started, the fear became more real," the executive added. "I don't think it's a surprise to anyone who follows the business."

The TV and streaming industry's consolidation means writers will continue to struggle with fewer buyers. A major setback for writers was Nexstar Media Group's 2022 takeover of the CW Network — previously considered a haven for up-and-coming storytellers seeking steady work and upward mobility.

Writers told The Times that since the CW changed hands from Paramount Global and Warner Bros.' Discovery, one of their last reliable sources of employment has all but disappeared. Under Nexstar, the CW has been moving away from scripted, young-adult-facing dramas toward live sports and other programming targeting its parent company's evening news-watching audience.

"Mentors had ushered many of us toward going that route," Little said. "So when the blow of the CW happened, I think many of us were left at a bit of an impasse. ... It was a challenge for the mentors as well. I think a lot of them felt, possibly, a little helpless."

The CW sale is one of many corporate shakeups in recent years. Walt Disney Co.'s acquisition of 21st Century Fox, followed by Warner Bros.' merger with Discovery, also have taken a toll on employment — with the possible sale of yet another major studio, Paramount, still looming.

Post-merger, Warner Bros. Discovery has stood out for shelving film and TV projects that, in some cases, have already been completed, in favor of tax breaks and other savings.

"That's work that people have spent a lot of time on that ... they don't get to put on their résumé anymore," said Madison Bateman, an animation writer and story editor known for "DuckTales" and "The Ghost and Molly McGee."

According to Bateman, many animated productions have switched from hiring staff writers to freelancers, who make less and sometimes have to wait several months for paychecks.

What was once a career that Bateman's parents could "brag to their friends about" has devolved into "the exact thing that they were worried about and warned ... about having a backup plan for."

"I'm flipping furniture now," she said. "A friend is learning to groom dogs. We're really having to scrounge for work."

While attention has primarily focused on the challenges in TV, film writers have been feeling the squeeze as well.

Veteran feature writer Cameron Ali Fay began to notice a downturn at the beginning of 2022, when Netflix revealed in a bombshell earnings report that it had lost 200,000 subscribers, tanking the streaming giant's stock.

"That caused a lot of shockwaves," Fay said. "I think every other streaming service was looking at that and thinking, 'Oh my God, we've gotta tighten our belts.'"

Prior to what Fay called "the Netflix ripple effect," feature writers could count on streamers to invest in original screenplays, even as the theatrical release calendar was decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic and ultra-fixed on established intellectual property.

Most feature writers — who aren't fortunate enough to be operating in the big-budget IP space — have since been left to compete for dwindling streaming deals, Fay said.

"It's a really difficult business," Fay added, "and I've only seen it get more difficult for the majority of artists in the past 17 years."

The WGA strike culminated in a historic deal in September that raised writers' wages, established AI protections and created minimum staffing requirements.

Those gains have "started to reverse some of the damage," one writer said. But until the rest of the industry bounces back, the wounds could take some time to fully heal. "Survive to '25" is a sentiment that writers have begun to internalize.

"I really, really worry about these young writers, and ... sometimes I feel guilt — like I should be talking them into doing something else with their lives," Sullivan said. "But nothing would have stopped me. And I know that nothing will stop them."

**CAYUGA COUNTY NOTICE OF SALE**  
Lien sale: JJJ Auction Svcs Ltd & Michael Solomon Lic# 2004557  
Sells 5/31/24 4:45PM 1446 State Route 38 Moravia 21 ME/BE van W1Y40CHY9MT062378 re: Principle Mrchts Lsng Ltd . 5/15 + 5/22, 2024

**CAYUGA COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE**

**SUMMERHILL RESIDENTS SPRING CLEAN UP TIME IS HERE! SATURDAY - 8AM-12PM**  
Summerhill Town Barn 6465  
Creech Rd. Locke

WE WILL ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:  
**Scrap Metal:** bikes (tires removed), bed springs, tire rims (NO TIRES), aluminum, lawnmowers (drain oil & gas), tools.

**White Goods:** washing machines, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, tanks. NOTE refrigerators and freezers will be accepted if the freon is removed.

**Miscellaneous:** dry paint cans, vinyl siding, toys, couches, batteries, mattresses, window frames with glass removed, paper goods. SunnKing Electronics Recycling will be accepting electronic devices for recycling.

**WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING:**  
Liquid paint, wet paint cans, household garbage, recyclables, oil, construction debris.

**COME AND VOLUNTEER — ANY HELP WOULD APPRECIATED!**  
Thank you for participating pride in our town!

**CITY OF CORTLAND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING COMMISSION**  
JUNE 10, 2024 | 5:15 PM

The City of Cortland Planning Commission will hold public hearings and a regular meeting at 5:15 p.m. June 10, 2024 at City Hall (Third Floor), 25 Court Street, Cortland NY 13045 to consider the following applications:

- 14 Clayton Ave. - The YWCA seeks site plan approval to add a steel canopy to the existing fire escape.
- 55 Tompkins St. - Paul Ardiemo seeks a special use permit to create additional bedrooms in the basement with no increase of density.
- 160 Clinton Ave. - Keystone Novelties seeks a special use permit for outdoor sales of sparkling devices.
- 87 Main St. - Evan Souzas seeks site plan review for a change of use from business to mixed use with a second floor residential one (1) unit.
- 30 Tompkins St. - Paradigm Properties seeks site plan review for change of use.

