

LOCAL

To help pay for a new ladder truck for Cortland's fire department city officials are seeking a \$1M grant.



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LIVING

Expect creativity, chalk and lots of colors at the Arts off Main Festival set for Aug. 3 in Cortland.



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# Cortland Standard

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2024 daily No. 141 THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024 CORTLAND, N.Y.

## ADA event notes 34 years of progress — and stagnation

‘We have a shockingly long way to go’

By JACK LAKOWSKY  
Staff Reporter

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The adoption of the Americans with Disabilities Act 34 years ago was the

start of improvement, but not the end, Cortland County's leading advocate said as she discussed its upcoming celebration.

“This is a landmark piece of legislation that allows people like me to live independent lives,” said Alex Mikowski, Access to Independence's executive director. “Before the ADA someone in a wheelchair was denied access.”

### ADA celebration

**WHEN:** 1 to 3:30 p.m. July 26  
**WHERE:** Suggett Park, Cortland  
**WHY:** Acknowledgement of the 34th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Access to Independence will host its annual ADA Celebration 1 to 3:30 p.m. July 26 at Suggett Park in Cortland.

“This day is all about reflecting and building upon the work done, and seeing we have a shockingly long way to go,” Mikowski said.

Free ice cream goes to the first 100 participants, who can pick up a craft activity as they pass the tables of the agencies and nonprofits, Mikowski said.

Access to Independence works to make public and private infrastructure more accessible, navigable and less

hazardous. To that end, it recently got a \$2,500 grant to improve adaptive technology at rural voting sites.

“If you need a ballot read to you and a site has one machine, that could take maybe 20 minutes,” Mikowski said, delaying other voters.

Polling sites must meet basic requirements, like level doorways to allow

See ADA, page 6

## City seeks \$675K for 2nd phase of Randall Park work

By JACK LAKOWSKY  
Staff Reporter

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A pair of pickleballers whacked a ball back and forth Wednesday afternoon at Randall Park in Cortland, working up sweats in the humidity.

The pickleball courts, which opened last week, have been used well, their opening well-attended and enthusiastically welcomed, city officials say. Renovating the bathrooms is next, and Cortland's Common Council voted unanimously Tuesday to seek a grant for them.

Youth Bureau Director Andrea Piedigrossi said pickleballers have been some of the loudest proponents of the ongoing Randall Park Improvement Project, which included the pickleball courts.

“They’ve been busy every day,” Piedigrossi said Wednesday. Pickleballer ages vary widely, from a 6-year-old to a 90-year-old.

But if you play a long enough game, you might need the toilet. And the one at Randall Park needs a makeover, city officials say. Dents pock the door, its paint peeled. The drinking fountain sports a crust of lime and the whole place smells like mildew.

To fix up the restrooms and a host of other improvements, the city needs a \$675,000 grant from the state, which comes with at least a 25% match — about \$170,000.

The city of Cortland wants to renovate the bathroom facility as part of Phase 2 of the Ran-



Jack Lakowsky/Staff Reporter

A drinking fountain in the bathroom at Randall Park is discolored with lime and crusted with limescale. The city seeks a grant to renovate the outbuilding.

dall Park Improvement project, Piedigrossi said Wednesday, especially to make it more Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

“Once the bathroom’s done, I’d say we’re about 40% through,” Piedigrossi said.

The city can defray costs by doing work itself, including helping remove the building, installing some plumbing and electrical, she said. “We have great guys on our DPW staff that

can tackle that work.”

Ahead, large price tags still loom. Piedigrossi said the city might add indoor lacrosse to the park, priced about \$350,000 in 2022.

“Lighting for the softball field was about \$180,000,” Piedigrossi said. “I believe the pickleball court lights were about \$80,000.”

Prices for new playground equipment vary greatly depending on what you get, she said.

Also, the city has to work with the city school district to replace the playground equipment. Randall Middle School’s playground is next to the city park.

When and if the city takes these next steps depends on available grants, the director said.

“Money is a factor, but the sky’s the limit,” Piedigrossi said. “If we think we can achieve it, we’ll go for it.”

## Garner honored on 10th anniversary of chokehold death

By KAREN MATTHEWS  
and CEDAR ATTANASIO  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ten years after Eric Garner’s death at the hands of New York City police officers made “I can’t breathe” a rallying cry, loved ones on Wednesday remembered his life and legacy.

“I want people to remember him and remember that he was the one that helped get laws changed, that helped implement laws, who was the sacrificial lamb and that, because of him, others have benefited,” said Gwen Carr, Garner’s mother, at the start of a march on Staten Island, the borough where her son died.

A few dozen Garner family members, friends, and activist supporters marched to a park that sits between the sidewalk and a street that now bears his name — Eric Garner Way. As thousands of protesters have done over the past decade, they repeated some of his last words: “I can’t breathe.”

Bystander video showed Garner gasping the phrase on July 17, 2014, while locked in a police chokehold. The recording spurred Black Lives Matter protests in New York and across the country. More demonstrations followed weeks later when Michael Brown, an

18-year-old Black man, was fatally shot by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri, on Aug. 9, 2014.

Six years later, George Floyd was recorded uttering the exact same words as he begged for air while a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd’s neck, killing him and sparking a new wave of mass protests.

Carr noted that since her son’s death, there has been an increase in the use of video cameras by police. In 2020, New York lawmakers passed the Eric Garner Anti-Chokehold Act, which removed legal ambiguities in official police conduct by creating a felony crime of strangulation by peace officers that causes injury or death. Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who restrained Garner, was fired in 2019, but never charged with a crime.

A decade after Garner’s death, Carr remembers his love of Christmas, regrets times she’d yelled at him, and said she has days when she can’t find the strength to get out of bed. At the park on Wednesday, Carr and her family — including some of Garner’s children — enjoyed a cookout as people from around the neighborhood gathered in a blocked-off street

See GARNER, page 6



AP Photo/Seth Wenig

Legacy Garner, Eric Garner’s youngest daughter, center, marches with family and supporters during an event to memorialize Eric Garner in Staten Island, Wednesday.

## Three days after attempted assassination, Trump shooter remains an elusive enigma

By MICHAEL BIESECKER,  
MARTHA BELLISLE,  
JIM MUSTIAN  
and PETER SMITH  
Associated Press

BETHEL PARK, Pa. — After three days, an enigmatic portrait emerged of the 20-year-old man who came close to killing former President Donald Trump with a high-velocity bullet: He was an intelligent loner with few friends, an apparently thin social media footprint and no hints of strong political beliefs that would suggest a motive for an attempted assassination.

Even after the FBI cracked

into Thomas Matthew Crooks’ cellphone, scoured his computer, home and car, and interviewed more than 100 people, the mystery of why he opened fire on Trump’s rally Saturday, wounding the GOP nominee, remained as elusive as the moment it happened.

“He sat by himself, didn’t talk to anyone, didn’t even try to make conversation,” said 17-year-old Liam Campbell, echoing the comments of classmates who re-

membered the shooter in this quiet community outside of Pittsburgh. “He was an odd kid,” but nothing about him seemed dangerous, he added. “Just a normal person who seemed like he didn’t like talking to people.”

So far, there has been no public disclosure the shooter left any writings, suicide note, social media screed or any other indicator explaining his reasons for targeting Trump. A law enforcement official briefed on the on-



Crooks

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WEATHER



Sunny  
Tomorrow’s Weather:  
High near 77  
Northwest wind 6 mph  
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ONLINE



www.cortlandstandard.com

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.





Weather

Local

**Rest of today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75. A low around 52. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

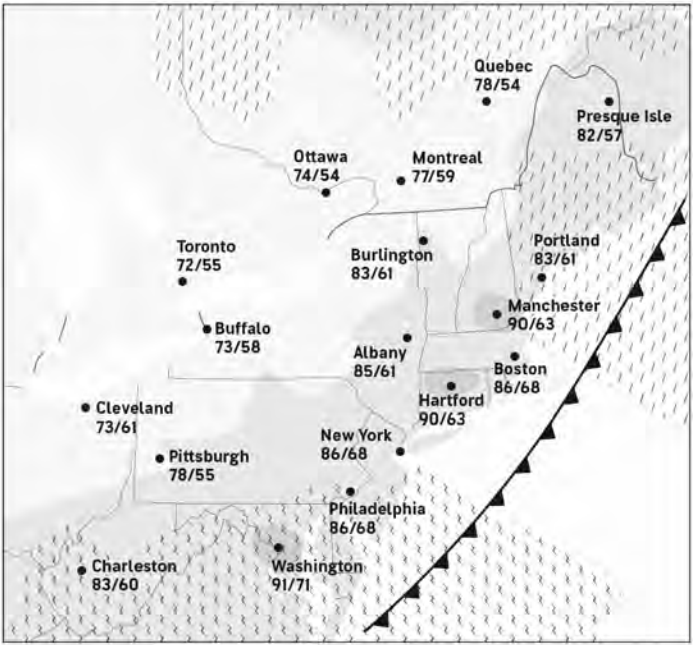
**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 77. Calm wind becoming northwest around 6 mph in the morning.

**Friday night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

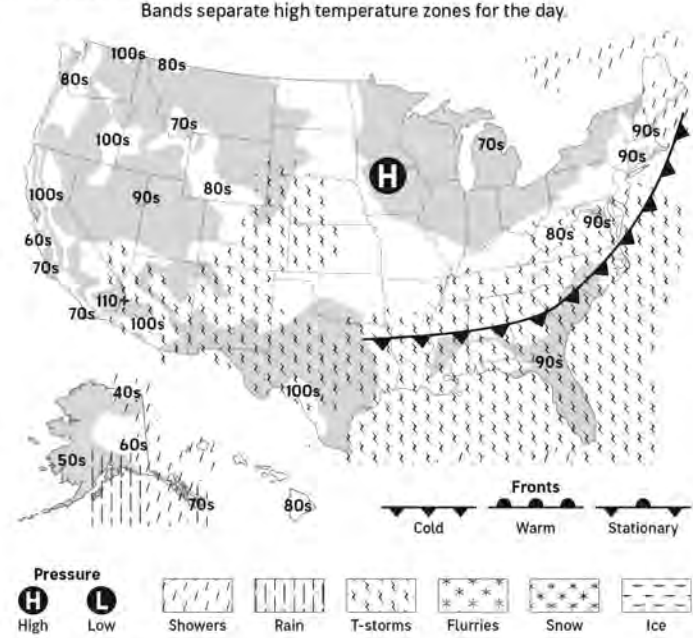
Skies Today

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Thursday, July 18, 2024 |           |
| Sunset today            | 8:39 p.m. |
| Sunrise tomorrow        | 5:44 a.m. |
| Normal high temperature | 81        |
| Normal low temperature  | 58        |
| Average temperature     | 70        |
| Full moon               | July 21   |

Forecast for Thursday, July 18, 2024



Forecast for Thursday, July 18, 2024



**NATIONAL SUMMARY:** Thunderstorms may produce flash flooding and damaging winds from southern Virginia through the Carolinas to northern and central Georgia tomorrow. Localized damaging wind gusts may occur with storms in southeastern Arizona. Spotty afternoon thunderstorms are expected along much of the Gulf coast and in the central and southern Rockies.

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Lottery Winners

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

**Numbers:** Midday: 7-0-6, Evening: 1-2-2; **WinFour:** Midday: 2-0-2-2, Evening: 9-4-0-6; **Pick 10:** 2-12-16-18-19-22-25-26-30-31-34-37-39-48-53-54-56-59-69-72; **Take Five:** Midday: 14-16-31-37-38, Evening: 14-19-24-28-29; **Cash4Life:** 5-17-28-43-54, Cash Ball: 4, **Lotto:** 3-33-38-45-52-58, Bonus: 39, **Powerball:** 24-27-32-47-66, Power Ball: 26, Power Play: 2

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# Records

## Dems consider expelling Menendez from Senate after bribe conviction

By STEPHEN GROVES  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Menendez has shown no sign he will voluntarily resign from the Senate following his conviction on bribery charges, leaving Democratic senators contemplating an expulsion effort to force him from office.

While Menendez, a New Jersey Democrat, has six months remaining in his term, Democrats have made clear they don't want him in office any longer. Within minutes of the guilty verdict on Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer called for his resignation and New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy, who would name Menendez's replacement, said that the Senate should expel Menendez if he refused to step down.

Expulsion, which requires a two-thirds majority, is an exceedingly rare step in the Senate.

The last time it was even seriously considered by the chamber was almost 30 years ago, and only 15 senators — almost all during the Civil War — have ever been expelled.

Still, senators are preparing to make the push.

"He must stand up now and leave the Senate. He must do that, and if he refuses to do that, many of us, but I will lead that effort to make sure he is removed from the Senate," Sen. Cory Booker, New Jersey's



AP Photo/Larry Neumeister

**Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., leaves federal court following the day's proceedings in his bribery trial, Tuesday, in New York.**

other Democratic senator, told MSNBC late Tuesday. "That is the right thing to do. That is the just thing to do."

After a jury found Menendez, 70, guilty of accepting bribes of gold and cash from three New Jersey businessmen and acting as a foreign agent for the Egyptian government, the senator did not comment on his political plans in brief remarks as he left the courthouse. But he vowed to appeal the verdict.

"I have never violated my public oath. I have never been anything but a patriot of my country and for my country," Menendez told reporters.



Courtesy Tony Cavallaro via AP

**This undated photo, provided by Tony Cavallaro, shows his 750-pound alligator, Albert, in Cavallaro's personal enclosure, in Hamburg.**

## Alligator's owner sues NY agency to get pet back

By CAROLYN THOMPSON  
Associated Press

BUFFALO — An upstate New York man whose 750-pound alligator was seized is suing the state Department of Environmental Conservation in an effort to get him back, saying the agency was wrong not to renew a license for the pet he looked after for more than 30 years.

Conservation officers entered Tony Cavallaro's home in the Buffalo suburb of Hamburg in March, sedated the 11-foot alligator named Albert, taped his mouth shut and drove off with him, saying Cavallaro's license to keep the reptile expired in 2021 and hadn't been renewed.

In his lawsuit filed with the state Supreme Court, Cavallaro says the agency's denial of his license wasn't "factually based," his attorney, Peter Kooshoian, said Tuesday.

"We're hoping that he will get his license to have the animal reinstated, and from there we'd like to either negotiate or litigate to have the animal brought back to Mr. Cavallaro because we feel that he should have had a valid license at the time, as he'd had for

the last 30 years," Kooshoian said.

The DEC does not comment on pending litigation, a spokesman said via email when asked for a response to the claims. It previously said Albert's enclosure didn't sufficiently ensure that he would not come into contact with people, and that the alligator was afflicted by "blindness in both eyes and spinal complications" — conditions Cavallaro disputes.

