

NATION  
A prosecutor  
resigns after  
refusing to  
drop charges  
against NYC  
Mayor Adams.



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SPORTS  
No. 4 Tully  
fought hard but  
fell to No. 1 Mt.  
Markham in the  
Class C semis  
on Wednesday.



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2025 daily No. 32

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Cortland

www.cortlandstandard.com

Standard

CORTLAND, N.Y.

\$1.50  
newsstand

# Cortland County counts down to Centro switch

By DOUG SCHNEIDER  
Staff Reporter  
dschneider@cortlandstandard.com  
Centro — which is taking over Cortland County’s transit system — is preparing for a March 8 open house, at which the company expects to begin hiring drivers, as Cortland County officials have met key players the new transit system operator will serve: Cornell University, the village of Homer and perhaps JM Murray, lawmakers said Thursday.

And county residents, especially future bus riders, have been peppering county legislators with questions about how and where the bus system plans to operate when it begins serving the county on March 31.  
Cortland County residents will need to change the culture, change the mindset about how a bus system will need to operate in the county as Centro ramps up to move into the area, said Legislator Beau Harbin, (D-Cortland)

**Fast facts about Centro**  
**Fleet Size:** 251  
**Employees:** 573 (includes part-time)  
**Annual Miles:** 5,842,574  
**Annual Passengers:** 7,276,072

chair of the Legislature’s Agricultural, Planning and Environmental Committee.  
Riders will notice a simple fare structure, which has two rates, Steven Koegel, Centro’s vice

president of communications and business planning, has said. The former routes 1 through 6 in Cortland County will have \$1 fares. The fare from Cortland to Cornell University will be \$3.  
Other fares for longer routes would also be \$3. The current transit company charges a \$5 fare to Cornell, Koegel said.  
Harbin and county Planning Director Trisha Hiemstra explained key points about Syracuse-based Centro’s impending

takeover of public busing in Cortland County. County leaders voted last year to change the bus system from Transdev, formerly known as First Transit, which now runs six bus routes and operates some less-prominent services including a “dial-a-ride” service that caters to riders with disabilities who can’t necessarily walk to a bus shelter or stop.  
Under Centro, the service will  
See CENTRO, page 4



Photo provided by Linda Jones

Tommy the Turtle sits amid playground equipment last fall at Dwyer Memorial Park in Preble. Cortland County has removed the equipment and will seek grants to install a new playground, county officials said. That follows a lawsuit where a child lost part of a finger on a slide.

## Playground amputation leads to \$450K payout

Dwyer Park equipment had been found wanting, Cortland County says

By TODD R. McADAM  
Managing Editor  
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It was supposed to be a fun day for a child, marked by a bit of play at Dwyer Memorial Park in Preble.  
The child climbed to the top of a slide at the park’s playground, but on the way down, caught an index finger in a crack at the top of the slide.  
Their left index finger was partially amputated. The date was

Sept. 10, 2023. It was the child’s fifth birthday.  
The child’s mother, Courtney Coombs-Bell, filed suit against Cortland County in November and agreed to a settlement of \$453,118.15 and that the amount would be paid in several installments over the next 25 years, requiring the county to provide an annuity totaling almost \$169,000 to fund the payout. Coombs-Bell could not be reached through her attorney, Greene, Reid & Pome-

roy of Syracuse.  
The playground equipment — a slide, swingsets, a piece of climbing apparatus and a 1,400-pound concrete turtle — were removed about the same time, with county officials saying then they planned to either refurbish or replace the playground equipment.  
“Safety Director Jason DeRaiche began evaluating all county-owned properties upon his hire  
See DWYER, page 4

## Bird flu found in Madison County

Avian flu has been confirmed in Madison County, that county’s health department reports.  
The positive case of avian flu, also known as H5N1, was found in a backyard poultry flock that housed about 15 ducks and geese. Madison County Public Health said any remaining birds will be euthanized in order to prevent further spread, as recommended by the state Department of Agriculture and Markets.  
Contact with the birds was limited to the owners, who will be monitored by the health department for 10 days.  
People working with animals should wash their hands thoroughly, avoid touching their face, and consider wearing personal protective equipment, health officials advised. People are also advised not to consume raw milk or raw milk products, and to keep pets away from dead

birds or animals.  
“All residents should avoid handling a wild or domestic sick or dead bird. Individuals who do not come into direct contact with sick animals are considered at low risk for bird flu,” said Madison County Public Health Director Eric Faisst.  
If you have questions or are concerned about a possible exposure, call Madison County Public Health at 315-366-2361 option 2.  
Any birds demonstrating severe or unexplained illness, or die-offs in backyard poultry, should be reported to the state Department of Agriculture and Markets Division of Animal Industry at 518-457-3502, or a local veterinarian. Dead wild birds should be reported to the state Department of Environmental Conservation at: https://tinyurl.com/5dczdumn.  
Bird flu has been the main

cause of rising egg prices nationally — the highly contagious virus has affected nearly 100 million egg-laying hens in the U.S. since 2022. Trying to slow the spread of the virus has meant 156 million chickens have been destroyed.  
New York began 2025 with an increase in H5N1 cases, found in nearly 40 wild birds in the year’s first five weeks, Cornell Wildlife Health Lab reports. But it was found in seven birds in and near New York this week, prompting the state to shut down all the live chicken markets in and around New York City.  
On Jan. 30, the health departments in Yates and Ontario counties announced that testing for H5N1 is underway following the discovery of 50 dead geese on the west side of Seneca Lake.  
— Hailea Potter

## The Corner Brew wins state grant to perk up exterior

By LILY BYRNE  
Staff Reporter  
lbyrne@cortlandstandard.com  
DRYDEN — Even though only one building in the village of Dryden is being restored, Mayor Michael Murphy hopes it will start a pattern of revitalization.  
The Corner Brew, 1 W. Main St. in Dryden, has won a \$500,000 New York Main Street grant to re-do the cafe’s exterior. The Bohemian-style cafe opened two years ago, filling the space once filled by the Dryden Community Center Café.  
Owner Kayla Lane, who also owns Dryden Realty and Apartment Co. with her father James Lane, sees it as a community gathering place, she said. The building also contains an events room for markets, plant swaps, ladies’ nights, book clubs and psychic readings.  
“The outside will match the inside, which is what I’m looking forward to,” Lane said.  
She stumbled upon the grant after her third year of helping the village apply for the New York Forward grant, she said.  
NY Forward is a \$4.5 million companion to New York’s Downtown Revitalization Initiatives — which have provided \$10 million awards to Cortland and, more recently, Homer, to upgrade elements of their downtowns.  
“I just felt a little defeated,” Lane said. “I was like, ‘What can I do for myself?’ Let’s change

course here.”  
Her grant consultant suggested applying for the New York Main Street grant, which provides funding to communities to strengthen the economic vitality of New York’s traditional main streets and neighborhoods, the New York State website says.  
The village of Dryden was pleased to sponsor the application, its Facebook page says.  
“I think the reason we were awarded the grant is we pledged ourselves as the anchor to Main Street,” Lane said. “If you think about all of the routes you can take into Dryden, you see this building, north, south, east or west.”  
“It’ll be phenomenal,” Murphy said. “It’s a corner right in the center of the village. The Corner Brew and the park and that church are just the focus of your eyes when you come to the village. It’ll change the perception of us.”  
Lane said she hopes the facade improvement is the start of some of the revitalization she hopes to see in the village.  
“It’ll really set a new standard,” Murphy said. “Hopefully, if we ever win the New York Forward grant, we’ll be able to uplift some of the other facades.”  
The work is slated to be completed by November 2026. Six existing upper floor apartments will be renovated, and one additional apartment will be created,  
See BREW, page 4



Hailea Potter/Local Editor

Barista Alicia Stevens prepares to make coffee at Corner Brew in Dryden. The coffee shop is the recipient of a \$500,000 grant to renovate the outside of the building.

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### WEATHER



Snow  
Tomorrow’s Weather:  
High near 30  
Southeast wind 5 to 9 mph  
More on page 2

### ONLINE



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Crafts chain to close CNY stores

(TNS) — Fabrics and crafts chain Joann on Wednesday announced a plan to close approximately 500 stores nationwide, including 24 in New York state and two in Central New York.

The Joann store in the Fayetteville Towne Center is on a closing list released by the company, as is the store on Clinton Street in Cortland.

The Joann store on state Route 31 in Clay is not in the closing list.

The move would close more than half of the approximately 800 U.S. stores the company operates.

A company statement read, in part, “As part of the ongoing Chapter 11 process and our efforts to maximize the value of the business, Joann has filed a motion seeking court authority to begin closing approximately 500 stores across the nation. This was a very difficult decision to make, given the major impact we know it will

have on our Team Members, our customers and all of the communities we serve.”

The move comes just a few weeks after the company declared bankruptcy for the second time in a year, citing struggling sales and “acute and unexpected” inventory issues.

While no timetable for the closings was announced, the company said that it filed a motion with bankruptcy court to begin the process of closing the stores.



AP Photo/Mary Altaffer, File  
Activists participate in a rally on the steps of New York City Hall on Dec. 9, 2021.

Before state’s top court, NYC argues noncitizen vote law

By MICHAEL HILL  
Associated Press

ALBANY — New York’s top court was asked Tuesday to reverse a ruling against a law that would allow noncitizens to vote in New York City municipal elections by lawyers who argued city officials acted within their legal powers.

New York City became the first major U.S. city to grant widespread municipal voting rights to noncitizens in January 2022 — though the law approved by the Democrat-led city council was never implemented due to a legal challenge from Republicans. The city law did not grant noncitizens the right to vote in presidential, congressional or state elections.

A trial judge sided with Republican challengers to noncitizen voting in June 2022. And a mid-level state appeals court

ruled last year that the law violated the state constitution and a legal requirement to hold a public referendum on the proposal because it changed an election method.

The city council appealed to the state Court of Appeals. An attorney for the council told the judges that the city government did not violate the state constitution.

The city law gave municipal voting rights to noncitizens who have been lawful permanent residents of the city for at least 30 days, along with those authorized to work in the U.S. Supporters contend the law gives a say to more than 800,000 authorized immigrants.

Mayor Eric Adams let the measure become law without his signature.

A decision is expected in the coming months.

Weather

Local

**Rest of today:** A slight chance of snow showers before 8 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 21. West wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 29 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%. A slight chance of snow showers after 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, low around 11.

Extended

**Saturday:** Snow. High near 30. Light southeast wind becoming south 5 to 9 mph in the morning. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

**Saturday night:** Snow and freezing rain, becoming all snow after 4 a.m. Low around 25. Chance of precipitation is 100%.

Skies Today

**Friday, February 14, 2025**  
Sunset today 5:35 p.m.  
Sunrise tomorrow 7:02 a.m.  
Normal high temperature 31  
Normal low temperature 14  
Average temperature 23  
Last quarter moon Feb. 20

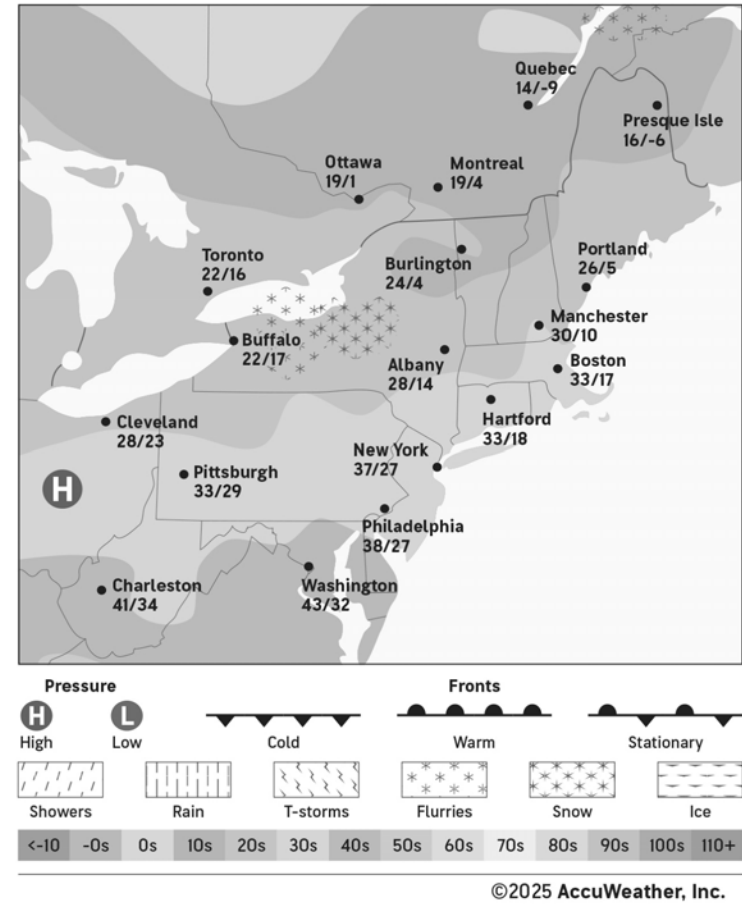
City Snowfall

Feb. 12-13 Trace  
Season to date 49.50 inches

Precipitation

Feb. 12-13 0.08 inches  
Month to date 1.14 inches

Forecast for Friday, February 14, 2025



Lottery Winners

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

**Numbers:** Midday: 0-9-2, Evening: 2-9-1; **WinFour:** Midday: 2-6-4-8, Evening: 8-5-0-8; **Pick 10:** 2-3-6-10-12-22-23-25-26-29-41-43-45-47-48-57-58-63-66-76; **Take Five:** Midday: 5-7-30-31-36, Evening: 1-6-19-26-30; **Cash4Life:** 20-24-34-49-58, Cash Ball: 1, **Lotto:** 30-31-32-39-41-43, Bonus: 51, **Powerball:** 21-32-36-45-49, Power Ball: 18, Power Play: 2

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.

Police/fire

Man charged with Solon car theft

A homeless man has been charged with stealing a vehicle Oct. 23 in Solon, Cortland County sheriff’s officers said.

Daniel J. Gardner, 48, was arrested Feb. 7 and charged with second-degree grand larceny, fourth-degree grand larceny, felonies; and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon. The most serious charge, second-degree grand larceny, is when the property is worth more than \$50,000, or if the theft is caused by instilling fear that the thief will injure the victim or cause damage to the property.

