

WORLD
Despite the
ceasefire, some
Israelis are wary
of returning to
their homes in
the north.



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SPORTS
Five seniors
on the Cincy girls
soccer team
were part of an
exceptional
four-year run.



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Todd R. McAdam/Managing Editor

Flurries begin to fall Friday as 2-year-old Madden Stevens of Ithaca looks over a Christmas tree in the arms of her grandmother, Gail Burton of Dryden, at Hill of Beans Tree Farm in Homer.

Cortland area Christmas tree farms are opening

‘It comes down to the experience’

By LILY BYRNE
Staff Reporter

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For Alina Perez, getting a Christmas tree is about the hunt. “You’ve got to find the perfect tree,” the Homer woman said Friday at Hill of Beans Tree Farm in Homer.

For Bryan and Dana Stevens of Ithaca, it’s about the ambiance, particularly in the snow-covered hills near East Homer.

“You’re almost always guaranteed snow here,” Dana Stevens said.

While it may be easier or cheaper to get an artificial Christmas tree from the store, the experience of picking one out in nature with your family can not be replicated with plastic.

Christmas tree farms are opening, and there’s multiple things that can make a farm successful. The biggest one, however, is a loyal customer base, farmers say.

Jason and Carrie Moore run Moore Family Farm in Groton. What defines a season as successful isn’t in the numbers, it is seeing families get outside and create an experience together, he said.

“We really value seeing new

families, seeing the families we’ve seen for 30 years, and just making memories out here at the farm,” Jason Moore said.

The Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York, based in McGraw, said Christmas trees are a \$14 million industry and the state ranks fourth in the nation in number of tree farms, with 875 encompassing 19,000 acres.

But it’s not just an industry; it’s a tradition. Some families have been coming since the 1980s, Moore said, when his dad ran the farm.

During that time, his dad sent a customer who was deployed overseas a Christmas tree. Since Jason Moore has started running it, he sent that soldier’s son a tree during his respective deployment.

“It’s kind of cool to ship it to a second generation,” Moore said.

John Pitman, owner of Pitman’s Tree Farm in Marathon, says that more than half of his customers come every year. The rest float around to other farms for the adventure, he said.

“A lot of people that cut their own Christmas tree — they’re not going to cut their tree in 10

minutes,” Pitman said. “They’re going to take a couple hours to walk around and look at things. They’re out in the country, standing in the middle of acres of Christmas trees. People like to make it a family outing.”

Steven and Karen Bean, owners of Hill of Beans, think the tradition of picking out a real tree is a big factor of the industry.

“We are on our third generation of repeat customers,” Karen Bean said. “We did the original parents, we did their kids, and then we did their kids! It’s probably bigger than that by now; we started in ‘94, so that’s how that happens. They grow up.”

“It comes down to the experience, and making memories,” Jason Moore said. “If you can ideally have your entire family all together, that’s the best. Having them together, selecting the tree, cutting their own tree or picking one out, and having fresh apple cider donuts... just having a good time at the farm, and getting the whole family out in nature.”

There’s no specific way to pick out a perfect tree, Pitman

See TREES, page 4

Sometimes, just being alive is a good enough reason to be thankful

‘I get to hug my grandkids. What could be better than that?’

By DOUG SCHNEIDER
Staff Reporter

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Not quite 18 years old and about to graduate from high school, Cortland resident Mike Loparco had a choice: Study in college at Cortland to become a teacher, or join the U.S. Army.

The Army paid better at the time. It was 1966, and there was a conflict under way in a country called Vietnam. Someone at the Army asked what he wanted to do. Serving in the infantry seemed like a good idea. His father had been an Army soldier stationed in Hawaii when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Initially, the 17-year-old boarded a bus in Syracuse with a number of “people I grew up with.” He remembers scoring well on the initial tests he was given, so he was offered the chance to enter officer candidate school, a 12-week program in Georgia. He left that assignment as a first lieutenant — a platoon leader.

Not long after becoming a platoon leader, he remembers someone telling him the average lifespan of such a leader was five months. At the time, he had

been in the service for about five months.

It seems obvious now that Loparco, working his way through a Thanksgiving lunch with an estimated 200 other veterans and family members at Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1645 in Binghamton last week, was beginning to have second thoughts about the career path he’d chosen.

He remembered knowing the members of a squad who were chosen to be in an armored personnel carrier, on a mission the Army called “search and destroy.” The carrier struck a buried explosive. Members of his unit later estimated that the explosive was a 500-pound bomb.

All but one person in the armored personnel carrier were killed, Loparco said in a voice barely above a whisper.

Loparco was in the first platoon. Not long after the APC was blown up, the unit’s second platoon was tasked with another “search and destroy” mission. Eight men went out, Loparco said; two survived.

“October was a bad month — the worst,” he recalled. “I don’t have good memories of October.”

He struggled with those memories. He learned some lessons along the way: “Listen to what your NCOs (non-commissioned officers) tell you.” He also learned to listen to the medics in the company; he knew they were good at surviving.

See LOPARCO, page 4



Doug Schneider/Staff Reporter

Vietnam veteran Mike Loparco of Cortland examines military uniforms during a pre-Thanksgiving celebration at American Legion Post 1645 in Binghamton.

Is Black Friday still a shopping juggernaut in ‘24?

By ANNE D’INNOCENZIO,
HALELUYA HADERO
and ALEXANDRA OLSON
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Retailers in the U.S. used giveaways and big discounts to reward shoppers who ventured out for Black Friday, hoping to extend the day’s reign as the much-hyped kickoff of the holiday shopping season.

Department stores, shopping malls and merchants — big and small — see the day after Thanksgiving as a way to energize shoppers and to get them into physical stores at a time when many browse and buy online.

Enough consumers still enjoy holiday shopping in person that Black Friday remains the biggest day of the year for retail foot traffic in the U.S., according to retail



AP Photo/Heather Khalifa

Shoppers walk along Fifth Avenue, Friday, in New York.

technology company Sensormatic Solutions.

At Macy’s Herald Square in Manhattan, a steady stream of

shoppers early Friday found some shoes and handbags priced half-off, special occasion dresses marked down by 30%, and 60%

off the store’s luxury bedding brand.

Keressa Clark, 50, and her daughter Morghan, 27, who were visiting New York from Wilmington, North Carolina, arrived at 6:15 a.m. at the store that served as the setting for the 1947 Christmas movie “Miracle on 34th Street.”

“We don’t have a Macy’s where we are from,” Morghan Clark said. “I am actually shocked to see so many Black Friday deals because so many things are online.”

Clark, who works as a nurse practitioner, said she was feeling better about the economy because of President-elect Donald Trump’s pending return to the White House and has plans to spend \$2,000 this holiday season,

about \$500 more than a year ago.

She said she would not mind if prices are higher next year as a result of the tariffs on foreign-made goods Trump has pledged to implement. “Anything that can encourage production in the U.S. I am all for it,” Clark said.

In the U.S., analysts envision a solid holiday shopping season — though perhaps not as robust as last year’s — with many shoppers cautious with their discretionary spending despite the easing of inflation.

Julie Rambo, a retired school teacher, shoved aside her worries about the incoming Trump administration as she shopped with her grandchildren at a Target in Southfield, a few miles

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WEATHER



Partly sunny
Tomorrow’s Weather:
High near 30
Southwest wind 6 to 10 mph
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Obituaries

Darlene Ripley

Darlene Ripley passed away on Thursday, November 21, 2024, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, at the age of 82.

She was born October 26th, 1942, to the late Warren and Ruth Whiting in Cortland, NY. Darlene was preceded by her Husband of 40 years, Gary. She is survived by her two sons; Stephen (Colleen) of Virginia Beach, Virginia and David Ripley of Willet, NY. Her grandchildren Nicole, Tyler, Jay and Jaylena and great grandchildren Aileen and Rosalie.

Darlene worked as a Seamstress and enjoyed arts and crafts, knitting, and socializing with friends, neighbors, and family. At this time there will be no services. She will be interred alongside her husband at a private ceremony in Amber, NY in the spring.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that you make donations to a local food bank or Hunters for the Hungry by going to this link: <https://www.tmcfunding.com/funds/in-loving-memory-of-darlene-j-ripley/11826/>.

Funeral Arrangements are in the care of Altmeyer Funeral Home and Cremations, Southside Chapel.

Thomas C. Beattie

Thomas C. Beattie, 58, of Cortland, passed away on November 19, 2024, after a brief battle with cancer.

Tom was born on October 21, 1966 in Cortland, to James and Carol (Bowman) Beattie.

A graduate of Cortland High School, he earned an associate degree from Tompkins County Community College. Most recently, Tom worked at C&D Assembly in Groton as an electronics technician, where he built and fixed circuits, indulging his love for solving problems and working with small mechanical devices.

He joins his loving, devoted wife Gail and sister Barbara in heaven, and is survived by his parents, Jim and Carol, son Connor and daughter-in-law Jenniellen, brother Jim (Lisa) Beattie II, sister Gail (Dave) McFall, and nieces, nephews and grandnieces who will miss his loving presence at Sunday dinner.

Tom's life was colored by his love of all things musical, from performing in local plays and singing in the Presbyterian church choir to playing in several rock and roll bands over the years. Most recently, he kept the beat playing bass and lead vocals in Past My Bedtime, one of Cortland's favorite rock cover bands.

A celebration of Tom's life will be held on Tuesday, December 10th at 3 p.m. at the United Presbyterian Church of Cortland, with family receiving callers beforehand from 1 to 2:45 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Cortland Public Education Foundation or the Melanoma Research Alliance in Tom's memory.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude for the support of friends and family during this difficult time while everyone is out of tune. Tom will always be remembered for his generosity, vocal range, sense of humor, and love for his family.

There's a little more rock and roll in heaven today. The Wright-Beard funeral Home of Cortland is serving the family, to leave online condolences visit www.wright-beard.com.



Tarky Lombardi, Jr.

Tarky Lombardi, Jr., 95, of Jamesville, died peacefully at his home from kidney complications on Sunday, November 24, 2024. Tarky, as he was known to friends and constituents, was an attorney, businessman, and civic leader who devoted 33 years to public service. Despite a conspicuous and active professional career, Tarky most cherished private moments with his immediate family which included his dear wife of 66 years Marianne (Edgecomb); their daughters, Jennine Yonta (Jay) of Jamesville, NY, Marianne Fogelson (Richard) of Arlington, VA, and Dr. Rosemary Lombardi of Northport, NY, and sons, Tarky Lombardi III (Anita) of Jamesville, NY, and Reverend Michael Lombardi of Valley Stream, NY. Tarky is also survived by eight adoring grandchildren, Matthew Yonta, Abigail Liebold (Zachary), Michael Yonta, Jonathan Fogelson, Alexander Fogelson, Mark Fogelson, Tarky Joseph Lombardi, and Cecilia Lombardi. In true Italian fashion, Tarky would routinely host his children and grandchildren for Sunday dinner each week at Vito's Restaurant.

The third of four children born to his late parents Jennie Cerio and Tarquino Lombardi Sr., Tarky grew up on Syracuse's north side alongside his siblings — the late Jack Lombardi of Phoenix, AZ, the late Sarah Pietrafesa of West Palm Beach, FL, and his last surviving sibling, Francis (Angela) Lombardi of Naples, FL. His father instilled in him the importance of education and hard work, values that guided him throughout his life. Tarky, along with his brothers, helped establish Syracuse Tank and Manufacturing, a successful business with several satellite plants nationwide.

In 1944, at the age of fifteen, Tarky left home and began his high school education at the New York Military Academy — otherwise known as NYMA- from where he graduated in 1947. Tarky's experience at NYMA nurtured a deep appreciation for the military which later inspired him to sponsor the annual West Point Day during his tenure in the New York State Senate. In 2001, NYMA presented Tarky with the alumnus of distinction award.

Lombardi received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Syracuse University in 1951 and three years later earned a Doctor of Laws degree from Syracuse University College of Law. He later became a founding partner in the law firm of Devorsetz, Stinziano, Lombardi, and Smith. Tarky's time as both an undergraduate and graduate Syracuse student forged lifelong friendships and an unending love for everything Orange. He embraced every opportunity to help his alma mater whether it was supporting athletics via the Orange Pack or developing strategic initiatives as a member of the Board of Trustees. But his greatest contribution centered around his leadership in the financing and construction of the Carrier Dome. Lombardi's political acumen persuaded an otherwise reluctant Governor Hugh Carey to commit \$15 million in state grants for the Dome's construction; a decision that would forever change the Syracuse horizon.

Lombardi began his public service in 1959 when the Onondaga County Republican Party selected him to run for a seat on the Syracuse Common Council. It was the first of what would mark many campaign victories, and he continued on as a member of the Syracuse Common Council for the next six years eventually serving as its Majority Leader. Impressed by his demonstrative leadership skills and engaging speaking style, party leaders — spearheaded by Senator John Hughes — lobbied and ultimately persuaded Tarky to run for statewide office. Tarky represented the 49th district in the New York Senate as a member of the Republican Party. His district covered a large swath of Central New York situated almost entirely in Onondaga and Cortland counties. Voters first elected Lombardi to a Senate Seat in 1965

and over the next 27 years, he served as their state representative until retiring in 1992. Senator Lombardi earned a national reputation for his accomplishments in the health field. Well known for championing several efforts to contain healthcare and medical malpractice costs, his achievements included successful passage of legislation he authored on medical malpractice reform and the creation of physician assistants and nurse practitioners. Without question, his signature piece of legislation was the Nursing Homes without Walls program — a pilot program so transformative, it was subsequently duplicated in other states.

During his terms as State Senator, Tarky served on several Committees. He chaired the Senate Health Committee from 1971 until 1989 and the powerful Senate Finance Committee from 1989 until 1992. Perhaps his most cherished role was assuming Chairmanship of the Senate Special Committee on the Arts. Armed with the belief they were fundamental to a well-rounded education, Tarky fiercely defended state funding of the arts. His stance was particularly popular with influential members of the New York entertainment world, and he soon found himself working closely with the likes of Kitty Carlisle Hart and Tony Randall on multiple legislative projects.

Throughout his stellar career, Senator Lombardi received a number of awards including the Terence Cardinal Cooke award and Legislator of the Year from the National Association for Home Care. In 1983, Lombardi was presented the Arents Medal by Syracuse University — its highest alumni award — and in 1986, he was named National Republican Legislator of the Year. Lombardi was a member of the Council of State Governments and Chairman of its Committee on Human Resources. He served on numerous governing bodies and corporate boards including the Boards of Directors of Syracuse University, the New York Historical Society, St. Joseph's Hospital Center, the National Conference of State Legislators, Fays Drugs, and SRC.

In June of 1992, Senator Lombardi announced he would not seek reelection in the 49th district and voluntarily ended his 27-year career in the state legislature. Following his announcement, the Syracuse Post Standard published an editorial outlining his work as a state legislator stating "Lombardi's concrete achievements are many. Start with his key role in Carrier Dome financing. Add the Sports Medicine Center, and don't forget the Syracuse University Science and Tech Center. How about the Onondaga County Convention Center?" After his retirement from politics, Tarky redirected his attention to personnel pursuits and focused time on family, traveling, and a resurrected law career.

