

WORLD

Some Baltic countries are getting ready to cut their electricity ties with Russia.



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SPORTS

Marathon girls basketball stifled McGraw in a 48-7 victory on Wednesday at McGraw.



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Cortland Standard

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CORTLAND, N.Y.

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90-MW solar project delayed at least to '28

IDA director cites lack of progress

By DOUG SCHNEIDER Staff Reporter dschneider@cortlandstandard.com

A 600-acre, 90-megawatt solar project planned for three towns in Cortland County has a new targeted completion date, and it's years behind what was originally promised.

California-based developer EDF Renewables Development says online that the Homer Solar project is now scheduled to become operational in 2028. EDF official Jack Horner had said two years ago that the project would be under construction in 2024 and "be completed by fall 2025."

A company newsletter for the first quarter of 2024 claimed a new deadline: The company said at that time that Homer Solar "would become fully operational in 2026."

The head of the Cortland County agency assisting EDF Renewables Development LLC is concerned that the project is moving quite slowly — if it's moving at all.

We "would like to give a

project update to all of you on this," Brendan O'Bryan, executive director of the Cortland County Business Development Corp. and Industrial Development Agency, said Tuesday in an email to people including the supervisors of Homer and Cortlandville, a county legislator representing the town of Solon, and the county's planning director.

"Or," O'Bryan continued, "it could be referred to as a lack of progress."

"The last we heard from them on the project's status was back in September/October, and it wasn't much of an update," O'Bryan wrote. "... We called (an attorney representing EDF), who verified these talks were being held internally (but said) the project was delayed by 'economic complications' but was 'somewhat' back on track."

"Large-scale solar projects need multiple entities with financial backing, which told us the 'wheels were still turning,'" O'Bryan continued. "We have not heard anything further from either entity about going forward, and this update was sent in September — October."

EDF officials could not

See SOLAR, page 4

Ice ice maybe



Todd R. McAdam/Managing Editor

Jim Reeners clears the snow Thursday from in front of one of his properties on Tompkins Street in Cortland. Only about an inch fell, but the sleet and ice that accompanied it closed schools and canceled classes across the greater Cortland area.

C'ville OKs up to \$35K of work at Gutches

To improve concession stand this year

By DOUG SCHNEIDER Staff Reporter dschneider@cortlandstandard.com

The Cortlandville Town Board approved on Wednesday spending up to \$35,000 to improve a concession stand at Gutches Lumber Sports Complex, and issuing a request for proposals to do so.

The board also voted to request a three-month extension of the town's agreement with Resource Associates of Cortland to modify drawings related to phase 2 of work at the Gutches Complex, which is off state Route 13 in South Cortland.

The \$35,000 resolution was approved, 5-0. The second was approved 4-0; board member Glenn Reisweber abstained.

The \$35,000 resolution would fund a mixture of structural work and safety issues.

Structural work would involve adding thresholds for all doors in the building, except those to a work area. Safety issues include installing smoke- and carbon-monoxide detectors in the building, and installing venting

See C'VILLE, page 4

22 states sue NY state, alleging environ. fund unconstitutional

ALBANY (AP) — Twenty-two states sued New York state on Thursday, contending that a new law forcing a small group of major energy producers to pay \$75 billion into a fund to cover climate change damage is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit, filed in Albany, New York, lists Attorney General Letitia James and other state officials as defendants. Messages seeking comment were sent to the defendants.

According to a release, West Virginia Attorney General JB McCuskey led the coalition of states against the New York state Climate Change Superfund Act, which requires payments for damage allegedly done from 2000 to 2018.

The law requires major fossil fuel companies to pay into the fund over the next quarter-century based on their past gas emissions.

"This lawsuit is to ensure that

these misguided policies, being forced from one state onto the entire nation, will not lead America into the doldrums of an energy crisis, allowing China, India and Russia to overtake our energy independence," McCuskey said in a release.

"This law is unconstitutional, and I am proud to lead this coalition of attorneys general and brave private energy companies and industry groups in our fight to protect against this overreach," McCuskey added. "If we allow New York to get away with this, it will only be a matter of time before other states follow suit — wrecking our nation's power grid."

The lawsuit accuses New York state of trying to force energy producers and consumers in other states "to subsidize certain New York-based 'infrastructure' projects, such as a new sewer system in New York City."

It called the law "an ugly example of the chaos that can result when States overreach."

According to the lawsuit, New York wants to blame the small group of energy producers for global greenhouse gases that entered the atmosphere from many sources.

"Yet coal, oil, and natural gas were helping New York during that time. They helped keep the lights on in Albany, manufacture the steel that supported New York City's iconic skyscrapers, and fuel the industry that keeps New York ports humming," the lawsuit said.

Besides West Virginia, the states joining the lawsuit are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wyoming.

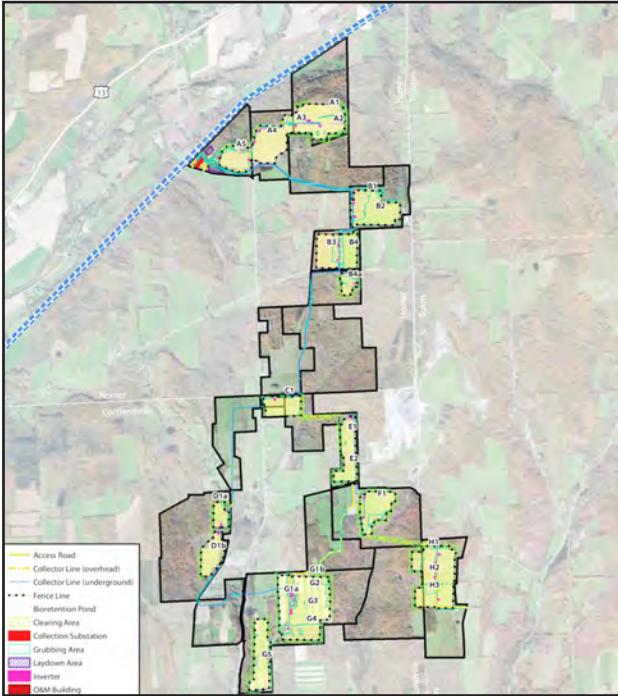


Image provided by EDF

Pictured is the proposed site for a 90-megawatt, 600-acre solar facility in Solon, Homer and Cortlandville.

Earth sets another heat record despite predictions

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The world warmed to yet another monthly heat record in January, despite an abnormally chilly United States, a cooling La Niña and predictions of a slightly less hot 2025, according to the European climate service Copernicus.

The surprising January heat record coincides with a new study by a climate science heavyweight, former top NASA scientist James Hansen, and others arguing that global warming is accelerating. It's a claim that's dividing the research community.

January 2025 globally was 0.16 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than January 2024, the previous hottest January, and was 3.15 F warmer than it was before industrial times, Copernicus calculated.

It was the 18th month of the last 19 that the world hit or passed the internationally agreed upon warming limit of 2.7 F above pre-industrial times. Scientists won't regard the limit as breached until global temperatures stay above it for 20 years.

Copernicus records date to 1940, but other U.S. and British records go back to 1850, and sci-

entists using proxies such as tree rings say this era is the warmest in about 120,000 years or since the start of human civilization.

By far the biggest driver of record heat is greenhouse gas buildup from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, but the natural contributions to temperature change have not been acting quite as expected, said Samantha Burgess, strategic lead for climate for the European weather agency.

The big natural factor in global temperatures is usually the natural cycle of changes in the

See HEAT, page 4



AP Photo/Ashley Landis, File

Rose bushes stand in the snow on Jan. 21, in Houston.

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WEATHER



Mostly cloudy  
Tomorrow's Weather:  
High near 27  
Slight chance of snow

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ONLINE



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Obituaries

Carl D. Burgess

Carl D. Burgess, 82, of Mildred Ave., Cortland, NY, formerly of Freeville, passed away on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at Guthrie Medical Center in Cortland, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on October 5, 1942, in Hamilton, NY, Carl was the son of Henry and Dorothy (Snyder) Burgess. He grew up in Hamilton and graduated from Hamilton Central School in 1961. He went on to earn degrees in Dairy Science from both Miner Institute in Chazy, NY, and SUNY Canton.



In 1967, Carl enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served as a Navy Corpsman (Combat Medic) during the Vietnam War aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. America. He was decorated with the National Defense Service, Vietnam Service, and Vietnam Campaign Medals. After returning home and receiving an Honorable Discharge, he married Carol Ann Hamilton of Ithaca, NY, on May 1, 1971.

A deep commitment to service marked Carl's life. He spent 25 years working for the Tompkins County Health Department, Environmental Health Division, dedicating his career to public health in both Tompkins County and the State of New York. He was a proud member of the W.B. Strong Fire Company in Freeville, NY, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). An enthusiast of American Civil War history, Carl also enjoyed riding his John Deere tractor and cherished time spent with family and friends at "camp" on Lebanon Reservoir in Hamilton, NY.

Carl is survived by his loving wife, Carol, and their children: son Jason Thomas Burgess (Rusty) of Atchison, KS, and daughters Jody Marie Burgess of Cortland, NY and Jessica Rae LaFrance (Russell) of Hamilton, NY. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Alexis LaFrance, Kristen LaFrance, Andrew LaFrance, Matthew Burgess, and Michael Burgess. In addition, he is survived by his nieces Ellen Knapp and Terrie Patch, nephew Robert Ripley, all of Brandon, Vermont, cousins, and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was predeceased by his sister, Janipher "Jan" Ripley, and his parents, Henry and Dorothy Burgess.

A private service will be held on Monday, February 10th at the Burgess & Tedesco Funeral Home in Hamilton, NY.

An interment with military honors will take place in the spring at Woodlawn Cemetery in Hamilton, NY followed by a celebration of life. The date is to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Willows Wings Animal Sanctuary Inc. P.O. Box 217, Maine, NY 13802, or Honor Flight of Syracuse Inc. P.O. Box 591, Syracuse, NY. 13209.

To send a condolence online, please visit [www.burgessandtedescofuneralhomes.com](http://www.burgessandtedescofuneralhomes.com).

Weather

Local

**Rest of today:** A slight chance of snow showers before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 24. West wind 14 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%. A low around 12.

**Saturday:** A slight chance of snow after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 27. Calm wind becoming west around 5 mph.

Skies Today

Friday, February 7, 2025	
Sunset today	5:25 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:11 a.m.
Normal high temperature	30
Normal low temperature	13
Average temperature	22
Full moon	Feb. 12

Extended

**Saturday night:** Snow. The snow could be heavy at times. Low around 19. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

**Sunday:** A chance of snow before 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 26. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Sunday night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12.

**Monday:** Mostly cloudy.

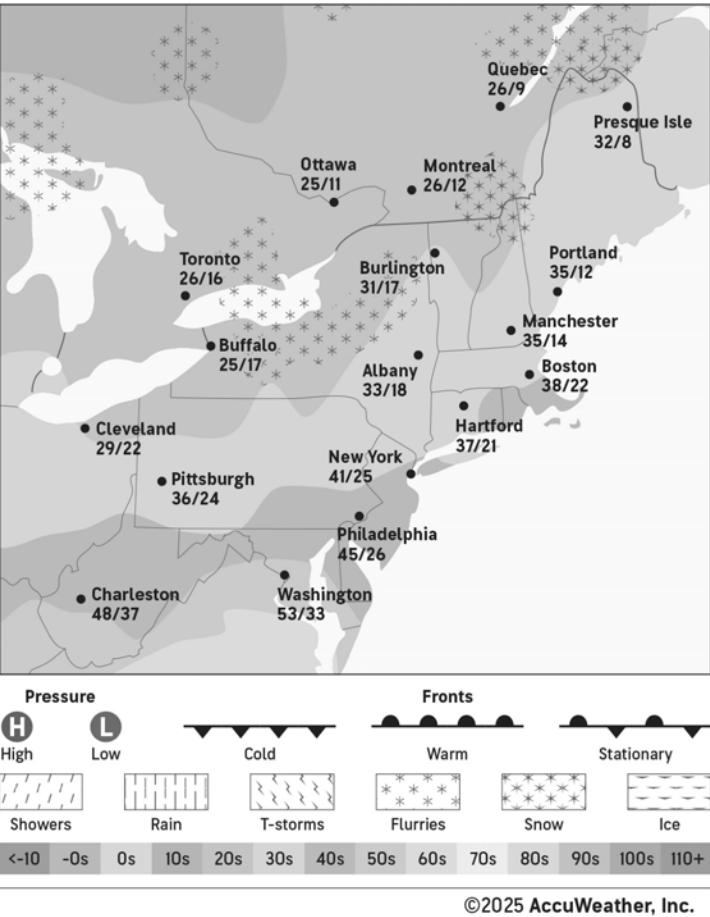
City Snowfall

Feb. 5-6	Trace
Season to date	47.50 inches

Precipitation

Feb. 5-6	0.28 inches
Month to date	0.79 inches

Forecast for Friday, February 7, 2025



Lottery Winners

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

**Numbers:** Midday: 7-8-8, Evening: 3-9-2; **WinFour:** Midday: 4-1-3-2, Evening: 3-6-8-3; **Pick 10:** 2-4-7-8-9-10-19-23-29-35-37-43-58-59-60-67-72-73-75-76; **Take Five:** Midday: 7-9-28-30-32, Evening: 13-17-20-21-38; **Cash4Life:** 17-27-29-36-46, Cash Ball: 3, **Lotto:** 1-7-9-20-43-58, Bonus: 2, **Powerball:** 19-27-30-50-62, Power Ball: 14, Power Play: 3

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.

Records

West Point shuts down clubs in response to DEI policies

WEST POINT (AP) — The U.S. Military Academy has disbanded a dozen West Point cadet clubs centered on ethnicity, gender, race and sexuality in response to the Trump administration's push to eliminate diversity programs throughout government.

The famed military academy in New York issued a memo Tuesday shutting down groups including the Asian-Pacific Forum Club, Latin Cultural Club, National Society of Black Engineers Club and Society of Women Engineers Club in order to adhere to recent guidance from the Army and Defense Department. It also shut down the Corbin Forum, a decades-old leadership club for female cadets, and Spectrum, a gay-straight alliance.

President Donald Trump last month signed an executive order aimed at halting diversity, equity and inclusion programs in the federal government and ordered the federal diversity, equity and inclusion staff be put on paid leave and eventually be laid off.

The West Point memo also



AP Photo/Eduardo Munoz Alvarez, File

**West Point cadets salute during the National Anthem prior to a college football game between the Army Black Knights and the University of Massachusetts at Michie Stadium, Nov. 20, 2021, in West Point.**

ordered all other cadet clubs to pause activities until officials can review the groups to ensure that they comply with Trump administration rules.

The U.S. Military Academy at

West Point released a statement that said it is reviewing programs affiliated with its former office of diversity and inclusion and that the clubs that were shut down were sponsored by that office.