Police said they were alerted Oct. 23 to the theft in Solon and recovered the vehicle later that day in Cortland. Gardner was arrested after new information connected him to the theft, police said.

Gardner was being held in the Cortland County Jail pending an appearance in Solon Town Court, for which details were unavailable.

Towns

Tompkins health officials push COVID-19 vaccines

Tompkins County Whole Health is reminding the community to stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations ahead of an expected spike in cases, especially for people 65 and older, and people who are immune compromised.

Cases of COVID-19 tend to spike in early spring, as well as early fall, health officials said.

Older adults and immunocompromised people can receive a second dose of the updated vaccine six months after their first dose. The updated vaccine was released in September. The health department recommends that immune compromised individuals talk to their healthcare provider to figure out the best dose schedule.

“COVID-19 can cause severe symptoms in older adults and those who are immunocompromised,” said Rachel Buckwalter, director of community health services. “Vaccination can reduce severity of symptoms. It is strongly recommended to maintain your protection by staying up to date on vaccination doses. Please get your next COVID-19 vaccine dose as soon as you are eligible to do so.”

Current disease activity is available at <https://tinyurl.com/wbxykhur>, updated weekly.

The vaccine is available at pharmacies and Tompkins County Whole Health’s clinic. Call 607-274-6604 for an appointment.

Obituaries

Maureen Ann Morris

1959 - 2025

Maureen (Reen) Ann Morris of Charleston, SC went to the Lord on January 28, 2025 in West Ashley, SC. She was the daughter of John and Teresa Morris of McGraw, NY. She is survived by siblings John Morris, Frank (Tyke) Morris, Robert (and Julie) Morris, Margaret (and James) Hively, Thomas Morris, Karen (and David) Rousche, nephew Micheal (Trisha) Morris, niece Sara Morris, niece Teresa (Steve) Hall, nephew Bobby Morris, 8 great-nieces and nephews, and her cat Oliver.



A graduate of McGraw High School, and a secretarial graduate from Dayton University, OH. Reen started out as a secretary in Dallas TX, then to Danbury, CT, and Boston MA. While she liked the work, she decided to lean into her calculator brain. So, she went back to school at Johns Hopkins University, graduating with Honors in Economics no less. Her artistic eye would take her to magnificent locations, finding accounting positions in Seattle, WA with its stunning vistas, and then in Charleston, SC and its historic homes and history. While accounting was her occupation, crafting and animals were her passions. Although part of a large family, she handcrafted each Christmas card with beautiful detail, and each one unique. They were stunning. The crafting extended to memory and cookbooks, flower arrangements, anything that required an artistic flair. But she truly loved animals, almost more than humans (except for her nieces and nephews). She volunteered at the Seattle Woodland Park Zoo, referring to her favorite inhabitants as “her jaguars.” She could tell you everything about the zoo animals; their origins, class, food preferences, age, anything.

But her strongest passion was her faith. Even in her failing health, she still did her rosary, trusting God with what lay ahead for her. It compelled her to an unwavering loyalty and faithfulness to family, and lasting, strong friendships. We will miss your talent, your creativity, your enduring attachments to your nieces and nephews, and unique, often dry, humor. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, 10:30 a.m., at St. Mary’s Church, 46 N. Main Street, Cortland NY. A lunch in St. Mary’s Church Hall will follow the Christian Rite of Committal and Burial in St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your local zoo or animal shelter.

Arrangements are under the direction of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland, N.Y. [www.riccardifuneralhome.com](http://www.riccardifuneralhome.com).

Death Notices

- ADAMS** — Carrie Adams, 38, died on Feb. 9, 2025. Services are private. Central New York Cremation Service is caring for the family.
- DANDREA** — Thomas Dandrea, 54, died on Feb. 3, 2025. Services will be private. Central New York Cremation Service is caring for the family.
- MAYS** — Elaine Mays, 68, died on Feb. 8, 2025. Calling hours will be Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, from 1 to 3 p.m. with a 3 p.m. funeral service at Zirbel Funeral Home, 115 Williams St., Groton. Zirbel Funeral Home is caring for the family.
- SLATER** — Deborah Slater, 70, died on Feb. 11, 2025. No services at this time. Central New York Cremation Service is caring for the family.
- VOTRA** — Timothy Votra, 65, died on Feb. 4, 2025. A prayer service will be held March 8, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary’s Church in Cortland. Central New York Cremation Service is caring for the family.

Find the right person to buy your forgotten treasures through a Cortland Standard classified ad

Valentine’s Day Special

Heart-Shaped Pizza

Large Heart-Shaped Pizza with one item \$16.50

Medium Heart-Shaped Pizza with one item \$12.50

Toppings include: Pepperoni, Meat Sauce, Mushrooms, Sausage, Peppers, Onions & Ham.

Additional toppings extra. Valid only on 2/14/25.

Pudgie’s PIZZA and SUBS

75 N. Main St., Cortland 756-0900



# Rescued from virtual slavery in Myanmar’s online scam centers, 260 foreigners are being repatriated

**By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI**  
**Associated Press**

BANGKOK — Some 260 people believed to have been trafficked and trapped into working in online scam centers are to be repatriated after they were rescued from Myanmar, Thailand’s army announced Thursday.

In a fresh crackdown on scam centers operating from Southeast Asia, the Thai army announced Thursday it is coordinating an effort to repatriate some 260 people believed to have been victims of human trafficking after they were rescued and sent from Myanmar to Thailand.

Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos, which share borders with Thailand, have become known as havens for criminal syndicates who are estimated to have forced hundreds of thousands of people in Southeast Asia and elsewhere into helping run online scams including false romantic ploys, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes.

Such scams have extracted tens of billions of dollars from victims around the world, according to U.N. experts, while the people recruited to carry them out have often been tricked into taking the jobs under false pretenses and trapped in virtual slavery.

An earlier crackdown on scam centers in Myanmar was initiated in late 2023 after China expressed embarrassment and concern over illegal casinos and scam operations in Myanmar’s northern Shan state along its bor-



*Royal Thai Army, by Army Spokesperson via AP*  
**People from 20 nations who were reportedly rescued from alleged scam centers in Myanmar cross into Thailand’s Tak province on Wednesday.**

der. Ethnic guerrilla groups with close ties to Beijing shut down many operations, and an estimated 45,000 Chinese nationals suspected of involvement were repatriated.

The army said that those rescued in the most recent operation came from 20 nationalities — with significant numbers from Ethiopia, Kenya, the Philippines, Malaysia, Pakistan and China. There were also nationals of Indonesia, Nepal, Taiwan, Uganda, Laos, Brazil, Burundi, Tanzania,

Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Ghana and India. They were sent across the border from Myanmar’s Myawaddy district to Thailand’s Tak province on Wednesday.

Reports in Thai media said a Myanmar ethnic militia that controls the area where they were held, the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army, was responsible for freeing the workers and taking them to the border.

Myanmar’s military government exercises little control over

frontier areas where ethnic minorities predominate.

Several ethnic militias are believed to be involved in criminal activities, including drug trafficking and protecting call-center scam operations.

The Thai army statement said the rescued people will undergo questioning, and if determined to be victims of human trafficking, will enter a process of protection while waiting to be sent back to their countries.

Deputy Prime Minister

Phumtham Wechayachai, who is also defense minister, said Wednesday that there might be many more scam workers waiting to be repatriated from Myanmar through Thailand, but that Thailand would only receive those that are ready to be taken back right away by their country of origin.

“I’ve made it clear that Thailand is not going to set up another shelter,” he had told reporters during a visit in Sa Kaeo province, which borders Cambodia.

Thailand hosts nine refugee camps along the border holding more than 100,000 people, most from Myanmar’s ethnic Karen minority.

Phumtham added that Thailand would also need to question them before sending them back, first is to make sure that they are victims of human trafficking, and also to get information that would help the police investigate the trafficking and scam problems.

On a visit to China in early February, Thailand’s Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra vowed along with China’s leader Xi Jinping to crack down on the scam networks that plague Southeast Asia.

Many dramatic stories of Chinese people being lured to work in Bangkok only to be trafficked into a scam compound in Myanmar have surfaced. Chinese actor Wang Xing was a high-profile case but was quickly rescued after his tale spread on social media.

## NATO insists Ukraine, Europe be involved in future peace talks

**As Trump touts meeting with Putin**

**By LORNE COOK**  
**Associated Press**

BRUSSELS — Several NATO allies stressed on Thursday that Ukraine and Europe must not be cut out of any peace negotiations as U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth denied that the United States is betraying the war-ravaged country.

European governments are reeling after the Trump administration signaled that it is planning face-to-face talks with Russia on ending the Ukraine war without involving them, insisted that Kyiv should not join NATO, and said that it’s up to Europe to protect itself and Ukraine from whatever Russia might do next.

“There can be no negotiation about Ukraine without Ukraine. And Ukraine’s voice must be at the heart of any talks,” U.K. Defence Secretary John Healey told reporters at NATO headquarters, as the organization’s 32 defense ministers met for talks on Ukraine.

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said: “For me, it’s clear ... that Europe must be involved in the negotiations — and I think that’s very easy to understand,” particularly if Europe is “supposed to play a central or the main role in the peace order.”

Europe “will have to live directly” with the consequences, he added.

Hegseth denied that the U.S. has betrayed Ukraine by launching negotiations about its future without Kyiv’s full involvement. After talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and then Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Trump said on Wednesday he would “probably” meet in person with the Russian leader in the near term, possibly in Saudi Arabia.

“There is no betrayal there. There is a recognition that the whole world and the United States is invested and interested in peace. A negotiated peace,” Hegseth told reporters.

The European Union’s foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, expressed surprise that Hegseth and Trump had listed what appeared to be concessions to Russia even before talks have begun in earnest.

“We shouldn’t take anything off the table before the negotiations have even started, because it plays to Russia’s court,” she said. “Why are we giving them everything that they want even before the negotiations have been started? It’s appeasement. It has never worked.”

Hegseth fired back later, saying in his first major news conference as defense secretary that “it’s just a cheap political point to say, oh, we’ve left all the negotiating cards off the table by recognizing some realities that exist on the ground.”

He said that neither Russia nor Ukraine will “get everything that they want” in negotiations to end the war.



*AP Photo/Geert Vanden Wijngaert*  
**United States Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, center, speaks with Germany’s Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, right, and Finland’s Defense Minister Antti Hakkanen, left, in Brussels, Thursday.**



*AP Photo/Oded Ballily*  
**A demonstrator holding photos of freed Israeli hostage Eli Sharabi before and after his captivity blocks a highway during a protest demanding all hostages be released from Hamas captivity, in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday.**

## Hamas says that it will free 3 more hostages as planned

**By SAMY MAGDY and MELANIE LIDMAN**  
**Associated Press**

CAIRO — Hamas said Thursday it would release three more Israeli hostages as planned, paving the way toward resolving a major dispute over the ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

The militant group had threatened to delay the next release of captives, accusing Israel of failing to meet its obligations to allow in tents and shelters, among other alleged violations of the truce. Israel, with the support of U.S. President Donald Trump, says it will resume fighting Hamas if the hostages are not freed.

The announcement from Hamas should allow the ceasefire to continue for now, even after Israel said Thursday that a rocket had been launched from Gaza — though doubts remain about the long-term durability of the truce.

Hamas said it held talks in Cairo with Egyptian officials and was in contact with Qatar’s prime minister about bringing into Gaza more shelters, medical supplies, fuel and heavy equipment for clearing rubble — its key demand in recent days. It said in a statement that the mediators had pledged to “remove all hurdles.”

Shortly after the announcement, Hamas spokesman Abdul Latif al-Qanou confirmed to The Associated Press by phone that three hostages will be released on Saturday.

Egypt’s state-run Qahera TV, which is close to the country’s security services, reported that Egypt and Qatar had succeed-

ed in resolving the dispute. The two Arab countries have served as key mediators with Hamas and helped broker the ceasefire, which took effect in January, more than 15 months into the war.

Egyptian media also aired footage showing trucks carrying temporary housing and bulldozers on the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing with Gaza. They reported that the trucks were heading to an Israeli inspection area before crossing into Gaza.

With the truce holding, the Israeli military said a rocket was fired from inside Gaza Thursday in what appeared to be the first such incident since the agreement took effect. The projectile landed within the territory and the military said later that it had struck the rocket launcher that had fired it.

Since the ceasefire began, Israeli fire has killed at least 92 Palestinians and wounded more than 800 others, said Munir al-Bursh, director general of the Gaza Health Ministry. The Israeli military says it has fired on people who approach its forces or enter certain areas in violation of the truce.

The truce faces a much bigger challenge in the coming weeks. The first phase is set to conclude at the beginning of March, and there have not yet been substantive negotiations over the second phase, in which Hamas would release dozens of remaining hostages in return for an end to the war.

Trump’s proposal to remove

some 2 million Palestinians from Gaza and settle them in other countries has thrown the truce’s future into further doubt. The plan has been welcomed by Israel’s government but vehemently rejected by Palestinians and Arab countries, which have refused to accept any influx of refugees. Human rights groups say it could amount to a war crime under international law.

The proposal drew fresh criticism Thursday from both a U.S. ally and a foe.

In a rare rebuke, Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Trump’s recent actions — including his push to expel Palestinians from Gaza — pose a threat to global peace.

“To tell the truth, I do not find Mr. Trump’s behavior in the past period and his current statements and challenges to many countries in the world to be right, and I do not see these as a positive development,” Erdogan told an Indonesian television anchor in an interview.

Yemen’s Houthi leader Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi threatened a “military intervention” if the plan proceeded.

“We will never remain passive in the face of such an aggressive plan against the Palestinian people,” Al-Houthi said in a televised speech.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s far-right allies are already calling for a resumption of the war after the first phase with the goal of implementing Trump’s plan and annihilating Hamas.



# Fed prosecutor quits after refusing order to toss Adams' case

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and ERIC TUCKER**  
**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — The top federal prosecutor in Manhattan resigned Thursday after refusing a Justice Department order to drop corruption charges against New York City Mayor Eric Adams. Two senior Justice Department officials also quit after the department leadership in Washington moved to seize control of the case.

Danielle Sassoon, a Republican serving as interim U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced her resignation in an email to her staff. The move was confirmed by a spokesperson for the office. Adams' case has yet to be dropped.

Before resigning, Sassoon told her boss that she was confident that Adams "has committed the crimes with which he is charged" and that she would refuse the Justice Department's order to drop the corruption case.