The Lombardi family would like to express their sincere gratitude to the dedicated medical professionals and compassionate home health aides who made Tarky's final weeks at home as comfortable as possible.

A funeral Mass in celebration of Tarky's life will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. in Holy Cross Church, 4112 E. Genesee St., DeWitt. Tarky will be laid to rest privately in the Lombardi Family Mausoleum at Assumption Cemetery. Calling hours will take place on Monday, December 2, 2024, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the THOMAS J. PIRRO JR. FUNERAL HOME 3401 Vickery Rd. (Corner of Buckley Rd.) Syracuse, NY 13212.

Memorial contributions in Tarky's memory may be made to Hospice of CNY, 990 7th North St. Liverpool, NY 13088, or to the Syracuse Athletics Opportunity Fund. As the longest running Syracuse University season ticket holder, Tarky embodied an unwavering loyalty to the Orange. This special fund will recognize his commitment and passion for Syracuse Athletics and his enduring love for supporting student athletes, coaches and his Alma Mater. Checks can be sent to the attention of Jodie Ralston, Executive Director of Advancement Services, 640 Skytop Road, Syracuse NY 13244. Gifts may also be made online: givetosu.syr.edu/tarkylombardi.

Weather

Local

Rest of today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 31. West wind 7 to 11 mph. A low around 16.
Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 30. Southwest wind 6 to 10 mph.
Sunday night: A slight chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy,

Extended

with a low around 18. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
Monday: Snow showers likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. Chance of precipitation is 60%.
Monday night: Snow showers likely. A low around 19.

Skies Today

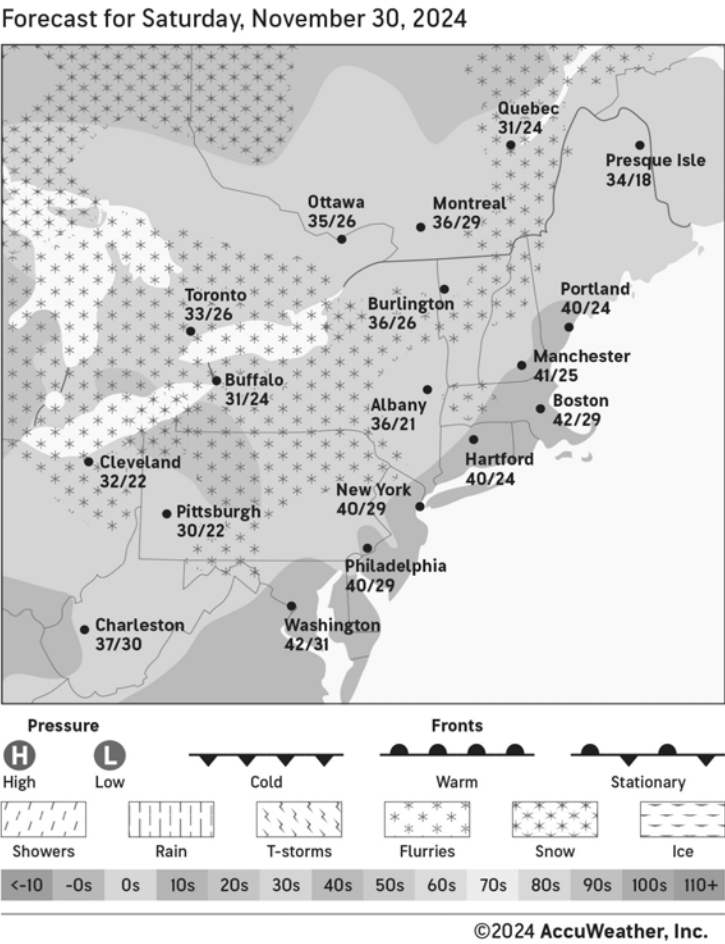
Saturday, November 30, 2024	
Sunset today	4:33 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:15 a.m.
Normal high temperature	40
Normal low temperature	26
Average temperature	34
New moon	Dec. 1

City Snowfall

Nov. 28-29	2.00 inches
Season to date	4.50 inches

Precipitation

Nov. 28-29	0.23 inches
Month to date	2.29 inches



Police/fire

Cortland police recover stolen cell phones

Cortland police have recovered a number of cell phones from a

suspect arrested recently in connection with a string of vehicle break-ins, police announced Friday.

If your cell phone was stolen in the past month from a vehicle in the city, police might have it.

You can recover it by sending identifying information to sbyrnes@cortland.org, including make, model, color, passcode, the date and location when your phone went missing, and other identifying features.

Around the towns

McGraw school board meets Dec. 5

The McGraw Central School District Board of Education will meet at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in the high school library.

Death Notices

TUTTLE — Edward Tuttle, of Cortland, died Nov. 27, 2024. There are no known survivors. Wright-Beard Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Mon - Hamburgers
Tues - Chili Dogs
Wed - Cheeseburgers
Thurs - Chicken Tenders
Fri - Fish Sandwiches
Sat - Hot Dogs
Sun - Bacon Cheeseburgers

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Making It Right

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

Israelis wary of returning to the north because they don't trust the ceasefire with Hezbollah

By JULIA FRANKEL
Associated Press
KIBBUTZ MALKIYA, Israel — Dean Sweetland casts his gaze over a forlorn street in the Israeli community of Kibbutz Malkiya. Perched on a hill overlooking the border with Lebanon, the town stands mostly empty after being abandoned a year ago.

The daycare is closed. The homes are unkempt. Parts of the landscape are ashen from fires sparked by fallen Hezbollah rockets. Even after a tenuous Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire designed to let Israelis return to the north, the mood here is far from celebratory.

“The ceasefire is rubbish,” said Sweetland, a gardener and member of the kibbutz’s civilian security squad. “Do you expect me to ring around my friends and say, ‘All the families should come home?’ No.”

Across the border, Lebanese civilians have jammed roads in a rush to return to homes in the country’s south, but most residents of northern Israel have met the ceasefire with suspicion and apprehension.

“Hezbollah could still come back to the border, and who will protect us when they do?” Sweetland asked.

Israel’s government seeks to bring the northern reaches of the country back to life, particularly the line of communities directly abutting Lebanon that have played a major role in staking out Israel’s border.

But the fear of Hezbollah, a lack of trust in United Nations peacekeeping forces charged with upholding the ceasefire, deep anger at the government and some Israelis’ desire to keep rebuilding their lives elsewhere are keeping many from returning immediately.

When the truce took effect, about 45,000 Israelis had evacuated from the north. They fled their homes after Hezbollah began firing across the border on Oct. 8, 2023, in solidarity with its ally Hamas in Gaza.

That triggered more than a year of cross-border exchanges, with Lebanese villages in the south



Dean Sweetland walks past a damaged warehouse that, according to him, was hit by a rocket fired from Lebanon two days before the start of the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, in the Kibbutz Malkiya, northern Israel, Wednesday.

AP Photo/Leo Correa

and Israeli communities facing the border taking the brunt of the pain.

During the truce’s initial 60-day phase, Hezbollah is supposed to remove its armed presence from a broad band of southern Lebanon where the military says the militant group had been digging in for years by gathering weapons and setting up rocket launch sites and other infrastructure. Under the ceasefire, a U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL and a beefed-up Lebanese army presence are supposed to ensure Hezbollah doesn’t return.

Many residents of northern Israel are skeptical that the peace will hold.

Sarah Gould, who evacuated Kibbutz Malkiya at the start of the war with her three kids, said Hezbollah fired on the community up to and just past the minute when the ceasefire took effect early Wednesday.

“So for the government to tell me that Hezbollah is neutralized,” she said, “it’s a perfect lie.”

RESIDENTS FEAR FOR THEIR SAFETY UP NORTH

In Gaza, where Israel is pushing forward with a war that has killed over 44,000 Palestinians, Israel’s goal is the eradication of Hamas. But in Lebanon, Israel’s aims were limited to pushing Hezbollah away from the border so northern residents could return home. Israeli critics say the government should have kept fighting to outright cripple Hezbollah or to clear out the border area, which is home to hundreds of thousands of Lebanese.

“I won’t even begin to consider going home until I know there’s a dead zone for kilometers across the border,” the 46-year-old Gould said.

Some wary Israelis trickled back home Thursday and Friday to areas farther from the border. But communities like Kibbutz Manara, set on a tiny slice of land between Lebanon and Syria, remained ghost towns.

Orna Weinberg, 58, who was born and raised in Manara, said it

was too early to tell whether the ceasefire would protect the community.

Perched above all the other border villages, Manara was uniquely vulnerable to Hezbollah fire throughout the war. Three-quarters of its structures were damaged.

In the kibbutz’s communal kitchen and dining hall, ceiling beams have collapsed. The uprooted floorboards are covered with ash from fires that also claimed much of the kibbutz’s cropland.

Rocket fragments abound. The torso of a mannequin, a decoy dressed in army green, lies on the ground.

Weinberg tried to stay in Manara during the war, but after anti-tank shrapnel damaged her home, soldiers told her to leave. On Thursday, she walked along her street, which looks out directly over a UNIFIL position separating the kibbutz from a line of Lebanese villages that have been decimated by Israeli bombard-

ment and demolitions. Weinberg said UNIFIL hadn’t prevented Hezbollah’s build-up in the past, “so why would they be able to now?”

“A ceasefire here just gives Hezbollah a chance to rebuild their power and come back to places that they were driven out of,” she said.

The truce seemed fragile. Associated Press reporters heard sporadic bursts of gunfire, likely Israeli troops firing at Lebanese attempting to enter the towns. Israel’s military says it is temporarily preventing Lebanese civilians from returning home to a line of towns closest to the border, until the Lebanese military can deploy there in force.

Though the atmosphere along the border was tense, Malkiya showed signs of peace. With Hezbollah’s rockets stopped, some residents returned briefly to the kibbutz to peer around cautiously.

At a vista overlooking the border, where the hulking wreckage of Lebanese villages could be made out, a group of around 30 soldiers gathered. Just days ago, they would have made easy targets for Hezbollah fire.

Malkiya has sustained less damage than Manara. Still, residents said they would not return immediately. During a year of displacement, many have restarted their lives elsewhere, and the idea of going back to a front-line town on the border is daunting.

In Lebanon, where Israeli bombardment and ground assaults drove some 1.2 million people from their homes, some of the displaced crowded into schools-turned-shelters or slept in the streets. In Israel, the government paid for hotels for evacuees and helped accommodate children in new schools. Gould predicted residents would return to the kibbutz only when government subsidies for their lodging dried up — “not because they want to, but because they feel like they can’t afford an alternative.”

“It’s not just a security issue,” Gould said. “We’ve spent more than a year rebuilding our lives wherever we landed.”

The ruble slumps amid ongoing war

By DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer
Russia’s ruble is sagging against other currencies, complicating the Kremlin’s efforts to keep consumer inflation under control with one hand even as it overheats the economy with spending on the war against Ukraine with the other.

The official central bank rate for Friday was set at 109 to the U.S. dollar, meaning the ruble is worth less than a penny in dollar terms.

At that rate, the ruble was bouncing back from lows around 114 to the dollar touched earlier in the week.

There have been similar declines against the Chinese yuan, which has largely replaced dollars and euros for foreign trade after sanctions imposed by Ukraine’s Western allies cut Russia off from most dealings with Western companies and banks.

Russians interviewed on the street Friday in Moscow — where incautious remarks can lead to jail time — took the decline in stride.

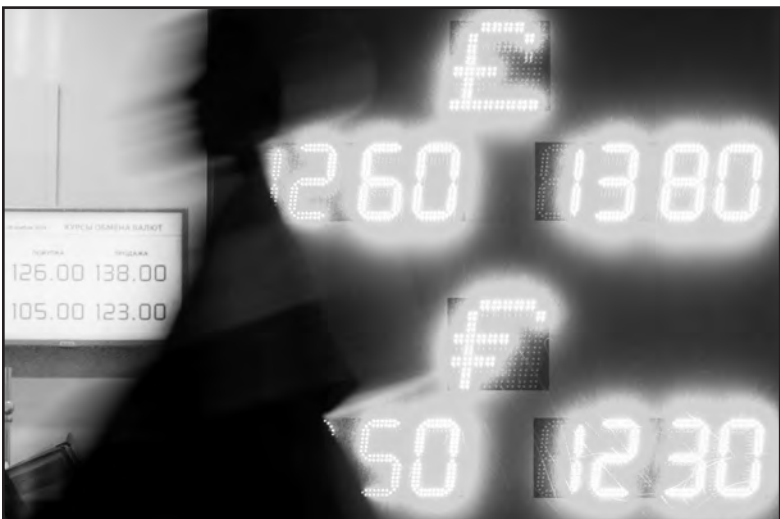
Muscovite Yekaterina, who declined to offer her last name, said she had just made a prepayment

for a vacation in Egypt, adding “I’m afraid to know what the rest of payment will be.” But she added: “Maybe it only concerns us individually, people who love travelling. But for Russian economy it’s not that bad. Internal tourism, domestic industry are developing.”

Semyon, again no last name, was even less concerned. “My salary is in rubles, I pay taxes in rubles, I buy a car in rubles and buy groceries in rubles. What do I need the dollar for, explain that to me, please.”

The Kremlin is engaged in a tricky juggle. Government spending on the war has factories running at top speed and the economy growing more strongly than many expected given sanctions.

The resulting inflation — an annual 8.5% in October — has led the central bank to crank up its interest rate benchmark to a painful 21% to slow borrowing and spending. That has led to complaints from business leaders hit with high credit costs and fostered predictions from economists that tight credit will eventually slow the economy.



AP Photo/Pavel Bednyakov

A pedestrian walks in a street near an exchange office sign showing the currency exchange rates of the Russian ruble, British pound sterling and Swiss franc in Russia, Thursday.

Trudeau: Trump-imposed tariffs would raise prices for Americans

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Friday that if President-elect Donald Trump follows through on his threat to impose sweeping tariffs on Canadian products, he would be raising prices for Americans and hurting American businesses.

Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico if the countries don’t stop what he called the flow of drugs and migrants across southern and northern borders. He said he would impose a 25% tax on all products entering the U.S. from Canada and Mexico as one of his first executive orders.

“It is important to understand that Donald Trump, when he makes statements like that, he plans on carrying them out. There’s no question about it,” Trudeau said to reporters in Prince Edward Island in Atlantic Canada.

“Our responsibility is to point out that he would not just be harming Canadians, who work so well with the United States, but he would actually be raising prices for Americans citizens as well and hurting American industry and business,” he added.

Trudeau said Trump got elected because he promised to bring down the cost of groceries but now he’s talking about adding 25% to the cost of all kinds of products including potatoes from Prince Edward Island.

Those tariffs could essentially blow up the North American trade pact that Trump’s team negotiated during his initial term. Trudeau noted they were able to successfully re-negotiate the deal, which he calls a “win win” for both countries.

“We can work together as we did previously,” Trudeau said.