Homer High School Honor Rolls

Here are the honor rolls for Homer High School's second marking period:

9th GRADE HONOR ROLL

Marek Andre, Ryder Armstrong, Nathan Barber, Mya Bearup, John Bishop Jr., Kaitlyn Boylan, Grayson Briggs, Antonella Caravella, Lauren Clark, Joseph Congdon Jr., Bella Cook, Dahlia Curry, Celia Cutia, Emma Dart, Bailey Davi, Caleb Dorward, Gianna Dugan, Connor Eustice, Reese Evangelista, Pdraig Falls, Grayson Fiore, Edward Gonzalez, Trent Greenfield, Giorgia Guay, Cody Hall, Hannah Harding, Nolan Hayes, Raphaella Heath, Zackary Janeski, Corbyn Kemp, Emilie Knight, Josephine Kuiken, Andrew Lawrence, Aubree Lent, Olivia Locke, Katy Martin-Juarez, Gianna Mastro-nardi, Aubrey McGrath, Kaylee McGrath, John Medeiros, Molly Merchant, Julianna Milligan, Lexie Myrto, Isabel O'Connor, Gwen Page, Gianna Partigianoni, Evan Partis, Mia Pasquerella, Emma Poli, Alexander Porter, Makenna Pym, Brooke Raymond, Ella Reif, Alayne Riley, Ewan Rizzo, Zane Schute, Makenzie Stone, Micah Thomas, Abrianna Thompson, Kylan Williams

9th GRADE MERIT ROLL

Alexander Bertram, Devin Borella, Olivia Dovi, Emilee Fox, Logan Hall, Genevieve Kuiken, Azalia Moore, Sean Spalding, Brady Sullivan, Sadie Teter, Maggie Tucker

10th GRADE HONOR ROLL

Ava Armstrong, Hanora Bromwell-McGrath, Jack Brown, Toby Carr, Brayden Clark, Iquelin-da Clavel, Kristen Combs, Will Dawson, Miguel de la Torre Galvan, Camiron Durham, Andie Fairchild, Declan Gilbert, Lucy Goodwin, Isabella Guido, Madison Head, McKenzie Head, Lillian Hollenbeck, Lyle Hopkins, Reese Kline, Cooper Layaw, Ezra Lener, Ethan Maslin, Daniel Morgan, Emmaline Morgan, Sun-

ny Park, Zasha Pittsley, Elizabeth Relyea, Amelia Riley, Genevieve Schneider, Harper Sinclair, Mackenzie Skodzinsky, Molly Sorenson, Maizie Stiles, Max Totman, Eden West, Hailey Wyatt, Angela Yang, Shelley Yang

10th GRADE MERIT ROLL

Zachary Arnold, Owen Burhans, Jaden Bush, Kiley Bushneck, Adam Butler, Isabella Cicioni, Kathleen Coates, Daemon Compagni, Kamdyn Conger, Maddelyn Dean, Shawn Elliott, Ava Fiore, Caleb Hamilton, Hailey Hurocy, Jayden Leach, Mya Locke, Patrick Maslin, Kaden Quaile, Gwyneth Roskos, Alita Stearns, Kaylee Taylor, Kennadie Taylor, Xander Underwood, Mayda Velasquez-Bamaca, Annabelle Watkins

11th GRADE HONOR ROLL

Ingrid Agaard, Anna Aldrich, Lydia Andre, Kada Auchmoody, Loralie Austen, Ryan Beard, Orion Bennett, Parker Berry, Garrett Berthelot, Isabelle Brown, Landon Brown, Ruthalina Caravella, Anthony Cicioni, Cheyenne Coolidge, Katelyn Currie, Brylee Darnell, Dominick Dovi, Kaelynne Driscoll, Emma Effinger, Lauren Franco, Natalie Funk, Kaelyn Green, Jacob Griffin, Levi Guay, Daniel Hardesty, Caleb Hart, Evangeline Hartnett, Connor Hayes, Brookelyn Henry, Remy Jensen, Oliver Kida, Mallory Kline, Mia Knight, Grace Lawrence, Dakota Leubner, Vanesa Levitskiy, Brynn Loomis, Cael MacPherson, Addison Matijas, Elizabeth McCloy, Gabriel Mendiola, Madison Morgan, Liam O'Brien, Sarah Olsenhik, Kaelyn Page, Maliyah Parente, Brayden Partigianoni, Taryn Quinn, Owen Rizzo, Ella Roche, Olivia Schledorn, Isabelle Small, Payton Smith, Eila Spanbauer, Evan Sullivan, Natashaaly Torres, Haley Tucker, Gunnar Tyrrell, Amelia Wagner, Camryn Wethje, Hannah Wyatt, Liam Zech

11th GRADE MERIT ROLL

Reagan Adams, Taylor Becker, Elizabeth Bobbette, Dante Conger, Jade Corl, Matthew Costa, Macey Earing, Dane Francis, Cable Hanson, James Hunter, Madison Hurlburt, Bailey Karpensky, Liam Mackey, Lincoln Marshall, Cameron Medeiros, Haylie Meskauskas, Lizzie O'Donnell, Addison Platt, Brycen Poole, Natalie Prorok, Breanna Schute, Aidan Small, Ian Small, Jameson Swab, Brielle Towers, Benett Wilbur, Chloe Witty

12th GRADE HONOR ROLL

Alicen Achorn, Brendan Andrews, Alexis Arnold, Ava Bailey, Nicolas Barbieri, Chloe Barney, Hannah Bouwens, Christopher Boylan, Mason Burhans, Nina Campos, Stuart Carr, Drew Cotterill, Keragin Creeden, Kyler Crump, Bailey Dady, Kaylee Darling, Madelynn Earing, Mark Elliott, Catelyn Ensign, Eleanor Ensign, Alaina Evangelista, Anthony Guido, Kiara Hapgood, Chloe Heller, Tristyn Henkel, Graydon Hickey, Karson Johnson, Hunter LaBarre-Lines, Leah Lansdowne, Madelynn Lellig, Baillie McCall, Elijah McMahon, Adisynne Meyers, Levi Niggli, Shana O'Brien, Lauren Oustad, Ginny Park, Maria Partis, Nicholas Powers, Baylee Riker, Emma Robideau, Lily Robideau, Logan Stauber, Daniel Stiles, Michael Thalheimer, Izabell-Ann Tutino, Cathelijne van der Pluijm, Allyson Verfuss, Emilee Wakula, Brianna White

12th GRADE MERIT ROLL

Logan Austen, Jack Bertram, Gaven Carr, Olivia Congdon, Allie Dean, Lucian Duff, Kaden Durham, Aubrianna Hapgood, Aidan Hutchings, Sophie Kennett, Christopher McMullin, Peighton Meriwether, James Morse, Gracie Newman, Esperanza Ponce, Andrea Sahn, Christopher Slade, Lauren Sopp, Samantha Sovocool, Ava Teribury, Gary Wood

Police/fire

2 snowmobilers charged with impaired sledding

**Accused:** Gregory J. McDowell, 67, Swift Road, Fabius; Norman R. Eaton, 69, Bryn Mawr Drive, Syracuse

**Charges:** Operating a snowmobile while intoxicated, a misdemeanor; no required proof of liability insurance, a violation

**Details:** McDowell and Eaton were involved in a snowmobile crash about 6:26 p.m. Tuesday in the town of Preble, Cortland

Around the towns

Cuyler gets \$50,000 grant for town office

The town of Cuyler has received a \$50,000 state grant to renovate the town's old railroad depot for use as the town office, Assembly Member Jeff Gallahan (R-Manchester) has announced.

"This community is home to a strong, close-knit community with a rich history and deep connection to its past. Historic conservation and adaptive reuse are important to the town's leadership, who are focused on pre-

serving their heritage for generations to come," Gallahan said in a release. "I am proud to have secured this funding, which will go a long way towards enabling the town to better serve its residents and realize its long-term vision."

The money from the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program will be used to add spray insulation and wiring to the facility. Besides housing the town office, the building will host public meetings, educational presentations and cultural events.

"Securing this grant is a major

step forward for the town of Cuyler. Restoring and repurposing the old train depot into a functional town office ensures that we can better serve our residents while preserving an important part of our town's history," said Cuyler Supervisor Lou Anne Randall.

Cincinnatus school board meets Feb. 13

The Board of Education of the Cincinnatus Central School District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13 in the school library.





AP Photo/Mindaugas Kulbis  
A screen near the Energy Museum and Mindaugas Bridge indicates that on Feb. 8 Baltic states will disconnect from the Russian electricity grid to synchronise with continental Europe, in Vilnius, Lithuania, Tuesday.

# Baltic nations count final hours to ending electric ties to Russia

By LIUDAS DAPKUS  
Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania — Nearly 3 1/2 decades after leaving the Soviet Union, the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania this weekend will flip a switch to end electricity-grid connections to neighboring Russia and Belarus — and turn to their European Union allies.

The severing of electricity ties to oil- and gas-rich Russia is steeped in geopolitical and symbolic significance. Work toward it sped up after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops to invade Ukraine three years ago, battering Moscow’s EU relations.

“This is physical disconnection from the last remaining element of our reliance on the Russian and Belarusian energy system,” Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and other dignitaries are expected at a ceremony on Sunday

as a specially-made 29.5-foot tall clock in downtown Vilnius counts down the final seconds of the Baltic states’ electricity ties to Russia.

## CHILLY TIES SINCE THE FALL OF THE USSR

The Baltic countries, which are all NATO members, have often had chilly ties with Russia since declaring independence from the USSR in 1990 — and relations soured further over Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Sixteen power lines that used to connect the three Baltic states with Russia and Belarus were dismantled over the years as a new grid linking them with the rest of the EU was created, including underwater cables in the Baltic Sea.

On Saturday, all remaining transmission lines between them and Russia, Belarus and Russia’s Kaliningrad — a Russian exclave wedged between EU members Poland and Lithuania and the sea — will be switched

off one by one.

Then, for 24 hours, the Baltic Power System will operate solo in an “island operation mode.” The next day, the power system is set to merge with the Continental European and Nordic grids through several links with Finland, Sweden and Poland.

The Kaliningrad region, which has no land ties to mainland Russia, already relies on its own power generation, according to Litgrid, Lithuania’s electricity transmission system operator.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the disconnection plan was announced in advance by the Baltic countries and the Russian energy sector had taken preparatory steps to ensure smooth operation on its side.

“Those plans were announced long time ago, and they required certain actions by our and their electric companies,” Peskov told reporters. “We have taken all necessary measures to ensure reliable and uninterrupted operation of our unified energy system.”

# Egypt lobbies against plan to empty Gaza Strip of Palestinians

By SAMY MAGDY  
Associated Press

CAIRO — Israel says it has begun preparations for the departure of Palestinians from Gaza despite international rejection of President Donald Trump’s plan to empty the territory of its population. Egypt has launched a diplomatic blitz behind the scenes against the proposal, warning it would put its peace deal with Israel at risk, officials said.

The Trump administration has already dialed back aspects of the proposal after it was widely rejected internationally, saying the relocation of Palestinians would be temporary. U.S. officials have provided few details about how or when the plan would be carried out.

In a social media post on Thursday, Trump said Israel would turn Gaza over to the United States after the war and that no U.S. soldiers would be needed for his plan to redevelop it. The Palestinians have vehemently rejected Trump’s proposal, fearing that Israel would never allow refugees to return. Egypt has warned that an expulsion of Palestinians would destabilize the region and undermine its peace treaty with Israel, a cornerstone of stability and American influence for decades.

Saudi Arabia, another key U.S. ally, has also rejected any mass transfer of Palestinians and says it will not normalize relations with Israel — a key goal of the Trump administration — without the creation of a Palestinian state that includes Gaza.

Trump and Israeli officials have depicted the proposed relocation from war-ravaged Gaza as voluntary, but the Palestinians have universally expressed their determination to remain in their homeland.

Trump and Israeli officials have not said how they would respond if Palestinians refuse to leave. But Human Rights Watch and other groups say the plan, if implemented, would amount to “ethnic cleansing,” the forcible relocation of the civilian population of an ethnic group from a geographic area. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said Thursday that he has ordered the military to make preparations to facilitate the emigration of large numbers of Palestinians from Gaza through land crossings as well as “special arrangements for exit by sea and air.”



AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana  
A man sells bread under the remains of his bakery destroyed by the Israeli air and ground offensive in Jabaliya, Gaza Strip, Wednesday.

# Mexico deploys National Guard troops to the US border following tariff threat

By MEGAN JANETSKY  
Associated Press

CIUDAD JUÁREZ, Mexico — A line of Mexican National Guard and Army trucks rumbled along the border separating Ciudad Juárez and El Paso, Texas, on Wednesday, among the first of 10,000 troops Mexico has sent to its northern frontier following tariff threats by President Donald Trump.

Masked and armed National Guard members picked through brush running along the border barrier on the outskirts of Ciudad Juárez, pulling out makeshift ladders and ropes tucked away in the trenches, and pulling them onto trucks. Patrols were also seen on other parts of the border near Tijuana.

It comes after a turbulent week along the border after Trump announced he would delay imposing crippling tariffs on Mexico for at least a month. In exchange, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum promised she would send the country’s National Guard to reinforce the border and crack down on fentanyl smuggling.

Trump has declared an emer-



AP Photo/Christian Chavez  
Mexican National Guard members patrol along the Mexico-US border in Ciudad Juarez, Wednesday.

gency on the border despite migration levels and fentanyl overdoses significantly dipping over the past year. The U.S. said it would, in turn, do more to stop American guns from being trafficked into Mexico to fuel cartel violence, which has rippled to other parts of the country as criminal groups fight to control the lucrative mi-

grant smuggling industry.

On Tuesday, the first of those forces arrived in border cities, climbing out of government planes. Guard members in the Wednesday patrol confirmed that they were part of the new force.

“There will be permanent surveillance on the border,” José Luis Santos Iza, one of the Na-

tional Guard leaders heading off the deployment in the city, told media upon the arrival of the first set of soldiers. “This operation is primarily to prevent drug trafficking from Mexico to the United States, mainly fentanyl.”

At least 1,650 troops were expected to be sent to Ciudad Juárez, according to government figures, making it one of the biggest receivers of border reinforcements in the country, second only to Tijuana, where 1,949 are slated to be sent.

During U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s trip through Latin America — where migration was at the top of the agenda — the top American diplomat thanked the Mexican government for the forces, according to a statement by the Mexican government.

The negotiation by Sheinbaum was viewed by observers as a bit of shrewd political maneuvering by the newly elected Mexican leader. Many had previously cast doubt that she’d be able to navigate Trump’s presidency as effectively as her predecessor and ally, former President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

# Greek island Santorini in state of emergency

Following surge in earthquakes

By DEREK GATOPOULOS  
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Greece’s government declared a state of emergency on Santorini on Thursday after hundreds of undersea earthquakes shook the resort island for nearly a week.