Officers' seizure of the alligator, caught on video, and Cavallaro's videos and photos of him petting and kissing Albert in the custom indoor pool he built led to an outpouring of support for the duo. "Bring Albert Home" signs still dot some neighborhood lawns and more than 4,500 followers keep up with Cavallaro's efforts on Facebook.

"I'm hoping we get this thing resolved. That's all I can do," Cavallaro said of the decision to sue. "It's overwhelming me."

Cavallaro bought the American alligator at an Ohio reptile show in 1990 when Albert was two months old. He considers him an emotional support animal and "gentle giant."

## Obituaries

### Alice Smith Diliello

Alice Smith Diliello, aged 94, passed away peacefully, reuniting with her beloved husband, Frank Diliello.

Alice was a devoted mother to her daughters, Linda Diliello and Laura Renne, who lovingly cared for her in her later years. She was a cherished grandmother to Zachary (Kimberly) and Vincent Renne, and a proud great-grandmother to Zander Renne.

With an extraordinary green thumb, Alice created sprawling gardens and enjoyed weekends at the farmer's market. She had a special fondness for Skaneateles, NY, and its fashion offerings. Her unique style was evident in her home, filled with charming antiques and rare finds that made every space unmistakably hers.

Alice's presence and radiant smile will be deeply missed. She is now in a better place, having outlived most of her loved ones and friends, and is reunited with her family in eternal peace. Her legacy of love and creativity will continue to inspire all who knew her.



### Louise Ann Withey

Louise Ann Withey, 93, formerly South West St., Homer, passed away following an extended illness on July 15, 2024, in the Groton Nursing Facility.

A lifelong area resident, she was born December 14, 1930, in Sempronius, the daughter of the late Otto and Florence Bigsby Hammon.

Over the years, Louise had worked at Smith Corona, Bob's BBQ and the Little Treat Shop in Polkville. She was a founding member, along with her husband, Ellis Withey, of the Cortland Antique Car Club.

Surviving is her daughter, Marjorie L. (Richard) Jenney of Virgil; her son, David E. (Arlen) Withey of Groton; daughter-in-law, Nancy Withey of Homer; a sister, Anna Wetherell of Navasota, TX; eight grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Louise was predeceased by her husband, Ellis G. Withey in 2019; two sons, Donald C. Withey in 2022; Dale W. Withey in 2023; a sister, Nancy Bowman; two brothers, Otto 'Red' Harmon and John Hammon.

Calling hours will be held on Tuesday, July 23, 2024, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Donald L. Barber Funeral Home, 5016 US Route 11, Homer. Interment in Glenwood Cemetery, Homer, will be held privately and at the convenience of the family.

Memorial contributions in Mrs. Withey's name may directed to the Homeville Museum, PO Box 162, Homer, NY 13077.

Memorial condolences for the family may be left at [www.DonaldLBarberFuneralHome.com](http://www.DonaldLBarberFuneralHome.com).

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# Community

## Bike rodeo to teach road, bike safety to children

McGraw Lions Club to sponsor event for first time

By MARGARET MELLOTT  
Staff Reporter

mmellott@cortlandstandard.com  
Step one: Helmet — check. Step two: Bike — check. Step three: Learn the hand signs for safe biking on the road. Then, hit the course.

The McGraw Lions Club, which does community service, along with the Cortland County Health Department and county Youth Bureau will host a bike rodeo from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at the County Office Building, 60 Central Ave., Cortland.

The city of Cortland Police Department, city Youth Bureau

and Action Sports, a bicycle shop in Cortland, will also help with the event, which is meant for children ages 5 to 12 and their families. Parents must sign in with their child upon arrival.

“We’re hoping for 20 to 25 (participants),” said Sharon McNeil, McGraw Lions Club bike rodeo committee chair. “The way we look at it, those are 20 to 25 kids that have something to do on a weekend and learning about how to be safe and ride that bike through the streets so your parents don’t worry.”

Before children start the course, their helmets will be checked and fitted, using the

2-V-1 method: two fingers should fit between the eyebrows and bottom of the helmet, the side straps should form a V below the ears and only one finger should fit between the chin and the strap. If a helmet is too damaged, kids will be given a new one. The helmets, which are in limited supply, are sponsored by the Governor’s Traffic and Safety Committee and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

“We educate on the proper fit of the helmet,” said ReBecca Main, Cortland County public health programs manager and Youth Bureau director. “These

children are wearing helmets, but they’re (improperly fit helmets) going to fall off their heads and their heads are going to smash, even if the helmet stays on.”

For the bike safety check, Main uses the ABC method: air, brakes and chains. Is there enough air in the tires? Are the brakes fully functional? Are the chains oiled?

The event will also give away about 20 water bottles with free books from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library at the Cortland Free Library and on-site vision screening — these extras come from the efforts of the Mc-

Graw Lions Club.

This is the club’s first time hosting a bike rodeo, but President Mary Clancy Talbot, said it aligns well with its mission.

“Our main goal, for the past 20 years that I know, has been vision,” Clancy Talbot said. “Our main mission has been vision screening. We do vision screening at all the schools, the local schools, every fall.”

Children who don’t pass the screening will be advised to visit an eye doctor for further testing. For parents unable to afford the cost of prescription glasses, the McGraw Lions Club has provided financial assistance. The

club has helped 30 children get glasses, Clancy Talbot said.

The club has five objectives:

Vision and eye-care services.

Diabetes, both Type 1 and Type 2, services.

Preventing hunger.

Protecting the environment.

Childhood cancer research and services.

“Those are our five pillars, but we’re not limited to that,” said Maureen McDermott-Mulherin, club secretary.

“Those five pillars, it’s just community service,” McNeil said. “It’s just things to help the community, like the bike rodeo.”



Jack Lakowsky/Staff Reporter

The Cortland Fire Department’s older, secondary ladder truck, seen here after some cleaning Monday, is years overdue for replacement. A closer look reveals rust and other wear.

## City seeks grant for new fire trucks

Ladder is 30 years old; other vehicle faces retirement in 6 years

By JACK LAKOWSKY  
Staff Reporter

jlakowsky@cortlandstandard.com

The city of Cortland Fire Department’s back-up ladder truck, the larger type of fire-fighting apparatus, will mark its 30th anniversary with Cortland next year.

Time to retire, officials say.

To pay for a new \$1.2 million ladder truck the Cortland Common Council unanimously authorized an application Tuesday for \$1 million from the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Facilities Program. If it gets the money, the city would cover the remaining \$200,000.

“Some real tough math here,” Mayor Scott Steve said in the council’s meeting Tuesday.

While the ladder truck works fine, department officials said, it’s well past due for replacement, acquired by the department from Ithaca in 1995.

The city also seeks to start putting money toward replacing one of its smaller fire en-

gines, called a pumper, without a ladder. Ordering the truck early allows the city to avoid inflation, and the city will likely bond for the money, Steve said Wednesday.

In all, the two trucks will cost about \$2.9 million.

“This would put us on a good trajectory, once we did that, if we spread it out over five years,” Steve said. “Buy the ladder truck now, and spread out the second one afterwards, it would put us on a good trajectory to maintain a good plan again and not be stuck in a crisis where we’re spending a lot of money getting vehicles fixed.”

“It’s getting harder to find parts for it,” Fire Chief Wayne Friedman said of the ladder truck Tuesday, and at a certain point, parts will be impossible to find.

“We’d like to be ahead of the game instead of behind,” Friedman said. That’s why the department, and the city, are beginning to get into a long-term plan of regular equipment replacement.

Once, Friedman said, when the department acquired a piece of equipment, a truck or ladder or engine, it kept the vehicle in service until it just couldn’t be serviced, anymore. But when that happens, the vehicle has no resale value and the city may not have prepared or

saved for the new purchase.

The city is now moving into that long-term planning, Friedman said. Engines and trucks might have an expected 20-year-life span. A ladder similar to what he seeks might last 30 years, which is the situation he’s in now.

“That’s 30 years old and the service life should be no more than that,” Friedman said.

Alderspersion Seth Thompson (D-5th Ward) said he wanted to see a plan of how the city would cover costs beyond the grant, for transparency’s sake. He said the city should do all it can to prevent grant funding from eating into operational funds.

Department Deputy Chief Derek Reynolds said the department developed a comprehensive plan expecting the department to replace a piece of apparatus every five years or so. Reynolds said the department bought the ladder truck for \$10,000. It’s now spending \$20,000 a year just to keep it certified.

The other, smaller engine is due for replacement in 2030, Reynolds said.

“We’re trying to offset these things a little bit,” Reynolds said. “As far as where to come up with the money, we’re doing everything we can, grant funding and things like that.”

## Cortland YMCA receives support from Ithaca Y

By LILY BYRNE  
Staff Reporter

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The Cortland YMCA is receiving help from the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County, and even they don’t know if it’s permanent.

Two years ago, the Cortland YMCA CEO left, and the board entered into a management agreement with the Central New York YMCAs, which has now ended, said Senior Program Director Gina Cusano-McLaughlin.

“It’s not technically a management agreement with Ithaca,” Cusano-McLaughlin said this week. “It’s them coming over to help us really get back on our feet, get more members in the building and be more of the community staple that this once was.”

“This partnership will serve to provide CEO support according to Y-USA guidelines to the Cortland YMCA as it continues to serve its community,” a news release from the Ithaca YMCA says. “The Ithaca YMCA will also provide guidance and assist with grant opportunities, philanthropy, and membership growth initiatives.”

The only difference members will notice is seeing two new faces around the Cortland YMCA: Christie Thornton, CEO of the YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County, and Director of Operations and Development Gunnar Madison.

“They’re going to be working behind the scenes with human resources, and making sure bills are streamlined and things are paid timely,” Cusano-McLaughlin said.

The end goals of the Cortland YMCA are more aligned with the goals of the Ithaca YMCA, she said.

“It was the result of our needs being better deter-

mined, but not being met,” she said.

“Cortland is a very small town,” she said. “Ithaca seems a little bit bigger, but Tompkins County as a whole seems to be more parallel with Cortland. The Ithaca Y has a better understanding of that, more so than the Central Ys do. We are a small town community YMCA, Ithaca is a small town community YMCA. The YMCAs of Central New York are not.”

“We are looking forward to developing a closer working relationship with the Ithaca YMCA,” said Adam Clifford, board president for the Cortland YMCA, in a release. “Their growth over the past few years is inspiring. We think they will bring great ideas to the Cortland Y and can do a lot to help mentor our staff.”

“The Y alliance does require every Y to have a CEO, and we have been without a CEO since October of 2022,” Cusano-McLaughlin said. “Now, we are in a six-month agreement with them to then reevaluate. If it ends up being permanent, then by the Y alliance standards, we have to liquidate and be absorbed by Ithaca, so then it would be the Tompkins and Cortland Community YMCAs.”

In other news, the Cortland YMCA sold the building next door to it, which was previously purchased to be knocked down to expand the building, add more parking or create an after-school program, Cusano-McLaughlin said.

It still owns the 186-187 Homer Ave. shopping center, which houses Dollar General and Cortland Re-Use.

There were plans to develop the site years ago for a new YMCA facility, but those fell through.

### Around the towns

#### Cortland Fire Dept. gets \$50K for new hoses

The City of Cortland Fire Department can now replace its hoses, the oldest of which was bought in 1989, with a \$50,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

These are hoses the department uses to bring water from hydrant to fire truck, or from truck to truck, Deputy Chief Derek Reynolds said in a news release.

The department loses five lengths of hose a year because they fail to meet pressure standards, Reynolds said.

“With financial support, the

department will be able to invest in supply/attack, large-diameter hoses that can withstand twice the pressure of the current ones,” Reynolds said. “This significant upgrade not only provides firefighters with a tactical advantage, but also significantly enhances their safety during future operations.”

Reynolds said the department will sell the replaced hose at auction, an effort to offset the city’s \$2,500 match for the grant.

— Jack Lakowsky

#### State funds bridge, culvert replacement

The state will fund more than \$9.2 million in bridge

and culvert work in the greater Cortland area through its BRIDGE-NY initiative, Gov. Kathy Hochul announced July 11 and state Sen. Lea Webb (D-Binghamton) announced Wednesday.

The work is part of \$23 million in her district, which includes Broome and Tompkins counties.

“By enabling counties to address these vital needs and avoid project delays; we can contain costs and save taxpayers money,” Webb said in a release.

These projects were funded:

\$2.38 million to Cortland County to replace Pine Hill Road bridge over Hunts Creek.

\$1.5 million to Cortland County to replace a Cold

Brook Road culvert carrying Cold Brook Creek.

\$2.49 million to Cortlandville to replace Hoxie Gorge Road bridge over Hoxie Creek.

\$1.5 million to Preble to replace a Currie Road culvert carrying West Branch Tioughnioga River.

\$1.33 million to the village of Dryden to replace a Union Street culvert.

#### Tompkins begins search for new admin.

Tompkins County has begun the search for its next administrator, the county’s chief executive, who will succeed Lisa Holmes, who plans to retire at the end of

the year. The Tompkins County Legislature seeks candidates with eight to 10 years of administrative and management experience, who are consensus-builders, strategic thinkers, and good communicators. The administrator works with county employees, elected officials, community organizations and the public. The job pays \$180,000 a year. Tompkins County has hired Goodwin Recruiting to assist with the search.

“We’re looking for candidates who are eager to continue to leverage our new strategic operations plan to realize our vision of all Tompkins County residents thriving in a supportive, healthy, safe and inclusive environment,” said Legislature Chair Dan Klein (D-Danby, Caroline, Ithaca).

### Police/fire

#### Cortland PD issues scam warning

At least one Cortland resident received a call from someone falsely claiming to be an employee of the Cortland Police Department, asking for money in lieu of an arrest.

In a Facebook post Wednesday, Cortland police said the department will never request or demand any payment for such a reason.

“Please spread the word and do not fall victim to these types of schemes,” police said.

Police recommend contacting the department about questionable calls like this and asking for a supervisor.

— Jack Lakowsky



## Calendar

Here's a sampling of what's going on in the greater Cortland area.