Trump made the tariff threat Monday while railing against an



Ron Ward /The Canadian Press via AP

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks at an event in Mount Stewart, Prince Edward Island, Friday.

influx of illegal migrants, even though the numbers at the Canadian border pale in comparison to the southern border.

The U.S. Border Patrol made 56,530 arrests at the Mexican border in October alone — and 23,721 arrests at the Canadian one between October 2023 and September 2024.

Trump also railed about fentanyl from Mexico and Canada, even though seizures from the Canadian border are few in comparison to the Mexican border. U.S. customs agents seized 43 pounds of fentanyl at the Canadian border last fiscal year, compared with 21,100 pounds at the Mexican border.

Canadian officials say lumping Canada in with Mexico is

unfair but say they are ready to make new investments in border security.

“We’re going to work together to meet some of the concerns,” Trudeau said. “But ultimately it is through lots of real constructive conversations with President Trump that I am going to have, that will keep us moving forward on the right track for all Canadians.”

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Thursday she is confident that a tariff war with the United States will be averted.

Trump posted on social media that he had spoken with her and she had agreed to stop unauthorized migration across the border into the United States.

Santa Claus’ annual train visit delivers hope and some magic to one corner of coal country

By TRAVIS LOLLER
Associated Press
ON BOARD THE SANTA TRAIN — Since 1943, the people of Appalachian Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee have looked forward to Santa’s arrival. Not in a sleigh on their rooftops, but on a train.

The Santa Train marks its 82nd running this year, bringing presents and joy to small towns along a 110-mile portion of the CSX rail line tucked into remote coal-country river valleys. Many of the children who line the tracks and wait for Santa on the Saturday before Thanksgiving are the third, fourth or fifth generation to do so.

“I look for it every year. I count the days down,” said Sandra Owens, of Haysi, Virginia, who held a pink pillowcase with a message in black ink, “Thank you CSX and volunteers for the Santa Train. 82.”

Owens moved to Kentucky from Delaware 55 years ago when she got married and experienced her first Santa Train a few years later, when her son turned 3. He is 46 now, and these days she brings her grandchildren. In a few more years, she hopes to bring great-grandchildren.

“The faces of the kids, that’s what makes me happy,” she said. “You can’t see anything better.”

The train starts out in Shelbi-

ana, Kentucky, where families wait in the pre-dawn. At each stop there are dozens to hundreds of people. Many crowd around the back of the train, where Santa and his helpers toss stuffed animals. Meanwhile, groups of volunteer “elves” carrying bags full of gifts fan out, making sure every child goes home with something. Each year they hand out more than 15 tons of gifts that include hats, mittens and fuzzy blankets along with board games, skate boards and teddy bears.

Donna Doughetry from Snowflake, Virginia, remembers coming to see the Santa Train as a child in nearby Fort Blackmore.

“Years back, we didn’t get a lot,” she said. “So back then this was kind of what we got, and we were proud of it. It meant a lot to us.”

Over the years, her kids have at times received handmade gifts from the Santa Train, like crocheted hats, which they still have and cherish.

Even though it is easier for people in these isolated, rural communities to buy Christmas presents these days, Dougherty made the short trek to Fort Blackmore with her niece on Saturday, carrying on the family tradition that she is glad she can still share.

“It’s really nice that they do this,” she said. “It shows the true Christmas spirit.”



AP Photo/George Walker IV

Santa Claus tosses toys to people during the 82nd run of the CSX Santa Train, Nov. 23, in Dante, Virginia.

CSX employees consider it an honor to be chosen to staff the Santa Train as volunteers. Jesse Hensley had been trying to get a spot for 35 years, ever since he met his wife, Angie, who grew up with the Santa Train in St. Paul, Virginia.

“It was such a thrill when we heard that whistle blow,” she re-

membered. “When I was a little girl, you know, you have dreams. My dream was to ride that train. Never in my life did I ever think that I would get to.”

The pair was selected to ride the train this year because they volunteered countless hours after the flooding caused by Hurricane Helene devastated their commu-

nity of Erwin, Tennessee, where Jesse Hensley works as a machinist mechanic for CSX.

The Santa Train doesn’t run to Erwin, but CSX added a special event this year to bring cheer to the community. Residents were invited to a holiday party with food, music, and gifts in the Erwin rail yard.

Jobless benefit filings are near 7-month low

(AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell last week, remaining near seven-month lows.

Jobless claim applications fell by 2,000 to 213,000 for the week of Nov. 23, the Labor Department reported Wednesday. The previous week’s level was revised up by 2,000 from 213,000, to 215,000.

However, continuing claims, the total number of Americans

collecting jobless benefits, rose by 9,000 to 1.91 million for the week of Nov. 16. That’s the highest number since Nov. 13, 2021.

While the number of new people applying for jobless aid each week remains at historically healthy levels, some who are receiving benefits are finding it harder to land new jobs. That suggests that demand for workers is waning, even as the economy remains strong.



Todd R. McAdam/Managing Editor

Alina Perez of Homer and her aunt, Kim Osborne of Homer, drag their newly cut trees onto a sled Friday at Hill of Beans Tree Farm in Homer.

TREES

continued from page 1

said. You just have to pick out one you like.

“Beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” Pitman said. “What you would pick and fall right in love with, the next person may not even consider looking at it. People look for certain things. If they’re happy with it, that’s all that matters.”

At Hill of Beans Gail Burton of Dryden held her 2-year-old granddaughter, Madden Ste-

vens, as both looked over the tree Bryan Stevens prepared to haul from the hill side. They’ve been coming here for generations, now.

As has Alina Perez’ family. She debated trees with her aunt, Kim Osborne of Homer.

“It’s always fun,” Perez said. Osborne added: “It’s about doing stuff together.”

Managing Editor Todd R. McAdam contributed to this report.

LOPARCO

continued from page 1

Loparco, now in his mid-70s, lost his wife about four years ago. They raised four children. Daughter Beth, son Lin and son John all live in Central New York. Another son died in 1991.

He embarked on his second career at age 19 — law enforcement.

Eventually, he retired from the job in 1993. He had finished his career focusing on helping people — in this case investigating crimes involving domestic abuse or child abuse.

Eventually, he realized his dream of teaching, first with Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services, then later with Tomp-

kins-Seneca-Tioga BOCES. He furthered his education at Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, then at SUNY Oswego. He then embarked on a brief real-estate career, but decided the pressure was not for him.

Then he started focusing on himself. In 2010, he started counseling through the Veterans Administration in Ithaca. Now, he is happy to answer questions about his military experiences — including realizing he was lucky to avoid injury or death, to the point where colleagues told him one reason why he remained alive was “people used to tell me I had a guardian angel.”

Lately, he has reconnected with people he knew from the

area. He knew Carl Bush — now a peer counselor with the Southern Tier Clear Path for Veterans support organization — from teaching in Ithaca and they reconnected 18 months ago over lunch. Loparco says he recently reconnected with a Cortland man he’d known in Vietnam 40 years ago, and had hoped that the fellow veteran from Cortland would be at the lunch at Post 1645.

Alas, Loparco and his friend from 40 years ago could not make the lunch, but Loparco says he is enjoying his life, even though the symptoms of the Parkinson’s disease have lately grown stronger.

“I’m happy in life,” Loparco says. “I mean, I get to hug my grandkids. What could be better than that?”

SHOP

continued from page 1

north of Detroit. Rambo said she is “totally, completely scared of tariffs because I’m still going to need an automobile,” but it was a problem to confront later. As she does each year, she was primarily shopping for Christmas gifts through a prison ministry for children of parents who are incarcerated.

“As we’re shopping, we find things for ourselves, too,” said Rambo, 74.

At many stores, the huge crowds of Black Fridays past never returned after the coronavirus pandemic. Early Friday morning, a Walmart in Germantown, Maryland, had only half of the parking spots filled. Some shoppers were returning items or buying groceries.

Bharatharaj Moruejsan, a 35-year-old software engineer, said he typically doesn’t shop on Black Friday but decided to check out the deals at Walmart because he was jet-lagged after returning from a month-long family vacation to India. He scored an iPad for his 1-year-old daughter for \$250, 32% off its original \$370 price tag.

“That’s a good deal,” Moruejsan said.

Retailers are even more under the gun to get shoppers in to buy early and in bulk since there are five fewer days between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

There were some hit items that stirred the old Black Friday mania.

Some Target shoppers lined up as early as 11:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving evening to await the 6 a.m. opening and get their hands on an exclusive book devoted to Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour and a bonus edition of her “The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology” album. Target said the exclusives would only be available in stores on Black Friday and customers can buy them online starting today. Many locations sold out of their supply.

Shoppers at Lakeside Shopping Center in Metairie, Louisiana were able to grab a glass of champagne with a \$50 gift receipt.

“This is a nice touch. I was just talking to my best friend and rehashing over Thanksgiving so this was a nice little treat after that conversation. Everyone needs a little drink,” said Faren Kennedy, a Houston resident who was in town visiting family and wanted to stop at the mall for the nostalgia of Black Friday shopping.

Best Buy introduced an extended-release version of the doorbuster, the limited-time daily discounts that for years were the rage and sometimes sparked brawls. The nation’s largest consumer electronics chain has released doorbuster deals every Friday since Nov. 8.

After visiting stores and malls on Long Island, Marshal Cohen, chief retail adviser at market research firm Circana, said that apart from people lining up for Taylor Swift merchandise, the number of shoppers appeared typical.

“The spreading out of the holidays has created the lack of need and lack of urgency,” said Cohen, who had a 20-person team monitoring crowds nationwide. “This is going to be a long, slow tedious process” of getting shoppers to buy, he said.

Michael Brown, a partner at global strategy and management consulting firm Kearney, saw no lines at the Westfield Garden State Plaza in Paramus, New Jersey, 10 minutes before the 7 a.m. opening.

“It’s not the old Black Friday that we used to know,” he said.

Retailers that offered at least 40% off drove shoppers’ attention, according to Brown. For example, Forever 21 had 50% to 70% discounts and had lines to the stores, while H&M, which offered 30% discounts, was relatively quiet.

Mall operators said they were seeing higher customer traffic than last year.

At Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, some 13,000 people showed up the first hour of its 7 a.m. opening, roughly 1,000 more than a year ago, according to Jill Renslow, the mall’s chief business development and marketing officer.

The mall was on target to exceed the 200,000 Black Friday customer visits it received in 2023, Renslow said. Stores with deep discounts and promotions were the most packed, she said, citing Lego’s giveaway of a free retro record player with a \$250 purchase.

Stephen Lebovitz, CEO of CBL Properties, which operates 85 shopping properties, and Bill Taubman, president and chief operating officer of upscale mall landlord Taubman Realty Group, also said customer visits were up.

Early e-commerce sales figures gave retailers a reason to remain hopeful for a lucrative end to the year.

Vivek Pandya, the lead analyst at Adobe Digital Insights, said consumers spent a record \$6.1 billion online on Thanksgiving Day, up 8.8% from last year. Growth outpaced last year, driven by bigger-than-expected discounts that spurred impulse buys in electronics, apparel and other categories, Pandya said.

Across the board, Black Friday weekend discounts should peak at 30% on Cyber Monday and then retreat to around 15%, according to Adobe’s research.

Black Friday no longer is an American-only holiday event. Retailers in Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the U.K. also appealed to holiday shoppers looking to save money.

In India, about 200 Amazon warehouse workers and delivery drivers, rallied Friday in New Delhi, some wearing masks of Amazon chief Jeff Bezos, to demand better wages and working conditions. Similar protests were planned in other countries.



CHRISTMAS TREES

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Schools brace for upheaval over fear of deportations

By BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS
AP Education Writer

Last time Donald Trump was president, rumors of immigration raids terrorized the Oregon community where Gustavo Balderas was the school superintendent.

Word spread that immigration agents were going to try to enter schools. There was no truth to it, but school staff members had to find students who were avoiding school and coax them back to class.

“People just started ducking and hiding,” Balderas said.

Educators around the country are bracing for upheaval, whether or not the president-elect follows through on his pledge to deport millions of immigrants who are in the country illegally. Even if he only talks about it, children of immigrants will suffer, educators and legal observers said.

If “you constantly threaten people with the possibility of mass deportation, it really inhibits peoples’ ability to function in society and for their kids to get an education,” said Hiroshi Motomura, a professor at UCLA School of Law.

That fear already has started for many.



AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File
An American flag hangs in a classroom as students work on laptops in Newlon Elementary School, Aug. 25, 2020, in Denver.

“The kids are still coming to school, but they’re scared,” said Almudena Abeyta, superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools, a Boston suburb that’s long been a first stop for Central American immigrants coming to Massachusetts. Now Haitians are making the city home and sending their kids to school there.

“They’re asking: ‘Are we going

to be deported?’” said Abeyta.

Many parents in her district grew up in countries where the federal government ran schools and may think it’s the same here. The day after the election, Abeyta sent a letter home assuring parents their children are welcome and safe, no matter who is president.

Immigration officials have avoided arresting parents or stu-

dents at schools. Since 2011, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has operated under a policy that immigration agents should not arrest or conduct other enforcement actions near “sensitive locations,” including schools, hospitals and places of worship. Doing so might curb access to essential services, U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas wrote in a 2021 policy update.

The Heritage Foundation’s policy roadmap for Trump’s second term, Project 2025, calls for rescinding the guidance on “sensitive places.” Trump tried to distance himself from the proposals during the campaign, but he has nominated many who worked on the plan for his new administration, including Tom Homan for “border czar.”

If immigration agents were to arrest a parent dropping off children at school, it could set off mass panic, said Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles.

“If something happens at one school, it spreads like wildfire and kids stop coming to school,” she said.

Balderas, now the superinten-

dent in Beaverton, a different Portland suburb, told the school committee there this month it was time to prepare for a more determined Trump administration. In case schools are targeted, Beaverton will train staff not to allow immigration agents inside.

“All bets are off with Trump,” said Balderas, who is also president of ASSA, The School Superintendents Association. “If something happens, I feel like it will happen a lot quicker than last time.”

Many school officials are reluctant to talk about their plans or concerns, some out of fear of drawing attention to their immigrant students. One school administrator serving many children of Mexican and Central American immigrants in the Midwest said their school has invited immigration attorneys to help parents formalize any plans for their children’s care in case they are deported.

The administrator spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Speaking up on behalf of immigrant families also can put superintendents at odds with school board members.

Opinion

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Cortland Standard

Our Opinion

How to prevent crime? Understand people

Just days after Cortland Police Chief David Guerrero took the oath of office — and moved into his new office at the Cortland police station — he was dealing with Cortland’s latest crime spree: a series of snatch-and-grabs most likely perpetrated by a group of teenagers.

Hardly the stuff of gangland Chicago, “The Untouchables,” “Dragnet” or even “Brooklyn Nine-Nine.”

“For Cortland, this is a big deal,” Guerrero said.

And it illustrates both the nature, and the challenge, of Guerrero’s new job.