The ministry of civil protection’s announcement will provide authorities faster access to state resources.

It follows a magnitude 5.2 tremor — the most powerful recorded since activity started on Jan. 31 — that struck

late Wednesday.

Government spokesman Pavlos Marinakis confirmed that multiple emergency services were already mobilized to support the island.

“Fire departments, police, coast guard, armed forces, and emergency medical services have immediately reinforced Santorini and surrounding islands with additional personnel and specialized equipment,” he told reporters.

Despite causing minimal damage, the earthquake activity has prompted an exodus of thousands of residents and seasonal workers, mostly evacuating to the Greek mainland by ferry.



AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris  
A bell tower of an Orthodox church in the town of Oia is seen on the earthquake-struck island of Santorini, Greece, Tuesday.

## LEGALS

**CAYUGA COUNTY  
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Notice of Formation of GENESEE RETREAT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/22/2025. Office location: Cayuga County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Madeline Johndon: 7177 Owasco Road, Auburn, NY, 13021. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**CORTLAND COUNTY  
NOTICE OF SALE**  
NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF CORTLAND Trust Bank, successor by merger to SunTrust Bank, Plaintiff AGAINST Nicholas E. Creeden a/k/a Nicholas E. Creeden, Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered August 29, 2024, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Cortland County Courthouse, 46 Greenbush Street, Cortland, NY on March 10, 2025 at 1:00PM, premises known as 5252 East Homer Crossing a/k/a 5252 East Homer Crossing Road, Cortland, NY 13045. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Homer, County of Cortland and State Of New York. Section: 58.00 Block: 02 Lot: 02.000. Approximate amount of judgment \$91,675.00 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #EF23-492. Dante Armideo, Esq., Referee McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC 420 Lexington Avenue-Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 22-13666NY 84015

**CORTLAND COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF SCOTT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing before the Scott Town Planning Board will be held Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Scott Town Office Building, 6689 State Route 41, Homer, New York 13077, to consider the following site plan application pursuant to the Town of Scott Zoning Law.  
1. In the matter of the application of Cody Sweet for property located at 6460 State Route 41, Homer, NY 13077, Tax Map No. 35.00-01-11.120 for a site plan review and special permit for the placement of a storage building. The above applications can be viewed at the office of the Town Clerk, 6689 State Route 41, Homer, New York, call (607) 749-2902, during regular business hours. Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person, by Attorney, or other representative. Communications in writing in relation thereto may be filed with the Board or presented at such hearing.  
Janice Degni, Chairperson Planning Board



# SOLAR —

continued from page 1

be reached for comment.

The state’s Office of Renewable Energy Siting, not the municipalities, governs permits of renewable energy projects larger than 25 megawatts, although the process requires the state to consider local laws.

Homer Supervisor Michael Park said Wednesday that he’s heard little about the project despite the attempt to find more information. “I have read a lot of the same stuff you have.”

“I haven’t had an update,” Park said.

It was unclear what specifically changed the major dates of the project. The officials listed as the key contact people for the project didn’t respond to emails with questions.

The Homer project would generate enough renewable energy to power 20,000 homes, the company has said.

EDF also plans to connect to New York’s power grid via a 115-kilovolt transmission line serving a 20-turbine wind farm in Fenner, Madison County, northeast of Cortland. That’s one of the rare pieces of new information the company released in a newsletter dated in early 2024.

The towns of Cortlandville, Homer and Solon, the county of Cortland and school districts serving Homer and McGraw, will share \$15 million through 20 years of operation of the project, EDF said, via payments-in-lieu-of-taxes agreements arranged with those communities.

While the project is being built, it would pay \$18.7 million to laborers, electricians, and other construction workers who work on-site, the company said in its early 2024 newsletter.

Once construction is complete, the company plans to hire two or three highly skilled local people who would be employed during the estimated 35-year life of the project, EDF has said.

EDF is one of two projects that would triple the area’s solar energy production, the other is the 160-megawatt, 754-acre Yellow Barn project in Groton and Lansing.

# C’VILLE

continued from page 1

for up to three appliances — still to be determined — in the building’s concession area.

The building needs to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as town code, said Town Attorney Francis Casullo.

Casullo also said that town representatives will soon meet, likely next week, with a heating, ventilating and air-conditioning contractor, with the goal of having the work complete by late March or early April.

That, however, might not be ideal for earlier baseball games if the spring weather arrives sooner than usual, Casullo said.

People who run tournament baseball games at Gutches, according to Casullo, “think they might have baseball by mid-March.”

The town might not have work at the park complete quite so early.

“Hopefully, we will have the concession building ready to go,” Casullo said. But all the work should be complete by early April.



In this photograph provided by Kathryn McKee, fellow hiker Beata LeLacheur climbs the Westside Trail, just hours before needing to be rescued, on Mount Washington, New Hampshire, Sunday.

# Stuck hikers saved during whiteout on Mt. Washington

By KATHY McCORMACK and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

The two friends had hiked New Hampshire’s challenging Mount Washington trail a month ago. They returned and did it again Sunday after trekking through neighboring peaks in the White Mountains. Both veteran hikers, the women were an hour behind schedule on their descent and losing daylight, but they had warm clothing, headlamps and other gear.

Then the wind kicked in. The temperature dropped. They were in waist-deep snow and whiteout conditions. They were lost on the tallest mountain in the Northeast, known for its extreme, changeable weather.

“That snow has nothing to stick to,” said Amy Cotter, a weather observer and education specialist with the Mount Washington Observatory at the peak at 6,288 feet. “That snow gets whipped up very easily.”

One of Kathryn McKee’s snowshoes became stuck in a “spruce trap,” a hole created in the snow underneath trees.

“It took like 20 minutes to get out of that,” she recalled

in an interview with The Associated Press. “And that kept happening. And so we got to a point where we were literally, like crawling on our bellies to try to get to the next point and just struggling so much that it wasn’t working.”

After about an hour of trying to rescue themselves, McKee, 51, of Southborough, Massachusetts, and Beata LeLacheur, 54, of Westborough, Massachusetts, called 911. They reached New Hampshire Fish and Game conservation officers, who plotted their GPS coordinates and directed them toward the trail — just 34 feet away.

It didn’t work.

“They ended up on the trail several times but could not follow it as it had been completely erased by wind and snow,” said Sgt. Matthew Holmes of the Fish and Game Department. After multiple attempts trying to locate the trail and several phone calls starting around 6 p.m., “the two needed to huddle up in the snow to keep warm and await assistance,” he said.

The temperature at the summit was 2 degrees below zero, with sustained winds of 50 to 60

mph at the time, Holmes said.

McKee and LeLacheur were stuck at an elevation of about 5,000 feet.

The two sat there with the wind blowing on them for about six hours.

McKee said they grabbed a bag and used it as a wind guard. She was wrapped in a covering used over sleeping mats and bags.

By late Sunday, the Mount Washington State Park snowcat, a ski resort groomer-type vehicle, started up the mountain’s auto road with nine rescuers and arrived at the summit just before midnight. Crews snowshoed their way through the wind-blown snow toward the trail. They approached the hikers’ last known location at 1:20 a.m. Monday, but had not yet made contact.

McKee and LeLacheur were found a half-hour later. They had suffered frostbite, mostly to their hands.

Crews set up emergency shelters for them, and by 3 a.m. Monday, they were able to move on their own. By 4:15 a.m., the rescuers and hikers trekked down to the base.

# US district judge temporarily blocks fed worker resign plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday temporarily blocked President Donald Trump’s plan to push out federal workers by offering them financial incentives, the latest tumult for government employees already wrestling with upheaval from the new administration.

The ruling came hours before the midnight deadline to apply for the deferred resignation program, which was orchestrated by Trump adviser Elon Musk.

Labor unions said the plan was illegal, and U.S. District Judge George O’Toole Jr. in Boston paused its implementation until after he could hear arguments from both sides at a court hearing



AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana People protest during a rally against Elon Musk outside the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington, Wednesday.

scheduled for Monday afternoon. He directed the administration to extend the deadline until then.

White House press secretary Karoline

Leavitt said 40,000 workers have already signed up to leave their jobs while being paid until Sept. 30. She described federal employees who have been working remotely as lazy, saying “they don’t want to come into the office” and “if they want to rip the American people off, then they’re welcome to take this buyout.”

A federal worker in Colorado, who like others spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of retribution, said the insults directed at the government workforce by members of the Trump administration have been demoralizing for those who provide public services.

She said the judge’s decision bolstered suspicions, echoed by people who work across various departments and agencies, that the deferred resignation program was legally questionable.

# HEAT —

continued from page 1

equatorial Pacific Ocean waters. When the central Pacific is especially warm, it’s an El Niño and global temperatures tend to spike. Last year was a substantial El Niño, though it ended last June and the year was even warmer than initially expected, the hottest on record.

El Niño’s cooler flip side, a La Niña, tends to dampen the effects of global warming, making record temperatures far less likely. A La Niña started in January after brewing for months. Just last month, climate scientists were predicting that 2025 wouldn’t be as hot as 2024 or 2023, with the La Niña a major reason.

“Even though the equatorial Pacific isn’t creating conditions that are warming for our global climate, we’re still seeing record temperatures,” Burgess said, adding much of that is because of record warmth in the rest of the world’s oceans.

Usually after an El Niño like last year, temperatures fall rapidly, but “we’ve not seen that,” Burgess told The Associated Press.

For Americans, news of a record warm January might seem odd given how cold it was. But the U.S. is just a tiny fraction of the planet’s surface, and “a much larger area of the planet’s surface was much, much warmer than average,” Burgess said.

January was unseasonably mild in the Arctic. Parts of the Canadian Arctic had temperatures 54 F warmer than average and temperatures got so warm sea ice started melting in places, Burgess said.

Copernicus said the Arctic this month tied the January record for lowest sea ice. The U.S.-based National Snow and Ice Data Center had it as second-lowest, behind 2018.

February has already started cooler than last year, Burgess said.

Don’t count 2025 out in the race for hottest year, said Hansen, the former NASA scientist who has been called the godfather of climate science. He’s now at Columbia University. In a study in the journal Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development, Hansen and colleagues said the last 15 years have warmed at about twice the rate of the previous 40 years.

“I’m confident that this higher rate will continue for at least several years,” Hansen told The Associated Press in an interview. “Over the full year it’s going to be nip-and-tuck between 2024 and 2025.”

There’s been a noticeable temperature rise even when taking out El Niño variations and expected climate change since 2020, Hansen said. He noted recent shipping regulations that have resulted in reduced sulfur pollution, which reflects some sunlight away from Earth and effectively reduces warming. And that will continue, he said.

“The persistence of record warmth through 2023, 2024 and now into the first month of 2025 is jarring to say the least,” said University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck, who wasn’t part of the Hansen study. “There seems little doubt that global warming and the impacts of climate change are accelerating.”

But Princeton’s Gabe Vecchi and University of Pennsylvania’s Michael Mann said they don’t agree with Hansen on acceleration. Vecchi said there’s not enough data to show that this isn’t random chance.

Osco Robinson Post 617  
American Legion/Marathon NY  
Valentine’s Day Dinner & Dance  
Friday, February 14th

**Lasagna Dinner**  
4pm–7pm  
\$14.00

(Price includes dance)  
Reservations suggested  
by Feb. 10th  
Call Robin:  
607 745-0501

**Music & Dance**  
7:30pm – 9:30pm  
\$5.00 e door

*Crystal VISION*

# 2nd type of avian flu detected in US dairy cows, officials say

(AP) — Dairy cattle in Nevada have been infected with a new type of bird flu that’s different from the version that has spread in U.S. herds since last year, Agriculture Department officials said Wednesday.

The detection indicates that distinct forms of the virus known as Type A H5N1 have spilled over from wild birds into cattle at least twice. Experts said it raises new questions about wider spread and the difficulty of controlling infections in animals and the people who work closely with them.

“I always thought one bird-to-cow transmission was a very rare

event. Seems that may not be the case,” said Richard Webby, an influenza expert at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

A version of the H5N1 bird flu virus known as B3.13 was confirmed in March after being introduced to cattle in late 2023, scientists said. It has infected more than 950 herds in 16 states. The new version, known as D1.1, was confirmed in Nevada cattle last week, according to USDA. It was detected in milk collected as part of a surveillance program.

“Now we know why it’s really important to test and continue testing,” said Angela Rasmussen,

a virus expert at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, who helped identify the first spillover.

The D1.1 version of the virus was the type linked to the first U.S. death tied to bird flu and a severe illness in Canada. A person in Louisiana died in January after developing severe respiratory symptoms following contact with wild and backyard birds. In British Columbia, a teen girl was hospitalized for months with a virus traced to poultry.

At least 67 people in the U.S. have been infected with bird flu, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Scott Turner confirmed as Trump’s HUD secretary

After pledging to address housing shortages

MATT BROWN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scott Turner was confirmed Wednesday as the housing secretary, a role central to President Donald Trump’s domestic agenda at a time when most Americans say the cost of living around necessities are a top concern.

The former NFL player, Texas state representative and White House senior aide was confirmed in a 55-44 vote.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development is tasked with enforcing and coordinating federal housing law. The vast majority of HUD’s budget goes toward housing assistance for lower-income families, the elderly and disabled as well as community development and homelessness programs.

The department will be at the forefront of issues ranging from rising housing costs to spurring economic development in struggling cities and lowering homelessness rates, especially among veterans.

Turner will be the second professional football player to lead



Eric Scott Turner, President Donald Trump’s nominee to be secretary of housing, testifies at a Senate hearing for his pending confirmation on Capitol Hill, Jan. 16, in Washington.

HUD, after former Congressman Jack Kemp served in the role under President George H. W. Bush. Turner is the only Black American member of Trump’s Cabinet; Ben Carson, who served as HUD secretary of Trump’s first term, was the only Black American member of that Cabinet.

Trump promised on the campaign trail to lower housing costs through mass deportations of undocumented immigrants and called for the creation of futuristic “freedom cities” built on federal land, proposals that would significantly overlap with Turner’s portfolio.

“As a country, we are not building enough homes. We need millions of homes, all kinds of homes — multifamily, single family, duplex, condo, manufacturing housing, you name it — we need housing in our country for individuals and families to have a roof over their head and to

call home,” Turner said during his confirmation hearing last month.

During Trump’s first term, Turner served as the Executive Director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, where he helped direct the “opportunity zone” program that aims to boost private investment in struggling cities. Investors who participate can defer taxes on gains made into qualifying low-income neighborhoods until the program expires in late 2026.

The policy was championed by Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and enacted in Trump’s 2017 tax cuts law. Turner has said he wants to expand the program’s efforts.