### MUSIC

**July 18:** Steve Romer, 7 p.m., Summer Concert Series in Courthouse Park, Courthouse Park, Cortland.

**July 20:** Raina Sokolov-Gonzalez, 8 p.m., Center for the Arts of Homer.

**July 24:** Loren & LJ Barrigar, 7 p.m., Homer Village Green.

**July 25:** Taylor Made, 7 p.m., Summer Concert Series in Courthouse Park, Courthouse Park, Cortland.

**July 28:** Double Chase, 2 to 5 p.m., Cortland Country Music Park, Cortlandville.

**July 29:** Keb' Mo' 8 p.m., Center for the Arts of Homer.

### SOLD OUT

**July 30:** Kathleen Edwards, 8 p.m., Center for the Arts of Homer.

**July 31:** Raedwald Howland-Bolton, 7 p.m., Homer Village Green.

**July 31:** The Stick Men, 8 p.m., Center for the Arts of Homer.

**Aug. 1:** Unreal City, 7 p.m., Summer Concert Series in Courthouse Park, Courthouse Park, Cortland.

**Aug. 4:** 51st annual Bill Knowlton's Bluegrass Ramble Picnic, Dwyer Memorial Park, Preble.

**Aug. 7:** Rolling Rust, 7 p.m., Homer Village Green.

**Aug. 8:** Molly and the Ringwalds, 7 p.m., Summer Concert Series in Courthouse Park, Courthouse Park, Cortland.

**Aug. 8:** Al Stewart and The Empty Pockets, 8 p.m., Center for the Arts of Homer.

**Aug. 9:** Eric Johnson, 8 p.m., Center for the Arts of Homer.

### THEATER

**July 17 to July 26:** "Wait Until Dark." Little York Pavilion, Dwyer Memorial Park, Preble.

**July 18-21:** "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang — the Musical," 7 p.m. July 18, 19, 20 and 21; 2

p.m. July 20 and 21, Center for the Arts of Homer.

**July 19 and 20:** "Storybook Tales," 11 a.m. July 19; 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. July 20, starring the Bright Star Touring Co. at Dwyer Memorial Park.

**July 27:** "Mx. Congeniality," 7:30 p.m., Center for the Arts of Homer.

**July 31 to Aug. 17:** "Beauty and the Beast." Little York Pavilion, Dwyer Memorial Park, Preble.

### FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

**July 19 and 20:** "Storybook Tales," 11 a.m. July 19; 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. July 20, starring the Bright Star Touring Co. at Dwyer Memorial Park.

**July 20:** Holiday in Homer, Homer Village Green.

**July 25:** Movies on the Homer Green, dusk, "Elemental," Homer Village Green.

**July 26:** Movie Under the Stars, dusk, "Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire," Courthouse Park, Cortland.

**July 26:** Crossroads the Clown, 6 p.m., Virgil Community Living Center, 1208 Church St.

**July 27-28:** Summer Carnival, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Virgil Community Living Center, 1208 Church St.

**Aug. 1:** Movies on the Homer Green, dusk, "Wonka," Homer Village Green.

**Aug. 2:** Movie Under the Stars, dusk, "Trolls Band Together," Courthouse Park, Cortland.

**Aug. 8-10:** Fillmore Days and Bathtub Races, Fillmore Glen State Park, Moravia.

**Aug. 10:** The National Brockway Truck Show, Homer.

**Aug. 15:** Movies on the Homer Green, dusk, "Barbie," Homer Village Green.

**Aug. 22-24:** Groton Olde Home Days, Groton.

### OTHER STUFF

**July 19-20:** Portrait of a Place - A Plein Air Event. Plein air competition, Center for the Arts of Homer.

## Notebook

### Boat show July 26-28 in Skaneateles

SKANEATELES — The 46th annual Antique and Classic Boat Show will be July 26 to 28 at Clift Park in Skaneateles.

Hours are 3 p.m. to dusk Friday, 9 a.m. to dusk Saturday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

The show, hosted by the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society and the Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, draws exhibitors from across New York, the East Coast, the Midwest and Canada. About 10,000 visitors attend each year.

Visitors will be able to view, and meet the owners of, some 80 runabouts, launches, sailboats, canoes, rowing craft and race boats, many restored to their original condition. Featured boats include Triple Crown, a 1948 Century Sea Maid owned by Dan and Ashley Ritchey of Bolivar, Ohio; Mazu, a 1940 Gar Wood Vacationer owned by Susan and Mark Cranfill of Fairfax Station, Virginia; ACME, a 1940 Lightning sailboat built in Skaneateles and owned by Mike Yates of Skaneateles; and GoodWood, a 1962 Century Coronado owned by Brenda and Ed Evans of Skaneateles.

Highlights:

Boat parade at 3:15 p.m. Saturday.

Performances by the Skaneateles Community Band, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday; the Diana Jacobs Band, noon to 3 p.m. Saturday; and the Soda Ash 6, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Display of model antique boats by the Syracuse Model Boat Club, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Guided village bus tours by the Skaneateles Historical

Society, 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Opportunities for children to paint toy wooden boats, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, and a McClurg Kids Building Corner, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday.

### Cornell presents piano academy

The Cornell Center for Historical Keyboards announces the return of the Forte/Piano Summer Academy with the Chamber Music Collective July 30 to Aug. 3 at Cornell University. The series will feature experts in 18th- and 19th-century music, culminating in a series of concerts, presentations and discussions.

"The main goal of the collaboration is for our students to get to know the expansive collection of instruments," said collective co-founder Sezi Seskir. "The concerts will include a variety of composers such as Joseph Bologne (Chevalier de Saint-Georges), Schubert, Brahms, Debussy, Emilie Mayer, and Louise Farrenc on an equally large range of instruments, from a five-octave Walter copy to original nineteenth-century Graf, Blüthner, and Pleyel pianos."

The CCHK also presents two Showcase Concerts from Tom Beghin (senior researcher at the Orpheus Institute for Advanced Studies & Research in Music) and Tuija Hakkila (piano faculty at the Sibelius Academy) to preview next summer's Forte/Piano 2025.

The schedule.

7:30 p.m. July 30 in Barnes Hall.

7:30 p.m. Aug. 1 in Barnes Hall.

8 p.m. Aug. 2 in A.D. White House.

4 p.m. Aug. 3 in Barnes Hall.

8 p.m. Aug. 3 at Kiplinger Theater in the Schwartz Center.



Photo provided

Artist Molly Reagan will lead a street chalk art session at Arts off Main Aug. 3 in Cortland. Expect a puppet-making class, splatter art and other art you can do, in addition to admiring it.

# Arts off Main Festival Aug. 3 shows art is what you do

By LILY BYRNE  
Staff Reporter

lbyrne@cortlandstandard.com

Art has a million definitions — many are what you do, not what you admire. A ton of them will be executed at Arts off Main this year, including splatter-paint, literature, puppetry and pottery.

The Arts off Main Festival, sponsored by Cortland Arts Connect, will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 3 on Court Street. Main Street to Church Street will be closed to vehicle traffic, said Carol Fitzgerald, executive director of Cortland Arts Connect.

Expect an art tent for kids, and more free workshops than ever, including wool felting, ceramic tile painting, wine glass dragonfly tea lights, watercolor painting and puppet-making.

Lily Gershon, owner of Lilypad Puppet Theatre, will perform a puppet show and then guide kids through making their own puppet. She pre-sews puppet bodies using donated fabric and recycled materials.

"They get a way to express themselves which is very important," Gershon said. "It is self-expression to create something that's your own invention. That something becomes alive — it's a puppet, so it has a personality."

"They can explore another side of themselves through a puppet," she added. "Their puppet can be just like them, but their puppet can also be the opposite of them. It can be a monster; maybe something that expresses a negative side, or something that they are angry about, or a side of themselves that isn't who they are, but a part of who they are."

She will wear her Idea Apron, which is covered in different puppets, to give kids

### If you go

WHAT: Arts off Main

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 3

WHERE: Court Street in Cortland

ideas on how to create different hair and faces.

"They also get to do something that they just saw an adult professional do, and then they get to be invited to be a part of it," she said. "They can see that art is not just something that you watch and are a passive participant in, but art is something that you can get into, you can do it yourself right now."

Muralist Molly Reagan will lead a street chalk art session. Noel Passeri will offer free caricatures, and Maggie Phelps will offer henna tattoos, said artist and board member Emily Gibbons.

"Come on out to the festival to support our local and regional artists," Gibbons said. "Also, try your hand at creating art yourself."

Steve and Goldie Williams will have a booth for SPLAT! Sumthin', a splatter paint room opening in Cortland this month.

"It's a creative space where people throw, splatter and spray paint to create unique, abstract art," Steve Williams said. "It's a fun, liberating experience that encourages artistic expression without traditional constraints."

At the festival, people can wear protective gear and create spin art and pour art on T-shirts and canvases. It costs between \$10 and \$20.

"Paint is applied while the canvas spins, resulting in unique, centrifugal designs that are often vibrant and mesmerizing," he said. "Pour art, also known as acrylic pour paint-

ing, involves pouring layers of fluid acrylic paint onto a canvas to create swirling, marbled effects.

The paint flows and mixes in unpredictable ways, producing beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces of art."

The festival's music schedule is as follows:

10 a.m. — Nan Pasquarello & Marina Gorelaya

10:50 a.m. — Bradford Allen

11:45 a.m. — The Ish

12:45 p.m. — Rick Starmer

1:45 p.m. — LilySilly Puppet Theater

2:30 p.m. — The High Road

3:30 p.m. — Local Farmers Union

4:20 p.m. — Colleen Kattau

Pasquarello and Gorelaya will open the festival with a flute and piano duet, said Monica Ryan, a Cortland Arts Connect board member.

"We will even have some literary things this year," Ryan said. "There will be a booth where you can make different kinds of poetry right there at the event."

An author's tent will sell local authors' books. More than 20 artisans will sell handmade art and products, including Press Gurwitz Perfumery, wearable pressed flowers from Juni Dee Jewelry, beaded Mexican jewelry from La Flor LLC and home decor from The 1812 Shoppe.

The farmers market will also be open at the festival, selling produce, plants, baked goods and crafts.

"It's a great way to get the community together to experience all of the talent that we have here in Cortland, from the musical artists to the visual artists," Ryan said. "It's just a really great way to experience the talent here and also bring out your own."

## Holiday in Homer to fill green Saturday

Expect more than 80 vendors selling arts, crafts, books — even dog treats. Look for the entertainment. And you might even find a few artists at Holiday in Homer Saturday.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Village Green, where you can dunk a cop, listen to live music by Doc Weismore and Real Country, take a horse-drawn wagon ride and admire the quilts at the quilt show.

Artists taking part in the Center for the Arts of Homer's plein air contest may also be on the green, painting scenes. More than 25 artists have signed up to take part, although that two-day event encompasses a broader area. And while forecasting it might be a jinx, the National Weather Service in Binghamton expects sunny weather, with a high about 81 degrees.



Cortland Standard file photo

A horse-drawn carriage carries passengers past the Village Green in Homer during the 2022 Holiday in Homer. The event returns this weekend.

### Schedule of Events

7:30 – 10 a.m.: Breakfast, Homer Methodist Church

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Shopping

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Quilt Show

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Dan the Snakeman

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Homer Elks

Food Tent

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Raffles and drawings in front of Homer Congregational Church

10:30 a.m. until sold out: Pulled pork sandwiches, fried dough, strawberry shortcake and ice cream in front of Homer Congregational Church

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Horse-drawn wagon rides

11 a.m.: Checkers the Inventor, sponsored by the Homer Village Recreation Department and Homer Congregational Church

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.: Dunk a Cop — Homer Police Department

11 a.m. until sold out: Homer Elks chicken barbecue

11:45 a.m.: Introduction of scholarship winners

1 p.m.: Checkers the Inventor Noon to 4 p.m.: Doc Weismore and Real Country

## Movie shot in Syracuse coming to theaters

By GEOFF HERBERT  
syracuse.com (TNS)

A new movie starring "The Office" actor Rainn Wilson is finally coming to theaters three years after it was filmed in the Syracuse area.

"Empire Waist," a body-positive, coming-of-age comedy, will be released in theaters across the U.S. and Canada on

Sept. 27, according to Deadline.

The cast includes Wilson and his "Galaxy Quest" co-star Missi Pyle, plus "SMILF" star Mia Kaplan.

The story follows Lenore Miller (Kaplan), an overweight, insecure teen whose talent for fashion is discovered by her confident, plus-sized classmate

(newcomer Jemima Yevu).

Wilson will play Kaplan's supportive father and Pyle will play her image-conscious mother, raising the question of whether Lenore can feel the self-love she inspires in others.

"Empire Waist" is the first feature film for writer-director Claire Ayoub, whose script was on Hollywood's The Black List

of top unproduced screenplays in 2019.

Ayoub wrote and directed her first play at age 14 and also wrote for Amy Poehler's "Smart Girls."

She said she used her 2014 personal essay, "Notes to My Twelve Year Old Self," as the inspiration for "Empire Waist."



# While gas taxes can’t pay for roads much longer, state lawmakers think Amazon deliveries might

By ALEX BROWN  
Stateline.org (TNS)

For decades, states have relied on gas taxes to provide much of the money to maintain roads and bridges. But as cars become more fuel efficient, and some Americans switch to electric vehicles, state leaders say the gas tax won’t pay the bills for much longer.

At the same time, many cities have seen their streets crowded with delivery trucks from Amazon and other companies, as consumers increasingly opt to have products delivered to their homes. In a few states, lawmakers think fees on those deliveries could be part of their road-funding solution.

“If you’re going to be creating wear and tear on our roads, you should help pay to maintain them,” said Colorado state Rep. Cathy Kipp, a Democrat who chairs the Energy and Environment Committee.

In July 2022, Colorado became the first state with a retail delivery fee, a charge on all vehicle deliveries to consumers within the state. The fee, which currently stands at 29 cents per delivery, provides funding for highways, bridges, tunnels, electric vehicle charging stations and projects to reduce air pollution and to electrify vehicle fleets and transit systems. It has brought in more than \$160 million.

Colorado leaders have had to simplify the law to help businesses comply with it, but they say it’s largely been a success story. Minnesota enacted its own retail delivery fee in 2023, and lawmakers in New York and Illinois have proposed similar measures. Meanwhile, legislators and transportation officials in several other states have commissioned studies to consider the concept.

Some retailers and Republican lawmakers have argued that the fee hurts consumers, and many businesses in Colorado initially had trouble complying with the law.

“The 27-cent delivery fee is not trivial, its effects are not imperceptible, and it greatly affects our citizens — especially those who are already struggling to pay the bills and provide for their families,” Republican state Rep. Rose Pugliese, the House minority leader, wrote in a Colorado Springs Gazette guest column several months after the law was enacted.

But backers of the fee say they see growing interest across



Pedestrians cross Delancey Street as congested traffic from Brooklyn enters Manhattan over the Williamsburg Bridge, March 28, 2019, in New York.

the country, especially as delivery trucks become ubiquitous in many neighborhoods.

### ‘FUTURE-PROOFING’ FUNDS

State law in Colorado limits the ways in which lawmakers can expand taxes. With gas tax revenues dwindling, legislators didn’t have an obvious solution to pay for roads. They eventually settled on the retail delivery fee, which is not characterized as a tax.