Guerrero, who succeeds Paul Sandy, who retired in August, started his career in 1988 as a patrol officer with the Cornell University Police Department. He joined the Cortland Police Department in 1993. He has been a uni-

form sergeant, youth division supervisor, detective lieutenant and uniform lieutenant before becoming deputy chief in March 2021.

He’s been around a while. He knows the town. He knows that crime in Cortland is pretty low, and has been dropping over the decades of his career, minus a slight bump in violent crime since 2016. Cortland is safer now than it ever was in his career.

His job is to keep it that way, and that’s not simply about catching bad guys and putting them in jail, should that be the decision of justice. It’s about preventing the crimes from happening in the first place.

We’re confident he can do it, because he’s already demonstrated a forward-looking attitude. In 2012, Guerrero, then a lieutenant, founded the department’s Crisis Intervention Team in collaboration

with local organizations. Today, 90% of the department’s officers are certified to respond to people in crisis, such as a mental health incident or substance use issue. And the training has gone beyond police; Seven Valleys Health Coalition offers the training to non-police.

The idea is that not every incident requires police to respond with an arrest, a ticket or some other corrective action. Perhaps the officer just needs to settle people down, and direct them to some other resource for help.

We’re enthusiastic about the idea and more than a little curious about why something so practical isn’t part of every police officer’s basic training. But it’s part of Cortland’s training.

Cortland has seen a spike in larcenies, mostly from 2019 to 2020, but violent crime has always been

low — so low that a modest increase in aggravated assaults over the past eight years looks like a major epidemic of violence. To keep it that way, Guerrero will need to find ways to prevent crime.

Part of that might be good relations with police, which requires transparency so people who might otherwise not trust authority or law enforcers will become more comfortable with both, and less likely to commit crime. Part of that might simply be making sure there’s a visible presence of security and quick response. Part of it, we’re positive, will be working with police in other communities to make sure the problems there don’t become problems here.

And part of it, as the spree of snatch-and-grabs illustrates, might be stopping young criminals now, while the crimes are relatively minor. That’s not to dismiss the dam-

age to the businesses or the sense of violation their owners must endure, but so far we’re talking about a few broken doors and some cash from a register. We’re not talking about armed robberies, or assaults or homicides. Stopping the suspects now and correcting them (however the justice system may do that) might prevent them from escalating, and that keeps Cortland safe tomorrow.

How will Guerrero do that? It will be interesting to see. We expect it involves training, so officers know the best ways to respond to any situation. It might well involve technology, too. But mostly, we expect it will involve insight into how people’s minds work, and how communities work. What we’ve seen of Guerrero’s career so far suggests he has that, and we hope he puts it to effective use.

Guest Column

It’s fun to look at words that seem to mean something different from what they actually mean. Because the English language is a hybrid one, etymologically there is often not much to go on to try to decipher the meaning of a word. The word logos, which means “word,” comes from the Greek, and makes up the second half of the word etymology. The prefix “ety” comes from either Latin or Greek, as in “etymon,” and “mo,” which holds up the middle of the word and aligns itself with one of the Three Stooges.

Grammatical usage is not the only thing that is often troublesome. The word “willful” or “willfully” is often interpreted as “willing” or “willingly.” It’s a funny word. Old English gives the meaning that some of us today believe it to be — “willing.” But look at the change a few centuries make. Today it is a word that means we are not willing, but are instead “perverse, headstrong, and wayward.”

There is no word unwillful, although there are 20 pages of words in every dictionary that begin with un-. But to be unwillful would mean you are in fact, willful,

which would apparently mean willing. Although it doesn’t.

Speaking of the same words that have different meanings: the prefix “in” typically means the opposite, such as the words “secure” and “insecure.” But only when you pay attention. The words “flammable and inflammable” both mean your curtains are toast if they catch fire. In fact, both words use the other word in their own definition. The interesting difference is that inflammable apparently also means “passionate or angry.” Something to do while the curtains burn.

The English language changes with usage. Oxford lets us know, yearly, the new words that are making their way into the dictionary because of usage. One of the words from several years ago may have come from a SUNY Cortland student herself, who, at graduation, was overheard,

Words
Karla Alwes



“fun, funner, funnest.” I don’t know when it came to the people who write the dictionary to decide to conjugate a word that is typically either a noun or an adjective, but there it was. Usage creates correctness. And funness.

We English speakers sometimes have problems with words from other languages that have become a part of our own. I have talked before about the French phrase “chaise longue” [long chair] becoming chaise lounge [lounge chair, but I don’t know if lounge is the room with a bar or a person who lounges. I could safely guess

by me, to say to her friend, “This is the funnest school I could’ve gone to.” I too thought the school was fun, but not necessarily the funnest. But nonetheless, the word “funnest” had found its place in the dictionary, as part of the conjugation of

from the amount of lawn furniture in the bars I frequent; infrequently]. A more interesting borrow, or steal, from the French is the word “tenet.” Like lounge for long we have turned the word tenet into the word tenant. A tenant is someone who lives in your basement; a tenet is a principle or a dogma that guides your life. The dogma learned, however, could have come from the person in the basement.

Hyperbole comes in different forms. One of the most common is the phrase “I’m starving!” [emphasis the speaker’s]. Because Americans are too often looking for ways to lose weight, I doubt that there are many who believe themselves to be starving. Maybe peckish. I discovered a hyperbolic word in the classroom years ago when a student raised his hand and asked me, “How do you spell ‘ginormous?’” I responded, “You don’t.” He changed the word to “big.” And American education was saved once again.

Karla Alwes is a Distinguished Teaching Professor of English, emeritus, at SUNY Cortland.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, Nov. 30, the 335th day of 2024. There are 31 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 30, 1999, an estimated 40,000 demonstrators clashed with police as they protested against the World Trade Organization as the WTO convened in Seattle.

Also on this date:

In 1782, the United States and Britain signed preliminary peace articles in Paris for ending the Revolutionary War; the Treaty of Paris was signed in September 1783.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Brady Bill, which required a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases and background checks of prospective buyers.

In 2004, “Jeopardy!” fans saw Ken Jennings end his 74-game winning streak as he lost to real estate agent Nancy Zerg.

In 2012, Israel approved the construction of 3,000 homes in Jewish settlements on occupied lands, drawing swift condemnation from Palestinians a day after their successful bid for recognition by the United Nations.

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 Standard

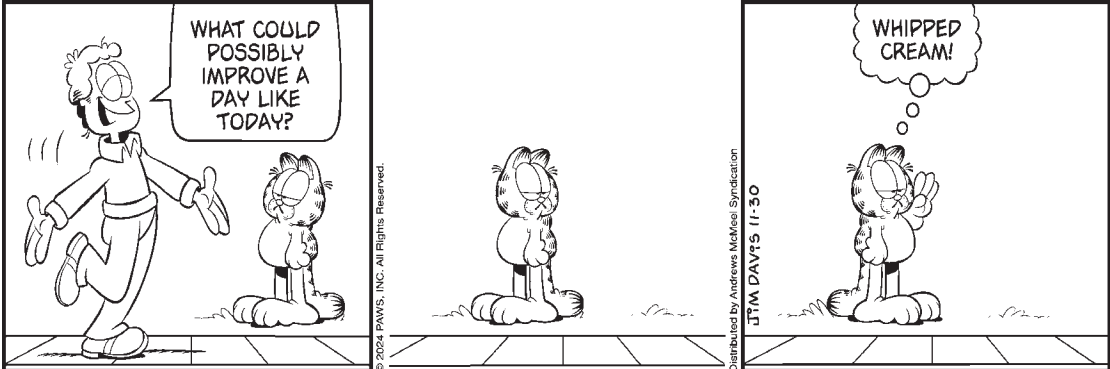
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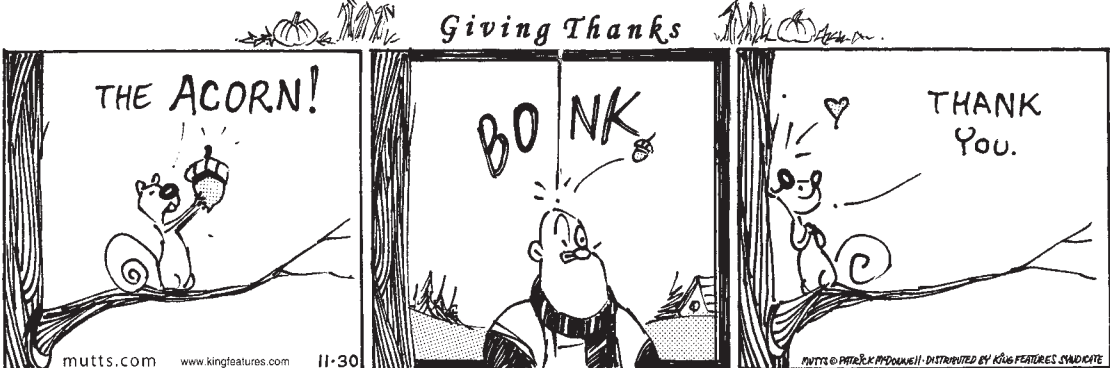
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GARFIELD



MUTTS



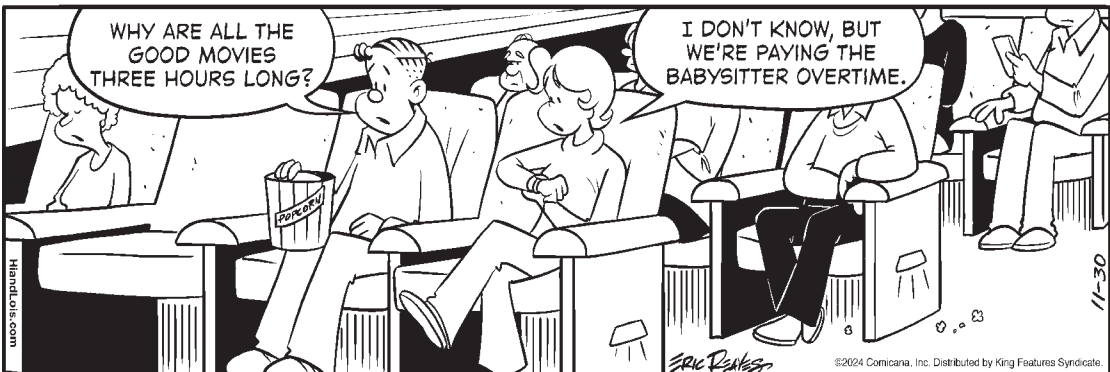
TIGER



BEETLE BAILEY



HI AND LOIS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BABY BLUES



ZITS



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Duds
 - 7 Storage spot
 - 11 Black Sea peninsula
 - 12 Chess turn
 - 13 Drake, for one
 - 14 Eye part
 - 15 Homer work
 - 16 Ice skate part
 - 17 Martial arts levels
 - 18 Wobble
 - 19 Citi Field's forerunner
 - 21 Bank acct. addition
 - 22 Lowblow
 - 25 That girl
 - 26 Singer Coolidge
 - 27 Ceased
 - 29 Dallas team, for short
 - 33 Verdi pieces
 - 34 Cockpit worker
 - 35 Long skirt
 - 36 Change genetically
- DOWN**
- 37 Yemen port
 - 38 Shrewdness
 - 39 High home
 - 40 School paper

ROBES	SABRA
INLET	OXLIP
OFAGE	PEACH
TIC	EMUCHI
ELK	PAPKID
RECALL	ICES
UNEARTH	
SORT	RESENT
ERR	SICRUE
CIA	TAURAN
RONDO	SPINE
ELTON	ERECT
TESTY	DOSES

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Bitter
 - 2 Refrain bit
 - 3 Easy basket
 - 4 Deadlock
 - 5 Marsh plant
 - 6 Lobed organ
 - 7 Beam
 - 8 Hamlet's pal
 - 9 Plain to see
 - 10 Maroon
 - 16 Monster warm
 - 20 Long-eared mammals
 - 22 Pretense
 - 23 Spirals
 - 24 Chew the scenery
 - 25 Native healer
 - 28 Sully
 - 30 Texas mission
 - 31 Poll goer
 - 32 Artery opener
 - 34 Purplish brown
 - 36 Spoil

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

11-30

Sudoku

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

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!

8	9	1	9	6	7	8	7	2
4	8	6	9	1	2	9	8	7
7	9	2	8	4	8	1	9	6
9	4	9	1	7	8	6	2	8
6	8	8	2	9	9	1	4	4
1	2	7	6	8	4	8	9	9
2	4	7	4	8	8	9	6	1
8	1	8	9	9	6	7	9	9
6	9	9	7	6	9	2	7	8

ANSWER:

Cryptoquote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

11-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

P T BAR XEL'N PKVPIE NTR

TBQER VR KXHR XL XN'E

PKEB NTR SRBSKR VR DTBBER

NB EQUUBQLZ BQUERKHRE VXNT.

— N.G. OKQLR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I COME FROM A FAMILY WHERE GRAVY IS CONSIDERED A BEVERAGE. — ERMA BOMBECK

Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena

Sunday, December 1, 2024

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may be facing what seems like an impossible situation. Careful reflection could help you discover the proper approach that allows everything else to fall into place. A sense of clarity might show you where the missing piece must go.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There can be a way over or around any barrier if you're willing to accept the help of supportive people and exercise patience and ingenuity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Staying passionate and focused could lead to success. If new risks emerge in your financial plans, consider rethinking them or coming up with a new strategy. Fresh perspectives and new information could cause you to

change your mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take another moment to consider the decisions you are facing more seriously before acting. An impulsive reaction may lead you in an unfortunate direction. Slow down, breathe, and take your time before making a commitment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Success or failure may be decided during the planning stage. Setting a clear course of action could be essential for starting a new project. The effort you put into making a good start might ensure you have plenty of time for fun later.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Logic and reasoning may prove to be your lifeline. In the coming week, you might find yourself feeling confused at times.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You might explore creative ways to stand out and climb to the top. You may achieve your

goals and make your mark by being friendly and proving you are a team player. Shine bright when participating in social gatherings and activities.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Find a peaceful and relaxing place to daydream about the way you'd like your life to be. You may need to work closely with others and face your responsibilities. Consider paying closer attention to a partner's exciting ideas and plans.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be entering a period of new beginnings and possibilities. There might be an abundance of opportunities to grow and develop this week. Consider focusing your attention on areas where you'd like to improve your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Always be kind to yourself as well as others. It could be wise to pay extra attention to important practical and financial issues.

Your sociable nature might distract you from tasks, especially with holiday events on the horizon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Balance fun and focus. You may be motivated by goals and professional pursuits, but that doesn't mean you can't play too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your plans may not go as planned. In the coming week, you might feel tempted to spend resources on exciting things or be faced with an unexpected expense. Remember, it's okay if your efforts don't work out as you may have hoped.

IF DECEMBER 1 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The next two to three weeks could be a chance to launch some of your most precious ideas, or to develop viable plans. You may have the benefit of good advice and support from others. Your judgment might feel at its best, so consider embracing attractive opportunities.



Tyger Williams/The Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS
Shelbie Turner, left, and Kara McElvaine got married last weekend, exchanging vows as they ran the Philadelphia Half Marathon.