“I saw firsthand the impact of this initiative, as it gave Americans living in underserved communities an opportunity, a foundation to start businesses, to live in better homes, to be self-sustaining, to be confident, and to unleash that promise and potential that the lord has given each of us in our country,” Turner said during his confirmation hearing.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wy., touted that the program under Turner’s leadership “secured \$50 billion in private investments” for struggling communities.

“These investments helped to revitalize many forgotten communities,” Barrasso said.

FBI agents who ‘simply followed orders’ in January 6 probes won’t be fired, a Justice Department official says

By ERIC TUCKER and ALANNA RICHER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — FBI agents “who simply followed orders and carried out their duties in an ethical manner” while investigating the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol are not at risk of being fired, a top Justice Department official said in a memo to the bureau workforce that had been obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

But the memo from acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove also provides no reassurances for any agents found to have “acted with corrupt or partisan intent” and suggests those employees, if there are any, have reason to be concerned about a massive and highly unusual review process

the Trump administration Justice Department is embarking upon to identify what it says is potential misconduct.

The message from Bove, which also accuses acting FBI Director Brian Driscoll of “insubordination,” is aimed at providing a measure of clarity following days of turmoil and uncertainty inside the bureau as a result of an extraordinary Justice Department demand last Friday for the names of agents who participated in the investigations.

Many within the FBI had seen that request as a precursor for mass firings.

“Let me be clear: No FBI employee who simply followed orders and carried out their duties in an ethical manner with respect to January 6 investigations is at risk of termination or

other penalties,” wrote Bove, who was previously part of Donald Trump’s legal team in his criminal cases. “The only individuals who should be concerned about the process initiated by my January 31, 2025 memo are those who acted with corrupt or partisan intent, who blatantly defied orders from Department leadership, or who exercised discretion in weaponizing the FBI.”

Thousands of FBI employees who participated in investigations related to the 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol by a mob of then-President Trump’s supporters were subsequently asked to complete in-depth questionnaires about their involvement in the inquiries as the new Trump administration Justice Department weighs disciplinary actions.



The logo for the Justice Department is seen before a news conference, Aug. 23, 2024, in Washington.

Opinion

opinion@cortlandstandard.com  
Cortland Standard

Our Opinion

Helping people continue to live

People in Cortland want to help. We’ve seen them help homeless people, or families displaced by fire. We’ve seen them volunteer to stage community events, entertain their neighbors, coach kids in sports and feed hungry people.

We’re not happy that volunteers’ efforts to bring two Ukrainian families to Cortland just to get them away from a war have been delayed — and perhaps derailed — by a federal pause on accepting refugees in America. We suspect the volunteers who hope to bring them here aren’t happy, either, or the families who just want to spend some time liv-

ing life without worrying whether their nation (or maybe their lives) will be taken from them.

The volunteers, Uniting for Ukraine, have already brought one family here, and we’ve chatted with Mariana Kosarieva, her daughters and her mother once or twice.

They’re kind people; Mariana has a good job and a network of friends, and she’s contributing to making Cortland better even as Cortland provides her and her family with respite from a war, and maybe an opportunity for a new future. United for Ukraine, led by Cortlandville Town Justice Mary Beth Mathey, wants to do it

again, and we like the idea.

But if that can’t happen, or least cannot happen yet, there’s still much that people in Cortland can do to help.

Cecile Swift Lippitt, a former director of the Cortland Youth Bureau, has been collecting medical supplies since July to send to Ukraine, but recently, the donations have dropped off. It’s cold here, and people may be worrying about their own health and slogging through a winter, but Ukraine is dealing with the cold, too. And maybe they don’t have the pain and cold medications you have. They might not have the warm socks or thermal under-

wear. They could use used crutches, walkers and canes — it seems a large number of Ukrainians are dealing with wounds and injuries.

Backpacks, school supplies, sleeping bags, cots, diapers and wipes would be handy, too. Imagine all the things you’ve done to help people in Cortland, and realize you can do the same to help people in Ukraine — who are just like you and your neighbors, but living through a war.

The United Nations Refugee Agency reports that 4 million Ukrainians have been displaced internally — forced from their homes by the war, but still in Ukraine. Another 6.8 million

have been forced from the nation, like the Kosarievas. In sum, 14.6 million Ukrainians need humanitarian assistance. That’s a third of the nation’s population. Think of that as the population of Cortland 300 times over.

Donations can be brought to the Youth Bureau at 35 Port Watson St., or City Hall at 25 Court St., Cortland ReUse on Homer Avenue is also collecting medical equipment, and stuff can be dropped off there.

People in Cortland have often been eager to help; it’s part of what makes this a nice place to live. Now some people just need some help continuing to live.

Cortland Standard

Evan C. Geibel ..... Publisher and Editor  
Todd R. McAdam ..... Managing Editor  
Patti Walts ..... Business Manager  
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Mindy Lawrence..... Advertising & Marketing Manager

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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.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 7, the 38th day of 2025. There are 327 days left in the year. Today in history:  
On Feb. 7, 1964, the Beatles were met by thousands of screaming fans at New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport as they arrived to begin their first American tour.  
Also on this date:  
In 1904, the Great Baltimore Fire began; one of the worst city fires in American history, it destroyed over 1,500 buildings in central Baltimore.  
In 1943, the government abruptly announced that wartime rationing of shoes made of leather would go into effect in two days, limiting consumers to buying three pairs per person per year. (This was reduced to two pairs per year in 1944; rationing was lifted in October 1945.)  
In 1971, women in Switzerland gained the right to vote through a national referendum, 12 years after a previous attempt failed.  
In 1984, space shuttle Challenger astronauts Bruce McCandless II and Robert L. Stewart went on the first untethered spacewalk.



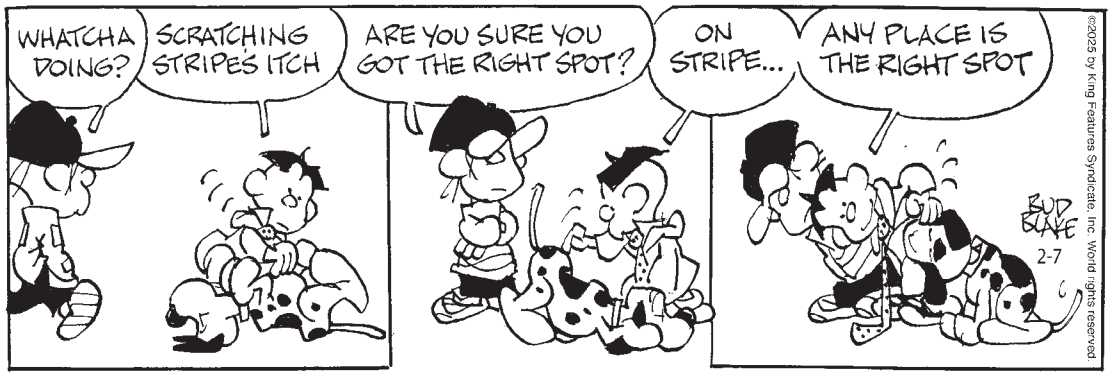
GARFIELD



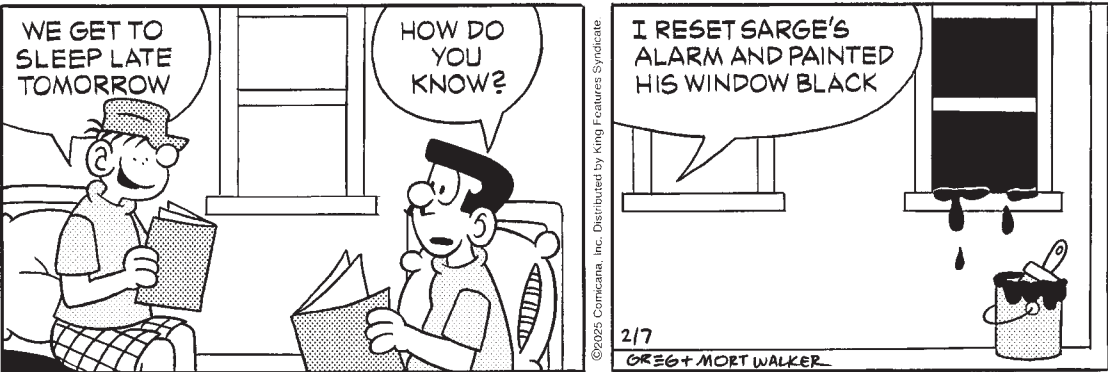
MUTTS



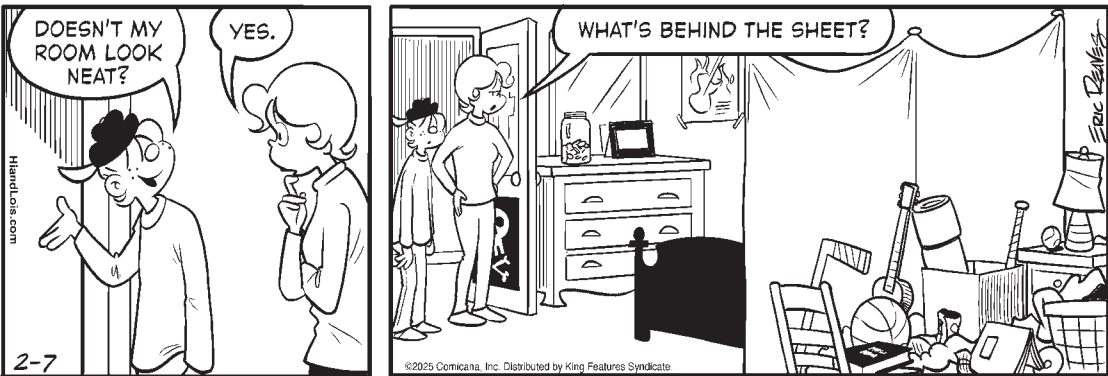
TIGER



BEETLE BAILEY



HI AND LOIS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BABY BLUES



ZITS



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Flat fish
  - 6 Wise ones
  - 11 Tennis star
  - 12 News item
  - 13 Mirror sight
  - 14 "Likewise"
  - 15 Salary
  - 16 Table protector
  - 18 Peyton's brother
  - 19 Chiding sound
  - 20 Annoy
  - 21 Crazy talk
  - 23 Sea birds
  - 25 TV's
  - 27 Really liked
  - 28 Nest sound
  - 30 Diminishes
  - 33 Opponent
  - 34 Purr producer
  - 36 Pitcher's stat
  - 37 Like some real-estate deals
  - 39 Rickety boat
  - 40 Homer work
  - 41 Up to
  - 43 Biathlon need
- DOWN**
- 1 Skilled shooter
  - 2 Joe's veep
  - 3 Song from the "Sgt. Pepper" album
  - 4 Price setting
  - 5 Vote in
  - 6 Under, in a way
  - 7 Rara —
  - 8 Song from the "Sgt. Pepper" album
  - 9 Comes in
  - 10 Long-legged bird
  - 17 Ump's call
  - 22 Kicker's aid
  - 24 Regret
  - 26 Century sections
  - 28 Lassie, e.g.
  - 29 — de deux

LOGS	SCRAP
I V A N	A L L U D E
M E M O	K E A T O N
B R E W	C R E W
	C H O P S H O P
S T R A I N	E G O
H E A P S	S T E R N
A R I	L A U D E D
W I N G D I N G	
	L O O K B O O K
M O T O W N	O K R A
A D O B E S	A L A N
R E P E L	T A L E

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
15				16	17				
18				19			20		
21			22	23		24			
	25		26		27				
	28			29		30		31	32
33			34		35		36		
37			38				39		
40					41	42			
43					44				
45					46				

2-7

Sudoku

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

ANSWER:

Cryptoquote

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

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.

2-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

X R T I Q A O F O D D X I, X R T I Q A O

C O V; X R T I Q A O E V R C Q Z E Y G.

— L O B I A F O X W C Q Z

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** ON MATTERS OF STYLE, SWIM WITH THE CURRENT; ON MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE, STAND LIKE A ROCK. — THOMAS JEFFERSON

Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena

Saturday, February 8, 2025

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Minor misunderstandings may seem to evaporate into thin air. You could soon be back in someone's good graces. Tomorrow, however, might offer a chance to start a new creative project or head off for a day of sightseeing with your loved ones.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** What you're looking for is waiting for you, but you may be looking in the wrong place. Consider broadening your search and bidding your time. Think about everything that makes you happy and you might find what you need in an unexpected place.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Organize your life and belongings to kick off the weekend with some leisure time. Consider new ways to streamline operations without

breaking the bank. Be completely honest with yourself, face the facts, and move forward with intention.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Honor your boundaries and avoid overextending yourself. Chasing your goals may be your top priority but be careful of burdensome debts or promises. Take it easy tomorrow when things could easily fall back in place without any serious overtones.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** The weight of extra responsibilities and a tight schedule may soon be gone. You might receive kudos because you honored your commitments with ease. Consider planning something special for tomorrow to celebrate, relax, and bask in admiration.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You may be overwhelmed by responsibility or worries. If you can block out the noise, you might discover you have more free time than you thought. Remember who you are

and who you want to be. Come back to yourself.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** When life gives you lemons, make sweet lemonade. Someone might push you beyond your comfort zone, possibly offering you a chance to broaden your impact.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You may have the opportunity to improve your current situation. Allow yourself the option to follow your dreams, to make changes and welcome transformation.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Light-hearted conversations might mask deeper worries. Invest your time and resources wisely by doing things correctly from the start. You may have reached a turning point that allows you to take control and turn a mistake into an advantage.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Focus on growth and construction rather than destruction. Analyze situations thoroughly

but consider holding off on big decisions.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You need to recognize who to take advice from and who might not have anything worthwhile to offer. Examining their words could allow you to understand what they want from you. You may not recognize the help you are receiving right away.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Falling into a routine may silence you to the call of your heart, while listening to your instincts might lead to you uncovering what's been missing. Consider taking yourself out of your comfort zone, it could be the step needed to start the next phase.

**IF FEBRUARY 8 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** You could set a fast pace and an excellent example for others during the coming three to four weeks. Enjoy an array of intellectual and physical activities that restore your joy and enthusiasm.





Jon Majka works on an oil painting with the working title “Futility” in his studio at the Cortland Corset Building.

# ‘Sometimes the ball weighs 20,000 pounds’

Artist moves ball forward with solo show for 1st Friday

**If you go**  
**WHAT:** Jon Majka gallery exhibit  
**WHEN:** 5 to 8 p.m. today  
**WHERE:** Cortland Corset Building, 75 E. Court St.  
**THE EXHIBIT:** The exhibit will be up through February

**By LILY BYRNE**  
**Staff Reporter**  
lbyrne@cortlandstandard.com  
Jon Majka will open his first solo show today at the Cortland Corset Building in an exhibit showcasing his “memento mori” inspired work — a Latin phrase meaning “remember you must die.”