Initially, the program was a struggle for many businesses, due to a requirement that they detail the fee separately on each receipt.

“For our medium and small businesses, it was a real complicated thing and very burdensome for them to have to reprogram their software with a whole extra line item,” Kipp said.

Last year, Kipp joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers to amend the program. They rescinded the requirement that businesses itemize the fee on each receipt and allowed companies to cover the fee themselves rather than breaking it out on each order. They also exempted retailers with less than \$500,000 in sales.



An Amazon Prime truck pulls away after a delivery in Washington, D.C., in 2022.

Since the fix was adopted, Kipp said she has stopped hearing complaints about the program. Chris Howes, president of the Colorado Retail Council, said he too has not heard any recent gripes.

“We’ve got it straightened out by now,” he said. “People have accepted it and moved on.”

Amazon did not grant a Stateline interview request, and the National Retail Federation deferred questions to state chambers. Chamber of Progress, a tech industry advocacy group,

did not arrange an interview by publication time.

Last year, lawmakers in Minnesota enacted their own retail delivery fee, a 50-cent charge on purchases of more than \$100. Lawmakers heard from local governments that they were struggling to maintain their roads and badly needed state aid to make up the gap.

“This is trying to future-proof our transportation funding,” said Democratic state Rep. Erin Koegel, who sponsored the bill. “We keep getting performance

grades from civil engineers saying we’re at a C- or D for our infrastructure. We needed to think about ways to get more revenue in the system.”

Koegel said the measure was a compromise. Her initial draft, which did not have a \$100 threshold for purchases, was intended to be a deterrent, much like cigarette taxes. She said delivery trucks are increasing congestion in many cities and damaging streets that weren’t built to support large vehicles. However, lawmakers ultimately decided to limit the fee to more expensive purchases in order to protect lower-income consumers.

Minnesota’s fee is projected to generate \$59 million in its first fiscal year. The funding will be distributed to cities, counties and towns to help with their road-funding needs.

### TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Cities and counties in Washington state also have asked for help, and some local leaders have asked state lawmakers to consider a retail delivery fee — or to authorize cities to collect one. State lawmakers commissioned an analysis, published

last month, looking at the potential for such a program. The report found that a fee could generate \$45 million to \$112 million in revenue in 2026, depending on which businesses and orders were covered.

“We’re now seeing that there’s traffic on our system throughout the day, and the growth of these delivery services is a part of that,” said Democratic state Sen. Marko Lias, who chairs the Transportation Committee. “We’ve had a history in transportation of user-based fees. This feels like a mechanism that could help in that regard.”

Lias emphasized that some version of the fee is likely to be a big topic of discussion in the next legislative session. He said he’s already heard strong arguments on both sides of the issue.

In some areas, the rise in retail deliveries has put the greatest burden on the infrastructure surrounding shipping facilities. Illinois’ CenterPoint Intermodal Center, the nation’s largest inland port, connects interstate trucking, railway lines and Mississippi River barges.

“There really needs to be a shift in the tax structure, since many of these facilities are not generating the local sales tax you’d get at a brick and mortar,” said Democratic state Sen. Rachel Ventura, whose district includes the CenterPoint facility. “We have a lot of traffic going in and out, and the environmental burden and road repairs and the tax burden fall locally.”

Ventura has drafted a bill that would allow communities to assess fees on intermodal facilities — locations that transfer products from one type of transportation to another. Local governments that opted in would be able to spend the funds on roads within five miles of the facilities. The fee, which would be based on the weight of each shipment, is projected to generate \$33 million to \$68 million per year.

The bill has not passed out of committee, and Ventura said lawmakers are still discussing the path forward amid opposition from the trucking industry.

In New York, a Democratic bill to impose a 25-cent fee on deliveries within New York City has been introduced but remains in committee. Meanwhile, state agencies in Nevada and Ohio have commissioned studies examining the feasibility of retail delivery fees. Those reports have not yet led to legislative action.

## Opinion

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Cortland Standard

### Our Opinion

## City fire station project

The ornate, 110-year-old Cortland fire station on Court Street with a bell tower and tiled roof stands in stark contrast to the bunker-like City Hall building next door that was constructed in the 1960s.

When the fire station was built on Court Street, fire trucks were small vehicles and the building was designed to accommodate them. Modern vehicles are much larger, and many do not fit in the station, despite many efforts over the years to beef up the floor to hold their weight. Those improvements still could not account for the dimensions of a modern truck, prompting the city to store some fire trucks at other sites.

The city has considered options for a new station, including an addition to the current one, several times over the years, in-

cluding about 20 years ago. But none ever went anywhere, due to the complications of finding an adequate site downtown and the cost of such a project. Action could finally be coming as the city is once again considering options and is seeking designs for a fire station addition to resolve the building’s lingering limitations.

The last significant movement toward an answer came when it purchased the former Ames Linen building in 2005 with such a project in mind when the company relocated to a much larger building at 67 Huntington St. in the city. Creating a parking lot on the site was considered a temporary arrangement at the time while construction options were considered.

The city has for decades had to custom-order some fire ve-

hicles, making do with smaller ones than it would prefer. An aerial ladder truck cannot be housed in the building and is kept at a substation on South Franklin Street. The city-owned former New York state armory on Wheeler Avenue also houses some fire vehicles and equipment.

Any renovation to the Court Street station would be limited because of the historic status of the building.

Of course, the fire station is only one of many space issues that the city has on its plate.

Early in his first term of office, Mayor Scott Steve said he was pressing ahead with a space study for all property owned by the city. Many departments need additional or reconfigured spaces.

A plan years in the making

to relocate City Court from the second floor of City Hall to the Cortland County Courthouse was recently thrown into disarray when the state decided to halt the project and use the Courthouse space for its own expanding purposes as two new courtrooms will be added. That leaves the city with a cramped City Hall.

While the main city fire station is an historic icon of the city, there is nothing that requires the city to continue to use the beautiful building for the same purpose. With a laundry list of space needs, and many questions still remaining about a fire department expansion project, the city should keep an open mind and consider alternate uses for the building, whether its own or selling it to a developer.

### Good Old Days

July 18, 1974

Smith-Corona plans to build a 40,000-square-foot addition to its parts fabrication plant at South Cortland in order to meet the increased demand for its typewriters. Construction is expected to start early this Fall and the new building will be in operation by next July.

Increased worldwide demand for Smith-Corona typewriters, particularly models featuring the Coronamatic cartridge ribbon, have overtaxed Smith-Corona’s existing facilities in the Cortland-Groton area, L.G. Greis, General Manager, said. The expanded part fabrication will be used to increase production at Cortland and at other locations.

July 18, 2014

The Lego Master Building Club will meet 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday for youth at the second floor of the Beard Building, 9 Main St., Cortland.

Cortland Makerspace, a group that fosters creative building and making, is sponsoring the event for kids from kindergarten to 18 years. There will be a timed build-off based on a theme.

### Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 18, the 200th day of 2024. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1976, at the Summer Olympics in Montreal, Nadia Comaneci of Romania became the first gymnast to receive a perfect score of 10 from Olympic judges for her performance on the uneven bars.

Also on this date:

In 1536, the English Parliament passed an act declaring the authority of the pope void in England.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo.

### 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.

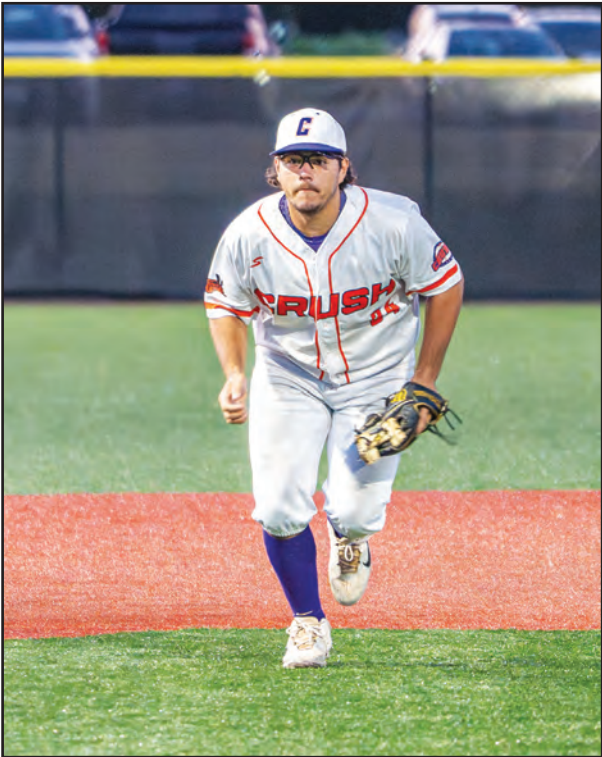






## Cortland Crush Baseball

# Crush earn walk-off win, split doubleheader with Ridgemen



Matt Czeitner/sports reporter  
**Cortland Crush player Ryne McKinney charges for a ground ball during a game earlier this season. McKinney had four hits and an RBI over two games against the Rochester Ridgemen Wednesday at Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex.**

By **MATT CZEITNER**  
Sports Reporter

mczeitner@cortlandstandard.com

The Cortland Crush fell to the Rochester Ridgemen 7-4 in the first game of a doubleheader but bounced back with a walk-off 9-8 win in the second game Wednesday at Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex. The Crush sit at 14-19-1 on the season.

### RIDGEMEN 7, CRUSH 4

Cortland rattled off four runs in the top of the sixth inning, but a fast start from Rochester proved to be too much for the Crush as they could not complete the comeback and lost the first game of a doubleheader.

Rochester led 7-0 through the first five innings and looked like it was going to cruise to a win, but the Crush kept fighting and finally got to Ridgemen starting pitcher Stephen Pearson. Pearson threw five shutout innings prior to the rally from the Crush in the sixth. He finished his day with 5.1 innings pitched and allowed four runs on eight hits and three walks and struck out one.

Ryne McKinney (Capital University) began the sixth inning with

a triple, followed by Zach Young (Wells College) reaching on an error. Robby Harrison (Capital University) then hit an RBI single and Matt Doherty (Lyndon State College) hit a two-run triple to cut Rochester's lead to four. Jack Coogan (Molloy College) then hit an RBI single to make it 7-4.

McKinney and Young began the seventh with back-to-back strikeouts, but Carson Molinaroli (Anderson University) walked and Harrison singled to keep the inning alive. Doherty then came to the plate with a chance to keep the rally going, but he lined out to center to end the game.

Rochester scored all seven of its runs in the first three innings, with three coming in the first and two runs in both the second and third inning. Julian Salinas (Salve Regina University) started for Cortland. He tossed two innings and allowed five runs on four hits and two walks and struck out one. Scott Scherrer (Wells College) then threw four innings and allowed two runs on three hits and two walks and struck out four.

Doherty went 2-for-4 with four RBIs, Coogan and Harrison had

two hits and an RBI, McKinney had two hits and Zach Masnikoff (Oberlin College) had a hit.

### CRUSH 9, RIDGEMEN 8

Cortland bounced back from its loss in game one with a walk-off win in extra innings in the second game. Max Atkinson (Salem International University) delivered the winning hit with an RBI single in the eighth inning.

After a back-and-forth seven innings, the score was tied at seven. Rochester took an 8-7 lead in the top of the eighth, but Cortland had the last opportunity at the plate. After Jack Coogan struck out to leadoff the inning, McKinney hit a triple and Grayson Saltzer (Molloy College) hit an RBI double to tie the game again. Molinaroli and Nick Mahar (SUNY Brockport) then walked, with Mahar's walk being intentional to load the bases with one out. Atkinson then delivered the game-winning single to send the Crush home happy.

Rochester got on the board first earlier in the game with three runs in the top of the second inning off Crush starting pitcher Axibael Sosa

(Thomas Jefferson University). Cortland responded with four runs in the bottom of the third.

McKinney hit an RBI single, Molinaroli reached on an error scoring McKinney and then later scored stealing home.

The Crush continued to rally in the fourth with two more runs to take a 6-3 lead, with Masnikoff and Joseph Manesiotis (Gardner-Webb University) both scoring unearned runs.

Joseph Yovino (Elon University) tossed 2.2 scoreless innings of relief while the Crush took the lead and Benjamin Young (Juniata College) allowed one run in one inning of work. Angelo Agro (SUNY Brockport) allowed Rochester to take the lead in the top of the seventh as he allowed four runs on four hits. Mahar delivered the hit that sent the game to extra innings with a one out RBI single in the bottom of the seventh.

Atkinson delivered the big hit and went 4-for-5 at the plate. Mahar went 3-for-3 with two RBIs, McKinney had two hits and an RBI, Saltzer had a hit and an RBI and Masnikoff, Coogan, Young and Manesiotis had a hit.

## Olympics

# Richardson is out to prove she's better after drug penalty

(AP) — Sha'Carri Richardson set the tone for her own comeback story a year ago when she won the 100-meter U.S. title, then the world championship, and brashly proclaimed: "I'm not back, I'm better."

Now, with a trip to her first Olympics approaching, comes a new question: Can she handle the pressure that is unique to the Olympics?

The 24-year-old favorite in the Olympic 100 meters has been open and honest about her quest to become a more appreciative, mindful version of the person whose positive marijuana test at the 2021 U.S. Olympic trials was her unfortunate introduction to a world that knew little about her.

But in the three years that have encompassed both her stunning fall and her inspiring comeback,

she has given few details of what happened. She has dropped clues about the death of her biological mother and the bout with depression.

All of this mystery, turmoil and, ultimately, success have made Richardson larger than life and left her enthusiastic and growing fan base wanting more. Some on social media are keenly into what hairstyle and fingernails she will show off when she runs.

It has also made her more than a mere celebrity sprinter. She is a young, famous, Black woman whose suspension evoked arguments about race, drugs, anti-doping rules and an Olympic ecosystem that is still largely run (and reported on) by older, white men.

"It's not a goal of mine to be known," Richardson said. "But I definitely don't want to be known for one thing."



AP Photo/Petr David Josek, File  
**Sha'Carri Richardson, of the United States, celebrates after winning the gold medal in the final of the 100-meters during the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, Aug. 21, 2023.**

# Paris mayor dips into the Seine to showcase its improved quality

PARIS (AP) — Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo took a dip Wednesday in the Seine River, fulfilling a promise to show that the long-polluted waterway was clean enough to host swimming competitions during the 2024 Olympics as well as part of the opening ceremony, now only nine days away.

Daily water quality tests in early June indicated unsafe levels of E. coli bacteria, followed by recent improvements.

Clad in a wetsuit and goggles, Hidalgo plunged into the river near the imposing-looking City Hall, her office, and the Notre Dame Cathedral.