This couple got married, right after running a half marathon

By KRISTEN A. GRAHAM
The Philadelphia Inquirer
(TNS)

PHILADELPHIA — The brides wore running gear — sneakers, comfy shirts, and, for one of them, a black ball cap that said “I Do.”

Kara McElvaine and Shelby Turner got married last weekend while running the Philadelphia Half Marathon, exchanging vows every mile, smiling through the finish line.

“We decided to celebrate being each other’s other half by running a half-marathon,” Turner said.

It was an unconventional wedding, but an over-the-top joyous one, their family waving signs that said “Here Come The Brides” and “Love Wins” and 15,000 people running 13.1 miles alongside them in the November chill.

“This,” Ranae McElvaine, Kara’s mom, said, “is so them.”

A MEET-AWKWARD

McElvaine and Turner had more of a meet-awkward than a meet-cute.

They were both visiting Oregon State University, where they were on recruiting visits for a graduate program in human development and family sciences, in 2017. They were assigned to be roommates.

“I entered the hotel room in the middle of the night to this stranger who was asleep, and she popped up and immediately she said, ‘Is it Kare-a or Kar-a?’,” McElvaine said. (It’s Kare-a.)

“It was a super awkward meeting,” said Turner, 31. But the two smoothed it over, both choosing to pursue Ph.D.s at Oregon State, becoming colleagues and classmates, friends and,

eventually, more.

During the pandemic, McElvaine, who’s 32 and originally from South Jersey, and Turner, who hails from Virginia, became a couple. They merged their lives and continued along their Ph.D. paths — Turner studies gerontology and McElvaine the experience of children and teens in the education sector.

After Turner earned her Ph.D. and got a postdoctoral fellowship at Cornell University’s Medical College, they relocated to the East Coast, moving to Pitman, near McElvaine’s family. (McElvaine anticipates completing her doctorate next year, and works as a project manager for Facing History and Ourselves, an education nonprofit.)

Choosing to make their relationship permanent was an easy decision. But they were stumped on the how.

“We ran the full gamut from ‘We should just elope’ to ‘If we’re going to have a wedding, we should have a giant party,’” said McElvaine.

“Nothing quite fit,” said Turner. Eventually, Turner had an idea. They were training for the Philadelphia Half Marathon together.

“I said, ‘What if we just treat the half as our wedding?’” Kara twisted her head and said, “That could work. This probably would be exactly what would work for us.”

That is: the couple are “annoyingly goal-oriented,” Turner said. Traditional weddings felt materialistic in a way they were not particularly into. They liked the idea of doing something good for their health, and training runs felt like premarital counseling, they said.

“I quickly realized that training

for a half-marathon would be less painful for me than preparing for a big wedding,” Turner said.

And, McElvaine said, as members of the LGBTQ community, they felt there were fewer expectations around their ceremony. They were a little freer to “blow it all out of the water” and do what felt right to them, even if meant no fancy clothes, repeatedly telling people that, yes, they were going straight to sign their marriage license and celebrate, sweaty and tired, right after crossing the finish line.

‘PACE YOURSELF’

McElvaine and Turner’s wedding day dawned cold but clear, a relief after Friday’s rain. Turner had run half-marathons before, but last weekend’s was McElvaine’s first.

The two were glad that Friday’s rain had ended, but the wind was biting in stretches, and they both felt it.

Their vows — written on paper, stuffed in the pockets of Turner’s shorts and McElvaine’s leggings — acknowledged the similarities between marriage and a half-marathon.

“I promised that I would always help her over the finish line,” Turner said, laughing. “I promised that I wouldn’t make her do this again.”

At a stop for photos and to hug their family at Rittenhouse Square, the couple’s niece showered them with birdseed.

And three hours, six minutes after they began the half-marathon, Turner and McElvaine finished it. They kissed; they got finisher medals draped around their necks, matching wedding jewelry.

What’s normal?

It’s not what you think

“The Myth of Normal”
By Gabor Maté
Penguin Random House 2022

By DOUG BENTLEY
Contributing Writer

There are troubling trends afoot in the world around us. People have lost trust in each other and in the institutions that were once above suspicion. We have adopted a perverse belief that if we are not successful in today’s economy we are not good enough or we are not working hard enough. Wouldn’t it be nice if we could uncover a unifying explanation for what has become of us?

Gabor Maté in his book “The Myth of Normal” helps us understand that the assumptions we make about the way the world works do not align well with the true nature of humanity.

This is a difficult book to read. We all tend to look for simple explanations. It is easier to latch onto obvious, shallow reasons to explain people’s behavior. We need to go a bit deeper to get to the truth. It is hard to admit that we are wrong, especially when our entire culture adopts a wrongheaded attitude.

Maté covers a wide swath of subjects. He encourages us to rethink what we have come to accept as normal. Much advice is shared with us in this book as Maté helps us understand the human brain and how it develops. This is the ultimate message of the book.

The natural world is a template for connectedness and co-operation, he writes. We are all in this together.

Capitalism and the free market as a basis for living is an aberration. The rich get rich-

er at the expense of the poor. ‘What’s in it for me?’ is an unhelpful way to think. Better to adopt the Ubuntu creed — I am because we are.

It is exciting to discover that our tiny little brains begin getting organized long before we are born. Good suggestions are made about the importance of having expectant parents avoid stress and anxiety during the gestation period.

We learn about the importance of play for good brain development. Healthy minds need to spend time outdoors in the natural world in order to get that gray matter growing.

In a world full of planned activities for our children, we can lose sight of the fact that unstructured free play time is critical to healthy brain development.

The book consists of 33 chapters. Unlike a novel or a mystery or a biography, you need not read these chapters in sequence. Each chapter has an enlightening stand-alone message.

In Chapter 15 Maté goes after the cultural myths about addiction. This is a tough subject, for there is a lot of stigma heaped upon those who are suffering. We need to learn about what the lure is. What is it that tugs at people?

Drug use causes changes in the brain that inhibit the ability to regulate behavior. Nancy Reagan famously suggested children, “Just say no!” It is not that simple. Maté tells us that drug addiction is neither a behavior problem nor is it a disease. For many it is a refuge from unbearable pain. Who can say no to pain relief?

Thanks to the efforts of SUNY Cortland economics Professor Ben Wilson, Maté will speak in April at SUNY Cortland. That gives you ample time to read the book.



Doug Bentley

Latest read

Notebook

Retired nurses meet Tuesday

The Cortland retired nurses will meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Homer Senior Center for its holiday gathering.

Bring a dish to pass and a \$10 gift to exchange. All retired healthcare providers are invited.

Catholic Daughters meet Wednesday

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Cortland Court 919 will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Community Restaurant on

Main Street in Cortland for its Christmas dinner.

Santa will be there, and monetary donations are appreciated for the group’s “special family.”

Women of Faith meet Dec. 13

Women of Faith will meet at 10 a.m. Dec. 13 at Christ Community Church, 292 Tompkins St., Cortland.

The group’s focus will be “A Good 2025” and its project will be buying and wrapping gifts for families through Helping Hands and Caring Hearts.

For details, call 607-753-9917 or 607-753-7148.

Santa, gingerbread, music and books at the library

By MARTSJE VANDERSCHAAF-RIEHLMAN
Contributing Writer

DECEMBER BOOK RELEASES

A selection of some of the most-anticipated releases.

“Alice In a Winter Wonderland,” by Jan Brett

“The Cake Bible: 35th Anniversary Edition,” by Rose Levy Beranbaum

“Christmas In Bethel,” by Richard Paul Evans

“Citizen: My Life After the White House,” by Bill Clinton

“The House of Cross,” by James Patterson

“How to Get a Life in Ten Dates,” by Jenny L. Howe

“How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music,” edited by Alison Fensterstock

“Is She Really Going Out With Him?” by Sophie Cousens

“The Last Hour Between Worlds,” by Melissa Caruso

“The Lotus Empire,” by Tasha Suri

“Master of Me: A Memoir,” by Keke Palmer

“The Mirror,” by Nora Roberts

“Mr. Lemoncello’s Fantabu-

lous Finale,” by Chris Grabenstein
“No Ordinary Duchess,” by Elizabeth Hoyt

“Now Or Never,” by Janet Evanovich

“Resist: How a Century of Young Black Activists Shaped America,” by Rita Omokha
“Robert B. Parker’s Hot Property,” by Mike Lupica

“Taylor Swift: Wildest Dreams: a Biography,” by Erica Wainer

“Trial by Fire,” by Danielle Steel

“We Three Queens,” by Rhys Bowen

DECEMBER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS For Adults

Guitar! Guitar! Guitar! 6:30 p.m. Dec. 13 at Southworth Library. Concert with Matt Ocone, Isaac Sharp and Caitlin Mathes. Classical and original works.

Lunch and Learn at noon Dec. 11 at Southworth Library. Begged, Borrowed and Stolen: True Tales of Thievery from America’s Past with Jan Bridgeford-Smith. Tales from her collection of true stories detailing the icons, historical documents, art, patents, ideas

and more that have been stolen throughout U.S. history. Registration is required.

For Children

Lego Night for third- to fifth-graders, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 27 at Phillips Free Library. Find out the building challenge when you arrive.

For Kids and Families, Story Hours

10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Cortland Free Library: Baby/toddler time. Rhymes, stories and songs designed for children from birth to age 2 and their caregivers. Registration recommended.

9 a.m. Wednesdays at Phillips Free Library: Kneehigh Storytime. Stories, songs, crafts and more for toddlers and preschool children with their families.

10:30 a.m. Thursdays at Cortland Free Library: Preschool Story Time. Stories, songs and activities designed for kids 3 to 5. Registration recommended.

10 a.m. Fridays at Kellogg Free Library: Stories, songs and a snack for kids 5 and under.

10 a.m. Fridays at Southworth Library: Storytime with

stories, crafts, snacks and more for preschoolers and their families. Homeschooled families are also welcome.

For All Ages

Dryden Holiday Celebration, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 7 at Southworth Library, Dryden. It features a snowman scavenger hunt around the village and a special appearance of Santa and Bluey at 2:30 p.m. at the library. Stories with a free copy of “Snowmen’s Twelve Days of Christmas” by Caralyn Buehner while supplies last.

Tree Lighting and a visit from Santa, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Dec. 14 at Lamont Memorial Library, McGraw. Holiday crafts, games, cookies and music.

Gingerbread Wonderland, 5:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Phillips Free Library. An evening of making gingerbread houses (the houses are made with hot glue and are not edible). All supplies are provided. Reserve your spot by emailing office@phillipsfreelibrary.org.

TO REGISTER

Registration is required for many library programs:

Cortland Free Library: 32 Church St. 607-753-1042, cortlandfreelibrary.org.



BOOK IT to your local LIBRARY

Martsje Vanderschaaf-Riehlman is the director of Phillips Free Library.

Man who bought banana art for \$6.2M eats the fruit



AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez, File
Artist Maurizio Cattelan's piece of art "Comedian" hangs on display during an auction preview in New York, Nov. 11.

By KANIS LEUNG
Associated Press
HONG KONG — A cryptocurrency entrepreneur who bought a piece of conceptual art consisting of a simple banana, duct-taped to a wall, for \$6.2 million last week ate the fruit in Hong Kong on Friday.
Chinese-born Justin Sun peeled off the duct tape and enjoyed the banana in a press conference held in The Peninsula Hong Kong, one of the city's priciest hotels, in the popular shopping district of

Tsim Sha Tsui.
"It tastes much better than other bananas. Indeed, quite good," he said.
"Comedian," by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, was a phenomenon when it debuted in 2019 at Art Basel Miami Beach, as festivalgoers tried to make out whether the single yellow piece of fruit affixed to a white wall with silver duct tape was a joke or a cheeky commentary on questionable standards among art collectors. At one point, another artist took the banana off

the wall and ate it.
The piece attracted so much attention that it had to be withdrawn from view. But three editions sold for between \$120,000 and \$150,000, according to the gallery handling sales at the time.
Last week, Sun, founder of cryptocurrency platform TRON, made the winning bid at the Sotheby's auction in New York. Or, more accurately, Sun purchased a certificate of authenticity that gives him the authority to duct-tape a banana to a wall and call it "Comedian."

Contract Bridge

A grand slam

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 4
♥ K J 5
♦ A 10 8 5 3
♣ Q 6 2

WEST
♠ J 8 5
♥ 7 4 2
♦ —
♣ A K J 9 8 4 3

EAST
♠ 10 9 6 3 2
♥ 6
♦ J 9 6 4
♣ 10 7 5

SOUTH
♠ A K 7
♥ A Q 10 9 8 3
♦ K Q 7 2
♣ —

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♥ 4 ♣ 4 ♥ Pass
5 ♠ Pass 5 ♦ Pass
7 ♥

sequently pick up the suit without loss regardless of how East defends.
Your only problem, therefore, is to try to discover which defender, if either, might have all four missing diamonds. This is not a difficult task if you go about it the right way.
You draw three rounds of trump, noting that West started with three of them. You next play the ace of spades, to which both opponents follow suit, and at this point the remainder of the play becomes crystal clear.
West surely must have had at least six clubs for his four-club bid, and since he's already shown up with three hearts and a spade, he cannot possibly hold four diamonds. So, if either opponent has four diamonds, it must be East.
Accordingly, you lead a low diamond to dummy's ace at trick six. After West shows out, you continue with the ten. When East covers with the jack, you win with the king, cross to dummy's carefully preserved queen of spades and then lead another diamond, this time finessing against East's nine, to bring home the grand slam.
Note that if you had started the diamond suit by first playing the king from your hand, the grand slam would have gone down the drain.

'The Agency' is spy vs. spy with Fassbender at center

TV review

By NINA METZ
Chicago Tribune (TNS)
In the espionage thriller "The Agency," Michael Fassbender plays a CIA case officer working deep undercover when he's abruptly exfiltrated and called back to London Station. No one is telling him why. And his re-acclimation process has its own complications. A gorgeously shot meditation on the psychological toll of obscuring one's identity, the series also stars Richard Gere and Jeffrey Wright as men higher up in the chain of command, and Jodie Turner-Smith as the lover he left behind who mysteriously — coincidentally? — shows up in London not long after his return.
Created by brothers Jez Butterworth and John-Henry Butterworth, the show (streaming on Paramount+) is based on the French series "The Bureau." Only four of the season's 10 episodes



Michael Fassbender stars as a CIA operative under pressure in "The Agency."
were made available to critics, so this comes with a heavy caveat — a story can start out well enough and then struggle to live up to its ambitions — but I like what I've seen so far, with its world of operatives and handlers, of covert glances and back-channel subterfuge, laid out with a seductive urgency that gives a deceptively graceful quality to all this unseemly work. Can the show maintain this quietly tasteful propulsion over 10 episodes?