Majka, a Cortland native and recent graduate of Tompkins Cortland Community College’s graphic design program, has been doing art since he was little. “I’ve always done art,” Majka said. “There was a span of 10 years where I kind of fell off, but that’s never going to happen again. I’ve been making art again for the past five years. ... It’s different doing it as an adult; as a professional, as opposed to when I was a kid and I never sold anything. You make different decisions.”

Since graduating, he’s been trying to get his work into the community in any way possible — at tables at Creative Cortland, the Cortland Curiosities Market, the Cortland City Farmers Market and leaving his studio door open on First Fridays.

Even though doing art as a small business is a slow process, it will be worth it in the end, he said.

“I’ve had some moderate successes, and I’m very happy about every single one of them,” he said. “Even the \$5 art print — where someone was looking for the piece of art that moved internally. They only had \$5 in their pocket, and they picked my art.”

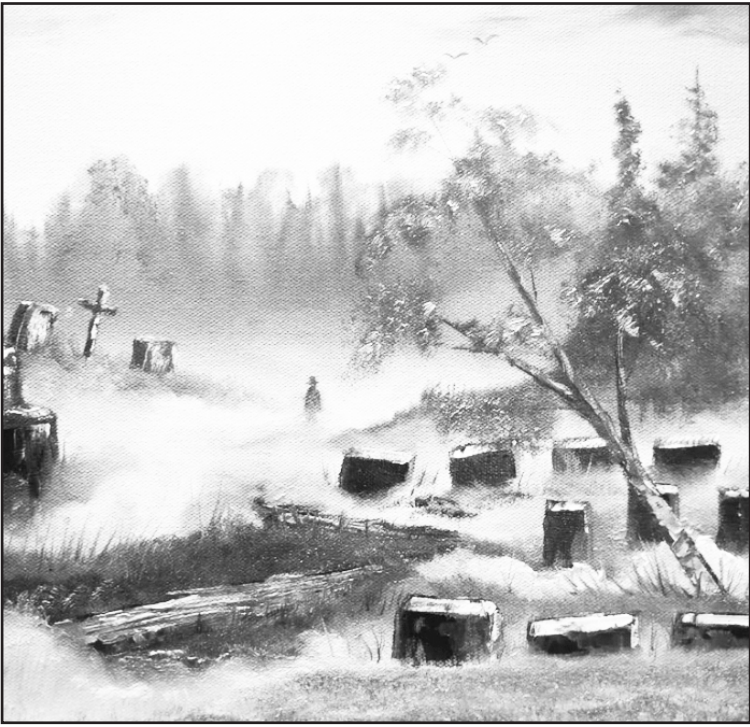
His current work-in-progress, “Futility,” shows a large man-like creature grasping a comparatively tiny human in its hands. In addition to his oil paintings, which often feature skulls, personifications of death or landscapes, he has also done more experimental pieces, like a pop-up book.

“I try to make a new decision every day,” he said. “I say in my mind, ‘I will move this ball forward,’ and sometimes the ball weighs 20,000 pounds and you hurt your foot when you kick it, but I try to trust that the ball is moving, even though it feels like it isn’t.”

Every month, the hallway by Crown City Curiosities displays



“The Storm,” by Jon Majka, will be on display tonight at Majka’s exhibition opening at the Cortland Corset Building on East Court Street in Cortland.



Artist Jon Majka paints a great deal of “memento mori” work, art that reflects the Latin phrase: “Remember you must die.”

work by an artist, usually with art you wouldn’t see in a more traditional gallery, said Ashe Martin, co-owner of Crown City Curiosities. “Jon has a very unique eye on things,” Martin said. “He tends to see things in a darker light than a lot of other artists. The landscapes I’ve seen him do recently are absolutely amazing. They really capture times of day in a way people don’t normally do in landscapes.” “Even though it’s a small gallery, it’s a big one for me,” Majka said. “I think this gallery is a great gateway not only for artists

to get their art work up, such as myself, but also for the public to come down and check out what’s going on in the Corset Building. This place continues to grow, and there’s also something new going on.” Majka also does graphic design, such as logos for local events. He works out of the third floor of the Corset Building, and often paints for hours up to four nights a week, Martin said. “If there’s something that you’re passionate about, don’t wait to do it,” Majka said. “Tomorrow isn’t guaranteed, and there’s no time like yesterday.”

## Outlook is foggy for paint colors

### Column

**By LORI BORGMAN**  
**Tribune News Service**  
**(TNS)**

In case you hadn’t heard, the Pantone color of the year is Mocha Mousse. Mocha Mousse is a scrumptious light milk chocolate. I’m not sure I could have it on the walls and resist a deep dive into my dessert cookbooks. Mocha Mousse is encouraging because, for years, the chosen colors primarily have been neutrals. There was Drift of Mist (gray), Gale Force Winds (gray) and Snowbound (snow sprayed with automobile exhaust). Then there is the entire fog category: Nantucket Fog, London Fog, Ice Fog, Morning Fog, Pacific Fog, Coastal Fog and Foggy Day.

We can’t seem to shake the bad weather.

Sometimes we think of downsizing, but before we could sell our house we’d have to replace all the original solid oak hardwoods with gray manufactured wood-byproduct flooring and slather all the walls in assorted colors of fog. I depress myself just envisioning it.

When our youngest daughter and her husband moved into their first house a decade ago, she asked me to stop by and help choose paint colors. She had 200 paint chips taped to the walls. “They’re all gray,” I said. “They all look alike.”

“No, they’re not alike,” she said. “Some are gray with blue

undertones and some are gray with yellow undertones.”

I only saw gray, grayer and grayest. They ended up choosing Agreeable Gray, a very popular color at the time,

They painted the entire downstairs Agreeable Gray. They found it disagreeable.

They repainted the entire downstairs. A different shade of gray.

She paired it all with dark blue and white accents and it truly snaps. Plus, gray doesn’t make you think of fattening desserts like chocolate mousse and is wonderful for camouflaging children’s grimy handprints.

I’ve often wondered who comes up with all the clever paint names. A press release said the names are chosen in “one long, continuously flowing conversation among a group of colour-attuned people.”

If they are colour-attuned, why can’t they spell it correctly?

Our front room has more windows than any other room in the house and is painted a bright, cheerful yellow.

It is the color of rich, creamy Irish butter. When sunshine streams in through all the windows, it is like lounging in a very large comfy croissant.

The press release announcing new colors said that coming up with color names is a rigorous process involving, specialists, marketing pros and lawyers.

You know who they’re missing, right? Cooks. Cooks and chefs.

We need more butter.

## Is dating harder than it used to be?

### Column

**By ERIKA ETTIN**  
**Tribune News Service (TNS)**

Online dating has come a long, long way since its inception (I’m looking at you Match.com... which came out in the mid-90s!). The online dating sites have evolved significantly (Tinder, the first major app that you only use on your phone, launched in 2012), offering new features designed with the hope of improving people’s experiences and leading to more, and better, connections. Despite all that, many people find online dating, for lack of better words, worse today than before.

**WHY?**  
Part of it comes from the sheer popularity of the dating apps. Whereas there used to be a stigma (“Ew, you’re on eHarmony?!”), everyone single is now on a dating app (“How could you not be on Hinge?!”), so the challenges of navigating such a saturated space become noticeable.

**THE EVOLUTION OF ONLINE DATING**  
When online dating first started, it was a novel concept for those willing to experiment with new technology, like me.

I dabbled in online dating starting in 2001, first using JDate and then moving on to OkCupid when that launched in 2003. The platforms — the dating sites/apps themselves — keep improving and adapt-

ing to the times, incorporating algorithms, video features, and, more recently, AI (which I have mixed feelings about in this setting). But, with more widespread use comes more people. And with more people, and more anonymity, comes worse behavior — ghosting, breadcrumbing, etc. So, it’s not that the apps are inherently harder to use or less effective; rather, it’s that when a space gets so packed, it’s both hard to stand out and harder to weed through everyone. Basically, the likelihood of encountering bad behavior or feeling overwhelmed increases.

### STRUGGLES IN THE ONLINE LANDSCAPE

One of the biggest struggles my clients complain about is people not communicating — their intentions, their desires, their interest, their lack of interest. With so much technology available to us, it’s easy to hide behind a screen when an in-person conversation would be much more appropriate. Sadly, this avoidance behavior has become a hallmark of modern dating culture.

### TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES

While online dating has its own challenges, as I mentioned, it’s still possible to overcome them with the right approach and mindset ... and maybe coach (wink, wink). Success in online dating often comes down to treating it with the same level of commitment and effort as any other significant endeavor.



Dreamstime/TNS

Online dating has come a long, long way since Match.com, but is it harder than ever before?

## Notebook

### Chess Club on Thursdays

The Cortland Chess Club will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays at the Cortland Free Library, located at 32 Church St. All levels are welcome to attend.

### Radio club on Wednesday

The Skyline Amateur Radio Club of Cortland will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Masonic Lodge, 1883 Route 13, in Cortlandville. Anyone interested in ham radio is invited.



Contract Bridge

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades, North having opened the bidding with one diamond, which your partner doubled. North leads the queen of hearts. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided 2-2 or 3-1.)

WEST	EAST
♠ A K J 10 6	♠ Q 9 5 3
♥ 8 5 2	♥ A K 7
♦ K 9	♦ 6 4 2
♣ Q 7 2	♣ A J 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of clubs. How would you play the hand?

WEST	EAST
♠ 8	♠ A Q 6 5 3
♥ K Q 9 8	♥ A J 10 4
♦ A K 4 2	♦ 7 5 3
♣ A 7 6 3	♣ 4

\* \* \*

1. Your potential losers are a heart, two diamonds and a club, but one of them is very likely to be averted by capitalizing on the knowledge gained from North's opening bid. Aside from the Q-J of hearts, he is almost certain to have the A-Q or A-J of diamonds and the king of clubs.

The first step in the right direction is to duck North's queen of

hearts! The purpose is to prevent South from later gaining the lead with a heart for a killing diamond return through your king.

Let's say North continues with a heart to dummy's king. You draw trump, lead a low club to the jack, cash the ace of hearts and then play the ace and another club. North presumably wins with the king but must then return a diamond or yield a ruff-and-discard, handing you the contract.

2. Your best chance for 12 tricks lies in a crossruff. However, after winning the first club, you should prepare the groundwork for the crossruff by first cashing the A-K of diamonds. Though there is a slight possibility that the first or second diamond will be ruffed, that presents far less of a risk than any other line of play.

You next play a spade to the ace and ruff a spade. It is important to ruff a spade in your hand before ruffing a club in dummy. (If you think it makes no difference, try ruffing a club first. You are then apt to finish with just 11 tricks instead of 12!)

Now ruff your clubs and spades in alternating order, scoring eight trump tricks, a spade, a club and two diamonds in all.

Tomorrow: The impossible dream.

2-7

Arkansas organist plans to play 18 hours of J. S. Bach this year

One lunch break at a time

By ANDREW DeMILLO  
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — It was hushed inside a 140-year-old cathedral on the outskirts of Little Rock's downtown as about five dozen people sat in the pews during a recent lunch break in January.

The nave filled with the sounds of the Gothic church's pipe organ, and a screen showed a man performing the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. Those gathered weren't there for church, but for the third concert in a series Colin MacKnight is performing over the next year to commemorate the 275th anniversary of Bach's death. MacKnight, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's music director, is performing all of Bach's organ works throughout 2025 — one lunch break at a time. The ambitious plan entails performing 18 hours of music in half-hour increments nearly every Wednesday.

"I've wanted to for a really long time because it's, I think, the most thorough way of immersing myself in the brilliance of Johann Sebastian Bach," MacKnight said one morning as he rehearsed in the empty cathedral the day before a concert.

The concerts in Little Rock are among several events around the world this year commemorating the German composer's legacy and the anniversary of his death.

MacKnight, who is from Bethesda, Maryland, has been music director at Trinity for three years. He said the first time he remembers hearing Bach was at a relative's funeral when he was about 12 years old.

"Something about hearing it



AP Photo/Katie Adkins

Colin MacKnight, director of music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, Arkansas, rehearses on Jan. 21, for his upcoming lunch-time concert series.

that time just really mesmerized me and that was the beginning of my love of Bach," he said.

The 31-year-old's hands move easily between the four keyboards of the organ console, flanked by knobs controlling different sounds that are assembled into various combinations.

Underneath, his feet press on the pedalboards — combining to create the notes of Bach's works. MacKnight, who has played the organ since he was 16, acknowledges how dizzying the sight of the instrument can be for newcomers.

"If you don't know what you're looking at, it's a little overwhelming, like an airplane console," he said.

MacKnight's concerts — which are free and open to the public — are also mini-lessons for those who come, with a glossary of terms like concerto and

fugue included in the program. In between pieces, MacKnight gives audience members some background on Bach and his organ works.

"These pieces are in the unfortunate category of being much, much harder than they sound," he says.

Generally regarded as one of the greatest composers of all time, Bach is known in particular for his organ works and their heavy use of pedals and complex structures. Few organists perform the composer's complete organ works, given the difficulty and quantity of the music.

They include Grammy-winning organist Paul Jacobs, who taught MacKnight at the Juilliard School. Jacobs performed an 18-hour nonstop concert of Bach's organ works to mark the 250th anniversary of the composer's death in 2000.

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## High School Girls Basketball



Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

Marathon's Kennedy Eaton, center, defends McGraw's Leah Terwilliger, left, Wednesday night at McGraw High School.

# Marathon drubs McGraw

By PAUL CIFONELLI  
Sports Editor  
pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

The Marathon girls basketball team took care of an overmatched McGraw team Wednesday night at McGraw High School.

The Olympians allowed just two second-half points and won 48-7 for their second win in as many nights.

Marathon handled McGraw's early defensive pressure and limited the Eagles to just one point in the first quarter. The Olympians cruised from there, keeping McGraw's players in front on the defensive end and forcing plenty of turnovers.

McGraw struggled to get shots off at all in the second half, frequently lobbing the ball to the middle of the floor. Marathon defenders picked those passes off and turned them into two points on the other end.

Marathon held a usually pesky McGraw team off the offensive glass, allowing the Eagles just four second-chance opportunities.

Faith Baker led Marathon with 10 points, Addie Oram and Alina Parker contributed nine points each, Audrey Ensign and Haleigh Smith both added eight points and Catherine Newkirk and Liz VanCise scored two points apiece. Cassie Forrest, Kennedy Eaton and Delaney Reilly also got plenty of run for the Olympians, but didn't score.