After Sassoon declined to dismiss the case, the department's public integrity section in Washington was asked to take over, according to a person familiar with the matter. Two senior officials who oversee the unit, including the acting chief, resigned in response, according to the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters.

The exits came days after a high-ranking Justice Department official directed federal prosecutors in New York to end the case against Adams, a Democrat who was accused of accepting illegal campaign contributions and bribes of free or discounted travel from people who wanted to buy his influence. He has pleaded not guilty.

Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove said in a memo Monday that the case should be dismissed so Adams could aid President Donald

Trump's immigration crackdown and campaign for reelection free from facing criminal charges. The primary is four months away and Adams has multiple challengers.

Bove had directed that be done as soon as "practicable," but there have been no public statements or actions by the prosecution team. On Wednesday, Attorney General Pam Bondi said she would "look into" why the case had yet to be dismissed. As of Thursday afternoon, the charges remained in place.

In the email to her staff, Sassoon did not give a reason for her resignation. In the note, the contents of which were obtained by The Associated Press, she said she had just submitted her resignation to Bondi.

"As I told her, it has been my greatest honor to represent the United States and to pursue justice as a prosecutor in the Southern District of New York," Sassoon wrote.

The Justice Department did not ask Sassoon to resign, according to a department official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The department declined public comment on Sassoon's exit. A message seeking comment was left for Adams' attorney, Alex Spiro. A spokesperson for the mayor did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The government's decision to end the Adams case because of political considerations, rather than the strength or weakness of the evidence, alarmed some career prosecutors who said it was a departure from long-standing norms.

The directive from Bove, a former Trump personal lawyer, was all the more remarkable because Bove had been a longtime prosecutor and supervisor in the Southern District and because department leaders are historically reluctant to intervene in cases where charges have been brought.



Sassoon



AP Photo/Andres Kudacki, File

A worker grabs a chicken to slaughter inside a poultry store in New York, Feb. 7.

# Study: Some veterinarians unaware they had bird flu

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study shows that bird flu has silently spread from animals to some veterinarians.

The study published Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention echoes two smaller ones that detected evidence of infection in previously undiagnosed farmworkers. In those studies, several of the infected workers remembered having symptoms of H5N1 bird flu, while none of the veterinarians in the new paper recalled any such symptoms.

The new study is more evidence that the official U.S. tally of confirmed human bird flu infections — 68 in the last year — is likely a significant undercount, said Dr. Gregory Gray, an infectious disease researcher at the University of Texas Medical Branch locat-

ed in Galveston.

"This means that people are being infected, likely due to their occupational exposures, and not developing signs of illness and therefore not seeking medical care," Gray said. He said it shows that officials cannot fully understand bird flu transmission by only tracking people who go to medical clinics with symptoms.

CDC researchers went to an American Association of Bovine Practitioners veterinary conference in September 2024 in Columbus, Ohio. They recruited 150 vets from 46 states to fill out a questionnaire and agree to have their blood drawn. None said they had suffered red eyes or other symptoms associated with bird flu.

Testing found three of the vets, or 2%, had evidence of antibodies to H5N1 infection.

All three worked with dairy cattle, as well as other animals. None said they'd worked with a herd that was known to be infected, although one had worked with a flock of infected poultry. Gray and some colleagues did a study last year of 14 dairy farmworkers and found two, or 14%, had evidence of past infections. Both had experienced symptoms but were never diagnosed.

Another study published last year by the CDC checked 115 dairy workers. The researchers found that eight of them, or 7%, had evidence in their blood of recent infection. Half recalled feeling ill.

The studies were far too small to use as a basis to provide a solid estimate of how many undiagnosed human infections are out there, Gray said.



Image provided by Corner Brew

A \$500,000 grant will help the owner of Corner Brew in Dryden refurbish the building.

# BREW

continued from page 1

in addition to updating the exterior, the Regional Economic Development Council award packet says.

"The poorly altered historic facades will be restored and the badly designed front addition will be redesigned to integrate it with the historic character of the downtown," it reads.



Image provided by Corner Brew

Plans to refurbish the Corner Brew may include adding decorative grates to the building's east side.

# DWYER

continued from page 1

mid-2024. His review of Dwyer Park took place shortly after his hire, and he identified concerns regarding the aging playground equipment that warranted removal to ensure public safety," said Savannah Hempstead, the clerk of the legislature and the county's public information office. "... However the incident at the Dwyer Memorial County Park placed it as a top priority."

Cortland County legislators on the legislature's Highway Committee, which oversees the park's

maintenance, discussed earlier this week whether they need to adopt safety standards for the playground.

"Our attorney's office says it's best if we adopt a standard," said Legislature Chair Kevin Fitch (R-Homer, Preble, Scott). It could reduce, but not eliminate, the county's liability in the future.

"We can put plans in place that will (reduce) our liability," said county Safety Director Jason DeRaiche. "But there's not a catch-all."

DeRaiche was hired last June,

and has been conducting a review of every county property since.

He wasn't around, however, when the child had their mishap in September 2023. Cortland County Sheriff's Officer Ryan Aylesworth responded, where the child's father, David Parshall, told him his child came over to show him the injured finger before Parshall's girlfriend took the child to a hospital.

"David walked over to the slide that was located on the south end of the playground and showed me where the crack was on the slide," Aylesworth said

in a report included among the suit's evidence. "The end of the plastic slide was clearly cracked and underneath [you] could see the blood."

The child's finger was reattached at Guthrie Cortland Medical Center, the court papers show. However: "The reattachment of the amputated portion of the finger failed and eventually fell off."

The child began occupational therapy on Jan. 10, 2024. Photographs included with court documents show the left index finger — and doctor's statements suggest the child is

# RFK named US health chief after close Senate vote

By **AMANDA SEITZ**  
**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was sworn in Thursday as President Donald Trump's health secretary after a close Senate vote, putting the prominent vaccine skeptic in control of \$1.7 trillion in federal spending, vaccine recommendations and food safety as well as health insurance programs for roughly half the country.

Nearly all Republicans fell in line behind Trump despite hesitancy over Kennedy's views on vaccines, voting 52-48 to elevate the son of one of America's most storied political — and Democratic — families to secretary of the Health and Human Services Department. Democrats unanimously opposed Kennedy.

Kentucky Sen. Mitch McConnell, who had polio as a child, was the only "no" vote among Republicans, mirroring his stands against Trump's picks for the Pentagon chief and director of national intelligence. "I'm a survivor of childhood polio. In my lifetime, I've watched vaccines save mil-

lions of lives from devastating diseases across America and around the world," McConnell said in a statement afterward. "I will not condone the re-litigation of proven cures, and neither will millions of Americans who credit their survival and quality of life to scientific miracles."

The rest of the GOP, however, has embraced Kennedy's vision with a directive for the nation's public health agencies to focus on chronic diseases such as obesity.

"We've got to get into the business of making America healthy again," said Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, adding that Kennedy will bring a "fresh perspective" to the office.

Kennedy — joined by his wife, other family members and several members of Congress — was sworn in Thursday afternoon in the Oval Office by Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, hours after confirmation.

He said he'd first been there in 1961, and told stories of seeing his uncle, President John F. Kennedy, there as a child.



Kennedy

# CENTRO

continued from page 1

be known as "Call-A-Bus."

Riders also will no longer need to flag down buses; the vehicles will stop at designated stops. Specific stops have yet to be designated. But in populated areas, like in the city of Cortland or in neighborhoods around SUNY Cortland, bus stops will be one quarter-mile apart. A smartphone app, Go-CentroBus, will let riders access bus schedules, arrival times and route maps.

While elected officials voiced few specific concerns about Centro — which already operates public buses in Onondaga, Cayuga, Oswego and Oneida counties — some legislators expressed worries about how some of the county's most-vulnerable riders would be accommodated.

Legislator Sandra Price (D-Harford, Virgil) wanted to make certain that people who rode the bus to jobs at JM Murray — a South Cortland business that provides training and supported employment — had access.

"It's very important that those people can (get to work and) be able to earn a paycheck," Price said.

Others had more basic questions, including how many vehicles Centro had committed for use in Cortland County.

"We have 22 buses right now," said Melissa Potter, the county's mobility manager.

probably left-handed — is still missing some of the tip and fingernail. The child was able to fully extend the finger, though, and make a fist, too.

"We understand that many in our community have fond memories of the playground at Dwyer Park, but we must ensure that our public spaces are safe and up to current safety standards," Fitch said Thursday in a release. "As stewards of both public safety and taxpayer resources, we have to make decisions that protect our residents while planning responsibly for the future."



Marbury v. Madison, the case that established the courts’ power to review the law, explained

By MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — When it comes to respecting the rulings of courts, President Donald Trump has been of two minds.  
If the decision goes his way, as it did when the Supreme Court ruled 11 months ago that his name should be on the ballot in Colorado, he hails it as a “BIG WIN FOR AMERICA.”  
Now, as president, he has been critical of federal judges who have moved to block some of his most contentious actions, such as his move to freeze federal spending. His vice president, JD Vance, recently said, “Judges aren’t allowed to control the executive’s legitimate power.” Billionaire Elon Musk, a senior Trump adviser, reacted angrily to a judge’s order temporarily blocking Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency from accessing Treasury Department records. “A corrupt judge protecting corruption. He needs to be impeached NOW!” Musk posted.  
Though Trump said on Tuesday in the Oval Office that he would abide by the rulings of the courts, the Republican president is clearly pressing the boundaries of the relationship between the executive and judicial branches. In doing so, he may be headed to a test of one of the most foundational cases in American constitutional law, Marbury v. Madison, in which the Supreme Court established the principle that



The Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, Dec. 17, 2024.

AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File

the courts are the final arbiters of the law.  
Here are some questions and answers about the judiciary’s role in American government.  
**WHERE DID IT BEGIN?**  
In 1803, Chief Justice John Marshall first expressed the principle that while Congress makes the laws and the president en-

forces them, the courts decide when either of the other branches goes too far.  
“It is emphatically the province and duty of the judicial department to say what the law is,” Marshall wrote in Marbury v. Madison.  
The notion goes back even further, to England, when the courts were given a measure of inde-

pendence from the crown, said Saikrishna Prakash, a University of Virginia law professor. The Constitution implicitly expects the president to enforce judgments of the court, Prakash said. “There’s no point in separating the judicial from the executive if the executive can just ignore what the courts have decided,” he said.

**IS THE COURT SUPREME?**  
Justice Robert Jackson wrote that the court’s power came from it having the last word in legal disputes. “We are not final because we are infallible, but we are infallible only because we are final,” Jackson wrote in 1953.  
Notably, the court lacks any independent means of enforcing its decisions, relying on the other parts of the government.  
That was never more evident than in 1954, when the Supreme Court struck down segregation in public education in Brown v. Board of Education, then watched Southern states engage in years of defiance.  
But Americans have come generally to believe that court decisions should be obeyed, even amid sharp disagreement. Retired Justice Stephen Breyer has pointed several times to Bush v. Gore, a 5-4 decision in 2000 that handled the presidency to George W. Bush.  
In a nationally televised address the next evening, Al Gore, a Democrat, said he accepted the outcome, though he strongly disagreed with it.  
While president, Bush, a Republican, lost several cases involving people detained in the “war on terror” following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, including detainees held without charge at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Bush didn’t like the decisions, but he followed them.

Opinion

opinion@cortlandstandard.com  
Cortland Standard

Our Opinion

Get on the bus

The Homer Central School District had to move its classes to remote learning on Feb. 4 because of a staff shortage in the district’s transportation department due to illness. Students were back in their classrooms the following day, but the district had already created a contingency plan that would have consolidated the routes.  
Given that school districts across the state have struggled to hire bus drivers, it was only a matter of time before a school had to make such a decision. We won’t be surprised if the Homer district does have to implement its contingency plan at some point — this has been one heck of a cold and flu season. We hope other districts also have such plans in place, and students and parents will know what to do if in-person learning is canceled.  
Area school districts have already adjusted their bus runs to contend with the shortage of drivers. Districts have options, such as cutting bus routes and buying larger buses. These measures likely translate to more time spent on buses for students, which is not optimal — little learning or productive socialization takes place on a bumpy bus ride. Also, the more time on the road for both bus and children, the greater the chance of an accident. While school buses are some of the safest vehicles on the road — less than 1% of all traffic fatalities involve students on school transportation vehicles — risks remain,

especially when students get on or off the bus.  
Driving a school bus is a difficult job, and we don’t envy the drivers. It’s part child care, part transportation, and really, part community service. Unruly students, inclement weather, bad drivers and other stressors can make for a particularly challenging part-time job. Even the hours can be difficult, especially for those with another job.  
It’s not easy to even get hired as a school bus driver. To become a bus driver in the Cortland Enlarged City School District, applicants must complete Entry-Level Driver Training, which was added to the list of requirements by the state in the past few years. This includes an online course. Then they must complete the district’s training, which includes a road portion and a range portion. Prospective drivers must become certified to teach the Entry-Level Driver Training, which allows them to sign up for the road test. The road test reportedly takes applicants at least two to three attempts to pass. And applicants must pass drug and alcohol tests.  
New York state and the federal government have continued to add regulations and requirements to what school districts already mandate, and districts have struggled to keep up. Last January, the state Department of Motor Vehicles implemented a federal waiver that allows people applying to be school bus drivers to skip a portion of the certification dealing

with mechanical components, the “Under the Hood” exemption, because districts have dedicated maintenance staff. But school districts told the Cortland Standard that the engine compartment component isn’t particularly problematic for their applicants, and probably won’t substantially ease the process of becoming a bus driver.  
Nevertheless, that was a step in the right direction. We’re far from experts, but we wonder whether other unnecessary requirements can be jettisoned. Still, it’s a tricky situation — how can governments and school districts ease requirements to attract more bus drivers, while ensuring the safety of our children?  
Again, remote learning can be a temporary solution to temporary driver shortages — with an emphasis on “temporary.” Working remotely, and learning remotely, are a couple of new tricks that we had to learn during the COVID-19 pandemic. While remote work arrangements have been helpful for many businesses and organizations, we’ve since learned that full-time remote learning isn’t nearly as effective as in-person instruction. Still, it’s a handy tool for schools to have at their disposal when students can’t make it to class. Really, though, we need more drivers. If you have a commercial driver’s license, avoid substance abuse and like kids, we urge you to contact your local school district and start the application process. The students (and staff) need your help.