3 stars out of 4
Rating: TV-MA
How to watch: Paramount+

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NYSPHSAA Coaching Certification (Preferred)
Interested Candidates Submit cover letter, resume and certification to James McKenna Director of Student Services and Athletics jmckenna@lafayetteschools.org 315-677-5506
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2024-2025
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High School Girls Soccer

Cincy girls end careers having left a legacy

‘Cincy is soccer’

By PAUL CIFONELLI
Sports Editor

pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com
The quintet of Cincinnatus girls soccer seniors — Cassia Schuyler, Ava Larrabee, Mandi Waltz, Sidney Glover and Kaedance Latta — went out on a 2-1 loss to Stillwater in the Class C state semifinals. That was just the fourth loss in their standout careers that lasted four years.

Cincinnatus went 79-4-1 over their careers and included four trips to a Section III title game, three consecutive Section III championships, a loss in the state semifinals, a loss in the state finals and a 2023 Class D state championship.

It’s been a few weeks since the loss to Stillwater and the girls have finally gotten the chance to recognize how successful they’ve been.

“Ending on a loss is definitely hard in the moment, but when you put into perspective everything that we’ve done over the last four years, it’s pretty incredible,” Larrabee said. “It’s something to be proud of.”

“Each of the last three years, we’ve made history,” Schuyler added. “Like Ava said, ending on a loss makes it harder to be grateful for those things because our senior group really wanted it. Not many other people got the opportunities that we got and it’s really cool we got them multiple times, not just once.”

The girls have enjoyed playing together for years, with Schuyler, Larrabee and Waltz being on the same teams for 12 years — since they were four and five years old. They always believed they were capable of reaching the heights they have because of the support their families gave them from a young age.

“It was engraved into our minds that we could because Cincy is



The Cincinnatus girls soccer team poses with the Section III championship banner after winning their third sectional crown in a row this year. The five seniors — Cassia Schuyler, Ava Larrabee, Mandi Waltz, Sidney Glover and Kaedance Latta — were involved in all three titles.

soccer,” Waltz said. “Because all of our family and all of our friends told us we could do this, we knew we could.”

Schuyler, Waltz, Larrabee and the rest of the Lions took that support and used it as motivation. From those first few years playing the game to their senior year in high school, the senior class continued to improve and reach taller heights thanks to the people around them.

“We never got worse, we just kept advancing,” Schuyler said. “We can thank our community, our coaches, the girls for that.”

“Nobody in our town told us we couldn’t do it,” Waltz added. “There’s so many people who were supporting us and having our backs that made us continue.”

“We’ve had endless support since Day 1,” Larrabee added. “Our community is proud of us

no matter what.”

Head coach Lisa Sustad knew Schuyler, Larrabee, Waltz, Glover and Latta were going to lead a top-flight team from the moment they joined the team as freshmen. She saw they had the drive to be the leaders of state championship-caliber teams because of how they respected the game and their leaders.

“I just remember when they were freshmen and sophomores, the enthusiasm and want to win, they would say things like, ‘It’s for the older girls,’” Sustad said. “I knew their ambition and drive would contribute when they were older and it would help them become better players.”

The girls always took the opportunity to shout out the Cincinnatus community for being there for them and it was always appreciated. Larrabee fondly looks

back on all the escorts to and from big games, whether they won or lost.

“The fire trucks leading us out and carrying us all the way to where we were playing was just so insane,” Larrabee said. “You can see the line of cars. There’s 20 to 30 cars behind the fire trucks and the buses that just show how much love and support our community brings to the games.”

“And they’re there win or lose,” Waltz added. “They even brought us back after we lost. I think that says more than just bringing us back after we win.”

Schuyler has played with plenty of high-level players from big schools and recognizes she’s been in a unique spot to have so much success in a small, close-knit community.

“I play on an academy team and none of those girls have expe-

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL

Moravia vs. Trumansburg, 9 a.m. today at Vestal High School

BOYS BASKETBALL

Skaneateles at Homer, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday
LaFayette at Cincinnatus, 7 p.m. Tuesday
DeRuyter at Port Byron, 7 p.m. Tuesday

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Cincinnatus at Madison, 7:15 p.m. Monday
Central Square at Cortland, 6:45 p.m. Tuesday
Homer at Skaneateles, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday
McGraw at Morrisville-Eaton, 7 p.m. Tuesday

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Stockbridge Valley at DeRuyter, 7 p.m. Monday
Tully at Fabius-Pompey, 7 p.m. Tuesday
DeRuyter at Owen D. Young/Richfield Springs, 7 p.m. Tuesday

BOWLING

Homer at Cortland, 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Cort-Lanes

rienced anything I have,” Schuyler said. “At AAA, AA, they have never experienced a sectional title or it’s very rare. For us to be there three years in a row is very impressive and we cherish those moments.”

Sustad is proud of this group of seniors for giving back to their community by being strong representatives for Cincinnatus. She feels they’ve laid the groundwork for future teams by the way they played, practiced and handled themselves in big moments.

“I believe they’re doing the same thing with the younger kids, even down to the 5-year-olds watching them,” Sustad said. “I

See CINCY, page 10

National Football League

The Bears’ Eberflus has run out of time after botched timeout

By ROB MAADDI
AP Sports Writer

Matt Eberflus ran out of time in Chicago after botching a timeout while a national audience watched on Thanksgiving.

The clock is ticking on Brian Daboll in New York.

Mike McDaniel isn’t on the hot seat but Miami won’t go anywhere if the Dolphins can’t win in the cold.

Eberflus’ mistake was so egregious Thursday it wasn’t a surprise the Bears made a coaching change on Friday. Offensive coordinator Thomas Brown was promoted to interim coach after Eberflus was fired.

The third-year coach’s massive blunder overshadowed an impressive second-half performance by Caleb Williams after the rookie No. 1 pick rallied the Bears into position to potentially upset Detroit.

Eberflus then doubled down on the decision to allow precious seconds to tick off the clock.

Trailing the Lions 23-20, the Bears faced a second-and-20 at the Detroit 35 with 36 seconds remaining in the game. Williams was sacked by Za’Darius Smith for a 6-yard loss on a play he said was supposed to be a quarterback draw.

Eberflus should’ve used Chicago’s final timeout with 32 seconds left to give Williams and the offense an opportunity to reset after the sack. The priority on third-and-26 from the 41 should’ve been to call a short sideline pass to shorten the attempt for a tying field goal. Even a play in the middle of the field would’ve given the special-teams unit ample time to line up for a kick.

Instead, the clock kept ticking.



Bears quarterback Caleb Williams, left, talks with head coach Matt Eberflus during the second half of a game in Detroit, Thursday.

Williams was helped up by two offensive linemen and his teammates lacked urgency lining up for the next play, perhaps thinking a timeout was going to be called.

The Bears wasted 26 seconds before the ball was finally snapped to Williams with just 6 seconds to go. His deep pass to Rome Odunze fell incomplete as time expired before Cairo Santos could try a 59-yarder.

The decision not to stop the clock after the sack was inexplicable. Yet, Eberflus defended it.

“Our hope was, because it was third (down) going into fourth, that we would re-rack that play at 18 seconds, throw it inbounds, get it in field-goal range and then call a timeout,” Eberflus said. “And that’s where it was and that was our decision-making process on that.”

Williams also deserves blame for taking too much time to sur-

vey the field at the line of scrimmage before calling for the snap.

“I like what we did there,” Eberflus insisted. “I think we handled it the right way. I believe we could re-rack the play and get it done. It just didn’t work out.”

Eberflus should’ve had two timeouts entering that sequence but he had to waste one after Williams threw an incomplete pass on first down that stopped the clock with 43 seconds left.

He called that timeout to prevent a delay-of-game penalty because Brown took too long to call a play.

The Bears are 4-8 following their sixth straight loss. A season that began with high expectations has deteriorated and Chicago is destined to miss the playoffs for the fifth straight year. Eberflus was 14-32 and didn’t

See BEARS, page 10

Dolphins’ struggles in the cold continue

By STEVE MEGARGEE
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Tua Tagovailoa had spoken about how the Miami Dolphins had an opportunity this week to change the narrative suggesting they couldn’t play well in freezing temperatures.

But the Dolphins ultimately came up short in the cold once again, as their three-game winning streak ended with a 30-17 loss to the Green Bay Packers on Thursday night amid light flurries. The Dolphins (5-7) have lost their last 12 regular-season or postseason games in which the temperature at kickoff was 40 degrees or lower. The reading at Lambeau Field on Thanksgiving was 27 degrees, with 10 mph winds and a wind chill of 18.

“We’re definitely not going to use that as an excuse,” defensive lineman Calais Campbell said. “I know obviously, with the narratives from years past or whatever, I get it. But today wasn’t that bad.”

Packers safety Xavier McKinney said he believed the weather made a difference.

“Obviously, they’re coming from Miami, it’s hot there, and then when you come here and play in that cold weather, you get affected by it,” McKinney said. “So I think it affected everybody on that team.”

Miami’s most recent victory in a game that began with a temperature of 40 degrees or below was a 34-31 overtime triumph at Buffalo on Dec. 24, 2016.

The temperature Thursday was a far cry from what the Dolphins encountered in the wild-card round of the playoffs last year. Miami’s 2023 season ended with a 26-7 loss at Kansas City, where

it was minus-4 degrees at kickoff with a wind chill of minus-27.

While the weather didn’t seem to have a direct impact on the Dolphins’ play this time, they weren’t nearly as sharp as they’d been throughout a winning streak that had rejuvenated their playoff hopes.

Tagovailoa was 37-of-46 passing for 365 yards and two touchdowns, but he was sacked five times and didn’t get much help. Miami had to play catch-up after the Packers took a 27-3 lead in the third quarter.

“I would say, from my standpoint and our team’s standpoint, we’re not going to use any of that as an excuse for why we didn’t get the start that we wanted,” Tagovailoa said.

A muffed punt by Malik Washington gave the Packers first-and-goal to set up Green Bay’s first touchdown. The Dolphins committed 10 penalties, including six in the first half.

“We weren’t failing to snap the ball before a delay of game or false-starting because of the cold,” coach Mike McDaniel said. “I think the tape will show that, when we watch the tape. But like anything else, eventually you have to overcome it if you’re trying to do anything in this league.”

The Dolphins settled for a field goal on a goal-to-go situation in the first half and failed to score at all after having second-and-goal at the 1 in the fourth quarter.

A defense that already was playing without linebacker Anthony Walker and cornerback Kendall Fuller lost nickel Kader Kohou and cornerback Cam Smith to injuries. Perhaps it was fitting that in the cold weather, the Dolphins apparently took 2 1/2 quarters to get warmed up.

Major League Baseball

Gold Glove shortstop Crawford set to retire after 14 MLB seasons

By JANIE McCAULEY
AP Baseball Writer
SAN FRANCISCO — Brandon Crawford is retiring after 14 major league seasons, all but one of those played with his hometown San Francisco Giants as a slick-fielding shortstop and fan favorite.

A four-time Gold Glove winner and three-time All-Star, the veteran infielder announced his decision in an Instagram post Wednesday.

“During this time of the year, I am constantly being reminded of the things in my life that I am most thankful for. Baseball is one of them,” Crawford wrote. “Baseball has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, and for the rest of my life I will be thankful for the opportunities and experiences it has given me. Time is precious. I’m incredibly grateful for all the years I spent playing the game I love, but now it is time for me to spend it with the people who I’m most thankful for. Thank you to all of you who have been there for me throughout the years. It’s been an unbelievable ride.”

A fourth-round draft pick in 2008 out of UCLA, Crawford made his debut on May 27, 2011, and won World Series championships with the Giants in 2012 and ‘14 — the final two titles in their every-other-year run from 2010-14.

“Congrats to Crawl on his out-



Giants’ Brandon Crawford tips his cap to the fans after being relieved in the ninth inning against the Dodgers in San Francisco, Oct. 1, 2023.

standing career,” former Giants manager Bruce Bochy, now with Texas, said via text message. “Just a wonderful story of a kid becoming one of the best shortstops in the history of the San Francisco Giants, the team he grew up with and loved.”

The Giants said they will honor Crawford’s career April 26 at Oracle Park.

He was a career .249 hitter with 147 home runs and 748 RBIs, but his knack for making the key defensive play is what he will long be remembered for

by many.

“It was an honor to get to know Brandon as a friend and as a teammate,” new Giants President of Baseball Operations Buster Posey said in a statement. “From the first day we were both drafted in 2008 to our final year playing together in 2021, it was an honor to play alongside him for 14 years. Whether it was the clutch moments like the grand slam he hit in the 2014 wild-card game in Pittsburgh, the franchise-record, seven-hit game he recorded in Miami, or

the dazzling defensive plays and acrobatic throws he made over and over again, Brandon made his mark in a way few athletes ever do.”

There was some thought Crawford might retire after the 2023 season when his contract expired in San Francisco, but he decided to give it one more year and joined the St. Louis Cardinals on a \$2 million, one-year deal. He was released in August after hitting .169 with a homer and four RBIs over 80 plate appearances.

Jose Carlos Fajardo/Bay Area News Group via AP, File

Shohei Ohtani seeks \$325,000 worth of baseball cards from ex-interpreter

By HALLIE GOLDEN
Associated Press

Baseball star Shohei Ohtani wants his former interpreter to hand over hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of baseball cards he says were fraudulently bought using his money.

The Los Angeles Dodgers star is also requesting Ippei Mizuhara, who previously pleaded guilty to bank and tax fraud for stealing nearly \$17 million from the unsuspecting athlete, return signed collectible baseball cards depicting Ohtani that were in Mizuhara’s “unauthorized and wrongful possession,” according to court documents filed Tuesday.

The legal filing alleges Mizuhara accessed Ohtani’s bank account beginning around November 2021, changing his security protocols so that he could impersonate him to authorize wire transfers. By 2024, Mizuhara had used that money to buy about \$325,000 worth of baseball cards at online resellers eBay and Whatnot, according to the court documents.

Mizuhara’s attorney, Michael G. Freedman, declined to com-



Ippei Mizuhara, left, stands next to Dodgers designated hitter Shohei Ohtani, right, during an interview at Dodger Stadium, Feb. 3.

ment on the filing.

Mizuhara pleaded guilty in June to spending millions from Ohtani’s Arizona bank account to cover his growing gambling bets and debts with an illegal bookmaker, as well as his own medical bills and the \$325,000 worth of baseball cards.

Mizuhara is due to be sentenced in January after pleading

guilty to one count of bank fraud and one count of subscribing to a false tax return, crimes that carry a potential sentence of more than 30 years in federal prison. He also could be on the hook for restitution to Ohtani that could total nearly \$17 million, as well as more than \$1 million to the IRS. And as a legal permanent resident who has a green card, he

might be deported to Japan.

Mizuhara stood by Ohtani’s side for many of the Japanese sensation’s career highlights, from serving as his catcher during the Home Run Derby at the 2021 All-Star Game, to being there for his two American League MVP wins and his record-shattering \$700 million, 10-year deal with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Off the field, Mizuhara became Ohtani’s friend and confidant. He famously resigned from the Los Angeles Angels during the 2021 MLB lockout so he could keep speaking to Ohtani — he was rehired after a deal was struck — and their wives reportedly socialized.

But Mizuhara gambled it all away, betting tens of millions of dollars that weren’t his to wager on international soccer, the NBA, the NFL and college football — though prosecutors said he never bet on baseball.