AP Photo/Jean-Francois Badias, File  
**Coco Gauff of the U.S. plays a shot against Poland's Iga Swiatek during their semifinal match of the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, June 6.**

# Gauff seeks gold, Nadal may leave tennis after Olympics

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS — All the way back when he first discussed the likelihood that 2024 would be his final season as a professional tennis player, Rafael Nadal made sure to refer to the Paris Olympics as "one of the important competitions I would like to be at."

If, indeed, this is his last hurrah, and if, indeed, he does make it to the Summer Games a little more than a year after hip surgery — neither of which is an absolute certainty — it would be fitting that the site of the French Open is also the site of this goodbye.

No event, at least in this sport, defines an athlete's legacy the way the clay-court Grand Slam tournament does for Nadal. And the opposite is true, too, which is why there is a statue of the 38-year-old Spaniard at Roland Garros, the site of a record 14 of his 22 major trophies and where the Olympic tennis matches begin on July 27. Nadal skipped Wimbledon in order to avoid going from clay to grass and back to clay at the Paris Games, where he has been planning to team in doubles with Carlos Alcaraz, the 21-year-old coming off back-to-back major titles at Roland Garros and the All England Club.

And even though the idea that Nadal could add to his gold medals — in singles at Beijing in 2008, and in doubles with Marc López at Rio de Janeiro in 2016 — seems far-fetched, just the sight of him back in Paris will mean a lot to him and

his fans.

"My body has been a jungle for two years. You don't know what to expect," said Nadal, who has been able to play only 16 matches since the start of last year, going 8-8, including a first-round loss at the French Open this May. "I wake up one day and I (felt like I had) a snake biting me. Another day, a tiger."

Another popular, and successful, figure in men's tennis whose body has let him down lately, Andy Murray of Britain, says this Olympics will mark his adieu.

The 37-year-old Murray, a three-time Slam champion, is the only athlete with two singles golds in the sport — from London in 2012 and Rio four years later. After having hip replacement surgery in 2019, and various other injuries more recently, he withdrew from singles at Wimbledon because he needed a procedure to remove a cyst from his spine last month.

"It's great that they'll be at the Olympics one last time. Any chance to see those guys on a court again should be celebrated," U.S. coach Bob Bryan said. "They're both working through tough times with injuries, but they're showing that resilience and that will to fight and be on the court."

While Murray and Nadal both own golds, the best of the best in tennis do not always leave an Olympics with the top prizes.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia, for example, will be trying to fill that one gap on his otherwise-impeccable resume, which includes 24 Grand Slam trophies and more

weeks at No. 1 in the rankings than anyone.

Also eyeing a first gold will be such stars of the sport as Iga Swiatek of Poland, who has won the French Open four of the past five years, and Coco Gauff of the United States, the reigning U.S. Open champion and runner-up to Swiatek at Roland Garros in 2022.

She missed out on the Tokyo Olympics three years ago because she tested positive for COVID-19 right before she was supposed to travel to Japan.

"I've been trying to put myself in the mindset of just enjoying the experiences," Gauff said, "because you're only going to have your first Olympics once."

As a sport with plenty of prizes on offer nearly every week, and four Grand Slam events per year, tennis does not place the same emphasis on the Olympics as sports such as athletics, gymnastics and swimming do. So some of the most accomplished and high-ranked athletes will be skipping Paris.

That includes Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, a two-time Australian Open champion who is No. 3 in the world, two-time Wimbledon runner-up Ons Jabeur of Tunisia, and Americans such as Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe, who were semifinalists in recent years at the U.S. Open. The year's last Slam starts less than a month after the Olympics end.

"You've got to look big picture. U.S. Open is right there. It's going to be super hot this summer," Tiafoe said.



## Golf Log

| WILLOWBROOK TUESDAY MEN'S LEAGUE                                       |       |                         |
|--|-------|-------------------------|
| Low Gross: Erik Smith (35)   |       |                         |
| Low Net: Cameron Aldrich (30)  |       |                         |
| Best Ball: Jim Beattie, Jose Feliciano, Bob Warnow and Bernie Alm (25) |       |                         |
| Most 4s: Dana Merkur (7)   |       |                         |
| Most 5s: John Shirley (5)  |       |                         |
| Most 6s: Dom Natale (5)  |       |                         |
| Most 7s: Darren Wright (3)   |       |                         |
| Standings  |       |                         |
| Dey/Cruz   | 154   | Beattie III/Vestal 129  |
| Glezen/Fadel   | 152.5 | Hoof Hearted 125.5      |
| Paddy's Pub  | 150.5 | Palm Gardens 118.5      |
| Morse/Griffiths  | 149.5 | Willowbrook 116.5       |
| Beattie/Feliciano  | 149   | Robinson/Sullivan 114   |
| Hess/Merkur  | 143   | Higgins's House 113.5   |
| Lang/Lang  | 140   | Wood/Kalland 113.5      |
| Beattie/Wright   | 139.5 | Everner/Ralunda 110.5   |
| Mayes/Rossmann   | 138.5 | Aldrich/McCormick 108.5 |
| MacLain/Slegner  | 138   | Red Jug 108             |
| Alm/Warnow   | 134.5 | Petrucchio/Helwig 81.5  |

| ELM TREE TUESDAY LEAGUE      |       |                        |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Low Gross: Larry Coheno (35) |       |                        |
| Low Net: Dick Jenks (32)     |       |                        |
| Standings                    |       |                        |
| Don't Suck!                  | 284   | Stockwin Surveying 245 |
| Elm Tree                     | 272.5 | Dryden Hotel 240       |
| 4/4 Design                   | 268   | Hazbens 237.5          |
| McGrath Contracting          | 260.5 | Beck Equipment 235.5   |
| Team Sinnott                 | 257.5 |                        |

| WILLOWBROOK MONDAY LADIES LEAGUE   |       |                        |
|--|-------|------------------------|
| Low Gross: Rosemary Adessa (43)  |       |                        |
| Low Net: Diane Wheaton (30), Ashli Baden (30), Marie Ferro (30), Mindy Young (30), Kelli Griswold (30) |       |                        |
| Low Putts: Mindy Young (14), Rosemary Adessa (14)  |       |                        |
| Best Ball: Carol Merkur, Rosemary Adessa, Pam Gross and Al-ison Campbell (23)                          |       |                        |
| Chip-ins: Sue Kam (Hole 2)   |       |                        |
| Birdies: Sue Kam (Hole 2)  |       |                        |
| Standings  |       |                        |
| Parmy's Army   | 121   | Ferro/Ferro 89.5       |
| Sister Act   | 109.5 | Just 4 Fun 85.5        |
| Choy/Madison   | 103   | Gross/Campbell 85.5    |
| Murdock's Excavation   | 100   | Mavin Hair & Beauty 82 |
| Willowbrook  | 99    | FHN 81.5               |
| Dryden Hotel   | 98.5  | Melodyland 80          |
| Hess/Spafford  | 98.5  | Willowbrook 2 74.5     |
| Klein's Archery  | 96.5  | Griswold/Smith 72.5    |
| Merkur/Adessa  | 96.5  | Dental Arts Group 68   |
| RPM Auto & Cycle   | 94.5  |                        |

## LEGALS

**TOWN OF PREBLE  
LEGAL NOTICE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PREBLE ZONING BOARD OF  
APPEALS**

A public hearing will be held at a meeting of the Preble Zoning Board of Appeals at the Preble Town Hall, 1968 Preble Road, Preble, New York, on Thursday, August 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the area variance application of Jack Terrell to create a substandard lot with regard to premises at Fulmer Road - Tax Map No. 7.00-05-26.000, in the Town of Preble, and for such other matters as may come before the Board.

Sue Wright, Secretary  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**BUYING?  
SELLING?**

**Check the  
Classifieds!**

**CORTLAND COUNTY  
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A  
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of International Beauty by Alma LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 07/15/2024. 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 International Beauty by Alma LLC: 1 Gallows Hill Rd Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**CORTLAND COUNTY  
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A  
LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Capstone Care Management LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/05/2024. 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 Capstone Care Management LLC: 83 S Main St, Homer, NY 13077, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**VILLAGE OF HOMER  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE OF VILLAGE OF HOMER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Homer Zoning Board of Appeals will meet in person at the Town Hall in Homer located at 31 North Main Street on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6:30 pm. to consider the following pursuant to the current Village of Homer Code of Ordinances:

- Appeal # 509 – 67 North Main Street – Construct an 8 ft privacy fence along the south side yard of the property.

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@homerny.org](mailto:degnor@homerny.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. Persons with disabilities who require assistance should contact the undersigned to request such assistance. We encourage you to email, call (607-749-3322), or mail, all of your communication needs before said Village of Homer Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

Dan Egnor  
Village Clerk

**TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE  
FORECLOSURE NOTICE  
NOTICE OF SALE**

SUPREME COURT: CORTLAND COUNTY. U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, AS SUCCESSOR TO FIRSTAR TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE, FOR MANUFACTURED HOUSING CONTRACT SENIOR/SUBORDINATE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATE TRUST 1996-9, Pltf. vs. VICKI HENRY AS HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF VIVIAN M. HENRY, Defts. Index #EF20-828. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered June 26, 2024, I will sell at public auction at the Cortland County Supreme Court, 46 Greenbush St., Cortland, NY on August 8, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. premises k/a 3522 Route 1, McGraw a/k/a Cortlandville, NY 13101. All that tract or parcel of land, situate in Lot 88, Town of Cortlandville, County of Cortland, State of New York, Section 98.00, Block 01, Lo 46.200. Approximate amount of judgment is \$49,818.20 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale as provided by law. JAMES J. BARANELLO, Referee. PINCUS LAW GROUP, PLLC, Attys. for Pltf., 425 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, NY 11556. File No. 03302021.48657- #101596

## Major League Baseball

# Workouts at Nationals Park give members of military chance to train in unique setting

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — Just after 7 a.m. on what turned out to be a record-tying hottest day in the history of the nation's capital, more than 100 members of the U.S. military sprint from station to station to cycle through grueling drills.

The setting is not a military base but rather a baseball stadium. They run stairs and shuttle runs, do pushups in the outfield and toss a tennis ball next to the visiting bullpen at Nationals Park.

It is all part of a high-intensity interval training program the Washington Nationals started in 2022 to give members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force and Coast Guard the chance to come together and use the ballpark for a purpose well beyond 81 Major League

home games each season. Base HIIT has already attracted over 750 participants over four sessions this year, growing as it becomes better known in the area for the ability to work out in such a unique setting.

"We thought, 'What are the other parts of a service member's life where we can relate to them and give them an experience they wouldn't get elsewhere?'" Nationals senior VP of community and government engagement Gregory McCarthy told The Associated Press after the most recent workout Tuesday. "We thought it's physical exercise, which is what they have to do as part of their training anyway. We've got this wonderful asset of this gorgeous ballpark, all this grass, but we don't use it on most of the days of the year. So, we talked

to our grounds crew and we made it work."

The result of ongoing trial and error over the past couple of years is a 90-minute session that opens with a quick, dynamic warmup. An introductory message plays on the giant outfield video screen from starting pitcher Jake Irvin and All-Star closer Kyle Finnegan: "Welcome to Base HIIT, a one-of-a-kind experience that lets you work out here on the field at Nationals Park."

Then, the active duty, guard and reserve military members run a lap around the warning track while the grounds crew nearby waters the infield. Next up is a series of stations, including the "wheel of death" pushup competition where the winner receives four premium tickets to a Nationals game of their choice.

Everyone who takes part

can get a pair of tickets to a game the following week. But that is less of a draw than the camaraderie and the chance to run around on perfectly manicured grass usually reserved exclusively for professional baseball players.

"Nobody was forced out here, so you've got people that chose to be out here, so you're going to have great attitude," said 37-year-old Jose Ramos, a Marine currently serving at Fort Belvoir in northern Virginia. "Participation's going to be high, and everybody just wants to have fun and still get better. We're in the United States military. We need to stay fit, we need to stay ready and stuff like this right here, you can stay ready, stay fit while having fun."

The workout comes to a crescendo in center field when the finalists gather around to

see who can do the most push-ups in a row. Surrounded by everyone else chanting and cheering, Ramos comes out on top.

"It was extremely tough — physically tough, but pushing close to 40, mentally tough," said Ramos, who has been with the Marines for nearly two decades. "A lot of the servicemembers out here are a lot younger, so I have to show them that I can keep up."

Younger, but similarly to Ramos, many are first-timers drawn in by the chance to try something new that is not offered in the country.

"I like to work out," said Erwin Montgomery, a 22-year-old serving in the Army. "Seeing this on an MLB field and giving our troops something to do and work out and grind towards is something special to me."

## Golf

# Being on the good side of the draw goes a long way at British Open

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

TROON, Scotland — Justin Thomas made his British Open debut at Royal Troon eight years ago, and it taught him everything he needs to know about what can make this major so maddening.

It had nothing to do with gorse bushes or pot bunkers. It was about weather and tee times.

"I was in the bad one," Thomas said.

By that he meant the bad side of the draw, and it's part of the charm — or curse — of the Open.

It was fairly benign in the opening round at Royal Troon in 2016, all the way through Friday morning until 30 mph wind and a driving rain made players in the afternoon feel they were on a different course than those who played early.

So severe was the change in weather that the leading 14 players going into the weekend, including Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson, came from one side of the draw.

"I've never in my life grinded so hard to finish 50th," Thomas said. "I shot 77 and made the cut by one. The worst part was Saturday and Sunday. The morning was the worst and you couldn't gain any ground."

Summer daylight hours in the U.K. enable players to start off one tee for the entire day. Justin Leonard will hit the opening tee shot today. Sam Horsfield is the last to play.

That allows the weather to play a massive role. That happens elsewhere, but it is more pronounced in links golf. Sometimes the worst of it is in the morning, as in 2008 when Rich Beem and Sandy Lyle walked off Royal Birkdale after nine and 10 holes, respectively.



AP Photo/Scott Heppell

**Dustin Johnson of the United States hits off the 13th tee during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Troon golf club in Troon, Scotland, Wednesday.**

The forecast for the start of the 152nd Open is for off-and-on rain during the day with gusts in the 20 mph range early in the afternoon — about the time Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm are finishing their rounds — and then easing late. And then more gusts Friday afternoon.

It's worth noting the forecast seems to change by the day. No one will really know until they're in the clear, or feeling like they are being blown into the Irish sea.

In recent times, Louis Oosthuizen caught the good side of the draw in St. Andrews. It was relatively calm — McIlroy opened with a 63 in 2010 — and then the wind became so fierce in the afternoon that McIlroy shot 80.

Oosthuizen finished his 65-67

start right before the wind came through. His name stayed atop the leaderboard for 11 hours that day and he led by five when it was over and wound up winning by seven shots. Good golf and a good draw go a long way.