Your Opinion

League’s tips for defending democracy

**To the Editor:**  
For 105 years, the League of Women Voters has been a non-partisan organization dedicated to empowering voters and defending democracy. Now as our democracy is being tested, it is more important than ever that voters have accurate election information; voter access is safeguarded; and election integrity is upheld. All Americans — regardless of party affiliation — must work together to defend against efforts to undermine democratic principles and processes.  
Here are three simple ways that you can help defend democracy:  
Stay engaged. Sometimes it’s hard to know what to believe and sometimes the news can make us feel overwhelmed, but it is important for the future of our democracy that each of us stay informed and engaged.  
Contact your representatives on issues such as the Equal Rights Amendment, voter suppression, the Electoral College,

judicial ethics, money in politics, etc. Elected officials work for the people and they need to hear from concerned citizens like you. By taking action, you will be holding your elected officials accountable on the issues that matter to you.  
Register to vote and help others register. Make sure your family and neighbors are up to date on their registration.  
The League works year-round at schools and community events to prepare eligible voters. Check out VOTE411.org for more information. The Cortland LWV will continue to register voters, fight misinformation and disinformation, hold fair candidate forums, take action through advocacy and publish nonpartisan voter guides.  
We encourage everyone to do their part in actively defending democracy.  
**Sheila Cohen and Kim Cameron, co-presidents  
The League of Women Voters of Cortland County**

Today in History

**The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 2025. There are 320 days left in the year. This is Valentine’s Day.  
Today in history:  
On Feb. 14, 2018, a gunman identified as a former student opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, killing 17 people in the nation’s deadliest school shooting since the Sandy Hook Elementary School attack in Newtown, Connecticut, more than five years earlier. (Nikolas Cruz pleaded guilty to murder in October 2021 and was sentenced in November 2022 to life in prison without the possibility of parole.)  
Also on this date:

In 1779, English explorer James Cook was killed on the island of Hawai’i during a melee following Cook’s attempt to kidnap Hawaiian monarch Kalani’ōpu’u, who was to be used as leverage for the return of a boat stolen from one of Cook’s ships.  
In 1876, inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Elisha Gray applied separately for patents related to the telephone. (The U.S. Supreme Court eventually ruled Bell the rightful inventor.)  
In 1929, the “St. Valentine’s Day Massacre” took place in a Chicago garage as seven rivals of Al Capone’s gang were gunned down.  
In 1984, 6-year-old Stormie Jones became the world’s first heart-liver transplant recipient when the surgery was performed at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh.  
In 1989, Iran’s Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa calling on Muslims to kill Salman Rushdie, author of “The Satanic Verses,” a novel the Ayatollah condemned as blasphemous against Islam.  
In 2013, double-amputee Olympic sprinter Oscar Pistorius shot and killed his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, at his home in Pretoria, South Africa; he was later convicted of murder and served nearly nine years of a sentence of 13 years and five months before being released from prison in January 2024.

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**Letters**

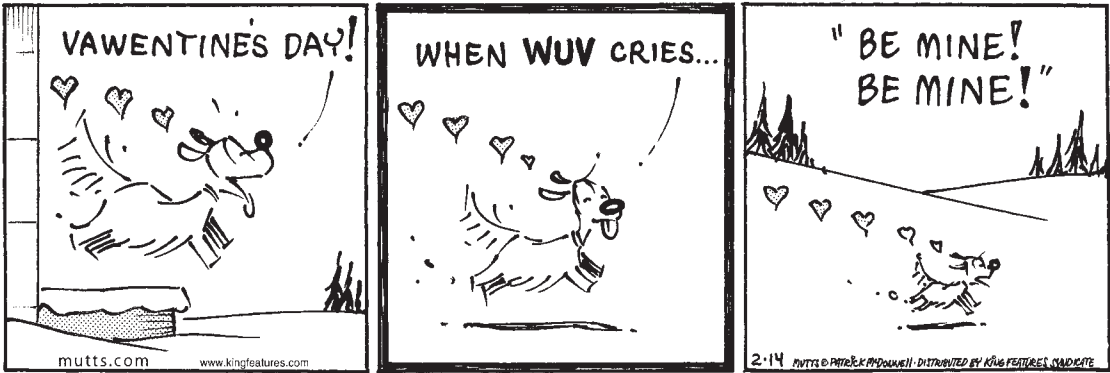
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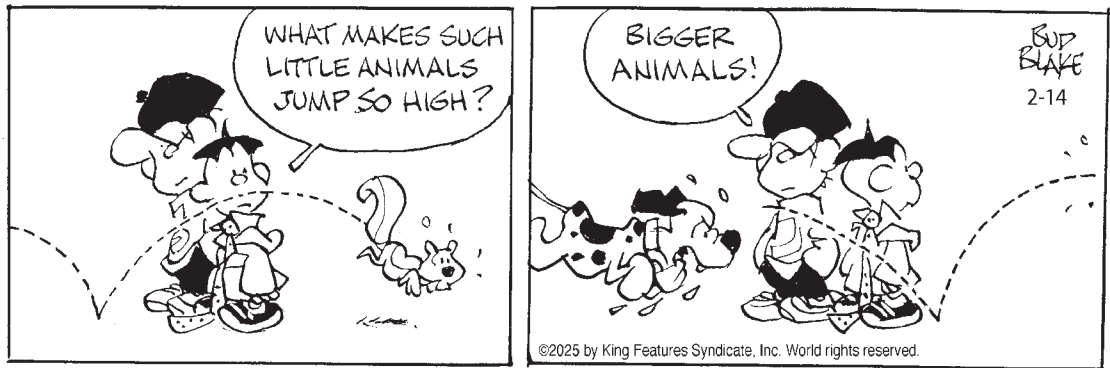
**GARFIELD**



**MUTTS**



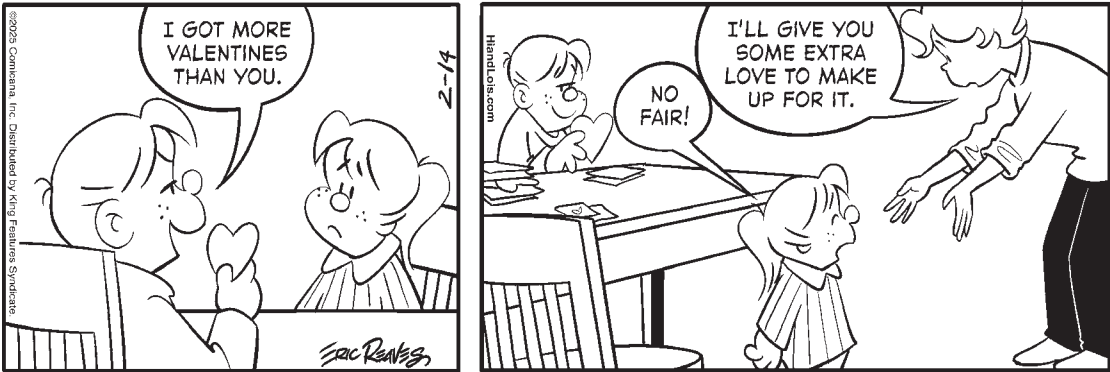
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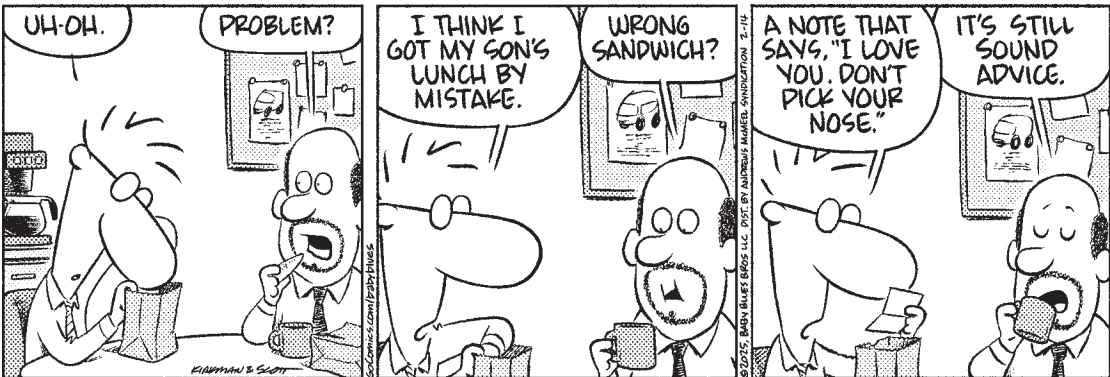
**HI AND LOIS**



**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE**



**BABY BLUES**



**ZITS**



**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Select sound
  - 5 Dealer's need
  - 9 Different
  - 11 One of the Barry-mores
  - 13 T choice
  - 14 "Cheers" barmaid
  - 15 Yale roter
  - 16 Selfish sort
  - 18 Exhibit
  - 20 Bishopric
  - 21 Wiped out, in skiing slang
  - 22 River of Hades
  - 23 McKellen of "X-Men"
  - 24 Luau dish
  - 25 Sirius, for one
  - 27 Remote locales?
  - 29 Top rating
  - 30 "The Body-guard" star
  - 32 Approve openly
  - 34 Lingerie item
  - 35 Pitcher Satchel
  - 36 With force
- DOWN**
- 1 Moved a raft
  - 2 Roma's land
  - 3 French designer
  - 4 Beer bash need
  - 5 Sitting duck?
  - 6 Coup d'—
  - 7 "The Dark Knight" actor
  - 8 Grammer of "Frasier"
  - 10 Land, as a fish
  - 12 Rubber source
  - 17 Gangster's gun
  - 19 Dessert fruit
  - 22 Cushy
  - 24 Pretend to be
  - 25 Flight makeup
  - 26 Boarder
  - 27 Urgent call
  - 28 Contin- ing story
  - 30 River feeder
  - 31 Lustful
  - 33 Shrek, for one
  - 37 Impair

BEAR				SHORE
REMAP	P			TAPER
AROMA		ARENA		
WIN	LEGENDS			
LEGION	SEE			
	COGS	ERR		
MEERK	IRAS			
SON	AIDA			
OLD	LEGUME			
LEGIBLE	SAD			
IRATE	YEARS			
DAMES	EAGLE			
STEMS	REAL			

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9				10		11	
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

2-14

**Sudoku**

**SUDOKU**

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

Level: Advanced

**Here's How It Works:**

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

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

ANSWER:

**Cryptoquote**

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

2-14  
**CRYPTOQUOTE**  
MYY VDI KQQJ NA YDWQ. ZIS

M YNSSYQ XGDXYMSQ KDP  
MKJ SGQK JDQAK'S GIOS.

— XGMOYQA AXGIYC  
**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN LOVE WHEN YOU CAN'T FALL ASLEEP BECAUSE REALITY IS FINALLY BETTER THAN YOUR DREAMS. — DR. SEUSS

**Astrological Forecast**

By Magi Helena

Saturday, February 15, 2025

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Today could be ideal for spending time with loved ones or close friends. If single, romantic desires might be tugging at you. However, this may not be a good time to start a new passionate escapade or to participate in community events.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** The ends don't always justify the means. Avoid any temptation to act in any way you may later regret.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your generosity of spirit may be highlighted whenever you are giving or receiving a heartfelt apology. It might be commendable to be big hearted, but don't be swayed by appearances alone, you may be tempted to take more chances than necessary.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A well thought out story might just suffice. You may feel ready to pursue a significant goal without revealing your strategy. Your skeptical nature could cast you as being risk adverse in various scenarios, which may be wise this weekend.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Your heart might be more generous than your wallet currently allows. You could need extra money in the budget to rescue an animal or assist someone in need. By contributing to a worthy cause, your dreams might just become your reality.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Pinch yourself to confirm you're not in a dream. Be flexible as your plans might be fragile bubbles, prone to popping without warning. Someone might misinterpret your intentions if offering a generous commitment or financial support.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Just because

something shiny catches your eye doesn't mean it's worth your energy or offers a practical solution.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stay grounded if you tend to be overly trusting or easily led astray. You might get involved with someone who isn't quite as attractive as they appear. Be careful not to be more in love with the idea of love than with the person themselves.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Hypocrisy might annoy you but consider resisting the urge to react. You may need to navigate complex social situations, even if you don't enjoy them. Business and financial miscommunications are likely, so proceed forward with caution.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You may be naturally attuned to notice what others typically overlook; you might spend time thinking about smart ways to invest your skills and resources. This could be an

inopportune moment to start a new venture of your own.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Building blocks help keep the focus on beginning at the base and constructing upwards. Hearing about a new opportunity doesn't mean you should immediately commit to it. Be mindful of being hypocritical; make sure your actions align with your words.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You may struggle to live up to your high ideals. If you gaze into the mirror and dislike the reflection, it's illogical to fault the mirror. Witnessing challenges in the world might be frustrating, but you may help tackle it one step at a time.

**IF FEBRUARY 15 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** During the upcoming weeks you may be motivated to make wise assessments about your tasks, finances and investments. In April you might be inspired and moved by someone or something interesting.



Here’s how I tackled an incurable disease diagnosis

Column

By SAMANTHA DUNN  
The Orange County Register  
(TNS)

Are you like me, a member of a rotten club neither of us wants to be in?

That is the chronic disease club — those of us who have some kind of underlying illness that, while it might vary in its severity, is generally not curable.

We are many. Estimates from the American Hospital Association put our club membership at 133 million, not quite half of the nation’s population. In another five years, that number is expected to shoot up to 170 million.

And while it’s not an exclusive club, it is an expensive one: According to a 2024 report from the Centers for Disease Control, about 90% of the U.S.’s annual \$4.1 trillion health care expenditure goes to managing and treating chronic diseases and ongoing mental health conditions.

But I don’t want to talk about outrageous health care totals.

I don’t even want to talk about the causes of disease or treatments or research for cures.

What I want to talk about is how to wrap your head around what it means to be incurable and still go on enjoying your life.

AN UNWANTED  
DIAGNOSIS

About two years ago, I started to notice weird little things happening to me. My loopy, large



Mark Rightmire/Orange County Register/SCNG/TNS  
A woman walks through fields of blooming brittlebush along the West Bluff hiking trail in the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve, in Newport Beach, California, on March 15, 2022.

handwriting had gotten much smaller.