Earlier this year, Ohtani and the Dodgers won the World Series, and the baseball star won his third Most Valuable Player award.

NCAA

College sports reform bill could advance in Congress with Sen. Cruz as NCAA ally

By BEN NUCKOLS
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — The NCAA’s yearslong efforts to get lawmakers to address myriad problems in college sports could finally pay off in the new, Republican-controlled Congress.

Sen. Ted Cruz, a Texas Republican who is set to take over as chair of the powerful Commerce Committee, said recently that a college sports bill will be a top priority, accusing Democrats of

dragging their feet on needed reforms. He still needs Democratic support for any bill to pass the necessary 60-vote threshold in the Senate, and that means some compromise with lawmakers who are more concerned about athlete welfare than giving the NCAA more authority.

“Clearly the situation is much more doable with Republicans in control,” said Tom McMillen, a former Democratic congressman who played college basketball

and for several years led an association of Division I athletic directors. “From the standpoint of the NCAA’s perspective, this is sort of an ideal scenario for them.”

WHAT’S AT STAKE

Cruz and others want to preserve at least parts of an amateur athlete model at the heart of college sports that has provided billions of dollars in scholarships and fueled decades of success by

the United States at the Olympics.

The broad outlines of a bill have been debated for years, with those conversations influenced by millions of dollars in lobbying by the NCAA and the wealthiest athletic conferences. The NCAA has found a more receptive audience on Capitol Hill since Charlie Baker, a former Republican Massachusetts governor, took over as its president in March 2023.

according to Sportradar.

McDaniel led the Dolphins to the playoffs in each of his first two seasons, both ending with wild-card losses on the road in Buffalo two years ago and Kansas City last season.

With road games at Cleveland and the New York Jets to finish the season, Miami should have two more chances to break that cold-weather losing streak.

CINCY—

continued from page 9

tell them all the time, ‘You’re representing yourself, you’re representing your community and school, you need to check yourself in public and not be too crazy.’ I think they’ve been good role models. When we do pep rallies and run through the hallway, the little kids’ faces light up and they slap our hands. It’s things like that that they really do look up to them.”

The girls know they’ve left a legacy at the school that goes well beyond the wins. They’ve brought Cincinnati together and have put the program on the map, hopefully for years to come.

“I think we definitely have,” Schuyler said. “All three of us have been here since our freshman year and we all left a good mark and were huge contributors. They’re still going to be a great team without us. I think we impacted them in the way we could and we were big parts for getting to states, but they’ll still be good next year.”

“Our team isn’t just made up of the seniors, there’s so many underclassmen who have more talent than I can even imagine having,” Waltz added.

“We want to see them do big things,” Larrabee added. “We’re proud of them even if we’re not in it anymore.”

Bowling

TOTAL AUTO CARE LEAGUE			
High Scratch Games		High Scratch Series	
Kenny Counts (279)		Kenny Counts (710)	
Brenton Haggood (247)		Don VanSlyke (678)	
Don VanSlyke (238)		JD Byrnes (604)	
Brian Phillips (236)		Brian Phillips (589)	
JD Byrnes (225)		Brian Pepper (579)	
Standings			
L. Searles Plumbing 205		H-Lanes 158	
Genny Made Me Do It 201.5		Lack of Friction 146.5	
Total Auto Care 169		Bob & His Angels 63.5	
Kash & Sons Masonry 162.5			

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE													
East					South								
Buffalo	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Miami	9	2	0	.818	320	214	7	5	0	.583	285	268	
N.Y. Jets	5	7	0	.417	232	266	3	8	0	.273	204	242	
New England	3	8	0	.273	204	242	3	9	0	.250	197	282	
North					West								
Houston	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Indianapolis	7	5	0	.583	285	268	8	3	0	.727	252	186	
Tennessee	5	7	0	.417	242	274	8	4	0	.667	364	294	
Jacksonville	3	8	0	.273	202	290	4	7	0	.364	297	296	
	2	9	0	.182	208	316	3	8	0	.273	186	267	
North					West								
Pittsburgh	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	252	186	10	1	0	.909	270	218	
Cincinnati	8	4	0	.667	364	294	A. Chargers	7	4	0	.636	243	175
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	297	296	Denver	7	5	0	.583	264	202
	3	8	0	.273	186	267	Las Vegas	2	9	0	.182	206	314
NATIONAL CONFERENCE													
East						South							
Philadelphia	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Washington	9	2	0	.818	296	199	6	5	0	.545	244	274	
Dallas	7	5	0	.583	334	277	5	6	0	.455	309	273	
N.Y. Giants	5	7	0	.417	248	339	4	7	0	.364	262	260	
	2	10	0	.167	183	279	3	8	0	.273	194	340	
North						West							
Atlanta	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	244	274	Arizona	5	6	0	.455	309	273
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	309	273	Carolina	4	7	0	.364	262	260
San Francisco	4	7	0	.364	262	260	3	8	0	.273	194	340	
	3	8	0	.273	194	340							
North						West							
Detroit	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	
Minnesota	11	1	0	.917	383	203	Arizona	6	5	0	.545	244	236
Green Bay	9	2	0	.818	274	197	Seattle	6	5	0	.545	246	244
Chicago	9	3	0	.750	318	240	L.A. Rams	5	6	0	.455	233	276
	4	8	0	.333	241	240	San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	260	260
e-Eliminated from playoffs													

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
GP					W				
Carolina	22	16	5	1	33	88	58		
New Jersey	25	15	8	2	32	84	65		
Washington	22	15	6	1	31	90	60		
Toronto	22	13	7	2	28	65	57		
Florida	23	13	9	1	27	80	77		
N.Y. Rangers	21	12	8	1	25	70	59		
Boston	24	11	10	3	25	57	75		
Tampa Bay	21	11	8	2	24	80	66		
Buffalo	22	11	10	1	23	69	66		
Philadelphia	22	10	10	3	23	67	80		
Detroit	22	10	10	2	22	55	66		
Columbus	21	9	9	3	21	73	76		
Ottawa	22	10	11	1	21	70	71		
N.Y. Islanders	23	8	10	5	21	59	70		
Pittsburgh	24	8	12	4	20	64	97		
Montreal	22	8	11	3	19	62	83		
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
GP					W				
Winnipeg	23	18	5	0	36	90	56		
Minnesota	22	14	4	4	32	71	54		
Vegas	23	14	6	3	31	87	70		
Calgary	23	12	7	4	28	62	63		
Los Angeles	23	12	8	3	27	69	65		
Dallas	21	13	8	0	26	72	56		
Colorado	23	13	10	0	26	77	84		
Vancouver	21	11	7	3	25	67	67		
Edmonton	22	11	9	2	24	64	69		
Seattle	23	11	11	1	23	64	64		
St. Louis	24	11	12	1	23	61	76		
Anaheim	21	9	9	3	21	55	62		
Utah	22	9	10	3	21	60	69		
San Jose	25	7	13	5	19	66	89		
Chicago	22	8	12	2	18	56	65		
Nashville	23	7	12	4	18	54	73		

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	17	2	.895	—
Boston	15	3	.833	1
Orlando	13	7	.650	4½
New York	10	8	.556	6½
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	7½
Miami	8	8	.500	7½
Indiana	9	10	.474	8
Brooklyn	9	10	.474	8
Atlanta	8	11	.421	9
Chicago	8	12	.400	9½
Detroit	8	12	.400	9½
Charlotte	6	12	.333	10½
Toronto	5	14	.263	12
Philadelphia	3	14	.176	13
Washington	2	15	.118	14
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	14	4	.778	—
Houston	14	6	.700	1
Golden State	12	6	.667	2
Memphis	12	7	.632	2½
L.A. Lakers	11	7	.611	3
L.A. Clippers	12	8	.600	3
Denver	10	7	.588	3½
Dallas	11	8	.579	3½
Phoenix	10	8	.556	4
San Antonio	9	9	.526	4½
Sacramento	9	10	.474	5½
Minnesota	8	10	.444	6
Portland	7	12	.368	7½
Utah	4	14	.222	10
New Orleans	4	15	.211	10½

Forget driverless cars. 1 company wants to fight fires, spray crops with autonomous helicopters

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

HENNIKER, N.H. — When Hector Xu was learning to fly a helicopter in college, he recalled having a few “nasty experiences” while trying to navigate at night.

The heart-stopping flights led to his research of unmanned aircraft systems while getting his doctorate degree in aerospace engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Then, he formed Rotor Technologies in 2021 to develop unmanned helicopters.

Rotor has built two autonomous Sprayhawks and aims to have as many as 20 ready for market next year. The company also is developing helicopters that would carry cargo in disaster zones and to offshore oil rigs. The helicopter could also be used to fight wildfires.

For now, Rotor is focused on the agriculture sector, which has embraced automation with drones but sees unmanned helicopters as a better way to spray larger areas with pesticides and fertilizers.

Earlier this week Rotor planned to conduct a public flight test with its Sprayhawk at an agriculture aviation trade show in Texas.

“People would call us up and say, ‘hey, I want to use this for crop dusting, can I?’ We’d say, OK maybe,” Xu said, adding that they got enough calls to realize it was a huge untapped market. The Associated Press reporters were the first people outside the company to witness a test flight of the Sprayhawk. It hovered, flew forward and sprayed the tarmac before landing.

Rotor’s nearly \$1 million Sprayhawk helicopter is a Robinson R44, but the four seats have been replaced with flight comput-



A Rotor Technologies unmanned semi-autonomous helicopter flies away from a van containing a ground control pilot/operator during a test flight over Intervale Airport, Nov. 11, in Henniker, New Hampshire.

ers and communications systems allowing it to be operated remotely. It has five cameras as well as laser-sensing technology and a radar altimeter that make terrain reading more accurate along with GPS and motion sensors.

At the company’s hangar in Nashua, New Hampshire, Xu said this technology means there is better visibility of terrain at night.

One of the big draws of automation in agriculture aviation is safety. Because crop dusters fly at around 150 mph and only about 10 feet off the ground, there are dozens of accidents each year when planes collide with power lines, cell towers and other planes. Older, poorly maintained planes and pilot fatigue contrib-

ute to accidents.

A 2014 report from the National Transportation Safety Board found there were more than 800 agriculture operation accidents between 2001 and 2010 including 81 that were fatal. A separate report from the National Agriculture Aviation Association found nearly 640 accidents from 2014 until this month with 109 fatalities.

“It is a very, very dangerous, profession and there are multiple fatalities every year,” said Dan Martin, a research engineer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture Research Service. “They make all their money in those short few months so sometimes it may mean that they fly 10 to 12 hours a day or more.”

Job hazards also include exposure to chemicals.

In recent years, safety concerns and the cheaper cost has led to a proliferation of drones flying above farmers’ fields, Martin said, adding that some 10,000 will likely be sold this year alone.

“It’s growing exponentially as a market, super fast,” Martin said.

But the size of the drones and their limited battery power means they only can cover a fraction of the area of a plane and helicopters. That is providing an opening for companies building bigger unmanned aircraft like Rotor and another company Pyka.

California-based Pyka announced in August that it had sold its first autonomous electric aircraft for crop protection to a cus-

tommer in the United States. Pyka’s Pelican Spray, a fixed-wing aircraft, received FAA approval last year to fly commercially for crop protection. The company also sold its Pelican Spray to Dole for use in Honduras and to the Brazilian company, SLC Agrícola.

Lukas Koch, chief technology officer at Heinen Brothers Agra Services, the company which bought the Pelican Spray in August, has called unmanned aircraft part of a coming “revolution,” that will save farmers money and improve safety.

The Kansas-based company operates out of airports from Texas to Illinois. Koch doesn’t envision the unmanned aircraft replacing all the company’s dozens of pilots but rather taking over the riskiest jobs.

“The biggest draw is taking the pilot out of the aircraft inside of those most dangerous situations,” Koch said. “There’s still fields that are surrounded by trees on all borders, or you’ve got big, large power lines or other just dangers, wind turbines, things like that. It can be tough to fly around.”

But Koch acknowledges autonomous aviation systems could introduce new dangers to an already chaotic airspace — though that is less of a concern in rural areas with plenty of open space and fewer people.

“Putting more systems into the air that don’t have a pilot inside could introduce new dangers to our current existing pilots and make their life even more dangerous,” he said. “If you’ve got this full size helicopter flying beyond the line of sight, how is it going to react when it sees you? What is it going to do? ... That’s a giant question mark, one that we take very seriously.”



In this 2019 photo, researchers excavate sediment that will be sequenced to help them date the evidence of a large-scale pre-Columbian fish-trapping facility in Belize.

4,000-year-old canals used by predecessors of ancient Maya found

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — Long before the ancient Maya built temples, their predecessors were already altering the landscape of Central America’s Yucatan peninsula.

Using drones and Google Earth imagery, archaeologists have discovered a 4,000-year-old network of earthen canals in what’s now Belize. The findings were published recently in Science Advances.

“The aerial imagery was crucial to identify this really distinctive pattern of zigzag linear canals” running for several miles through wetlands, said study co-author Eleanor Harrison-Buck of the University of New Hampshire.

The team then conducted digs in Belize’s Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary. The ancient fish canals, paired with holding ponds, were used to channel and catch freshwater species such as catfish.

“Barbed spearpoints” found nearby may have been tied to sticks and used to spear fish, said study co-author Marieka Brouwer Burg of the University of Vermont.

The canal networks were built as early as 4,000 years ago by semi-nomadic people in the Yucatan coastal plain. According to the study, the canals were used for around 1,000 years or longer, including during the “formative”

period when the Maya began to settle in permanent farming villages and a distinctive culture started to emerge.

“It’s really interesting to see such large-scale modifications of the landscape so early — it shows people were already building things,” said University of Pittsburgh archaeologist Claire Ebert, who was not involved in the study.

At the height of Maya civilization, people in this region built temples, roads, pyramids and other monuments. They also developed complex systems of writing, mathematics and astronomy. Scientists know far more about this era because there are many more significant archaeological sites, said Ebert.

But this new study reveals a link between the earlier people on the landscape and the later emergence of Maya culture. These ancient channels for catching fish may have played a role in helping later Maya pyramids rise above the Yucatan rainforest.

“This shows continuity,” said University of Pennsylvania archaeologist Jeremy Sabloff, who wasn’t part of the research.

On a practical level, the fish-trapping canals helped the early people in the region to diversify their diets and feed a growing population, building a foundation for later cultural heights.

AI could boost humanitarian responses, may have downsides

By THALIA BEATY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As the International Rescue Committee copes with dramatic increases in displaced people in recent years, the refugee aid organization has looked for efficiencies wherever it can — including using artificial intelligence.

Since 2015, the IRC has invested in Signpost — a portfolio of mobile apps and social media channels that answer questions in different languages for people in dangerous situations. The Signpost project, which includes many other organizations, has reached 18 million people so far, but IRC wants to significantly increase its reach by using AI tools — if they can do so safely.