"It's part and parcel of the Open. There's always good draws and bad draws," Tommy Fleetwood said. "Generally if you get unlucky and there is a good side and a bad side, that's wiping out half the field already. The good news is if you're on the good side. That's half of them gone and you only have to beat half the field."

"But that's always been part of the Open and that's the beauty of it," he said. "You have to be ready for whatever the conditions bring, along with the golf course. It's very important to

embrace what can happen."

Another memorable example was Saturday at Muirfield in 2002. Tiger Woods had won the Masters and U.S. Open that year, raising possibilities of a calendar Grand Slam. He was two off the lead going into the third round when a storm off the Firth of Forth brought rain and 40 mph gusts. Woods shot 81 — nine others were in the 80s — and there went the Grand Slam.

Even getting the bad end of the draw is not the end of the Open. Padraig Harrington should serve as inspiration to everyone for what he did in 2008 at Royal Birkdale. He was caught in the raging wind and scrapped his way to a 74.

Harrington went on to win by four shots for his second straight Open title.

## National Basketball Association

# Jontay Porter, banned from NBA, denied permission to resume his career in Greece

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

A federal judge has denied a request by former NBA player Jontay Porter to be allowed to resume his basketball career in Greece while he is awaiting sentencing for his role in a betting scandal that got him banned from the league.

Porter, in a letter sent by attorney Jeff Jensen on Tuesday, had asked that some conditions of his bond be modified so that he can get his U.S. passport back, be allowed to travel in Europe and to reside in Patras, Greece. Jensen told the court that Porter would play for the Greek club Promitheas BC.

But a court posting Wednesday shows the request was de-

nied by Judge LaShann DeArcy Hall. Jensen declined to comment on the decision.

In his letter to the judge, Jensen had noted that federal prosecutors in Brooklyn had no opposition to the request.

"The proposed modification would allow Mr. Porter to pursue a very fortunate — and quickly diminishing — opportunity to earn income through his primary skillset," Jensen wrote. "Mr. Porter, and more importantly his agent, believe such an opportunity is unlikely to arise again. ... Since being banned from the NBA there have been no other opportunities available to continue his basketball career. Mr. Porter has a limited window to earn an income through pro-

fessional basketball during his prime earning years as a professional athlete."

Porter, 24, was banned from the NBA after admitting that he helped bettors by intentionally underperforming in games. He pleaded guilty last month to a federal conspiracy crime. He is free on \$250,000 bond while awaiting sentencing set on Dec. 18, and prosecutors have estimated that he could be facing a range from just under 3 1/2 years in prison to a little over four years.

Jensen has said Porter "was in over his head due to a gambling addiction." Porter told the court he has undergone inpatient rehab for a gambling problem and remains in therapy, which is be-

ing done virtually and wouldn't be affected by a move to Greece, Jensen said. The Greek club also arranged in-person counseling for Porter, and plans called for his mother and mother-in-law to regularly be with Porter and his wife in Greece to provide additional family support. Porter's wife is expecting a baby, Jensen said.

Porter averaged 4.4 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.3 assists in 26 games, including five starts for Toronto this past season. He also played in 11 games for Memphis in the 2020-21 season.

Porter was banned by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver in April after a league probe found he disclosed confidential information to sports bettors.





Steve Marcus/Las Vegas Sun via AP  
Tourists take video of the final “volcano eruption” show in front of the Mirage hotel-casino before the casino was closed Wednesday, in Las Vegas.

# The iconic Mirage has closed its doors on Las Vegas Strip

By KEN RITTER  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A final blast from The Mirage’s signature volcano marked the passage Wednesday of an aging Las Vegas resort that wowed crowds when it opened in 1989 and went on to revolutionize the casino resort industry and reshape Las Vegas as a tourist destination.

“What would The Mirage be without one last volcano eruption?” asked Joe Lupo, property president of The Mirage, as he ended a closing ceremony that drew hundreds of onlookers, including many of the 127 employees who’ve been at the 3,044-room resort from the beginning.

“It’s sad to see it go,” Jessica Hock, a Las Vegas resident who said her mother worked at The Mirage when it first opened, told the Las Vegas Sun during a Sunday night visit ahead of Wednesday’s ceremony. She said she’d miss many things about the resort, including its lush tropical forest beneath the domed glass atrium and a faint piña colada scent in the air.

Jim Allen, head of the property’s new owner, Florida-based Hard Rock International and Seminole Gaming, said Wednesday that work would “literally start tomorrow” to raze the volcano that rumbled and gushed nightly for nearly 35 years.

Lupo remains the property president following the change of hands. He said the new Hard Rock Las Vegas will open in 2027.

Plans call for a 600-room guitar-shaped hotel that renderings depict with guitar string-like beams spiking into the night sky from a purplish 660-foot tower. Allen promised more details in months to come.

Elaine Wynn, billionaire philanthropist and ex-wife of casino mogul Steve Wynn, who built the property, recalled that two performing tigers belonging to resort headliners Siegfried & Roy were the first “guests” through the door in November 1989. She said the first wave of people stopped, stared and applauded beneath the atrium. The illusionist duo and their tigers performed at The Mirage for 14 years, ending in 2003.

Costing \$630 million, The Mirage was no simple gambling hall. It was the world’s largest hotel at the time. Guests were met by two bronze mermaid statues on the way to check in at a desk with a huge shark and fish tank behind it.

It had glitzy shops, celebrity chef restaurants and theater-sized showrooms featuring headliners like Johnny Mathis, Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton. Later, it became home to The Beatles-themed Cirque du Soleil show “Love,” which ended its 18-year run earlier this month.

“Instead of neon, a garden of dozens of rich Canary Island palm trees and a cool refreshing waterfall,” Steve Wynn recalled in a statement of recollections he released Monday through his Las Vegas attorney, Donald Campbell. Wynn titled it “An Homage to Lady Mirage.” He did not attend Wednesday’s ceremonies.

In his statement, Wynn noted The Mirage was the first new hotel in Las Vegas in several years and opened amid competition from casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the expansion of tribal gambling in California. He pointed to a decade-long resort building boom that followed, helping make Las Vegas one of the fastest-growing cities in America.

# ‘Shogun’ leads all Emmy nominees with 25 while ‘The Bear’ earns 23

By ANDREW DALTON  
AP Entertainment Writer  
LOS ANGELES —

“The Bear” went on a tear at Wednesday morning’s Emmy nominations with a comedy-series record 23, and “Shogun” led all nominees with 25 in a dominant year across categories for FX.

Nominations for the “The Bear,” up for its second season in which its rag-tag band of sandwich makers tries to create an elite restaurant, included best comedy series and best actor in a comedy series for Jeremy Allen White — both awards it won at January’s strike-delayed ceremony — along with best actress for Ayo Edebiri, who won best supporting actress last time around.

It was also boosted by a bounty of guest acting nominations, including Jamie Lee Curtis and Olivia Colman, two of many Oscar winners who landed nominations.

“Shogun” took full advantage of the absence of last year’s top three nominees — “Succession,” “The White Lotus” and “The Last of Us” — to dominate in drama and give FX, with 93 overall nominations, the kind of strong year often reserved for HBO, which even in this “off” year received 91.

Its nominations included best drama series, best actress in a drama series for Anna Sawai and best actor for Hiroyuki Sanada.

The show shook up the drama race when its makers said in May that despite reaching the end of the story of James Clavell’s novel about political machinations in early 17th century Japan, they would explore making more than one season, shifting the critical darling from the limited series category to the more prestigious drama one.

“True Detective: Night Country” was a bright spot for HBO, which lost “Succession” to retirement and is between seasons on “The White Lotus” and “The Last of Us.”

The show, a semi-spinoff of the “True Detective” franchise, led all limited or anthology series nominees with 19, including a best actress nomination for Jodie Foster for playing a police chief investigating mysterious deaths in the darkness of a north Alaskan winter.

Kali Reis, who plays Foster’s investigating partner and rival on the show and is nominated for best supporting actress in a limited series, joins Lily Gladstone, in the same category for “Under the Bridge,” as the first Indigenous women to get Emmy acting nominations. D’Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai of “Reservation Dogs” becomes the first Indigenous actor to be recognized for lead with his best actor in a com-



Katie Yu/FX via AP  
This image released by FX shows Eita Okuno as Saeki Nobutatsu in a scene from “Shogun.”



FX via AP  
This image released by FX shows Jeremy Allen White as Carmen Berzatto, in a scene from “The Bear.”

edy nom.

The only previous Indigenous acting nominee, according to Variety, was August Schellenberg, who received an Emmy nomination in 2007 for his performance as Sitting Bull in the HBO TV movie “Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee.”

“True Detective” is expected to vie for the best limited series Emmy with “ Fargo,” which had 15 nominations and gives FX a shot at a triple crown if its favorites win drama and comedy series. Netflix has its own pair of contenders in the category. “Baby Reindeer” became a minor cultural phenomenon and Emmy upstart in recent months. It got 11 nominations, including best actor for star and creator Richard Gadd. “Ripley,” a black-and-white retelling of Patricia Highsmith’s novel “The

Talented Mr. Ripley,” got 13 nominations including acting nods for Andrew Scott and Dakota Fanning. The shows along dozens of acknowledgements in craft and comedy special categories, helped Netflix lead all outlets with 107 nominations.

Foster was another of the Academy Award winners to get Emmy nods, along with fellow multiple Oscar winner Meryl Streep, up for best supporting actress in a comedy for “Only Murders in the Building;” reigning best supporting actor winner Robert Downey Jr., up for best supporting actor in a limited series for playing several characters in “The Sympathizer;” and Gary Oldman, up for best actor in a drama series for “Slow Horses.”

“Only Murders,” a perennial Emmy nominee for Hulu with

few wins, outdid itself this year with 21, behind only “Shogun” and “The Bear.” Leads Steve Martin and Martin Short were nominated for best actor, and, in her first Emmy nomination as a performer, Selena Gomez got a nod for best actress.

Old Emmy favorites also returned. Jon Hamm, who had one Emmy from 16 previous nominations, most of them for “Mad Men,” got two nominations, one for actor in a limited or anthology series for “ Fargo” and another for supporting actor in a drama for “The Morning Show.” His “Morning Show” castmate Jennifer Aniston is considered by many the favorite to win the best drama actress Emmy to go with the comedy actress trophy she won for “Friends.”

And four-time Emmy winner Tony Shalhoub has a shot at his fifth for reprising his role as Adrian Monk in “Mr. Monk’s Last Case: A Monk Movie.”

Former “Saturday Night Live” and “Bridesmaids” co-stars Kristen Wiig and Maya Rudolph each landed best actress in a comedy noms for Apple TV+ shows about wealthy women: Wiig for “Palm Royale” and Rudolph for “Loot.” Each also were nominated for their returns to host “SNL.”

Getting back to its traditional schedule, the show will be held Sept. 15 at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles and air on ABC.

Many still-airing shows didn’t fall into this year’s eligibility window of June 2023 through May 2024, whether because of streaming and elite cable calendar quirks or the strikes — including “House of the Dragon,” “Bridgerton,” “Yellowjackets” and “Severance.”

# Det. turns vigilante in funny and savage ‘Sugar on the Bones’

## Book review

By BRUCE DESILVA  
Associated Press

Minnie Polson was in some sort of trouble, so a friend recommended the private eye firm of Hap Collins, his wife Brett, and their pal Leonard Pine. But when they meet, Minnie doesn’t like their attitude, and they don’t like hers.

Hours after they agree to part company, Minnie’s mansion burns to the ground—the fire so intense that the only thing left of Minnie is a blackened arm. At first, the authorities deem it an accident, but Hap and company aren’t so sure.

Feeling a bit guilty that they’d turned her away, and wondering if she’d be alive if they hadn’t, they decide to poke around a little to see what they might turn up. They turn up plenty in “Sugar on the Bones,” Joe R. Lansdale’s 13th thriller featuring the East Texas private eyes.

Hap and his partners are clever, persistent, politically incorrect, heavily armed and capable of extreme violence when threatened or provoked. They also

think they’re funny and often are, the humor trending toward irony, wisecracks and sarcasm.

At first, the detectives focus on Minnie’s relatives, some of whom had a lot to gain from the rich woman’s death. However, somebody doesn’t like the private eyes asking questions. Soon, people they interview about the case start turning up dead, and Hap and his partners are targeted for murder.

It turns out that Minnie’s death was a small cog in a massive conspiracy involving a series of hideous crimes. For a time, the private detectives work with a senior police official, but he can’t figure out a legal way to end the carnage. So he tells the detectives he’ll look the other way if they take the bad guys off the board.

“It’s murder. It’s unlawful. It’s vigilante,” Hap says. “And I didn’t want to do it. But I knew I would.”

So Hap and company recruit three old friends who have even fewer compunctions about violence than they do, and they go to war.

The result is what may be the best novel in this fine series.