Emersynn Wilson topped McGraw with two points, two rebounds, four steals and a block, Bristol Eastman contributed two points, two rebounds and two steals, Mikayla Ross added two points and Lexi McCall pitched in one point and five boards. Leah Terwilliger (two rebounds, two steals, one block), Jordan Maynard (two rebounds, one steal) and Eden Sears (two re-

bounds) also aided the Eagles' effort.

Marathon has now won back-to-back games and will look to make it three in a row at 6:30 p.m. today at Groton. McGraw doesn't have any regular season games left on the schedule, closing the season at 9-5.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
**MEXICO 66, HOMER 47**

Homer couldn't get enough stops early, getting down 41-23 at halftime and trailing 62-37 through three in the Trojans' fourth loss in their last five games. Ryan Beard and Max Franco led the way with 12 points each and Kaden Durham pitched in 11 points.

Aidan Hutchings knocked down a pair of triples for six points, Graydon Hickey scored three points, Brycen Poole recorded two points and Jack Brady made a free throw for Homer.

**TULLY 55, FAITH HERITAGE 43**

Garrett Thompson went for 25 points as Tully won its ninth game in a row and moved to 14-1 on the season. It was Thompson's ninth time hitting the 20-point mark this season.

Connor Bastedo followed Thompson with 12 points, Nate Best and Sean Mize chipped in seven points each, Darrell Gables scored two points and Steven Pierce and Sam Dando both had one point for the Black Knights.

**HOCKEY**  
**WINDSOR 3, CORTLAND/HOMER 2**

No additional details were reported.

**BOYS WRESTLING**  
**MARCELLUS/ONONDAGA 46, SOUTHERN HILLS 21**

Logan Sherriff (152 pounds) and Sye Stanton (160 pounds) both earned pins in Southern Hills' road loss. David Frazee (215 pounds) also won a 4-1 decision and Jerod Olrich (285 pounds) won by forfeit.

Gavin Sherriff (131 pounds), Tanner Clemens (145 pounds) and Louis Bennett (170 pounds) all lost by decision for the Storm. Levi Seemann (108 pounds) lost by tech fall and Jacob Meyer (101 pounds), Blake Wilcox (138 pounds) and Owen Moltion (190 pounds) were pinned. Marcellus/Onondaga received forfeits at 116 and 124 pounds.

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**  
**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Homer at Solvay, 6:30 p.m. today  
Groton at Marathon, 7 p.m. today  
Dryden at Whitney Point, 7:15 p.m. today  
Weedsport at Tully, 7 p.m. today  
Madison at DeRuyter, 7 p.m. today  
Moravia at Southern Cayuga, 7 p.m. today  
Central Square at Homer, 1:45 p.m. Saturday  
Cortland at Westhill, 6:30 p.m. Monday  
Cincinnatus at McGraw, 7 p.m. Monday  
Trumansburg at Dryden, 7 p.m. Monday  
Faith Heritage at DeRuyter, 7 p.m. Monday

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Cortland at Marcellus, 7:15 p.m. today  
Marathon at Groton, 6:30 p.m. today  
Whitney Point at Dryden, 7 p.m. today  
Moravia at Southern Cayuga, 5:30 p.m. today  
Solvay at Homer, 10:30 a.m. Saturday  
Cortland at Skaneateles, 7 p.m. Monday  
Fabius-Pompey at Tully, 7 p.m. Monday

**HOCKEY**  
Skaneateles at Cortland/Homer, 5 p.m. today  
at J.M. McDonald Sports Complex  
Cortland/Homer at Ithaca, 5:30 p.m. Monday  
at Cass Park

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**  
No. 9 Owen D. Young/Richfield Springs at No. 1 Cincinnatus, 6 p.m. today  
No. 5 Morrisville-Eaton at No. 4 Tully, 6 p.m. today

**BOYS WRESTLING**  
Cortland, Homer at Mexico, 10 a.m. Saturday  
Marathon, Dryden at Oneonta, Saturday  
Groton, Moravia at Unadilla Valley, 7 a.m. Saturday  
Southern Hills at General Brown, 7 a.m. Saturday

**INDOOR TRACK & FIELD**  
Cortland, Homer at Onondaga Community College, 9 a.m. Saturday  
Dryden at Cornell University, 1 p.m. Saturday  
Tully at Onondaga Community College, 3 p.m. Saturday

**BOWLING**  
Groton at Waverly, noon Saturday  
at Valley Bowling Center  
Homer at Flamingo Bowl, 9 a.m. Sunday

**BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING**  
Dryden at Watkins Glen, 9 a.m. Saturday

## National Football League Chiefs' 3-peat bid faces its toughest challenge vs. Eagles

By ROB MAADDI  
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW ORLEANS — Patrick Mahomes, Travis Kelce and the Kansas City Chiefs are pursuing history and a few of Taylor Swift's records.

Saquon Barkley, Jalen Hurts and the Philadelphia Eagles stand in their way.

The Chiefs (17-2) will try to become the first team to win three straight Super Bowls when they face the Eagles (17-3) on Sunday in the Superdome.

It's a rematch from two years ago when Hurts nearly led the Eagles to a championship only to watch Mahomes snatch it away by rallying Kansas City to a 38-35 win on Harrison Butker's 27-yard field goal with 8 seconds left.

Mahomes lifted the Chiefs to an overtime win against San Francisco in another Super Bowl rematch last year. Now, they're poised for a three-peat, a word coach Andy Reid doesn't use much.

"I think the only time I've heard him say it is to the media whenever y'all ask him about it," Mahomes said. "He's very locked in on just, 'How can we be great with our cadence today at practice?' so that's just the stuff that

Coach Reid focuses on."

Reid won more games than any coach in franchise history during his 14 seasons in Philadelphia but couldn't win the big one, going 1-4 in NFC championship games and losing a Super Bowl to the Patriots. He went right to Kansas City after the Eagles fired him following the 2012 season and has built a dynasty thanks to Mahomes, Kelce, Chris Jones and others.

"You don't have time to think about all that," Reid said of the three-peat. "You're focused in on the job at hand here and that's playing against a great Eagles team."

Jones, the three-time All-Pro defensive tackle, echoed his coach's viewpoint.

"We don't talk about no three-peat," Jones said. "I think that's what we're here for. We understand that. We understand there's one more game until the offseason and we can do whatever we want to do. Our main focus is making sure we're prepared for the Eagles."

No matter what the Chiefs say, everyone else is talking about it. No team has done it in the Super Bowl era, though the Green

See BOWL, page 10



AP Photo/Brynn Anderson

Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts, left, and Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes pose with the trophy during Super Bowl 59 Opening Night, Monday, in New Orleans.

## Tom Brady reflects on 1st year with Fox

By JOE REEDY  
AP Sports Writer

Even though the scoreboard won't measure Tom Brady's performance in the Fox Sports booth during Sunday's Super Bowl, he is trying to take the same approach that he did in his previous 10 appearances in the big game as a player.

Brady addressed questions about his move to broadcasting as well as other issues on Wednesday during a conference call previewing Sunday's matchup in New Orleans between the Kansas City Chiefs and Philadelphia Eagles.

It was the first time Brady was made available for interviews. He has frequently appeared during the season on Colin Cowherd's show on FS1.

"There's no scoreboard for us. Did we feel we approached the game the right way, and were we prepared? Ultimately, it comes down to two things: Was I confident in what I said, and did I enjoy myself? I think if those are yes, then we did a good job," Brady said. "I'm very excited for what's ahead."

Brady has received as much scrutiny as an analyst as he did during his 23 seasons quarterbacking the New England Patriots and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, where he won seven Super Bowls.

While the general consensus is that his first year in the booth has not been as good as Tony Romo's

with CBS in 2017, Brady hasn't struggled as other former players and coaches who have attempted broadcasting.

Kevin Burkhardt, who is calling his second Super Bowl, said he has noticed Brady's comfort level improve as the season progresses.

"I think there's a reason that not everybody dives into this end of the pool because it's hard to be on TV for 3 1/2 hours every week and not have an edit button and go back and hit the delete button," Burkhardt said.

"I think the goal the whole way along was for us as a team to grow and get better as the year goes on. I think with anybody new, and I've worked with enough new partners over the years, it takes time to build chemistry, whether they're a TV veteran or not, and I think with this, it's no different. It just takes time on task. So I'm just proud of where we are."

Brady signed a 10-year, \$375 million contract with Fox in May 2022 while still playing for Tampa Bay. He retired after that season and decided in February 2023 to take a year off before moving into the booth.

Burkhardt and Brady had plenty of practice games during the season, but those took place mostly on the Fox Sports lot in Los Angeles and not viewed by millions. Brady, though, knew that the learning curve was going to be steep, but he said was ready for the challenge.

## College Football

# Sanders says he 'couldn't coach pro ball' in episode of his show

By PAT GRAHAM  
AP Sports Writer

DENVER — Deion Sanders got right to the point in a segment of his new television series: "I couldn't coach pro ball," the Colorado Buffaloes coach maintained.

In his show, "We Got Time Today" that streams on Tubi, Sanders chatted with former Dallas Cowboys teammate and fellow Hall of Famer Troy Aikman about a wide variety of topics. They reminisced about their Super Bowl experience and touched on Sanders' chat with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones concerning the Dallas head coaching vacancy. The team ended up hiring Brian Schottenheimer.

Sanders pointed out the differ-

ences at practices from their time to now. Sanders highlighted how Aikman didn't want a ball to touch the ground, how Sanders didn't want to surrender a catch, how Michael Irvin wouldn't let a ball drop and how Emmitt Smith hit the hole and ran 20 or 30 yards after every play.

"That's the way we practiced," Sanders said in a recent installment of his show. "I know it's cute but I couldn't coach pro ball. The way they practice, the way they go about it, I couldn't take it — as a man, and as a football enthusiast. I care about the game. ... There's no way I could allow that to happen on my watch.

That would be tough."

Aikman added that Sanders in charge of the Cowboys would "make a lot of sense."

"I was asked a lot of questions about how do you think Deion would do?" Aikman recounted. "I said, 'I think Deion would do great.' There are a small handful of people that I know that I just simply would not bet against. And Deion is one of those handful of

people. He's proven it at every stop. He'd be successful in the NFL."

Sanders and the Buffaloes are coming off a 9-4 season in which they earned a spot in the Alamo Bowl.



Sanders



Major League Baseball

AP source: Alonso stays with Mets, agreeing to \$54M, 2-year contract

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — First baseman Pete Alonso is staying with the New York Mets, agreeing to a \$54 million, two-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because the agreement, first reported by The New York Post, was subject to a successful physical.

Alonso gets a \$10 million signing bonus and gets salaries of \$20 million this year and \$24 million in 2026. He can opt out after the 2025 season to become a free agent again.

New York also offered a \$71 million, three-year deal with salaries of \$27 million in 2025 and \$22 million in each of the following two seasons, with the ability to opt out after each of the first two years, the person said.

Alonso, who turned 30 on Dec. 7, lingered on the market longer than other top players. Among other free-agent first basemen, Christian Walker agreed to a \$60 million, three-year contract with Houston, and Paul Goldschmidt (New York Yankees) and Carlos Santana (Cleveland) accepted one-year agreements.

Mets owner Steve Cohen expressed frustration last month, saying the negotiating was more difficult than the talks that led to a record \$765 million, 15-year contract with Juan Soto, who like Alonso is represented by agent Scott Boras.

“I don’t like the structures that are being presented to us,” Steve Cohen said. “It’s highly asymmetric against us and I feel



AP Photo/Morry Gash, File

**Mets’ Pete Alonso reacts after hitting a three-run home run during the ninth inning of Game 3 of a National League wild card game against the Brewers, Oct. 3, 2024, in Milwaukee.**

strongly about it. I will never say no. You know, there’s always a possibility.

“But the reality is that we’re moving forward and we continue to bring in players. And as we continue to bring in players, the reality is, it becomes harder to fit Pete into what is a very expensive group of players that we already have.”

Under his previous agency, Alonso turned down a \$158 million, seven-year offer in 2023 that would have covered 2024-30.

He switched representation to Boras after the 2023 season and agreed to a \$20.5 million,

one-year deal that avoided arbitration. Alonso hit 226 homers over six seasons with the New York Mets and became a four-time All-Star, but his strikeouts steadily increased to a career high 172 last year while his OPS has dropped to a career-low .788.

Nicknamed the Polar Bear, Alonso became a Citi Field fan favorite as a home-grown member of the Mets.

He was NL Rookie of the Year in 2019, when he hit .260 with a major league-high 53 homers — a rookie record — and 120 RBIs. He had a career-high 131 RBIs in 2022.

Alonso batted a career-low

.217 in 2023 while hitting 46 homers and driving in 118 runs and hit .240 with 34 homers and 88 RBIs this year. His three-run, ninth-inning home run off Devin Williams lifted the Mets over Milwaukee in the decisive third game of their NL Wild Card Series.

After losing to the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL Championship Series, the Mets added Soto and right-handers Frankie Montas, Clay Holmes and Griffin Canning along with left-hander A.J. Minter, and resigned left-hander Sean Manaea, right-hander Ryne Stanek and outfielder Jesse Winker.

MLB Commissioner says some fans are concerned over lack of salary cap

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred says he is getting emails from fans concerned over the sport’s lack of a salary cap following an offseason spending spree by the Los Angeles Dodgers that sparked increased attention over the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement in December 2027.

“This is an issue that we need to be vigilant on,” Manfred said Thursday following the end of an owners’ meeting. “We need to pay attention to it and need to determine whether there are things that can be done to allay those kinds of concerns and make sure we have a competitive and healthy game going forward.”

Baseball’s biggest spender in 2024 won the World Series: The Dodgers had a \$353 million luxury tax payroll and had to pay a \$103 million tax. The Athletics had the lowest luxury tax payroll at just under \$84 million.

“The Dodgers are a really well-run, successful organization,” Manfred said. “Everything that they do and have done is consistent with our rules. They’re trying to give their fans the best possible product. Those are all positives. I recognize, however, and my emails cer-



AP Photo/Ashley Landis, File

**Commissioner of Major League Baseball Rob Manfred walks on the field before Game 2 of the World Series between the Dodgers and the Yankees, Oct. 26, 2024, in Los Angeles.**

tainly reflect that there are fans in other markets who are concerned about their team’s ability to compete. And we always have to be concerned when our fans are concerned about something. But pinning it on the Dodgers, I’m not in that camp.”

The AL champion New York Yankees — one of baseball’s biggest spenders for decades — even have concerns about where the game is going on the finan-

cial front, and how it’s challenging to match the way the Dodgers can spend.

“It’s difficult for most of us owners to be able to do the kinds of things that they’re doing. We’ll see if it pays off,” Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said in an interview aired Tuesday on YES Network. “They still have to have a season relatively injury-free for it to work out for them. It’s a long season as you

know, and once you get to the postseason anything can happen. We’ve seen that time and time again.”