Every once in a while I felt a strange shiver run through my left shoulder. I felt more tired than usual. I had a twitch in my finger. I kept losing the beat in my exercise dance routine. And during long hours in the saddle while on a horseback riding trip in Colorado, my left leg felt noticeably weaker than my right.

I’ll spare you the details of my many tests and evaluations. In the end, I became one of the nearly 90,000 people the Park-

ison’s Foundation estimates are diagnosed each year with the fastest-growing neurological disease in the world. Well, this is a bummer. What now?

LET IT SINK IN

In the wake of receiving news that you have any one of the many diseases science hasn’t found a way to cure, only manage, take some time for yourself.

I threw a number of pity parties, complete with many boxes of Kleenex, eating microwave popcorn in bed and binging bad

TV shows (“Emily in Paris,” anyone?). Reka Janisse, an Instagram health influencer and a person with Parkinson’s based in Texas, advises allowing time to cycle through all five stages of grief — denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

‘COURAGE TO CHANGE  
THE THINGS I CAN’

Early in my diagnosis, a friend with her own chronic illness told me to “believe the diagnosis, not the prognosis.” She pushed for me to learn as much as I could

about my Parkinson’s.

That way I could not only advocate for myself when navigating the medical labyrinth, but also make lifestyle changes that would boost my overall health and mitigate the disease to whatever extent possible.

This echoed a guiding principle in my life that for years I have called upon, the Serenity Prayer: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

The fact is, Parkinson’s, like diabetes or a host of other ailments, may be progressive and incurable but it is not a death sentence — not an indication of my immediate demise, physically or mentally.

It rolls out over years; decades, even.

More (what I hope is) encouraging news, the rate of progression is different for everyone, and can be influenced by factors that include heavy exercising, rest, diet and medication.

Look, here’s what the Mayo Clinic says: “This condition is by far the most treatable of all neurodegenerative disorders. The vast majority of patients see major improvements in their symptoms with treatment that includes exercise and medication. For example, most people who have PD are able to function better in their daily lives five years after they start medication treatment than they were before they started treatment.”

You can become the maestro of your garden with agastache

By NORMAN WINTER  
Tribune News Service (TNS)

Agastache, also known as anise hyssop and hummingbird mints, needs to be at the top of your list

On  
Gardening



Norman Winter

as we rocket toward planting season. Your trusty friend The Garden Guy is here to give you the long and the short (or to be more specific, the short and tall) of these ever-so-important pollinator plants. You will soon become the “maestro” of your garden.

Maestro is a new series making its debut this year in the Proven Winners lineup. Maestro Coral and Maestro Gold might be considered opposites from the standpoint of size when compared to their Meant to Bee agastache pair introduced in 2022. Both, however, will be pollinator champs if you give them a try.

The Maestro Coral and Maestro Gold plants defy everything you may have thought possible with agastache. Let me give you some examples. Meant to Bee Royal Raspberry is tall, reaching 28 to 32 inches, with Meant to Bee Queen Nectarine topping out at 30 to 36 inches. These are beautiful, swaying-in-the-breeze type of plants.

Perhaps you have tried Blue Boa, Blue Fortune or Black Ad-der; all top 3 feet, particularly in the South. So, we are used to



Norman Winter/TNS  
Maestro Coral is a new agastache making its debut this year.

agastache plants growing to a big size. With the Maestro Coral and Maestro Gold, we have a new dimension offering new garden possibilities. These are tough, stocky little plants that may reach 18 inches, but mine were considerably less. Like me, you will wonder how this little plant keeps on blooming.

This tight little habit offers mixed container partnerships and even the possibility of monoculture. I was struck by the beauty of a Proven Winners recipe that had ColorBlaze El Brighto coleus as the thriller plant with Maestro Gold as the filler and the much-underused Waikiki Sunset lysimachia as the spiller.

I felt lucky to get to trial them last year and even found myself wondering what to do. My favorite partnership consisted of planting them together, the gold and cor-

al, along with some golden leafed carex grass.

I also believe that they, like the Meant to Bee, offer great opportunities to be combined with flowers like Totally Stoked Riptide Stoke’s asters, and Unplugged So Blue salvia. Remember you will be using the Maestro to the front of the border and Meant to Bee further back. As so many of us are eager to grow flowers for both beauty and pollinators, and garden centers want to provide those flowers, then let’s start asking now. The agastache is a game changer for bees, butterflies and hummingbirds and they are drop dead gorgeous too!

Norman Winter is a horticulturist, garden speaker and author of “Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South.” Follow him on Facebook @NormanWinterTheGardenGuy.

Mariner 10, a probe of many firsts

By ALEX SHEETS  
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 5, 1974, Mariner 10 became the first space probe to perform a gravity assist.

The spacecraft launched from pad 36A at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Weighing in at 1,100 pounds, Mariner 10 was to complete fly-bys of Venus and Mercury.

A gravity assist is used to conserve fuel during space travel. To perform a gravity assist, the craft must briefly enter the celestial body’s orbit while flying past it.

The body’s gravitational force pulls the probe around the planet or moon and throws the probe out of its gravitational field much faster than it entered. Today, this method is used in almost all deep space missions to planets, moons, asteroids and everything else.

Mariner 10 was armed with

several powerful instruments, including two telescopes and cameras, a high-gain antenna and a spectrometer to analyze the planets’ atmospheres.

Powered by solar panels, scientists received about 2,700 images from just a few fly-bys.

Mariner 10 had many firsts to its name.

Of course, it was the first to do a gravity assist, but it was also the first:

- To study two planets in one mission.
- To return data from a long-period comet.
- And to study Mercury.

Over three flybys, Mercury covered just about half of the planet’s surface.

The mission ended when NASA lost contact with Mariner 10 in March 1975.

Space  
Notes



Alex Sheets

This information was gathered from nasa.gov.

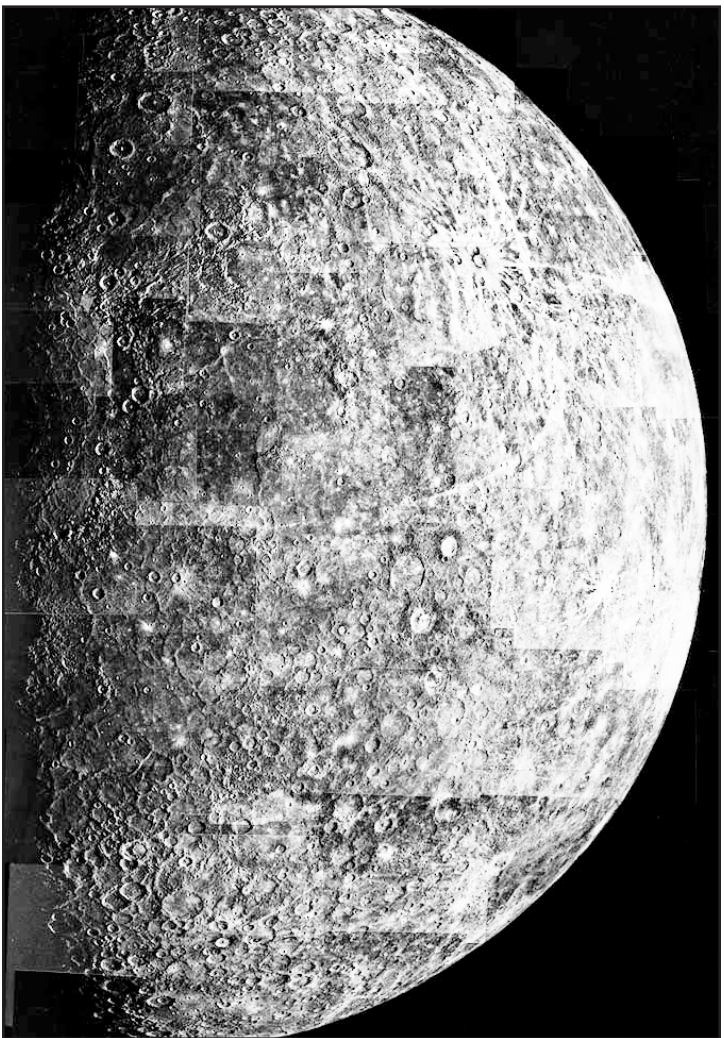


Image provided by NASA  
This mosaic by the Mariner 10 spacecraft was compiled March 29, 1974, taken as the spacecraft retreated from the planet.

Notebook

Girls Day Out registration open

Registration is now open for the 23rd annual Girls Day Out on March 8 at Tompkins Cortland Community College.

The event is free for the first 40 girls, courtesy of a donation by EDF Renewables, the YWCA of Cortland reported.

The girls, 10 to 14, will spend six hours exploring science, music, art and more on International Women’s Day.

The event, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., will include:

- A career fair featuring women from the greater Cortland area.
- STEAM-based activities,

featuring technology, science and art.

- An opportunity to swim and socialize.
- Lunch.
- Bring a bathing suit, towel and water.
- After the first 40 girls, the event costs \$20, although scholarships are available. Proceeds benefit the YWCA Cortland’s health and fitness program.
- The 23rd Annual Girls Day Out event is hosted by Tompkins Cortland Community College and is in collaboration with Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services’ PTECH Academy.
- Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/2eudp298>.

Eastern Star meets Monday

The Order of the Eastern Star’s Cortland chapter will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Masonic Lodge on Route 13 in Cortlandville.

Lady officers are to wear colored attire and gentlemen officers, dark suits.

Roberta Learn will provide refreshments.

Chess Club meets Thursdays

The Cortland Chess Club meets 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays at the Cortland Free Library, 32 Church St. All levels are welcome.



Contract Bridge

Bidding quiz

1. You are South, and the bidding has gone:  
**South** 1 ♠  
**West** 2 ♥  
**North** 3 ♣  
**East** Pass

What would you bid now with:  
♠ AQJ105 ♥ 72 ♦ AK983 ♣ 4  
2. You are South, and the bidding has gone:  
**East** 3 ♣  
**South** 4 ♥  
**West** Pass  
**North** 6 ♥  
Pass

What would you bid now with:  
♠ AK ♥ AQJ8432 ♦ 10 ♣ A82

1. Five diamonds. Your partner has bid strongly, and there's no doubt you're close to a slam. However, you can't undertake the slam unilaterally with two heart losers, nor would Blackwood solve the problem if partner bid five diamonds, showing one ace. Conversely, you can't pass because it might easily turn out that slam is ice-cold.

Since you can't tell just how high to go, your best shot is to leave the decision to partner. He will know you're trying for slam when you bid five diamonds, because otherwise you would have passed four spades. He might have any of the following three hands, consistent with his previous bids, and will know exactly what to do over five diamonds:  
1. ♠ K963 ♥ 84 ♦ Q5 ♣ AKQ82  
2. ♠ K764 ♥ 9 ♦ Q104 ♣ AKJ93

3. ♠ K872 ♥ K5 ♦ K ♣ AKJ1075  
With the first hand, containing two immediate heart losers, he would sign off at five spades. But with the other two hands, which contain first- or second-round heart control, as well as other key values, he would bid six spades.

2. Seven hearts. This is one of those cases where you do or you don't, and the nod here goes to do. It's hard to imagine a hand partner might hold where you wouldn't have a good chance for seven, and you shouldn't try to talk yourself out of bidding the grand slam just because it's possible to concoct a hand partner might have that would make seven a risky bid.

In effect, you're faced with a mathematical proposition. To undertake a grand slam, the odds have to be 2-1 or better in your favor. You don't have to be 100 percent sure, as some players contend; all you need is the conviction that partner has a hand that is likely to yield all the tricks.

You start by assuming partner can't have two club losers; there's no way he could jump to six with such a holding. Nor could he bid six with an aceless hand. But he might well leap to six with any of these hands, and you would make seven with each of them:

- 1. ♠ Q93 ♥ K976 ♦ AKQ72 ♣ 5
- 2. ♠ Q72 ♥ K1065 ♦ AQJ843 ♣ —
- 3. ♠ QJ84 ♥ K975 ♦ AK93 ♣ 7

Tomorrow: A necessary assumption.

2-14

Literary giants King, Sendak reimagine ‘Hansel and Gretel’

By HILLEL ITALIE  
AP National Writer

An upcoming edition of “Hansel and Gretel” combines the dark and singular talents of two literary giants who apparently never met: Stephen King and the late Maurice Sendak.

HarperCollins Publishers announced Thursday that the King-Sendak re-imagining of the famed Brothers Grimm tale about two lost children in a frightening forest is scheduled for Sept. 2. King's words will be complemented by sketches Sendak drew up for set and costume designs for a 1997 production of the Humperdinck opera adaptation.

The book was initiated by the Maurice Sendak Foundation. King, author of “The Shining,” “Carrie” and other horror classics, said he decided to agree to the project after seeing Sendak's illustrations.

“Two of his pictures in particular spoke to me: One was of the wicked witch on her broom with a bag of kidnapped children riding behind her; the other was of the infamous candy house becoming a terrible face. I thought, ‘This is what the house really looks like, a devil sick with sin, and it only shows that face when the kids turn their backs. I wanted to write that!’” King said in a statement issued through HarperCollins.

“To me, it was the essence of this story and, really, all fairy tales: a sunny exterior, a dark and terrible center, brave and



AP Photo/file

In this combination of photographs, children's book author Maurice Sendak appears at home in Ridgefield, Connecticut, on Sept. 6, 2011, left, and author Stephen King is seen at the Toronto International Film Festival, Sept. 6, 2024.

resourceful children. In a way, I have been writing about kids like Hansel and Gretel for much of my life.”

Representatives for King say he has no memory of meeting Sendak, although King has expressed admiration for the musical “Really Rosie,” a Sendak-Carole King collaboration.

Lynn Caponera, the Sendak foundation's executive director, said in a statement that she thought King ideal because outside of the Grimms, “he's the master of scary stories and a wonderful writer to boot.”

Sendak, who died in 2012,

spoke about Hansel and Gretel around the time he was working on the opera. In an interview published in the 2003 book “The Art of Maurice Sendak” he called the fairy tale “the most profound” of the Grimm canon.

“Generally speaking, most of Grimm is about heroic children. ‘Hansel and Gretel’ are the most heroic of them all,” said Sendak, known for “Where the Wild Things Are,” “In the Night Kitchen” and other children's favorites. “It's the toughest story in the world and people are afraid of it, yet it's famous because it's so truthful.”