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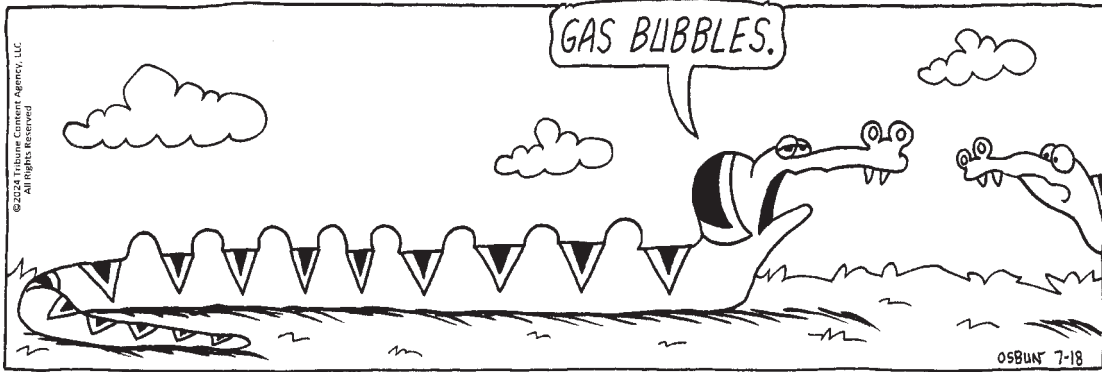
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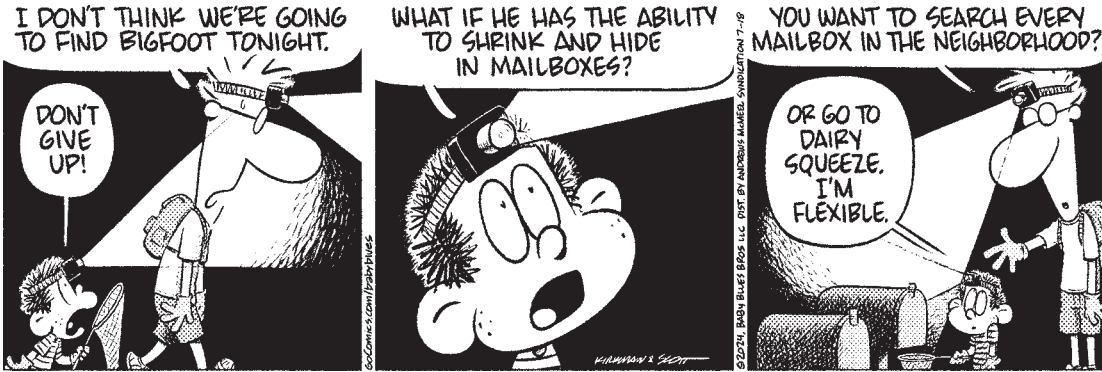
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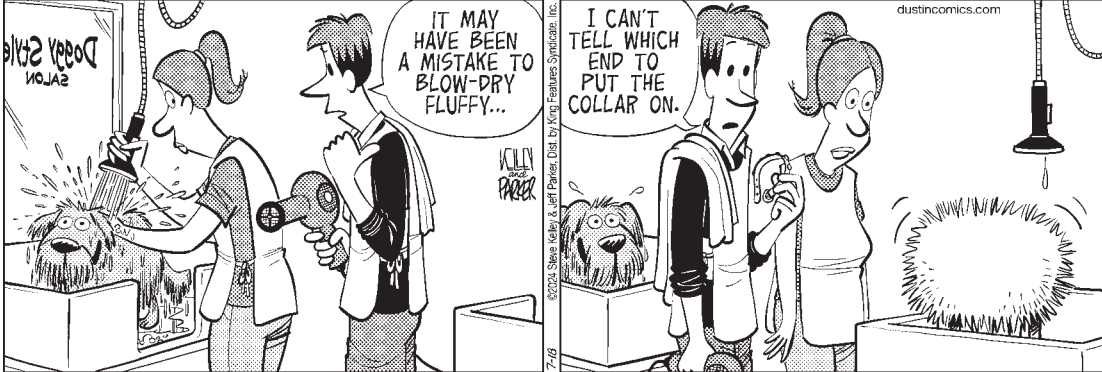
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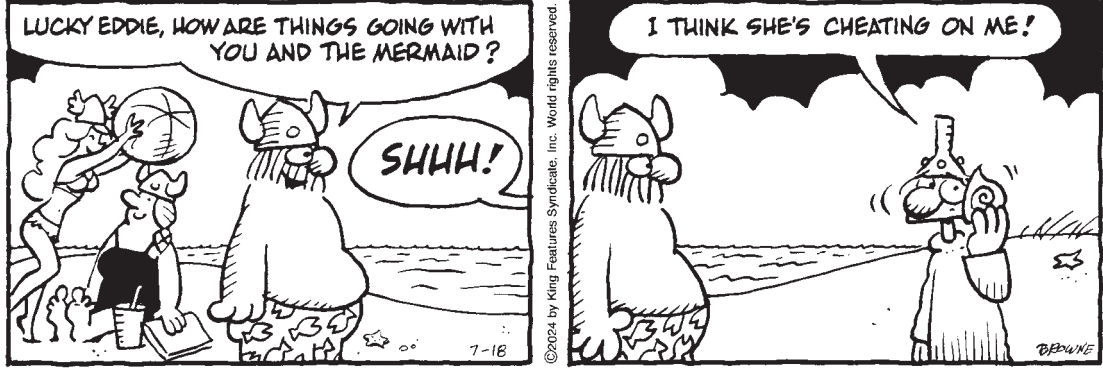
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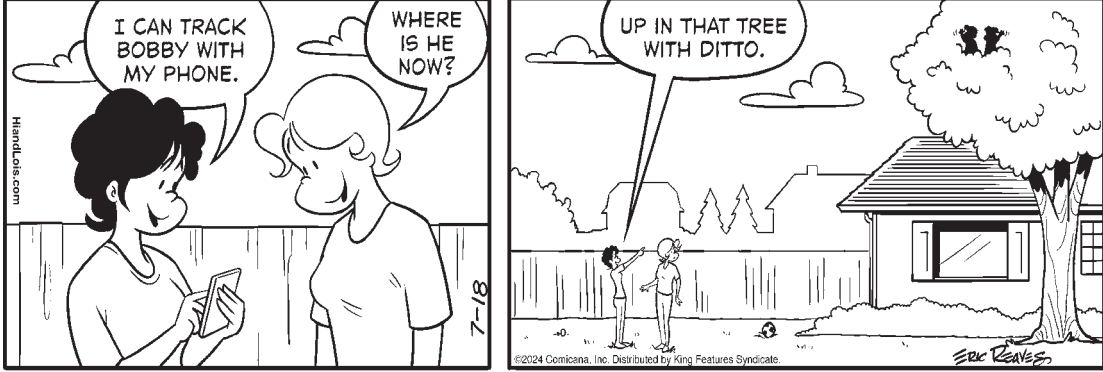
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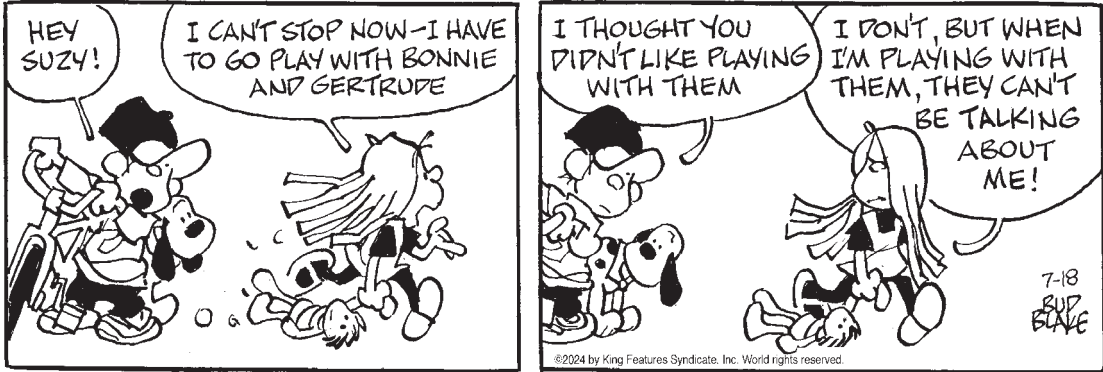
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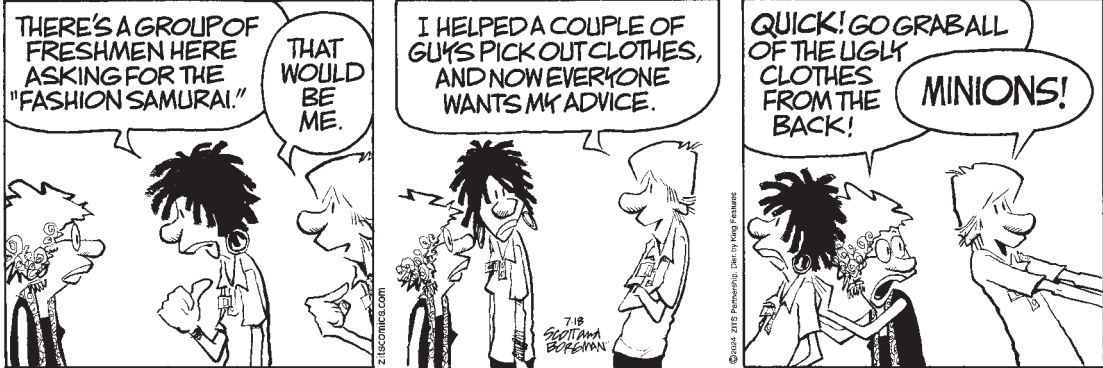
MUTTS



TIGER



ZITS



Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena  
Friday, July 19, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Closure might elude you if a request for commitment remains unanswered. You may want or need more freedom and further exploration of alternatives. Consider spending more time with friends to expand your happiness.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You're the director of your life, so take charge and be ready for any challenges. Fairness and understanding may be something to cherish as life has a way of balancing things out when you least expect it.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Imagine yourself as a cosmic marathon runner. Once you have set a new goal, getting to the finish line might seem like an endurance race. Accomplishing worthy pursuits can require unflagging determination.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You might be ready for a peaceful sanctuary and tranquil surroundings. Someone close might be more concerned about today's money story while you may be focused on attaining lasting financial prosperity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Get together with those who understand your quirks; the friends who can share bad jokes and reminisce about old movies. Amidst their company, stress may unravel, allowing forgotten pastimes to resurface.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** There is no shame in slow starts or a change in plans. Anyone who genuinely loves you or cares about what could be best for you should understand. This may be a good day to set the record straight or make amends.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Your tasks aren't going anywhere. Save the professional lingo for the next meeting and consider focusing on connection and togetherness. The next social event and good deals at your favorite store may be ready for you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Amid the rush and hustle and bustle, you may find a haven of peace and serenity. Your kindness to those under pressure could leave a lasting impact. Consider taking time to meet up with friends tonight.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Be mindful of the difference between desires and needs. Harmony within your inner circle could be restored with little effort. A partner or loved one could inspire you to test out ways to monetize your ideas.

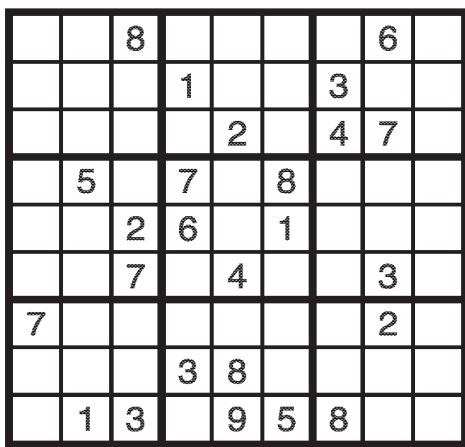
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** It's always nice to lend a hand, even when the extra demands on your time were not expected. You might find yourself committing to something truly rewarding and fulfilling that brings you joy.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Success and dedication can be admirable but don't let it get in the way of enjoying time with people who matter. Learn more about your interests and share what you've learned during conversation.

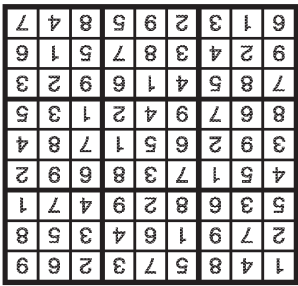
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Sometimes, meetings may feel a bit dull, but hang in there since you might just meet a new connection. Learning the lesson instead of self-recrimination can restore peace and keep your dreams sweet.

**IF JULY 19 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** Put your ego to rest as you may benefit from being kinder and more considerate during the next two weeks. Your high energy might be admirable, but you may rush ahead or leap without looking first. You may enjoy a full social calendar or spend more time building a network of contacts who might help to keep you levelheaded in August. Your financial strategies could be successful during the first half of September, when you may be more astute about ways to leverage your assets and negotiate.

Sudoku



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



ANSWER:

Cryptoquote

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.

7-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

KZXO JDH BHN WDEX DHN YO

NZX KDQWF, YN NQLEXWM;

YN PLO QXLPZ BXDBWX YO

KLJM NZLN KX OXEXQ

XIBXPNXF. — WLEXQOX PDI

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** TOMORROW, WE CAN EAT BROCCOLI, BUT TODAY IS FOR ICE CREAM. — MALORY HOBSON

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

43 Singer Guthrie

1 Wood strip

44 Loathe

5 Defendant of 1925

45 Retain

11 Pale tan

12 Wake up

13 Many an Omani

14 Bowls setting

15 Bust years

17 Stretch of years

18 Release

22 Grant's bill

24 Shake accessory

25 Words before dare or tear

26 Greedy desire

27 Blazing

30 Sandbox toys

32 Cook's mushroom

33 Road-house

34 Duels on the ice

38 Broiled strip of meat

41 Track part

42 Makes amends

**DOWN**

1 Bound

2 Lot unit

3 Expo

4 Veep before Spiro

5 "Begone!"

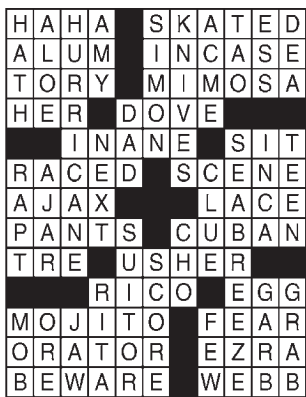
6 Reef materials

7 Egg dish

8 Stock holder

9 Greek vowel

10 Distress signal



Yesterday's answer

16 Utter

19 Commuting cost

20 Nerve

21 Night fliers

22 Latte topping

23 Data, for short

28 Purify

29 Brightens

30 Pizzeria buy

31 Hooded jacket

35 Play group

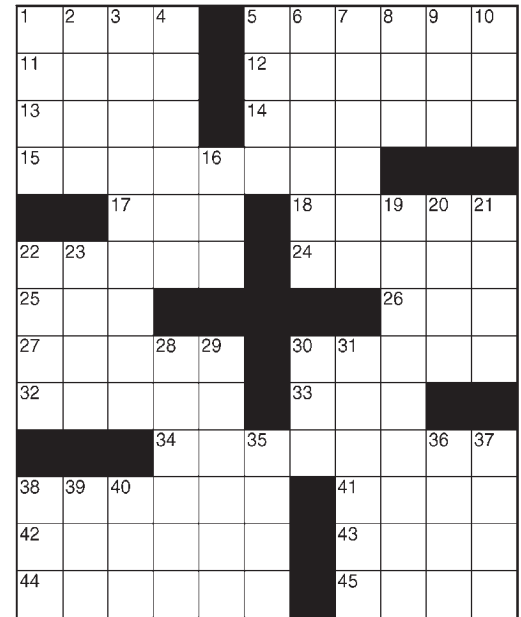
36 Do clerical work

37 Spill over

38 Passing craze

39 Had a feast

40 Take notes



Word of the Day

coterie (KOH-tuh-ree)

**Definition:** (noun) Coterie refers to an intimate and often exclusive group of people with a unifying common interest or purpose.

**Example:** The mayor arrived at the meeting with a coterie of advisors.

— Courtesy Merriam-Webster Online



# Capital One credit company offers \$265B benefit plan to appease regulators for planned purchase of Discover

**By KEN SWEET**  
**AP Business Writer**  
NEW YORK — Capital One said Wednesday it plans to offer \$265 billion in lending, investing and philanthropy projects as part of its pending \$35 billion merger with Discover Financial. The plan is designed to appease federal bank regulators, who have been initially skeptical of approving the merger, which would create the world's largest credit card company if it goes through.