Players oppose a salary cap and fought off a proposal with a 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95, leading to the cancellation of the World Series.

“I wish it would be the case that we would have a salary cap in baseball the way other sports do, and maybe eventually we will, but we don’t have that now,” new Baltimore Orioles owner David Rubenstein told Yahoo Finance at last month’s World Economic Forum. “I suspect we’ll probably have something closer to what the NFL and the NBA have, but there’s no guarantee of that.”

Bargaining is expected to start in the spring of 2026. U.S. sports leagues have preferred offseason lockouts to determine the timing of work stoppages rather than risk in-season strikes.

“We’re still two years away even if you’re thinking you want to bargain early,” Manfred said. “We do have things going on in terms of the economics of the game, local media being the principal one, that the longer we wait, the more it evolves, the better decisions we’re going to make.”

Ohtani’s ex-interpreter sentenced to 4 years and 9 months in gambling case

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — The former interpreter for baseball star Shohei Ohtani was sentenced Thursday to four years and nine months in prison and three years’ supervised release for bank and tax fraud after he stole nearly \$17 million from the Los Angeles Dodgers player’s bank account.

Ippei Mizuhara, who was supposed to bridge the gap between the Japanese athlete and his English-speaking teammates and fans, was sentenced in federal court in Santa Ana, California, after pleading guilty last year.

He was ordered Thursday to pay \$18 million in restitution, with nearly \$17 million going to

Ohtani and the remainder to the IRS. He was ordered to surrender to authorities to begin serving his sentence by March 24.

“The magnitude of the theft — \$17 million — in my view, is shockingly high,” U.S. District Judge John W. Holcomb said upon issuing the sentence.

Holcomb said most people don’t make that much money in their lifetime.

“I hope that Mr. Mizuhara will be able to repay that sum,” Holcomb said. “That remains to be seen.”

Mizuhara has acknowledged

using the money to cover his growing gambling bets and debts with an illegal bookmaker, in addition to \$325,000 worth of baseball cards and his own dental bills.

His attorney declined to comment after the hearing.

The case affected arguably the world’s most famous baseball player — who previously pitched for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim — and stoked an international media frenzy. It stemmed from a broader probe into illegal sports bookmaking



Mizuhara

BOWL —

continued from page 9

Bay Packers won an NFL championship in 1965 and followed by winning the first two Super Bowls. Kelce even started all the three-peat talk on stage last year when he said the team’s goal was to win three.

“This is gonna be our biggest test yet,” Kelce said. “They got a lot of great players but the biggest thing is they play great together. You could see their communication. You could see the accountability they have, especially in the secondary. It’s not gonna make my job any easier.”

These Eagles are different from the group that fell just short against Kansas City in Arizona two years ago.

They have the NFL’s most dynamic player in the backfield. Barkley rushed for 2,447 yards with seven touchdowns of 60-plus yards in the regular season and playoffs.

“The goal has always been to win it, not just to get here,” Barkley said.

Losing to the Chiefs two years ago only motivated Hurts even more. He’s determined to hoist a Lombardi trophy and even had a photo of him walking off the field with Kansas City’s red and yellow confetti falling around him as the background on his phone.

“It’s had a great driving force,” Hurts said of that loss. “It lit a flame, lit a fire in me, and to have this opportunity again is exactly what you work for.”

Hurts, Barkley, A.J. Brown, DeVonta Smith and a dominant offensive line present a major challenge for Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

The Eagles also have the league’s No. 1-ranked defense, featuring eight new starters from 2022.

All-Pro linebacker Zack Baun and rookie cornerbacks Quinyon Mitchell and Cooper DeJean plus the emergence of defensive tackle Jalen Carter and edge rusher Nolan Smith has transformed a defensive unit that fell apart last season.

“We’re fortunate to have Steve Spagnuolo, but I tell you that Vic is one of those guys,” Reid said. “He’s just one of those really creative defensive minds that survived a long time in this league.”

If the Chiefs win, Reid and Mahomes will be one step closer to Bill Belichick and Tom Brady. They’re halfway to the six Belichick and Brady won together in New England and Mahomes is still four away from Brady’s seven rings.

“I’m trying to be the greatest Patrick Mahomes that I can be. That’s obviously a goal of anyone’s — to be the greatest at their profession — but in order to do that, you have to be the greatest that you can be every single day,” Mahomes said.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
m-Washington	53	35	11	7	77	188	132
m-Carolina	54	32	18	4	68	176	149
a-Florida	55	32	20	3	67	184	162
a-Toronto	53	32	19	2	66	165	153
m-New Jersey	55	30	19	6	66	170	139
a-Ottawa	54	29	21	4	62	156	146
Detroit	54	28	21	5	61	157	165
Tampa Bay	52	28	20	4	60	181	146
Boston	56	27	23	6	60	154	178
Columbus	54	26	21	7	59	179	179
N.Y. Islanders	53	25	21	7	57	146	152
N.Y. Rangers	53	26	23	4	56	159	162
Montreal	54	25	24	5	55	160	185
Pittsburgh	55	22	24	9	53	159	196
Philadelphia	55	23	25	7	53	156	186
Buffalo	53	22	26	5	49	167	179
WESTERN CONFERENCE							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
c-Winnipeg	55	38	14	3	79	198	131
p-Edmonton	54	34	16	4	72	178	147
c-Dallas	53	34	18	1	69	170	131
p-Vegas	54	31	17	6	68	178	151
c-Minnesota	54	31	19	4	66	155	155
Colorado	55	31	22	2	64	177	168
p-Los Angeles	51	28	17	6	62	145	130
Vancouver	53	24	18	11	59	151	164
Calgary	53	26	20	7	59	144	158
Utah	53	22	22	9	53	147	157
St. Louis	54	24	25	5	53	146	163
Anaheim	53	23	24	6	52	135	164
Seattle	55	23	28	4	50	165	178
Nashville	52	18	27	7	43	136	169
Chicago	53	16	31	6	38	138	183
San Jose	55	15	34	6	36	144	206
(a, c, m, p)-top three in their division							

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	Pct		GB	
Cleveland	41	10	.804		—	
Boston	36	15	.706		5	
New York	34	17	.667		7	
Indiana	28	21	.571		12	
Milwaukee	27	22	.551		13	
Miami	25	24	.510		15	
Detroit	25	26	.490		16	
Orlando	25	27	.481		16½	
Atlanta	23	28	.451		18	
Chicago	22	30	.423		19½	
Philadelphia	20	30	.400		20½	
Brooklyn	17	34	.333		24	
Toronto	16	35	.314		25	
Charlotte	12	36	.250		27½	
Washington	9	41	.180		31½	
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	Pct		GB	
Oklahoma City	40	9	.816		—	
Memphis	35	16	.686		6	
Houston	32	18	.640		8½	
Denver	32	19	.627		9	
L.A. Lakers	29	19	.604		10½	
L.A. Clippers	28	22	.560		12½	
Minnesota	28	23	.549		13	
Dallas	26	25	.510		15	
Sacramento	25	25	.500		15½	
Phoenix	25	25	.500		15½	
Golden State	25	25	.500		15½	
San Antonio	22	26	.458		17½	
Portland	22	29	.431		19	
Utah	12	37	.245		28	
New Orleans	12	39	.235		29	



Bible Baptist Church

Services will be 10 a.m. Sunday at Bible Baptist Church, 15 West Road, Cortland. The Rev. Dan Crane’s sermon will be “Living in Contentment.” The scripture reading will be Philippians 4:10-23. Sunday school is 11:15 a.m. Prayer and devotions are 6 p.m. Wednesday.

The Church at Freetown

Services are 10:30 a.m. Sunday at The Church at Freetown, at 2405 Church Lane, Freetown. Joseph Bimba of Liberia will preach. Fellowship is 10 a.m. and the church may be reached at thechurchatfreetown@gmail.com.

Cortland First United Methodist Church

Services are 11 a.m. Sunday at Cortland First United Methodist Church, 734 Route 222, Cortlandville. The Rev. Douglas “BB” Watson’s sermon will be “A Greater Way.” The gospel will be John 13: 34-35 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-13. Women’s Bible study is 6 to 8 p.m. Mondays. The food pantry is open 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday. The next clothing and toys giveaway will be 9 a.m. to noon March 8.

First Church of Christ, Scientist

Services will be 10:30 a.m. Sunday at First Church of Christ, Scientist, 9 Clinton Ave., Cortland. The lesson is “Spirit.” David writes in Psalms: “Who is so great a God as our God?...thy spirit is good.” The testimony meeting is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

First Presbyterian Church of Dryden

Dryden Presbyterian Church invites everyone to worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Nancy Didway’s sermon is titled, “God in Search of a People.” Music includes “Great is Thy Faithfulness,” “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” and “The Summons.” The kitchen cupboard is open 11 a.m. to noon Mondays and Fridays, 5 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, and 11 a.m. to noon the last Saturday of the month. Children are invited to Kids’ Club fol-

lowing the children’s message. For information on joining worship livestreamed on Zoom, call the church office at 607-844-8321.

Grace and Holy Spirit Church

Services are 9:30 a.m. Sunday at Grace and Holy Spirit Church, 13 Court St., Cortland. Stop by Bru 64 at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays for conversation with The Rev. Jennifer Manis and company. A prayer in community will be 8:15 p.m. Thursday via Zoom. For details, or for the Zoom link to all services, contact the church from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays at 607-753-3073 or email graceandholyspirit@cnymail.com.

Homer Avenue and Virgil UMCs

Services will be 9:30 a.m. Sunday at Virgil United Methodist Church and 11 a.m. Sunday at Homer Avenue United Methodist Church. The scripture reading will be Psalm 138 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. The gospel reading will be Luke 5:1-11. The Rev. Steph Brown’s message will be: “You Are Adequate to Answer God’s Call.” The hymns will be: “Here I Am Lord,” “Jesus Calls Us,” “Would I Have Answered When You Called?” and “Amen, Amen.” The Virgil service will be live at https://tinyurl.com/5h3ey7rj and the Homer Avenue service will be live at https://tinyurl.com/2w5j6uz4.

Homer Congregational United Church of Christ

Worship is 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Homer Congregational United Church of Christ. The Rev. Ryan Henderson’s sermon will be “Do Better,” based on Luke 5:1-11. Faith Formation classes are 9:30 a.m. Sunday. It will be Scout Sunday and members of the Baden Powell Council Pack 1 will join the worship leadership team. After worship, there will be a coffee hour. Service will be livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube or at www.homercc.com.

Homer First United Methodist Church

Services will be 9:30 a.m. Sunday at Homer First United Methodist Church and

will be livestreamed via YouTube, a link is available at www.homerfirst.org. The Rev. Sung Jun Park’s message will be “Enjoying Yourself” based on 1 Corinthians 3:21-22, Ephsians 1:3-5. Bible study is 10 a.m. Tuesday in the narthex. Sunday school and youth group is 10 a.m. during church service. The food pantry is open 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays.

Marathon First Presbyterian Church

Service will be 10 a.m. Sunday at the Marathon First Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Doug Hatch’s sermon will be “Noah,” and will review some of the conditions associated with this historical character. Hymns include “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun,” “We Plow the Fields and Scatter” as well as a closing hymn of congregational choice.

McGraw United Methodist Church

Services are 10 a.m. Sunday at McGraw United Methodist Church, 20 E. Main St., McGraw. It will be livestreamed via Facebook. The sermon will be “Faith in Our Desert,” with Julie Ryan. The scripture will be Matthew 21:18-22. Bible study and Sunday school run 8:30 to 9 a.m. Sunday. The food pantry will be open 6 to 7 p.m. Thursday.

McGrawville Baptist Church

Services will be 9:45 a.m. Sunday at McGrawville Baptist Church. Special music will be “Love Is All That Matters,” “The Love of God,” “Wondrous Love” and “All That Thrills My Soul.” Scripture readings will be Hosea 2-3 and message: “Love — Passion or Promise?” by the Rev. George Mekeel. The joint board meeting will be 6 p.m. Thursday, reports for the annual meeting will be due to Mary Kimberly. The luncheon will be 11:30 a.m. Feb. 16, followed by the annual meeting at 12:30 p.m. and Sunday praise service at 6 p.m.

St. Anthony’s Church

Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. Sunday at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Cortland, livestreamed via Facebook. The Rosary will be prayed at 8:50 a.m. The Altar Society will have a Valentine’s

Day bake sale before and after Mass on Sunday. A weekday Mass will be 5:30 p.m. Monday, but no Mass will be offered on Tuesday morning. However, a Mass of Healing will be 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Mass will be followed by a candlelight Rosary and then the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and healing prayers. Confession will be offered from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Donations of food and toiletries for local charities may be left in the blue collection bin at the back church entrance. St. Margaret’s Church Masses will be 4 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday at St. Margaret’s Church in Homer. Confessions will be 3 to 3:45 p.m. Saturday. There will be no Faith Formation this week.

Summerhill Baptist Church

Services are 10 a.m. Sunday at Summerhill Baptist Church on 525 Lake Como Road, followed by Sunday school at 11:15 a.m. The Rev. Karl Hoyer’s message will be “The Loveless Church, Letters to the Churches, Conclusion of the Introduction.” The message may be replayed at https://summerhillbaptists.org.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland

Services are 10:30 a.m. Sunday at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Cortland. The Cortland congregation will be in person and on Zoom, watching the Rev. Darcey Laine. The service will be “What About Scorpions?” The program will look into critters (including humans), who have the power to harm.

United Presbyterian Church

Chapel Service is 9 a.m. Sunday and Sanctuary Service with the choir is 10:30 a.m. Sunday at United Presbyterian Church, 25 Church St., Cortland. The Rev. David H. Johnson will deliver the sermon “So Many Fish...” The 10:30 a.m. service is broadcast over Facebook Live at “United Presbyterian Church.” The church is celebrating 200 years, you can visit the church’s website to learn more about special events planned at: www.unitedpresbyterian.net.