Members of the public wishing to be heard on these matters are invited to attend and speak. Copies of the applications are available at: [www.cortland.org/AgendaCenter/8](http://www.cortland.org/AgendaCenter/8) or may be obtained by emailing [cityclerk@cortland.org](mailto:cityclerk@cortland.org). Questions may be addressed to Captain Roy Everett at 607-753-1741 or [reverett@cortland.org](mailto:reverett@cortland.org).

**CORTLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF CORTLAND U.S BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 EBO TRUST, Plaintiff AGAINST SHAWN FORD., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered January 12, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Cortland County Courthouse, 46 Greenbush Street, Cortland, NY on June 12, 2024 at 10:30AM, premises known as 2118 GEE HILL ROAD, DRYDEN NY 13053 AKA 2118 GEE HILL ROAD VIRGIL, NY 13053. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Virgil, County of Cortland and State of New York, Section 125.00, Block 01, Lot 39.000. Approximate amount of judgment \$211,108.94 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #EF19-548. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the CORTLAND County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Deborah W. Miller, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 18-007039 80568

**CORTLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF SALE**

Notice is hereby given that on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024 at 10:00 a.m. the following property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, to wit: a **2003 Pontiac Grand Prix ("as is")** along with any and all contents of storage unit L113 to be sold by Cortland Self Storage, lienholder, owed for unpaid monthly payments due under a self-service storage occupancy agreement; the current charges due are \$2,287.00 plus the accrued expenses for publication and attorney's fees. The time for payment of this company's lien upon the property described herein having expired, and due notice thereof having been given, this company, Cortland Self Storage, will cause such property to be sold at public auction at 3760 Luker Road, Cortland, NY according to the statutes in such case made and provided.

**CORTLAND COUNTY BID NOTICE**

The Cortland Housing Authority, 42 Church St. Cortland, NY 13045 is accepting bids for the following project:  
**BATHROOM VANITY & SINK REPLACEMENTS**  
Specifications may be obtained from the office of the Housing Authority or by calling (607)753-1771, ext. 236.  
Bids are due no later than 2:00 p.m. local time Thursday June 13, 2024.  
Questions about the project may be directed to Ella M. DiIorio at (607)753-1771, ext. 223or Lyn Boyce at (607)753-1771, ext. 236.  
The owner accepts the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities in the bidding process.

**VILLAGE OF HOMER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing of the Planning Board of the Village of Homer will be held on May 29, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in Town Hall, 31 North Main Street, Homer, NY, regarding an application filed by Arbor Brook Flats, LLC for review and approval of a subdivision consisting of 4.42 acres located on Dee Street off of Route 11 (Tax Map No. 66.42-02-01.100) in the Village of Homer.

Pursuant to NYS Legislature's approval of Bill S50001, amending the Open Meetings Law 1, the Village of Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be zoom and in-person attendance. Individuals may speak at the public hearing or in the absence of public comment, we encourage residents to request a zoom link by contacting Dan Egnor at the Village Offices at 607-749-3322 or by emailing [degnor@homer.org](mailto:degnor@homer.org). Individuals may also watch the public hearing on the Village of Homer's YouTube channel. Please include in your email if you would like to participate directly in the remote conference portion. The above application is open to inspection at the Village Offices. We encourage you to email, call (607-749-3322), or mail, all of your communication needs before said Village of Planning Board meeting.

Dan Egnor  
Village Clerk

**CORTLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Notice of Formation of 42 Southern holdings LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/12/2024. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to 42 Southern holdings LLC: 57 Owego Street Cortland, NY 13045. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**BUYING? SELLING? Check the Classifieds!**

**TOWN OF SCOTT LEGAL NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that a special meeting will be held by the Town Board of Scott on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:00 pm at the Scott Town Hall, located at 6689 NYS Route 41, Homer, New York 13077, regarding the ARP grant, park bathroom project, and Councilman Erik Rogers training.  
Town Clerk,  
Tamara Congdon

**CORTLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Shell 29 Rental Properties LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/15/2024. Office location: Cortland. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Shell 29 Rental Properties LLC : 16 John Street Homer NY 13077. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**CORTLAND COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of JET EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/13/2024. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to JET EXECUTIVE TRANSPORTATION LLC: 407 ROUTE 222, CORTLAND, NY, UNITED STATES, 13045. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**TOWN OF CINCINNATUS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

TOWN OF CINCINNATUS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing regarding the Major Subdivision of land on Dutch Hill Road Spur within the Town of Cincinnatus will be held by the Cincinnatus Town Board on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM, held at the Town Hall, 2770 Lower Cincinnatus Road.  
By Order of the Town Board, Town of Cincinnatus. Carolyn Nowalk, Town Clerk Dated May 14, 2024

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