Upstate NY native, CNY college grad wins 2025 Grammy Award

By GEOFF HERBERT  
syracuse.com (TNS)

A musician and producer from Upstate New York has added another Grammy Award to her collection.

Elaine Martone, a Rochester native and Ithaca College alumna, won Producer of the Year, Classical, at the 2025 Grammys. She received the prize, the sixth Grammy of her career, during the pre-telecast awards ceremony.

Martone was honored for her work on several albums, including “Bartók: String Quartet No. 3; Suite From ‘The Miraculous Mandarin’” by Franz Welsler-Möst & The Cleveland Orchestra; “The Book of Spells” by the Merian Ensemble; “Divine Mischief” by Julian Bliss, J. Eric Wilson & Baylor University Wind Ensemble; “Joy!” by John Morris Russell & Cincinnati Pops; “Schubert: The Complete

Impromptus” by Gerardo Teissonnière; “Stranger At Home” by Shachar Israel; and three other works by Franz Welsler-Möst & The Cleveland Orchestra.

Martone, who lives in Cleveland and works for the Telarc record label, founded by her husband Robert Woods, has now won six Grammys out of 13 career nominations. She graduated from Ithaca College in 1979 with a bachelor of music degree.

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HELP WANTED

The Village of Marathon, an equal opportunity employer, is accepting resumes for a Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. This position involves responsibility for the maintenance and repair of the Villages water distribution system, sewer lines, lift stations and related equipment. The scope of work also involves the performance of a variety of semi-skilled tasks in connection with the construction, maintenance, and repair of water and sewer mains, services and hydrants. Work to be performed under the general supervision of the Superintendent of Water/Wastewater. Minimum Qualifications: High school or equivalency. Village supported training and schooling will assist the candidate to procure required certifications, such as 2B & D water operator and 3A Waste Water Operator. Resumes must be submitted to Village of Marathon, P.O. Box 519, Marathon, NY 13803 or may be dropped off at the Village Office, 18 Tannery Street, Marathon, NY. Deadline for submission is March 10, 2025. Please contact Village office at 607-849-3812 with any questions.

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## SUNY Football

# Cortland tabs Tom Blumenauer as next SUNY football coach

By FRAN ELIA  
Contributing Writer

Tom Blumenauer has been chosen as SUNY Cortland's new football head coach in an announcement from director of athletics Mike Urtz. Blumenauer replaces Curt Fitzpatrick, who spent five years at the Red Dragon helm before accepting the head coaching position at Colgate University this past December.

Blumenauer has served most recently as head coach at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, from 2022-24. During those three seasons, he led the Diplomats to a combined 21-11 record, including an 11-8 record in the Centennial Conference. F&M won postseason bowl games versus Delaware Valley in 2024, to cap a 7-4 season, and King's (Pa.) in 2023, to finish an 8-3 campaign. The 2024 season also featured a tight 13-6 loss at eventual national semifinalist Johns Hopkins.

"It is an incredible honor to be named the new head football coach at SUNY Cortland," Blumenauer said. "I would like to express my gratitude to President Erik Bitterbaum, Director of Athletics Mike Urtz, and the search committee for this amazing opportunity. It is a privilege to join an institution renowned for its nationally recognized academic programs and strong athletic traditions. I look forward to meeting the entire team and beginning our preparation for the 2025 season. The recent success of the program has revitalized the entire Division III national landscape. I will work tirelessly to help each of our football student-athletes maximize their potential."

In 2024, F&M ranked first in the Centennial Conference in scoring defense (13.1 points per game), passing yards allowed per game (164.8) and rushing yards allowed per game (62.7), along with time of possession (34:37 per game; second nationally) and offensive third down conversion percentage (49.3%; 21st nationally). The team also ranked second in the conference in passing yards per game (261.7).

Blumenauer's F&M teams

earned a total of 25 Centennial Conference all-league honors, including 11 in 2024, in addition to 62 student-athletes named to the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll.

Prior to F&M, "Coach Blu" served as the associate head coach and recruiting coordinator at Williams College (Mass.) for six years. He was the Ephs' offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach in 2021 and the program's run game coordinator and offensive line coach from 2016-20. Williams made a steady climb up the NESCAC standings during his tenure, culminating in the program's

first 9-0 season and a league title in 2021. That season, Williams averaged more than 34 points per game and ranked fifth nationally in Division III in red zone scoring percentage (.895), seventh in passing yards per completion (17.8) and ninth in passing efficiency (170.4 rating).

Blumenauer's other coaching positions include serving as offensive coordinator at Bowdoin College (Maine) in 2015 and at Endicott College (Mass.) in 2014. He got his start in collegiate coaching as recruiting coordinator, quarterbacks coach and wide receivers coach at St. Lawrence University for three seasons from 2010-13. The Saints were Liberty League champs in his first season in Canton.

After playing from 2003-04 at Division I Connecticut, Blumenauer transferred to Ithaca College and played outside linebacker and free safety for the Bombers for two seasons. He registered 55 tackles, five pass breakups, three fumble recoveries and two interceptions, one returned 85 yards for a touchdown, in 2005, and the following season he recorded 54 tackles, including three sacks among his 13 total tackles for loss. Blumenauer was a two-time All-Empire 8 selection and was named to the 2006 Football Gazette All-East Region team.

Blumenauer earned a bachelor's degree in physical education from Ithaca in 2007 and a master's degree in educational leadership from St. Lawrence in 2012.



Blumenauer

## High School Volleyball



Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

Tully's Elaina Iozzo centers herself before a serve Wednesday night at Mount Markham Middle School.

# Tully's season ends in competitive semifinal

By PAUL CIFONELLI  
Sports Editor

pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

WEST WINFIELD — Mount Markham head coach Terry McKane approached the Tully girls volleyball team postgame to let the Black Knights know they were the toughest team his girls faced all season.

That's high praise from the Mustangs' longtime head coach, who has built a dynasty with a handful of Section III titles dating back to 2003.

No. 4 Tully gave No. 1 Mount Markham all it could handle, but couldn't take a set in a 21-25, 23-25, 18-25 loss in the Section III Class C semifinals Wednesday night at Mount Markham Middle School.

The two teams went blow for blow early on, with Mount Markham taking an early 8-2 lead and Tully responding after a timeout to make it 16-15 Mustangs in the first. Mount Markham won the next two points before Tully took a 19-18 advantage. The Mustangs closed the first strong with a 7-2 run and proved to the Black Knights why they entered the match a perfect 17-0.

There was an extreme amount of tension in the first set and both teams had their moments.

"Whenever you get to this point, no matter how prepared you are you're still going to get in that situation," Tully head coach Jeremy Cook said. "I thought that we handled it OK. At different times, the girls cracked under some pressure, which is natural. We were looking for that person to rise to the top and kind of take over, and it just never happened."

Tully appeared to get things together in the second, forcing

the Mustangs to get uncomfortable defensively at times and riding a wave of momentum to take a 21-16 lead. The Black Knights forced a Mount Markham timeout after a long rally that included some big defensive plays by Maddy Lund. Tully had all the momentum and won two points out of the timeout to take that 21-16 advantage, but things turned from there.

Mount Markham went on an incredible run, tightening up the defense and letting star outside hitter Layla Rice swing away. The Mustangs turned the tide of the match, winning nine of the final 11 points in the set to silence the Tully faithful.

Cook felt Mount Markham was able to make the big comeback in the second due to some timidity and poor offensive execution.

"We needed to just create more offense," Cook said. "Whenever we got a chance, we ended up hitting it directly at someone on their team and creating a really easy dig, or creating an error on us. A lot of it was they took advantage of their opportunities and we didn't all the time."

Mount Markham carried that momentum into the third, opening up a 19-10 lead. Tully did its best to come back and make the final set respectable, but Cook felt the way the second ended took the life out of his girls.

Rice and Kyra Piersma on the outside and Caleigh Smith and Navy Escamilla on the inside caused Tully problems all night. The Black Knights did their best to block, but the four hitters chose different players to hit at throughout the night and rotated it to keep the Tully defense off balance.

"That came because we were just playing so tentatively," Cook said. "I think if we were a little bit more aggressive and a little more confident, we would've forced them to not have the option to have so many choices with what they were doing."

"I thought we relied on tipping too much and we were very uncharacteristically frantic," Cook added. "The speed of the game was a lot faster. They run their outsides a lot faster than we're used to seeing."

Anna Lund provided a bright spot for Tully, dishing out the 1,000th assist of her career late in the third set.

She reached the milestone in just two seasons.

"She's been awesome and I think she was feeling a little pressure," Cook said. "You could see she was a little tight (Wednesday night). I was trying to get her to let her shoulders down and just relax. The whole team wanted it for her, so you're working for that."

"It's an incredible accomplishment," Cook added. "In Tully volleyball history, she's among elite company. Carla Hardy from Westhill is a Tully alumni and she's in the 1,000-assist club. Most recently it was Alexa Shay, who's a stud athlete. She's in great company and has put in a lot of work to get there."

Tully seniors Rowan Usherwood, Elaina Iozzo and Karissa Olender all played big parts on this year's team and contributed to the Black Knights' effort Wednesday.

Adeline Russ is the Black Knights' final senior.

Tully ends its season with a

See SCHOOLS, page 10

## NFL

# Jets cut QB Rodgers

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer

Aaron Rodgers' disappointing two-year stint with the New York Jets is over. And the team's only Super Bowl trophy is still standing by itself.

The Jets announced Thursday they told the 41-year-old quarter-

back they are moving on without him next season.

While Rodgers hasn't said whether he intends to continue playing for a 21st NFL season, the Jets — with new general manager Darren Mougey and coach Aaron Glenn in charge — have officially ruled out a return to New York.



AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File

Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers, front, stands with teammates before a game against the Dolphins, Jan. 5, in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

## Ice Hockey

# Canada's power play launches 4 Nations Face-Off with a bang

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
AP Hockey Writer

MONTREAL — Canada's absurdly talented power play did not take long to make a difference at the 4 Nations Face-Off on Wednesday night.

With Sweden's William Nylander in the penalty box for high-sticking, Connor McDavid got the puck to Sidney Crosby, who found Nathan MacKinnon wide open with a no-look pass for the first goal of the tournament just 12 seconds into the power play and 56 seconds into the game. There was almost nothing goaltender Filip Gustavsson could do to stop the shot.

"There's a lot of talk about that first unit (and) a lot of nerves, honestly," MacKinnon said. "I haven't played best on best for Team Canada ever, so definitely a lot of adrenaline, a lot of

nerves, so it was nice to get an open net early. It definitely settled me in. Really great play by Connor and Sid."

Coach Jon Cooper put all of his top NHL regular-season and playoff MVPs and Stanley Cup champions together with a unit of McDavid, Crosby, MacKinnon, Cale Makar and Sam Reinhart. It was obvious from the first practice Monday that the group had the potential of being special.

"Obviously a ton of talent, a ton of skill," Crosby said that day. "Having to think and move quickly and that sort of thing — be instinctive but also react to some of the plays that they make. I think that's fun."

Makar said he enjoys just watching his teammates work from his spot on the point.

"We got fast players that

can move around the zone, but we've got to make sure we stay a threat," Makar said. "For us, it's cool. Obviously they can all interchange, but it's a lot of fun watching those guys."

This is the first time McDavid, Crosby and MacKinnon are on the same Canada team in international play. Cooper, who considers the 1987 Canada Cup the best display of the sport in hockey history, said of his roster, "There's just weapons all over the ice."

"It's really fun — really fun to know that everybody can think on the same level, can execute on the same level," McDavid said after his team's 4-3 overtime victory. "We've worked hard at it the two days at practice. Obviously we had 10 seconds of power-play time, but we made it worthwhile."



Major League Baseball

AP source: Bregman and Red Sox agree to \$120M, 3-year contract



Astros' Alex Bregman bats against the Angels, Sept. 22, 2024, in Houston.

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

Alex Bregman and the Boston Red Sox have agreed to a \$120 million, three-year contract, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Wednesday night.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement was subject to a successful physical.

Bregman can opt out after the 2025 and 2026 seasons to become a free agent again. He is likely to shift from third base to second with the Red Sox, who already have All-Star slugger Rafael Devers at the hot corner.

"I texted him right when it went through last night. I just couldn't be more fired up to have him here," new Red Sox pitcher Garrett Crochet said Thursday. "I think you look at the intangibles, and he has them all. I've heard a lot of good stuff

about him being an absolute baseball rat, a guy that loves the game and works hard. Obviously, his pedigree speaks for itself, won a couple of World Series, the Gold Glove last year shows that he's still at the top of his game."

A two-time All-Star and two-time World Series champion during nine years with Houston, the 30-year-old Bregman is coming off one of his poorest offensive seasons. He hit .260 with 26 homers and 75 RBIs in the final season of a \$100 million, five-year contract, also winning his first Gold Glove.

Bregman has 19 postseason home runs, tied for sixth in major league history. He was selected by Houston with the second overall pick in the 2015 amateur draft, made his big league debut a year later and hit .284 with 19 homers, 71 RBIs and 17 stolen bases in 2017.

LEGALS

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

Notice of Formation of MELROSE ROAD PROPERTIES, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/04/2025. Office location Cayuga SSNY desg. As agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY mail process to 7140 OWASCO ROAD, AUBURN, NY 13021. Any lawful purpose.

**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 Nicolas 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 Armiendo, Esq., Referee McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC 420 Lexington Avenue-Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 22-13666NY 84015

**CORTLAND COUNTY  
BID NOTICE**

Town of Harford Notice to Bidders Legal Notice

The Town of Harford will accept sealed bids for building of a walking trail at the Harford Town Park, located at 726 State Rte. 221 in Harford NY, 13784. Details for the walking trail are as follows. Approximately 500 yards long, 6 or 8 feet wide, 8 inch base of crusher run and fabric. Please send a detailed quote which includes paved and unpaved cost, materials being used and the price of such materials, prevailing wage labor costs and a time line.

Any inquiries concerning this job should be addressed to Jennifer Fox, Town Clerk (844-4091). Bids should be sent to the Harford Town Clerk, P.O. Box 120, Harford, NY 13784 and should be clearly marked on the envelope "Walking Trail Bid". The Harford Town Clerk must receive all bids by March 3, 2025. The bids will be opened and discussed at 8:00 p.m. at the regular Town Board meeting on March 3, 2025 held at the Harford Town Hall. The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. All interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.