Migrants in Ohio turn to faith amid deportation fears

By LUIS ANDRES HENAO and JESSIE WARDARSKI Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — At the end of his Sunday service, the pastor of the First Haitian Evangelical Church of Springfield, Ohio, asked ushers and musicians to form a circle around him as he knelt in prayer, flanked by the flags of Haiti and the United States. Many had come to receive his blessing and hear his guidance on how to deal with federal agents in case of raids stemming from President Donald Trump’s crack-down on immigration. Other congregants stayed home out of fear and growing uncertainty. “I asked God to protect my people,” the Rev. Reginald Silencieux said after the service, reflecting on his final prayer. “I prayed especially for the Haitian community, and I prayed for U.S.A. too, because Trump is our president. As a church, we have an obligation to pray for him because he’s our political leader right now.” Some of Springfield’s estimated 15,000 Haitians are seeking solace and divine intervention in their churches or at shops that sell spiritual products. Community leaders say many are overwhelmed by fears Trump will end or let expire the Temporary Protected Status program that allows them to remain in the U.S. legally. “The community is panicking,”



AP Photo/Luis Andres Henao

Jean-Michel Gisnel cries out while praying with other congregants at the First Haitian Evangelical Church of Springfield, Jan. 26, in Springfield, Ohio.

said Viles Dorsainvil, the leader of Springfield’s Haitian Community Help and Support Center. “They see the arrests on TV in other parts of the country and they don’t know what’s going to happen.” “The majority of immigrants in the U.S.A. are not criminals, and they’re hard-working people,” he added. “Any administration with common sense would rather work with those kinds of immigrants than deport them.” Last year, Trump falsely accused Haitians in Springfield of eating their neighbor’s cats and dogs. The false rumors exacer-

bated fears about division and anti-immigrant sentiment in the mostly white, blue-collar city of about 59,000. In the weeks after his comments, schools, government buildings and the homes of elected officials were targeted with dozens of bomb threats. “Before, we had a different type of fear — it was a fear of retaliation, whether it was the far right, the Proud Boys,” said Jacob Payen, a Haitian community leader and owner of Milokan Botanica, a religious shop that sells Haitian spiritual and natural healing products. “Now, there’s a fear of depor-

tation. That keeps a lot of people from going out and has caused a lot of people to have left,” he said, pointing to the usually busy commercial plaza where his business is located and that was now more quiet than usual. Between selling religious candles and spiritual ointments, Payne guided customers with immigration forms, employment authorization cards and questions on their TPS applications. Brutus Joseph, 50, who works installing solar panels, said he came to the botanica to find spiritual relief. But he also wanted to speak his mind. “I don’t feel right at all. I have a lot in my chest,” Joseph said in Creole through an interpreter. “My wife and I can’t even sleep because we’re so worried. We’re law-abiding citizens — all we did is to be Haitian. We didn’t think we’d be treated like this by the (Trump) administration. I’m praying to God that the president changes his mind.” Joseph especially worries about the future for his five children, including one who is a senior in high school in Springfield and plans to attend college this year. “If I leave here, there’s no future for my children. My children can get raped and killed if I go back, so I have everything to lose,” he said, making an appeal to Trump as a fellow family man who is married to an immigrant. The Rev. Philomene Philostin, one of the pastors at the First

Haitian Evangelical Church, bemoaned the lower-than-usual attendance at Sunday’s service. “They don’t have to be scared. They have to be alert,” she said. “They shouldn’t be scared to the point where they don’t come to church.” The migration concerns of clergy and other community members in Springfield are shared by many faith leaders nationwide. In several cities, including New York, Philadelphia and Portland, Oregon, interfaith groups are discussing how to provide security and support to migrants in their communities, including those who are undocumented. During his first administration, Trump used bluntly vulgar language to question why the U.S. would accept immigrants from Haiti and “shithole countries” in Africa. His 2024 campaign focused heavily on illegal immigration, often referring in his speeches to crimes committed by migrants. Thousands of temporary Haitian migrants have legally landed in Springfield in recent years under the TPS program, as longstanding unrest in their home country has given way to violent gangs ruling the streets. “Everything changed because Trump is president. People are scared right now. Most are staying in their homes — they don’t want to go outside,” said Romane Pierre, 41, who settled in Springfield in 2020 under the TPS program.

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Book Review



Handout/Vintage/TNS  
After years of reporting, “The Secret History” lays out how Martha Goddard became the architect and catalyst of the rape kit, as well as its primary fundraiser and tireless champion.

Goddard changed how people think about sexual assault

New book looks at why we haven’t heard about her

By CHRISTOPHER BORRELLI  
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

The first rape kits were given to hospitals in 1978. Chicago was the testing ground. According to a Tribune article from the time, more than two dozen Cook County hospitals received the kits, courtesy of the Chicago Hospital Council.

Police had long insisted that corroborating evidence of sex crimes was near impossible, so Bernard Carey, then state’s attorney, explained the kits would be used to create a process for establishing evidence of a sexual assault.

At the end of the article, there was a name, Louis Vitullo, a Chicago police sergeant and analyst in the crime lab who specialized in microscope work. The invention of the kit was credited to him. Vitullo had made his name a decade earlier by identifying the fingerprints of mass murderer Richard Speck.

But Vitullo didn’t invent the rape kit — at least, not alone.

Neither did Carey, whose office positioned the project as a collaboration with Vitullo.

About six years ago, journalist Pagan Kennedy — who has made inventors and the development of pioneering ideas her specialty — became obsessed with knowing who did create the first kit. She suspected the answer might not be Vitullo, partly because, in the earliest reports about the kit, another name floated in the mix of Illinois activists, politicians and police commanders involved with its development: Marty Goddard, which is what everyone called the otherwise formal Chicago woman named Martha Goddard.

By the time Kennedy, who lives in New England, sorted out the actual origin of the kit — a fraught puzzle recounted with absorbing detail in her new book, “The Secret History of the Rape Kit: A True Crime Story” — she had a broader portrait of how a country, and particularly a large city like Chicago, came to change its views about sexual assault.

“The rape kit was in the news when I started, mainly because, years after it was first tested, there was a huge backlog of untested kits,” Kennedy said. “That backlog started almost immediately in the ‘70s. I realized I had never really thought about the kit itself, which is a fascinating object: Everyone has heard of it but most of us have almost no

idea what’s in it or how it works. Once you consider that, it’s not surprising nearly a half a million kits were going discarded. I mean, growing up in the ‘70s and ‘80s myself, attitudes were different. I doubt I knew if sexual assault was even illegal then.”

After years of reporting, “The Secret History” lays out how Goddard (with internal police help from Vitullo) became the architect and catalyst of the rape kit, as well as its primary fundraiser and tireless champion. And then, a decade or so later, Goddard seems to vanish. As Kennedy noted in an interview, the invention of the rape kit was not entirely Goddard’s or Vitullo’s: “The idea had been floating out in the ether since the early ‘70s.”

But Goddard gave it shape and potential.

Goddard also understood that a science-based evidence kit developed by a woman in the 1970s (one with no background in science) would have a lot of trouble being taken seriously by male leaders in police departments and hospitals. So Goddard’s nonprofit, the Citizens Committee for Victim Assistance, filed a curious trademark for the rape kit: They named it the Vitullo Evidence Collection Kit.

Four years ago, it was a Vitullo Evidence Collection Kit — a cardboard box illustrated with light blue lettering and a very ‘70s silhouette of a woman, containing bags for a victim’s clothing, glass slides, combs and consent forms — that became an artifact in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, after Kennedy wrote a piece for the New York Times about its Chicago lineage.

It was also a Vitullo kit that, having become standard issue in Chicago, was adopted by New York City police in 1982.

Since then, responding to almost institutional nationwide foot-dragging towards testing evidence kits, Illinois became the first state to mandate every kit must be tested; in 2020, the state created an online database for tracking kits; two years later, Gov. JB Pritzker announced its backlog of untested kits older than 180 days was zero.

But that also means kits are languishing for six months.

“Illinois became a leader in a lot of areas (associated with the kits),” said Sarah Beuning, general counsel and director of policy work for the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault. She added: “We would always like (the testing time) to be quicker. If you’re waiting for a prosecutor to press charges, six months is still a long time to wait.”

Author’s library came to Calif. Then it burned in the Eaton fire

By ERIK PEDERSEN  
The Orange County Register (TNS)

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Earlier this year, hundreds of books from the personal library of the late author and critic Gary Indiana, who died in October 2024 at his New York City apartment, arrived at a private home in Altadena.

The cross-country delivery came Tuesday, Jan. 7 — just hours ahead of the Eaton fire, which destroyed nearly 9,500 structures and left 17 dead.

The writer’s vast book collection, which had been packed up and prepared by friends and admirers, was to be part of a planned foundation and residency intended for the Altadena home, which was unoccupied and had been cleared out for a planned renovation.

“There was no one living in the house, thankfully,” says Janique

Vigier, an editor at the publishing house Semiotext(e) and a friend of the late author. “It was going to be renovated so there was no one there...There was very little else in the house.”

Except his books. So when the fire incinerated the home that night, Indiana’s collection burned, too.

“I mean, just hundreds and hundreds of books,” says Vigier. “I don’t know where to start: All of Malaparte, Marx, French poetry, German folktales. It really ran the gamut.”

“We didn’t have a full accounting,” says Vigier, when asked what the collection held. “So it’s hard to speak to that.”

News of the destruction of Indiana’s library was first revealed by novelist Colm Tóibín, who mentioned it in an essay in the London Review of Books, but further information — such as,

why the material had been sent there — had not yet emerged.

Also, it was perhaps not initially clear to some that Indiana’s archive — as opposed to his book collection — was not affected. His papers are in the special collections library at New York University.

“We at NYU Special Collections continue to mourn the loss of Gary Indiana, and we were devastated to learn of the destruction of his library in the Eaton fire. We take some solace in the fact that Gary’s remaining papers, which include manuscripts, journals, source material and correspondence, had been packed separately from the library and remain in New York City. These archives will be added to The Gary Indiana Papers, which have been a part of NYU’s Downtown Collection since 2005,” the institution said in a statement.

‘Black in Blues’ examines the color blue in relation to Black history

Book Review

By MICHAEL KLEBER-DIGGS  
The Minnesota Star Tribune (TNS)

Like the color blue, Imani Perry’s “Black in Blues” is vast, multifaceted and enchanting.

Perry’s book, also like the hue, defies categorization. Her exploration of blue is presented in 35 tight, radiant chapters that read like a blend of memoir and history.

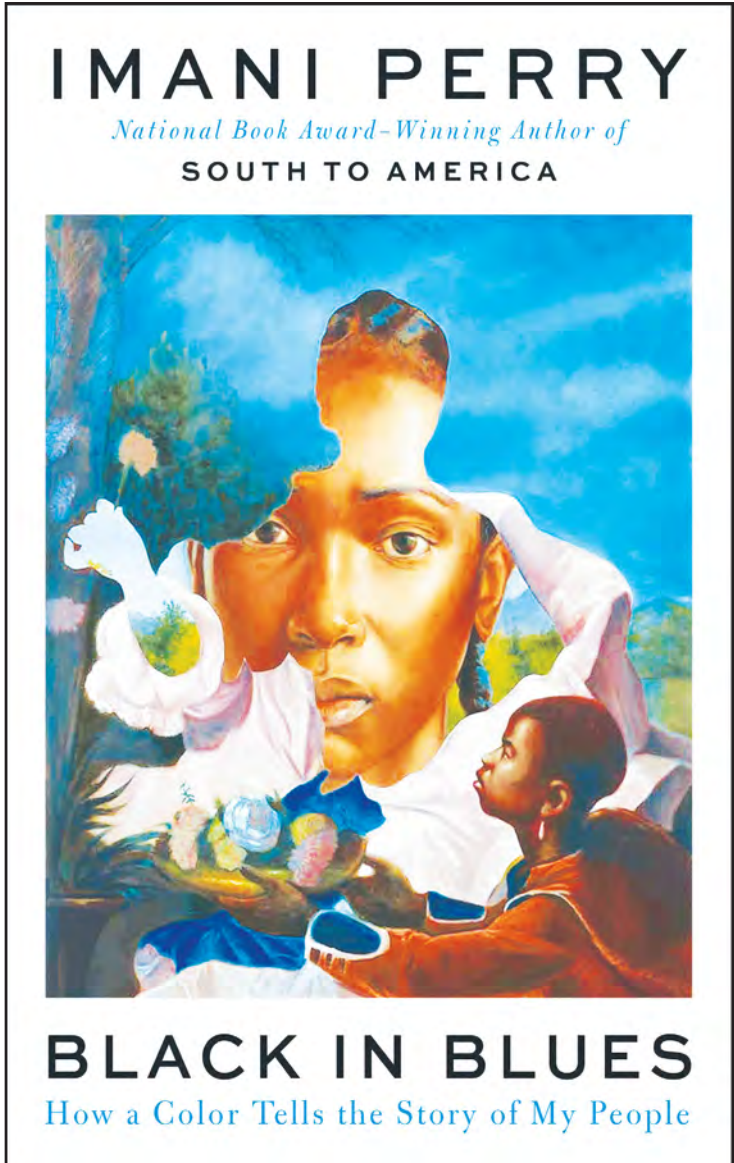
They’re more than memoir and history, though. Because the past is prologue, as we know so well these days, what’s historical also ends up being personal. In “Black in Blues,” Perry writes of herself, her interests and the myriad ways blue shows up in her present and her ancestry. But her work here — her art here — is broader than that. Blue is, too.

“In my grandmother’s bedroom, I learned to love blue,” the “South to America” author and MacArthur “genius” grant recipient explains early in the book. “I also learned about the blues. She taught me that we who have the blues also have beauty.”

Perry has been working on what she calls her “blue book” for years. That stand-in title is doing a lot of work. Blue books were commonly used by schools for written exams, and they’re making a comeback lately as a way to make sure students, who must show their work in them, don’t use artificial intelligence. Part of me still wants to call “Black in Blues” Perry’s blue book. Every other label — essays on blue, a memoir in blue, even studies of blue — feels too small.

That’s because blue, as Perry reveals, is color and culture, commerce and concept, music and memories. It’s simultaneously clear and abstract. Blue has proven itself to be compelling to people for centuries — especially Black people.

Perry is particularly interested in blueness and Blackness, in both the color and Black people’s enduring fascination with it. As the book’s actual title makes clear, blue and Black have long been intertwined. Within that, it becomes apparent that blue is



Ecco/TNS  
Pictured is “Black in Blues: How a Color Tells the Story of My People,” by Imani Perry.

captivating to all people. Some people are drawn to its beauty; some are drawn to blue as business. For myself, after reading “Black in Blues,” I’ll never regard the color’s loveliness (or a blue pair of jeans) the same way again.

Perry is an interdisciplinary scholar, teaching and researching on race, law, literature, African American studies and women, gender and sexuality studies. Her mind, her background, her training and her interests make Perry the perfect person to write about blue, the color of not only the sky but also the indigo cloths that were created in Africa and thus played a role in the theft of human lives. She writes about blues music and the hopefulness of a blue sky.

This book couldn’t only be a

memoir, or history, sociology, business or art. Any thoughtful consideration of blue had to be all of those things and more.

Because our history remains present and personal in American life today, as I read “Black in Blues” and took in 1,000 amazing facts about blue, I learned about the past and the present through stories that are global, national, cultural and personal. I gained insights about the world and about America, hundreds of years ago and today. I learned about people in general, about Perry’s and my people and about myself.

“Black in Blues” also gave me a renewed sense of direction, a clarity of purpose. Here it is: Hold fast to beauty. It has everything you need. It has everything we need.

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