Conflict, climate emergencies and economic hardship have driven up demand for humanitarian assistance, with more than 117 million people forcibly displaced in 2024, according to the United Nations refugee agency. The turn to artificial intelligence technologies is in part driven by the massive gap between needs and resources.

To meet its goal of reaching half of displaced people within three years, the IRC is testing a network of AI chatbots to see if they can increase the capacity of their humanitarian officers and the local organizations that directly serve people through Signpost. For now, the pilot project operates in El Salvador, Kenya, Greece and Italy and responds in 11 languages. It draws on a combination of large language models from some of the biggest technology companies, including OpenAI, Anthropic and Google.

The chatbot response system also uses customer service software from Zendesk and receives other support from Google and Cisco Systems.

If they decide the tools work, the IRC wants to extend the technical infrastructure to other nonprofit humanitarian organizations at no cost. They hope to create shared technology resources that less technically focused organizations could use without having to negotiate directly with tech companies or manage the risks of deployment.

“We’re trying to really be clear about where the legitimate



People gather outside the Migrant Assistance Office on Oct. 9, 2019, in San Salvador, El Salvador.

concerns are but lean into the optimism of the opportunities and not also allow the populations we serve to be left behind in solutions that have the potential to scale in a way that human to human or other technology can’t,” said Jeannie Annan, International Rescue Committee’s Chief Research and Innovation Officer.

The responses and information that Signpost chatbots deliver are vetted by local organizations to be up to date and sensitive to the precarious circumstances people could be in. An example query that IRC shared is of a woman from El Salvador traveling through Mexico to the United States with her son who is looking for shelter and for services for her child. The bot provides a list of providers in the area where she is. IRC said it does not facilitate migration.

More complex or sensitive queries are escalated for humans to respond.

The most important potential downside of these tools would be that they don’t work. For example, what if the situation on the ground changes and the chatbot doesn’t know? It could provide information that’s not just wrong, but dangerous.

A second issue is that these tools can amass a valuable hoeypot of data about vulnerable

people that hostile actors could target. What if a hacker succeeds in accessing data with personal information or if that data is accidentally shared with an oppressive government?

IRC said it’s agreed with the tech providers that none of their AI models will be trained on the data that the IRC, the local organizations or the people they are serving are generating. They’ve also worked to anonymize the data, including removing personal information and location.

As part of the Signpost AI project, IRC is also testing tools like a digital automated tutor and maps that can integrate many different types of data to help prepare for and respond to crises.

Cathy Petrozzino, who works for the not-for-profit research and development company MITRE, said AI tools do have high potential, but also high risks. To use these tools responsibly, she said, organizations should ask themselves, does the technology work?

She also emphasized that organizations need to convene a range of people to help govern and design the initiative — not just technical experts, but people with deep knowledge of the context, legal experts, and representatives from the groups that will use the tools.

More sand in sight for Jersey Shore resort town’s beaches

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

NORTH WILDWOOD, N.J. — A decadelong conflict over the condition of a New Jersey resort town’s beaches, involving tens of millions of dollars in litigation and fines, could come to an end soon.

Patrick Rosenello, the mayor of North Wildwood, says his town has reached an agreement with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to drop claims on both sides and move forward with measures to widen beaches in the community, popular with tourists from the Philadelphia area.

The agreement, which is up for

a vote Tuesday by North Wildwood’s council, would resolve all outstanding disputes between the parties, the Republican mayor said. The tentative timing of the replenishment is sometime in 2025, he said.

The agreement includes canceling the \$12 million New Jersey has fined North Wildwood for unauthorized beach repairs that the state says could actually worsen erosion. It also calls for the city to drop a lawsuit against the state seeking reimbursement for the \$30 million it has spent trucking in sand for emergency repairs to eroded sections of its beach over the past decade.

“We agreed that we will con-

centrate on protecting our beaches instead of suing each other,” Rosenello said Wednesday.

At the root of the dispute is the fact that North Wildwood is virtually the only Jersey Shore community that has yet to receive a full beach replenishment project from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Officials say difficulty in getting easements from affected property owners has contributed to the delay.

Erosion had become so bad in parts of North Wildwood that protective sand dunes were obliterated, leaving homes and businesses vulnerable to flooding and wave damage in the event of a major storm.



AP Photo/Wayne Parry
Mayor Patrick Rosenello stands next to a destroyed section of sand dune in North Wildwood, New Jersey, Jan. 22.

Drought is causing saltwater to creep up Delaware River

By MIKE CATALINI
and BRITTANY PETERSON
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Salty oceanwater is creeping up the Delaware River, the source for much of the drinking water for Philadelphia and millions of others, brought on by drought conditions and sea level rise, and prompting officials to tap reservoirs to push the unpotable tide back downstream.

Officials say drinking water isn’t imminently at risk yet, but they’re monitoring the effects of the drought on the river and studying options for the future in case further droughts sap the area.

A closer look at the crawling salt front:

WHAT ARE OFFICIALS DOING ABOUT THE SALT?

Officials control the salt line by releasing water from two reservoirs, which pushes the front downriver. The commission monitors the flow at Trenton, which is the furthest upstream point affected by the tide. The flow officials target is roughly equivalent to the amount of water in two Olympic-sized swimming pools flowing by per minute. If the rate dips below that, then more water is released.

HAS SALTWATER MOVED FAR UPSTREAM BEFORE?

The salt front last reached roughly where it is now in 2016 during another drought, officials said.

TOWN OF VIRGIL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held on December 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the next regularly scheduled Virgil Town Board meeting. The Public hearing will be on proposed Local Law #2 of 2024 “A Local Law to Amend the Zoning Law of The Town of Virgil with Regards to Campers.” A copy of the proposed Law #2 of 2024 can be viewed on the Town of Virgil’s website www.virgilny.org. A regularly scheduled Town Board meeting will follow the Public Hearing. All interested persons for or against the proposal will be heard. Please contact the Virgil Town Clerk, if you have any questions.

Ms. Alane Van Donsel
Virgil Town Clerk

BUYING?
SELLING?
Check the Classifieds!

TOWN OF VIRGIL
PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING OF THE VIRGIL TOWN BOARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Virgil Town Board on December 12, 2024, at the Virgil Town Hall 1176 Church Street, Virgil NY 13045 at 6:30 PM. The meeting and public hearing is being held to consider the following: AK Community LLC of 1208 Church Street tax map #126.14-02-21.000 appeared before the Virgil Planning Board on 11-26-2024 and applied for a Site Plan Review Article XVIII Section 1811. The site plan application is to convert the old Virgil School Cafeteria into a restaurant. The Virgil Planning board approved the site plan review Planning Board Resolution #24-11 on Nov. 25, 2025. The Virgil Planning board also approved to have the site plan sent to the Virgil Town Board for their consideration under the Town of Virgil Floating Zone.

The above application is available at www.virgilny.org or contact the office of the Town Clerk at (607) 835-6174, Ext. 2. Persons wishing to speak may do so in person, by attorney, or by another representative. Communications in writing in relation thereto may be filed ahead of time with the Board or at such hearings.

Alane Van Donsel
Virgil Town Clerk on Behalf of
The Virgil Planning Board

CORTLAND COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
SEASONAL ROADS

As Highway Superintendent it is my job to notify the Citizens of Cuyler, the seasonal Roads of this winter. They will be Kelly Road, Stoney Brook Road, Enze Road, Randall Hill Road, Eaton Hill Road, Pardee Road, and Hills Road. The signs are already up marking these roads. These roads will have limited use and no winter maintenance from November 1, 2024, to May 16, 2025.

Thank you,
Alan Fink
Deputy Highway Superintendent

LEGAL NOTICE

Dog owners take notice that the Cuyler Town Board issued an order pursuant to Section 122 of the Agriculture and Markets Law, relating to quarantines on dogs to prevent deer depredation, which directs that all dogs in the Town of Cuyler be securely confined during the period from November 1, 2024, until May 1, 2025 at which time this order shall become of no further force or effect. No owner shall permit his or her dog to be at large in violation of this order. A dog shall not be deemed at large, if accompanied by and under full control of the owner. Any peace officer and any game protector shall kill on sight any dog at large and pursuing or harassing deer in violation of this order.

By Order of the Cuyler Town Board
Wendy Custer, Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

Please take notice that, by order of the Superintendent of Highways for the Town of Cuyler, there will be no parking of any vehicles on Town or County roads from November 1, 2024, through May 16, 2025. This includes Main Street in the village and is intended to ensure the safe passage of snowplows, school buses and emergency vehicles. Your cooperation will be very much appreciated. Please be advised if a mailbox is damaged by a snowplow, it is not the responsibility of the highway department to repair or replace it.

Thank you,
Alan Fink
Deputy Superintendent of Highways

DERUYTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND REGISTRATION OF VOTERS
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE DERUYTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the District on the October16, 2024, a special meeting of the qualified voters of said District will be held in the foyer of the large gymnasium at the DeRuyter High School located at 711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, New York on December 3, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:

PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of renovations, alterations, improvements and upgrades to District’s main K-12 building and Annex Building, all to include site work, utility, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, masonry and roofing improvements; miscellaneous infrastructure upgrades; furnishings, fixtures and equipment required for such purposes; architectural/engineering and other professional services fees; and all other costs incidental to such work, at a total estimated cost not to exceed\$6,700,000 and to pay for such project by using \$1,000,000 from the District’s Capital Reserve and, for the balance, by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted in the amount of \$5,700,000, subject to available State aid or to any other revenues available for such purpose, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$5,700,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due?

NOTICE IS GIVEN that voting upon the foregoing Proposition will be by paper ballot or voting machine and will take place on December 3, 2024 in the foyer of the large gymnasium at the DeRuyter High School located at 711 Railroad Street, DeRuyter, New York on December 3, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. prevailing time.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot or early voting ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Completed applications for an absentee ballot or early voting ballot must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than 4:00 p.m. prevailing time on December2, 2024, and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on November 26, 2024 if the absentee ballot or early voting ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after4:00 p.m. on November 26, 2024 will require the voter to personally appear at the Office of the Clerk of the District to receive an absentee ballot or early voting ballot. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot or early voting ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the Office of the Clerk of the District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during each of the five (5) business days prior to the election. **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that military ballots may be applied for by qualified voters by requesting an application from the District Clerk at (315) 852-3400 Ext. 7403 or hayes@deruytercentral.org. Completed applications for military ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 4:00 p.m. on November 7, 2024. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application of ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail. **DATED:** October 16, 2024 **BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
Juanita Hayes, District Clerk

CORTLAND COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

The Town of Harford will hold a special meeting on December 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Harford Town hall located at 394 Rte. 38 in Harford. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on the A LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF HARFORD MILLS WATER DISTRICT #1. By order of the Harford Town board, Jennifer Fox, Harford town clerk.

VILLAGE OF HOMER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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 December 5th, 2024, at 6:30 pm. to consider the following pursuant to the current Village of Homer Code of Ordinances:

- Appeal # 511 – 110 South Main Street – A lot line adjustment without meeting the minimum allowed 15 feet setback.
- Appeal # 512 – 61 North Main Street – To modify an existing detached garage to be used as an accessory dwelling unit.

Pursuant to NYS Legislature’s approval of Bill S50001, amending the Open Meetings Law 1, the Village of Zoning Board of Appeals meeting will be zoom and in-person attendance. Individuals may speak at the public hearing or in the absence of public comment, we encourage residents to request a zoom link by contacting Dan Egnor at the Village Offices at 607-749-3322 or by emailing degnor@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

MORAVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING OF THE VOTERS OF THE MORAVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE MORAVIA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the District on November 13, 2024, A special meeting of the qualified voters of the Moravia Central School District will be held in the north side foyer of the Moravia Middle/Senior High School at 68 S. Main Street in Moravia, New York on January 14, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., prevailing time, for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:

PROPOSITION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Moravia Central School District be and is hereby authorized to expend the sum of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) for the purchase of a parcel of unimproved real property located at 52 S. Main Street, Moravia, New York (the “Project”), for possible use for one or more purposes permitted under New York Education Law section 416(1), which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and to pay for the Project by spending \$175,000 from the District’s general fund.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot or an early voting ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Completed applications must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the election if the absentee ballot or early voting ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, if the absentee ballot or early voting ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot or early voting ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the office of the Clerk of the District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during each of the 5 days prior to the election, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, and shall also be posted at the polling place at the election.

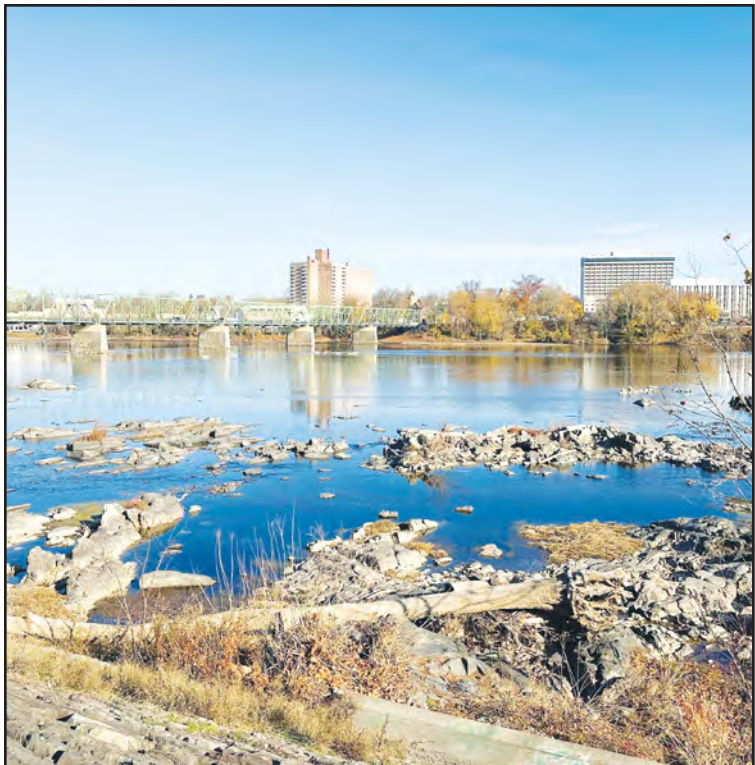
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that military ballots may be applied for by qualified voters by requesting an application from the District Clerk at (315) 497-2670 or jrusaw@moraviaschool.org. Completed applications for military ballots must be received by the Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 19, 2024. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail. An individual will qualify as a military voter if he or she (1) is a qualified voter of the State of New York, who is in actual military service, and by reason of such military service is absent from the District on the day of the election, or is a voter who is discharged from military service within 30 days of an election; or (2) a spouse, parent, child, or dependent of such service member who is a qualified voter and is absent due to accompanying or being with the military service member.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Moravia Central School District has previously complied with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (the “SEQRA Act”), Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, as amended, and the Regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation thereunder (the “Regulations”). No further action under the SEQRA Act and Regulations is required.

DATED: November 13, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jodie L. Rusaw, School District Clerk



AP Photo/Mike Catalini
The Delaware River overlooking Trenton, New Jersey, flows downstream as seen from Morrisville, Pennsylvania, on Monday.