By Order of the Harford Town Board.  
Jennifer Fox, Harford Town Clerk

**CORTLAND COUNTY  
NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF CORTLAND CFCU Community Credit Union, Plaintiff AGAINST Jaime Hammond, Individually and as Administrator of the Estate of Vicki Jean Hammond a/k/a Vicki Hammond; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered January 13, 2025 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Cortland County Courthouse, Cortland, NY 13045 on March 17, 2025 at 10:30AM, premises known as 1380 Daisy Hollow Road, Dryden, NY 13053. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Harford, County of Cortland, State of NY, Section: 144.00 Block: 04 Lot: 14.000. Approximate amount of judgment \$30,242.70 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# EF23-155. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the 6th Judicial District. William J. Pomeroy, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: January 22, 2025 84276

**TOWN OF VIRGIL  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting and public hearing will be held before the Town of Virgil Zoning Board of Appeals on February 24, 2025, 6 p.m. at the Virgil Town Hall 1176 Church Street, Virgil NY 13045. This meeting is being held to consider the following applications:

1. Scott Middendorf, the property owner and applicant from M.R. Dirt Inc., is requesting approval to subdivide a 102.09-acre lot (Tax Map #127.00-06-100-26) located at 2220 Kypriotis Drive. The proposal involves dividing the land into two lots: one with 22 acres and the other with 80 acres. The 22-acre lot would have access from Thermopylae Drive, with only 158 feet of road frontage, while the lot on Kypriotis Drive would have 60 feet of road frontage. Since the current zoning law requires a minimum of 250 feet of road frontage per lot, this subdivision application will require an area variance.
2. Michael Tenkate, the property owner and applicant, is requesting an area variance for the construction of a 50x70 agricultural machine pole barn on his property located at 2323 Kohne Road (Tax Map #115.00-05-03.112). He proposes to build the pole barn 10 feet from the side yard, which requires an area variance as the zoning law requires a 30-foot side setback.

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

Alane Van Donsel  
Virgil Town Clerk on Behalf of  
The Virgil Zoning Board of Appeals

**CORTLAND COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
THE VIRGIL PLANNING BOARD**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a meeting and public hearings will be held before the Virgil Planning Board on February 24, 2025, at the Virgil Town Hall 1176 Church Street, Virgil NY 13045 at 7:00 PM. The meeting and public hearings are being held to consider the following applications:

1. Scott Middendorf, property owner and applicant from M.R. Dirt Inc., is seeking a site plan review to subdivide a 102.09-acre parcel (Tax Map #127.00-06-100-26) located at 2220 Kypriotis Drive. The subdivision would create two lots: one with 22 acres and the other with 80 acres. The 22-acre lot would have access from Thermopylae Drive, while the 80-acre lot would have road frontage on Kypriotis Drive. Mr. Middendorf is also appearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals to request a variance for reduced road frontage.
2. Shanna Karn, the applicant, is requesting a site plan review for a commercial business to occupy an existing building at 279 Route 13 (Tax Map #105.00-07-04.000), owned by Bruce Martens. The property is zoned commercial. The applicant plans to rent the current space and parking, with no additions or renovations to the building. The business, named The Second Knob Gifts & Antiques LLC, will operate as a retail storefront.

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

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

College Baseball



Stanford baseball player Rintaro Sasaki swings in the batting cage at Stanford University in Stanford, California, on Feb. 7.

Prospect Sasaki finds home away from home in Calif.

By JANIE MCCAULEY  
AP Baseball Writer

STANFORD, Calif. — Rintaro Sasaki zooms up to the ballpark on an electric bike with a brown bag of food in hand, ready to grab a quick bite of lunch then get right to work in the batting cage.

When the Japanese slugger kept getting flat tires traveling around Stanford's expansive campus on his old bicycle, his teammates assured him he had to get some new wheels. Sasaki is loving the bike, just as he is loving everything about his unprecedented start in NCAA baseball.

Sasaki had a blast tossing T-shirts with his teammates during the Stanford men's basketball game Saturday. He pointed up into the stands, let the rolled red shirt fly with a perfect follow-through then pointed once more that direction before smiling and waving. Beforehand as they waited, he gave a thumbs-up and posed for photos alongside Saum.

Yes, Sasaki has completely embraced everything about being a college student. He so enjoys speaking English that it's his first choice these days over Japanese.

"That's sick," Sasaki said to describe one experience, an expression he uses these days to Saum's amusement.

"He's an incredible kid, he's unbelievable," Saum said. "That was kind of my big thing for him showing up was how is he going to deal with playing baseball in a new culture. Getting into college and playing baseball is hard enough for somebody who grows up in America and he's coming over, he's the first person to do this."

"The first thing that kind of blew me away was they were like, 'Hey, we'll get you a translator for all your classes,' he said, 'absolutely not,' he's like, 'I want to do this on my own.' He's so determined to learn English."

From Day 1, Sasaki has been determined to do as much as he can himself, asking for help only if and when he truly needs an assist.

"That's for me the most impressive part," Saum added.

The pair roomed together on road trips late last season after Sasaki arrived from Japan in March for the spring quarter and acclimated to his new life by traveling with the team without playing.

Once the 2023-24 season ended, he went straight to the MLB Draft League to play for the Trenton Thunder.

SCHOOLS

continued from page 9

16-4 record. Mount Markham will take on No. 2 Beaver River at 10 a.m. Saturday at Central Valley Academy in the Section III Class C title match in a rematch of last year's championship game. Both teams are unbeaten.

BOYS BASKETBALL

TULLY 56,  
ONTECH CHARTER 40

Garrett Thompson poured in a career-high 34 points to help Tully win its 11th game in a row and move to 16-1. Thompson knocked down six 3-pointers on the night.

Connor Bastedo aided his fellow senior with 12 points, Sean Mize pitched in four points and Sam Dando and Nate Melton both made a 3-pointer for the Black Knights.

DeRUYTER 72,  
MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL 24

DeRuyter snapped its four-game losing streak in emphatic fashion, opening up a 54-12 lead through three quarters. Dan Holl had a big night for the second game in a row for the Rockets, going for 27 points.

Devens Whalen added 14 points for DeRuyter, Dylan Foster contributed 13 points, Jackson Millett had eight points, Jonah Baxter notched six points and Josiah Hannafan and Jeremy Prince both scored two points.

GIRLS BASKETBALL  
MEXICO 41, CORTLAND 38

Cortland held a 17-14 lead at halftime, but allowed 27 second-half points in the Purple Tigers' fourth consecutive loss.

HOMER 46,  
ONONDAGA 40

Homer won the fourth quarter 12-6 to edge out its third straight win and second in as many days. Anya Gofkowski led the Trojans offensively with 12 points on three makes from deep, while Lauren Franco added 11 points.

Maddie Morgan made two 3-pointers for six points, Kennadie Taylor, Lizzie McCloy and Makenna Pym all scored four points, Destiny Eaton notched three points and Izzy Small had two points for Homer.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE	
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Marathon at Moravia, 7 p.m. today	
Dryden at Watkins Glen, 7 p.m. today	
Tully at Hamilton, 7 p.m. today	
Cortland at Jordan-Elbridge, 12:30 p.m. Saturday	
Homer at Mexico, 11:45 a.m. Saturday	
DeRuyter at Poland, 6:30 p.m. Saturday	
Marathon at Elmira Notre Dame, 7:15 p.m. Monday	
Cincinnatus at Oselic Valley, 7 p.m. Monday	
Tully at Pulaski, 1:30 p.m. Monday	
Lafayette at DeRuyter, 12:30 p.m. Monday	

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Moravia at Marathon, 7 p.m. today	
Watkins Glen at Dryden, 7 p.m. today	
Westhill at Cortland, 1 p.m. Saturday	
Homer at Oneida, 1 p.m. Saturday	

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	
No. 1 Cincinnatus vs. No. 3 Sandy Creek, noon Saturday at Central Valley Academy	

BOYS WRESTLING	
Homer, Southern Hills at Onondaga Community College, 10 a.m. Saturday	
Dryden at Waverly, 10 a.m. Saturday	
Dryden at Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, Sunday	

GIRLS WRESTLING	
Groton at Waverly, 10 a.m. Saturday	
Homer at Onondaga Community College, Sunday	
Groton at Visions Veterans Memorial Arena, Sunday	

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD	
Groton, Dryden at SUNY Cortland, 8:30 a.m. Saturday	

Bowling

281 BOWL YOUTH MAJORS LEAGUE			
High Scratch Games		High Scratch Series	
Caleb Hamilton (255)		Caleb Hamilton (692)	
Tyler Seymour (255)		Tyler Seymour (639)	
Tyler Thomas (241)		Tyler Thomas (622)	
John Bishop Jr. (226)		Ricky Osborne (603)	
Thomas Lea (220)		Thomas Lea (591)	
Standings		Standings	
Odd Balls	50	The Bowling Balls	37.5
M&N's	48	All Falls Down	37.5
Matt dal.linc	45	281 Bowl Inc.	34
Great Balls of Fire	42	Tanka Jahari	31
C4	41		

281 BOWL THE LITTLE'S SPA LEAGUE			
High Scratch Games		High Scratch Series	
Drew Starinsky (269)		Mike Quintero (708)	
Randy Coville (266)		Drew Starinsky (683)	
Mike Quintero (257)		Mike Root (646)	
Jake Hallslead (245)		Mearland Rice (631)	
Frankie Pinkoski (238)		Randy Coville (627)	
Standings		Standings	
Steve Little Electric	104	Mountainside Cones	80
VHD	100	Annie's 281 Bowl	78
Wilcox Beef	93	Ellamate	73
Property Essentials	85	And #1	61
Don's Auto Upholstery	80	Bob's Barbeque	51

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	44	10	.815	—
Boston	39	16	.709	5½
New York	36	18	.667	8
Indiana	30	23	.566	13½
Milwaukee	29	24	.547	14½
Detroit	29	26	.527	15½
Orlando	27	29	.482	18
Miami	25	27	.481	18
Atlanta	26	29	.473	18½
Chicago	22	33	.400	22½
Philadelphia	20	34	.370	24
Brooklyn	20	34	.370	24
Toronto	17	38	.309	27½
Charlotte	13	39	.250	30
Washington	9	45	.167	35
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Oklahoma City	44	9	.830	—
Memphis	36	18	.667	8½
Denver	36	19	.655	9
Houston	34	20	.630	10½
L.A. Lakers	32	20	.615	11½
L.A. Clippers	30	23	.566	14
Minnesota	30	25	.545	15
Dallas	29	26	.527	16
Sacramento	28	26	.519	16½
Golden State	27	27	.500	17½
Phoenix	26	28	.481	18½
San Antonio	23	29	.442	20½
Portland	23	32	.418	22
Utah	13	40	.245	31
New Orleans	12	42	.222	32½



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 “What is Your Name?” The scripture reading will be Exodus 3:1-15. Sunday school is 11:15 a.m. Sunday. Prayer and devotions are 6 p.m. Wednesday.

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 “The Blessings of Trust.” The gospel will be Luke 6:17-28 and Jeremiah 17:5-10. Children will leave for Sunday school after Children’s Time. The food pantry is open 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday. The next clothing 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 “Soul.” The focus is on Jesus’ two commandments: “thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength...and the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” 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 will be “A Healed Life.” Music includes “Breathe,” “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” and “Christ, Your Words of Love Confound Us.” Children are invited to Kid’s Club after the children’s message. 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. For information on joining the service on Zoom, call the church office at 607-844-8321.

First Presbyterian Church of Marathon

Service is 10 a.m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church of Marathon. The Rev. Doug Hatch’s sermon will be “Abram & Sarai” and recounts some

of their early history in Genesis. Hymns include: “The God of Abraham Praise,” “Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak” and a closing hymn of congregational choice.

Grace and Holy Spirit Church

Services are 9:30 a.m. Sunday in person and online at Grace and Holy Spirit Church, 13 Court St., Cortland. This Sunday will be morning prayer only. 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@cnyemail.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 1 and 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. The gospel reading will be Luke 6:17-26. The Rev. Steph Brown’s message will be: “Blessings & Curses.” The hymns for the day will be: “I Will Trust in the Lord,” “Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil” “O How I Love Jesus” and “Something Beautiful.” The Virgil service will be live at https://www.facebook.com/VirgilUMC/videos 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 Church. Faith Formation has the Sunday off. The Rev. Vicki Burton’s sermon, “Love Relentlessly,” will focus on Luke’s version of The Beatitudes, found in Luke 6:17-31. The choir will sing “Blest Are They.” Following the Children’s Time, nursery care will be provided, there will also be coffee and conversation afterward. For those who cannot attend in person, service will be streamed 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 My Family” based on Philipians 2:1-8. Bible study is 10 a.m. Tuesday in the

narthex. Sunday school and youth group is 10 a.m. during the service. The food pantry is open 10 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and 5 to 7 p.m. Thursdays.

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 Rev. Hyun Joon Kim’s sermon will be “The Mustard Seed.” The scripture will be Matthew 13:31-33. Bible study and Sunday school run 8 to 8:30 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: “Faith is the Victory,” “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love” and “Love Lifted Me.” Scripture readings will be 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 and series: All You Need Is Love. Message 1: “All the Right Moves — All the Wrong Motives” and the message will be “Love” by the Rev. George Mekeel. The luncheon will be 11:30 a.m. Sunday followed by the annual meeting at 12:30 p.m., and Sunday praise service at 6 p.m. Kingdom Adventures will be 6 p.m. Thursday.

O’Heron Newman Hall Catholic Chapel

Mass is 5 p.m. Sunday at O’Heron Newman Hall Catholic Chapel, 8 Calvert St., Cortland.

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. A weekday Mass will be 9 a.m. Monday, there will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass. There will also be Mass 10 a.m. Tuesday, all are welcome to a coffee hour in the church hall after. Donations of food and toiletries for local charities may be left in the blue collection bin at the back church entrance.

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 “Where Are We Planted?” The 10:30 a.m. service is broadcast over Facebook Live at “United Presby-

terian 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.