The five-year, \$265 billion community benefit plan consists of several initiatives by Capital

One, including a plan to lend \$200 billion to low- and middle-income consumers, \$44 billion in community development work and hundreds of millions of dollars to nonprofits, small businesses and minority-owned financial institutions.

Announced back in February, Capital One said it plans to buy and merge with Discover Financial Services, which will create the seventh-largest bank in the country as well as the largest credit card company. Capital One would also acquire Discover's payment network.

The Biden Administration has

not weighed in on the Capital One-Discover merger specifically yet, but some of the major bank regulators and Democratic politicians have made public comments that large bank mergers — those over \$100 billion like this deal — should be given extra scrutiny. Other non-bank mergers have also received increased scrutiny from the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice.

Several community and consumer groups have expressed concern or alarm about the size of the merged company, feeling it might reduce competition, and

how much exposure a combined Capital One-Discover has to the credit card market.

Notably, Capital One is including credit card lending as part of its plan. The McLean, Virginia-based company plans to offer \$125 billion in credit card loans to low- and middle-income consumers as well as \$75 billion in auto lending. Historically banks would offer lending programs to small businesses and mortgages, but Capital One doesn't have a mortgage lending department to do so.

Consumer groups are expected to put heavy pressure on the

Biden Administration to make sure the deal is good for consumers as well as shareholders.

“The reason Capital One isn't making any mortgage commitments here has some dark irony: They quit mortgage seven years ago, breaking promises they made the last time they bluffed regulators to get a merger through,” said Jesse Van Tol, CEO of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, a group that often works with banks to develop these community lending programs. NCRC did not work with Capital One on this plan, but has worked

with Capital One in the past on similar programs when it had previous mergers.

Capital One said the plan was developed in partnership with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders, NeighborWorks America, the Opportunity Finance Network and the Woodstock Institute.

Capital One also pledged not to close any branches as part of the merger, and to continue opening more branches in low-income neighborhoods. The bank promised to keep one third of its branches in low-to-middle income census tracts as well.

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(3) Any equivalent combination of experience and training as defined by the limits of (1) and (2) above

(4) Excellent interpersonal skills/customer service skills

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(6) Proficient in Microsoft office suite or related software

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(1) Knowledge of human resources and associated procedures, protocols and laws

(2) 1-3 years of experience in a human resources office/department

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Town of Cortlandville  
3577 Terrace Road  
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[tawilliams@cortlandville.org](mailto:tawilliams@cortlandville.org)  
Application review will begin on Monday, July 29, 2024. The civil service job application may be accessed on line or downloaded for printing at: <https://secure.na4.adobesign.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBF>  
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Friday 7/19 9-4 and Saturday 7/20 9-2

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4038 Westmore Lane (off Kinney Gulf) Cortland Books, youth North Face hiking backpack, girls bike and some small furniture.

Mens and Womens clothing. Misc. household items including Tupperware and Pampered Chef. Thirty One Gifts purses and totes at discounted prices. Most items will be ½ off from 12-2 on Saturday.

Garage Sale

July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

1102 Halstead Road (off Tompkins St.)

Post cards, Stoneware Jugs, collectibles and much more.

Friday, 8 - 4

Saturday, 8 - 1.

MULTI FAMILY SALE

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> on Halstead Road (off Tompkins St.)

Some sales on Friday, 8 - 4, more sales on Saturday and Sunday 8 - 1. Too much to list!

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East dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

|           |  |           |  |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| NORTH     |  | EAST      |  |
| ♠ 8 7 5 3 |  | ♥ K J 9 6 |  |
| ♥ A 9 8 4 |  | ♦ K J 7 3 |  |
| ♦ K 10 3  |  | ♣ 7       |  |
| ♣ Q 10    |  | ♠ A 9 8 7 |  |

|                 |  |              |  |
|-----------------|--|--------------|--|
| WEST            |  | SOUTH        |  |
| ♠ —             |  | ♠ A Q 10 4 2 |  |
| ♥ 10 6 5 2      |  | ♥ Q          |  |
| ♦ A 9 8 6 5 4 2 |  | ♦ Q J        |  |
| ♣ 5 3           |  | ♣ K J 6 4 2  |  |

The bidding:

|      |       |      |       |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| East | South | West | North |
| 1 ♣  | 1 ♠   | Pass | 2 ♠   |
| Pass | 4 ♠   |      |       |

Opening lead — five of clubs.

A declarer can sometimes draw amazingly accurate conclusions about the composition of the defenders' hands, even though he cannot actually see their cards. Consider this case where South wound up in four spades after East had opened the bidding with one club. West then led a club, whereupon East took the ace and shifted to his singleton diamond.

West won and returned a diamond, ruffed by East for the defenders' third trick. East exited with a club to dummy's queen, and when

declarer next led a trump from dummy, East produced the nine.

It's easy to see, looking at all four hands, that the winning play is to finesse the ten. Declarer then returns to dummy with a heart for a second trump finesse to wrap up the contract.

However, the ten play in effect assumes an original 4-0 division of the trump suit — by no means an obvious assumption to make. Declarer might easily finesse the queen the first time around and finish down one.

In the actual case, South deduced from the information he had picked up from the bidding and play to this point that East had indeed started with the K-J-9-6 of spades, so he finessed the ten and made four spades.

The reasoning behind South's decision was irrefutable. During the play to the first four tricks, East had shown up with a singleton diamond and precisely four clubs.

It followed that East had to have started with four cards in each major suit, since he surely would not have opened one club had he held five hearts and three spades, the only other possibility. East's original distribution thus became marked as 4-4-1-4, so the deep finesse in spades was the only logical play to make.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

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# This New York City vet makes house calls. In ‘Pets and the City,’ she’s penned a memoir full of tails

**By LEANNE ITALIE**  
**AP Lifestyles Writer**  
 NEW YORK — As a city kid, Amy Attas had big dreams of roaming the countryside, healing animals a la James Herriot’s classic “All Creatures Great and Small.”

How did it go? Well, the veterinarian made it from Queens to Manhattan, spending the last 32 years traversing the streets of her hometown as a full-time house call doc.

And, boy, does she have stories to tell, from escaping a massive, ailing and territory-threatened Rottweiler, fangs fully bared, to three weeks on intravenous antibiotics after a nasty bite from a cat patient.

Then there’s the humans behaving badly (“No dog of mine will be neutered!”) and the pampered celebrity-owned pets, including the beloved dogs of the late Joan Rivers, whom Attas counted as a friend. Cher once bared all to show Attas a rash after she adopted a dog with mange, and Billy Joel serenaded her on piano.

“You’ll never guess what happened today,” was Attas’ nightly refrain to her husband. Now, she’s collected those tales into a juicy and compassionate memoir, “Pets and the City,” out today.

Woven among her stories are tips and advice for animal lovers.

## IN-HOME PET CARE IS NO LONGER A RARITY

The pug-loving Attas had no grand business plan for her City Pets practice when she first packed up supplies and began traveling by subway and taxi. She had just left a tony Upper East Side animal hospital and some of her clients, including Rivers, wanted to keep using her. She assumed the house calls would be temporary.

“When I started, it was a novelty,” Attas said. “From day one I was busy.”

She has more company now as concierge services in general have grown in popularity. Other vets around the country do it full time like Attas, while some maintain brick-and-mortar practices and provide home services for end-of-life care.

Attas, meanwhile, has graduated to a private car and driver. She starts her days at 8 a.m., accompanied by one or both of her nurses. She allowed The Associated Press to tag along on a recent afternoon.

“I initially thought my practice would be filled with people who had difficulty getting to the veterinarian and maybe older people who had pets, or people with physical disabilities,” she said. They do seek her out but, Attas said, “what I didn’t realize was how attractive it would be to all kinds of other pet owners.”

Meet Puddy, the beloved 19-year-old domestic short hair cat of artist Wendy Beyer. The arthritic black-and-white feline has high blood pressure and requires monthly checks. Beyer found Attas through an online search.

“It’s life-changing,” Beyer said of having Puddy cared for in the comfort of his own home, a cozy sun- and art-filled apartment in the Hudson Yards neighborhood. “He’s never liked being in a carrier. It’s so traumatic trying to get him in the carrier myself.”

Beyer also likes Attas’ no-pressure approach to her decision to let Puddy age naturally without heroic measures.

“I think it’s helping to ex-



Dr. Amy Attas, right, and licensed veterinary technician Jeanine Lunz examine Cody Healey, an 8-year-old male Maltese, during a house call, April 23, in New York.



Dr. Amy Attas, left, and licensed veterinary technician Jeanine Lunz, center, arrive at a client's apartment building, April 23, in New York.



Dr. Amy Attas, right, goes over a 19-year-old male domestic short haired cat's care with his human Wendy Beyer during a house call, April 23, in New York.



Dr. Amy Attas greets Puddy Beyer, a 19-year-old male domestic short haired cat, as she arrives for a house call, April 23, in New York.



Dr. Amy Attas talks about the equipment she takes with her during house calls while in her office at City Pets, April 23, in New York.

tend his life. He’s a really relaxed chill kitty. He’s not being stressed out,” Beyer said.

Hop on over to Fifth Avenue for a check on Cody, an adorable, barky white Maltese who, at age 8, is a bundle of fun-loving energy. He’s at the center of Lisa Healey’s life.

Cody has itchy allergies

and a heart murmur. Attas, who helped the Healeys bid farewell to a previous dog, regularly sees Cody in the couple’s spacious apartment.

“This is our child and we would do anything for our children, so it’s worth the cost. It’s worth every penny. I don’t even think about it,” Healey said.

## NOT YOUR AVERAGE VET PRACTICE

House calls are a far different beast for vets than regular practices. There’s the travel, of course, no small thing in Manhattan. On a recent round, Attas and nurse Jeanine Lunz made use of their in-car time answering phone calls, working on

scheduling and tending to the numerous other tasks most vets deal with when they have a few minutes between exams.

“It takes much longer than just waiting for a patient to come in and going from exam room to exam room in a hospital,” Attas said.

The cost of her transporta-

tion (she’s Manhattan-only) is included in the fee. She charges an additional fee for seeing multiple pets at once. It’s less than making more than one trip to a vet’s office or what other vets may charge for seeing more than one pet on the same day, she said. Attas restricts her practice to dogs and cats.

In all, Attas said her services can be about 30% more than brick-and-mortar practices. She doesn’t perform surgery, but she provides typical care, from vaccinations to blood and urine draws, relying on specialists for things like severe heart and eye issues. She uses animal hospitals when large equipment is needed or for acute emergencies when every second counts.

So far, Attas has seen more than 7,000 animals in her travels, including the pets of Joel, Wayne Gretzky, Steve Martin and Kevin Kline. At minimum, she or one of the two other vets in her practice visit 12 to 15 homes daily. Her personal best in terms of animals seen in a day is 23.

Attas and her human clients point to other advantages of house calls. Once clients are established, the humans don’t have to be home.

“Sometimes they have their doorman let us in. Sometimes their nanny or their housekeeper is at home. And many of our clients actually give us keys to their apartments,” Attas said.

## HOUSE CALLS AREN’T JUST FOR THE RICH

Attas dispels the notion that her client list is solely filled with pets of the wealthy.

“I go to billionaires’ homes. I go to housing projects. I work with not-for-profits to help seniors continue to live with their pets,” she said. “Some of my favorite clients through the years were people who didn’t really have a lot, but what they cherished most were their pets.”

Attas never wants to be so busy that she loses the intimate value of home visits.

“When you’re in the home, you’re experiencing how that pet lives,” she said. “I can’t even think of how many times I have been in someone’s home where I see something that is a complete danger for a pet.”

That includes potential killers like open windows with no screens, toxic plants and unsecured terraces. She ended one owner’s practice of serving up massive quantities of catnip after the cat went seriously loopy.

And she found an unlikely object inside a bull terrier that wasn’t coming out the way it went in: His human’s giant over-ear headphones. The human wondered where they had gone.

“We couldn’t figure out how he even consumed them,” Attas said.

She keeps a keen eye on humans who sometimes need help themselves.

“I’ve seen seniors who have lost pets and lose their will to live. In one particular case that I talk about in the book, a lovely woman’s elderly dog passed away, and when I went to check on her a week later she was a fraction of the woman I had seen the week before,” Attas said.

Attas brought the grieving 90-year-old client a senior dog to adopt under the guise of fostering.

“She immediately had a reason to live again,” Attas said, “and took care of that dog until the day she passed away.”

# New York state eyes changes to \$25B school aid formula

**By CAYLA BAMBERGER**  
**New York Daily News (TNS)**

New York State could soon overhaul how it allocates education funding to each school district. Researchers kicked off a process Tuesday to rework the state’s primary school aid formula, with five public hearings scheduled over the next month in New York City and statewide. The funding stream, known as Foundation Aid, directs \$24.9 billion of the \$35.9 billion state education package this year to local schools — but is facing mounting criticism that it’s outdated and inequitable.

“[Foundation Aid] is often opaque and difficult to understand,” said Robert Megna, president of the Rockefeller Institute of Government, SUNY’s policy research arm conducting the study. “In other ways, the formulation is also very out of date, using data from early in the current century.”

“We are tasked with making recommendations to update and address issues with how the formula functions,” he added.

During state budget negotiations, Gov. Hochul tried phasing out a provision of the formula known as “hold

harmless” that ensures all school districts receive at least as much per-pupil funding as they did the year before — even if they’re registering fewer kids. Both the Senate and Assembly rejected the proposal.

The compromise was a process to study Foundation Aid — a per-pupil formula launched in 2007 to level the playing field for students with more costly needs — and consider revisions.

At Tuesday’s hearing, New York City Schools Chancellor David Banks said revisions should increase funding for students in temporary housing and

foster care, and recognize the range of costs in educating children with different disabilities. He also suggested the state should recognize the unique needs of the city, including through an updated regional index that accounts for its high costs, plus funds for state-mandated class size requirements.

“We are the only district in the state required to meet a new class size mandate, yet we’ve received no additional funds to account for it,” Banks said. “To reduce class sizes is a worthy goal, but we currently do not have the funding to get to 100% compliance in 2028,”

when the law will be fully phased in.

Foundation Aid was not fully funded until last fiscal year, and even then, experts warned it was in dire need of an update. The funding stream relies on local poverty metrics from the 2000 Census, while labor estimates baked into the formula have not kept pace with growing costs.

“The Foundation Aid formula must account for the students that are in our schools today — not the students that were in our schools 20 years ago,” said Michael Sill, assistant secretary of the United Federation of Teachers.