St. Mary’s Church

Mass will be celebrated 4 p.m. Saturday and 8 and 11:30 a.m. Sunday at St. Mary’s Church in Cortland. The 8 a.m. Sunday Mass will be livestreamed via Facebook. Weekday Masses are 7 a.m. Wednesday and Friday. The weekly hour of adoration will be noon to 1 p.m. Wednesdays. The Rosary will be prayed at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the church’s chapel. Confessions will be heard 3 to 3:45 p.m. Saturday and by appointment. The Men’s Group meets 8 a.m. Saturday at the parish center. The President’s Day Mass will be 9 a.m., the church office will be closed. The church is collecting non-perishable food items for local food pantries; place items in the blue barrels.

Summerhill Baptist Church

Services are 10 a.m. Sunday at Summerhill Baptist Church at 525 Lake Como Road, followed by Sunday school at 11:15 a.m. Cortland Bible Camp Director Dan Rhoda’s message will be “Chasing the Fire.” 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 on Zoom, watching the Rev. Darcey Laine who will be at the pulpit of the partner church, The Unitarian Universalist Church of Athens and Sheshequin, in Pennsylvania. The service will be “Cosmic Walk Ritual.”

This weekend congregations around the world will participate in “Religion and Science Weekend — Living in Awe.” The church will have a candle-light ritual that walks through all of time from the Big Bang to the present.

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. In honor of President’s Day, the office is closed Monday and there will be no noon Mass.

Latino evangelical churches gearing up to face possible immigration enforcement in churches

By DEEPA BHARATH  
Associated Press  
Bishop Ebli De La Rosa says his motto right now is “to prepare for the worst and pray for the best.”

De La Rosa, who oversees Church of God of Prophecy congregations in nine southeastern states, says he has had to respond quickly to the Trump administration’s new orders, which have thrown out policies that restricted immigration enforcement in sensitive locations such as schools and houses of worship. This move has imperiled 32 of the Latino evangelical denomination’s 70 pastors who are here without legal status and serve in some of the region’s most vulnerable communities, De La Rosa said. The bishop has instructed each congregation with endangered pastors to prepare three laypeople to take over, should their leader be deported. He has also told them to livestream every service, and to “keep recording even if something happens.” “Some of my pastors are holding services with doors locked because they are scared that immi-



AP Photo/Alan Youngblood  
Rev. Esteban Rodriguez prays for congregants during a church service in Kissimmee, Florida, Feb. 2.

gration agents will burst through the door at any moment,” he said. “I feel so bad and so helpless that I can do nothing more for them.” De La Rosa echoes the sentiments of several other faith leaders representing thousands of Latino evangelical Christians in Florida and swaths of the Southeast. They worry about the sanc-

tity of their sacred spaces, and the possibility of immigration raids and arrests. A statement from the Department of Homeland Security on Jan. 20 said the president’s executive order will empower officers with Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection to enforce im-

migration laws and that “criminals will no longer be able to hide in America’s schools and churches to avoid arrest.” Agustin Quiles, a spokesperson for the Florida Fellowship of Hispanic Councils and Evangelical Institutions, said community members, including many who supported Donald Trump in the last election cycle, now feel devastated and abandoned. “The messaging appears to be that anyone who is undocumented is a criminal,” he said. “Latino evangelicals for the most part voted Republican and hold conservative views on issues like abortion. We want to ask the president to reconsider because these actions are causing pain and trauma to so many families in and beyond our churches. Their suffering is great, and the church is suffering with them.” Quiles said his organization will lobby legislators in Washington and Florida to reinstate laws that protected sensitive spaces like houses of worship. “Our main focus is the unity of families and the many children who will be impacted or left be-

hind without their parents,” he said. Pastor Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, who advised President Trump on immigration during his first term, says he has been assured on multiple occasions “by those in the know” that houses of worship have nothing to fear. “There should be zero angst as it pertains to churches because no one is going to come into a church with or without guns blazing,” he said. “That is never going to happen.” However, Rodriguez said agents may surveil a church if they suspect someone engaged in criminal activity is seeking shelter there. And he said those who are here illegally — even if they have lived in the United States for decades — may be deported if they are living with or are around someone who is here illegally and has committed a crime. The National Association of Evangelicals, which says it represents 40 denominations and serves millions, expressed dismay at the executive order.



**Chevrolet**  
756-7555



**Nissan Subaru**  
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Myung J. Chun/Los Angeles Times/TNS  
There's no need to go over-the-top, just make guacamole the simple way with avocado, chile, garlic, lime juice, salt and cilantro. That's it.

# Time to drop tomatoes, onions from guacamole

## Column

By DANIEL HERNANDEZ  
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

LOS ANGELES — Like many in Southern California, I grew up eating guacamole the way it is made almost everywhere in the United States, from Tex-Mex joints to West Coast margarita houses. The basic ingredients of avocado, tomato, onion and lime juice have defined the Mexican-American style. Chile and garlic are also present in most cases but (in an often spice-sensitive culture) not always.

These are the core ingredients familiar to millions of people who eat guacamole from chains like Taco Bell and El Pollo Loco, or at American classics like the Original El Cholo on Western Avenue, which uses a recipe dating to 1955.

With such a universal standard ingrained in our minds, it shouldn't be surprising that this food can get people really riled up. At the same time, we've been altering and experimenting with guacamole almost since the beginning, and definitely in trail-blazing California.

U.S. home cooks have such an affectionate view of guacamole that they go ahead and indulge their most ridiculous whims with it. The great peas-in-guacamole controversy of 2015 that drew in President Barack Obama is part of a chain of rage-fueled social media incidents sparked when an unusual ingredient goes viral and is declared sacrilegious. I am not anti-innovation in general, but sometimes it feels like audacity and chaos are the primary goals.

Today, Mexican or Alta California fine-dining chefs have made guacamole a canvas for experimentation. And that's good for L.A. There's celery in chef Josef Centeno's guacamole at Bar Amá, though it's barely perceptible, and Mexican furikake in the "Smashed Avocado" at chef Josh Gil's Mírate in Los Feliz, which overall is nice. At Damian, chef Chuy Cervantes offers a bowl of guacamole with serrano chile and olive oil that's hidden below a layer of herbs.

All of these expressions are effective in their own ways, part of the pops of surprise we expect when dining out. But at home I'm proposing another route for your guacamole: subtraction. If we remove two ingredients that are considered holy to guacamole's base, we may chart a course toward another state of ancient avocado nirvana.

It's time to drop the tomatoes and onion from the guac, people.

Why subtract these seemingly core ingredients? It's because tomato and onion are almost all water, about 90% to 95%. When in contact with the avocado, tomato and onion start turning a bit sad and soggy in a matter of minutes.

I get it that the ingredients equal "festive," introducing the red and white needed to invoke Mexico's tricolor national flag. But let's focus on the avocado as much as we can; the cost of avocados from south of the border could actually skyrocket if tariffs go into effect to punish imports.

So let's lean into unapologetic, assertive flavors. Totemic taste notes. Heat.

Intensify the chile and lime, dial up the garlic, get liberal with the sea salt and make a guacamole that will have people's eyes popping at any game or gathering.

### THE METROPOLITAN INFLUENCE

I picked up this way of making guacamole years ago, via my closest friends during the chunk of my life I spent in downtown Mexico City. I'd be hanging out on lazy weekend afternoons, on someone's rooftop or patio, or at home in Colonia Juárez, listening to the symphony of the streets.

Why serrano and not jalapeño, the preferred pepper in mainstream guacamole? Jalapeño is a bit too dark in color for this guacamole, and too meaty in texture. Plus, serrano seeds have a more aggressive heat profile, and the chile's smallish size makes it ideal to slice into penny-size discs for a final bit of garnish. Why garlic? With its inherent bite, garlic for me is key, clearing the nostrils and complementing the pepper.

There's a folk custom I picked up from friends to help prevent the oxidizing of the avocado, which causes browning, passed down from grandmas even if science doesn't support it — place the first pit of the fruit that you halve inside the smashing bowl and keep it there throughout serving and storing. This guacamole tightly stored may keep two or three days with a pit in it. When in doubt, add more lime. Or add lime after opening a stored portion of this guac to wake it up after a day or so.

Accompany best with baked tostadas like botaneras, as is custom in central Mexico, or with homemade tortilla chips that are hilariously easy to flash-fry and somehow make any guacamole taste 10 times better.

Whatever you do, consider weaning off mass-produced tortilla chips. The invariable staleness of manufactured chips that are not just-made will clash with the freshness of your guacamole's flavors. Tortilla chips made in-house at Mexican supermarket delis may also suffice.

You can make warm, salted cantina-style tortilla chips by quickly frying a batch using any tortillas hidden in the back of your fridge. Once you do, you'll never skip this step again. Fresh-fried tortilla chips are a worthy accompaniment to the new centerpiece of your party: a hot, limey guacamole fit for an Aztec holiday — or any professional sporting event 500 years into the future.

### MEXICO CITY-STYLE SPICY GUACAMOLE

Serves 2 to 4

It's time to drop the tomatoes and onion from your guacamole, America, for good. This super-simple but spicy recipe is inspired by years of lazy Sunday afternoons spent on friends' rooftops or patios in Mexico City, grilling meat and cactus paddles, pouring micheladas. Lots of busy urban professionals who nurse

hangovers on weekends swear by this style. This isn't a guacamole to use as a garnish — this is a centerpiece. It calls for nothing more than avocado, mashed garlic, diced serrano peppers, sea salt and lime juice. Maybe a bit of finely chopped cilantro on top. Use a molcajete or a mortar and pestle to better fuse all the flavors.

This guacamole will look deceptively like simple smashed avocado in a bowl, but after one bite, the heat and acid of its barebones ingredients might make you never again return to tricolor guacamole (or any of the infuriatingly ridiculous interpretations from social media). Use crumbled tostadas over store-bought tortilla chips or, with any tortillas sitting in your fridge, flash-fry your own and douse with coarse salt while still hot — the crunch of a fresh, warm chip under buttery avocado can't be equalled.

### GUACAMOLE

- 4 ripe avocados
- 2 large garlic cloves
- 1 ½ serrano chiles
- 1 teaspoon flaky sea salt, or more to taste
- Juice of 3 small Mexican limes
- ½ small bunch of cilantro
- Tortilla chips
- 6 corn tortillas
- Canola oil, or other neutral oil for frying
- Sea salt

**Make the guacamole:** Halve each avocado and use a spoon to scoop out the fruit into a mixing bowl. Save the pit of one avocado and drop it into the bowl; I leave it in the guacamole throughout serving and storage to help slow browning.

Mince the garlic and chile. Remove some or all of the seeds of the chile if you want the guacamole less spicy. Add the garlic and chiles to the bowl.

Crush the sea salt lightly in a small molcajete or with a mortar and pestle; add to the mixture. Add the lime juice to the guacamole.

Use a bean or potato masher to lightly press and combine the ingredients, or use a large molcajete.

Transfer the guacamole to a serving bowl and garnish with roughly chopped cilantro. Serve immediately with baked tostadas or tortilla chips (see below).

**Make the tortilla chips:** Pour oil into a large skillet until it's about 1 inch deep. Heat over medium-high heat until the oil is hot (to test, drop a small piece of tortilla into the oil; it should immediately sizzle.)

Meanwhile, stack the tortillas and cut into wedges like a pizza.

Reduce the heat to medium and drop the tortilla slices into the oil one by one so that none touch or pile on one another. Turn each chip individually after about 2 minutes.

Allow chips to slightly brown on both sides before removing from oil. Give them a strong dash of sea salt before serving.

# A medieval feast fit for the ages

## Column

DANIEL NEMAN  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (TNS)

One of the dishes Reuben Kendall cooked for a feast this past Christmas was flavored with pumpkin spice — cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger.

There is nothing unusual in that. Except the recipe for the dish is 600 years old.

Pumpkin spice, that quintessential modern ingredient, has been popular since the 15th century.

"It is on everything. They put it on meat. They put it on sweet porridges, they put it on pies and desserts. They probably used pumpkin spice in the Middle Ages more than we do in the month of November," Kendall says.

And it isn't just pumpkin spice. Almond milk, too, was an essential item in English and French homes of the nobility in the 1400s.

For the past few years, Kendall and 20 or so likeminded friends have been sitting down to medieval feasts for Christmas. It is a natural indulgence for the friends, who tend to go to Renaissance fairs and belong to the Society for Creative Anachronism.

Not everyone dressed for the occasion, but some came in medieval-style clothes. One person came as Gandalf from "The Lord of the Rings," which may not be historically accurate but was in the spirit of the evening.

Kendall is 34 and lives in St. Louis. He was raised on the Erroll Flynn version of "The Adventures of Robin Hood," the 1985 film "Ladyhawke," Rosemary Sutcliff's trilogy of King Arthur books and what he calls "cheesy Arthurian books" that were popular for young readers just before the Harry Potter books came out.

"As an adult, I appreciate going back and looking at the actual history of the 15th century. The 15th century was really significant because it was on the cusp of a lot of change, just before the Age of Imperialism" and a modernization of religion, he says.

"It's a period of history that informs a lot of what we see today. And it's also healthy to go back and see what really was the history, not an idealized or bowdlerized version of history."

This interest led him to search the internet for original 15th century recipes. Most of the medieval dishes he cooks come from

two manuscripts posted by the University of Michigan, and a third, a modern English translation of a French cookbook from 1420 called "De fait de cuisine."

A whole online community has formed over a shared interest in medieval cookery, he says. When he started, he did not know that other people were interested in recipes that dated back to the time of Henry V. But now, he can see recipes that others have tried, and their tips for cooking them.

In previous years, Kendall cooked the Christmas meal with some of the other guests, but circumstances this year required him to make it all himself. And what a feast it was.

The meal started with braised shoulder of venison, seasoned with little more than salt and pepper. This was served with a dish called frumenty, which is hulled wheat that is boiled until it is soft. Then the water is poured out and replaced with milk. Saffron is added — "because saffron is expensive and beautiful," he says — and it is boiled again until it becomes a thickened porridge.

The combination of venison and frumenty was served at the start of every significant ceremonial feast, he says, and one dish was always served with the other. Frumenty continued to be popular in England into the Victorian era, becoming more elaborately flavored as the centuries went on. But in the 1400s, it was still a simple dish with few ingredients.

The next dish was peas poached in sweetened red wine spiced with the pumpkin spice mixture. It goes especially well with the venison, Kendall says, and is so good that his friends request it every time he cooks 15th century food.

Also at the feast was pork loin stuffed with an abundance of herbs (sage, mace, cloves, black and white pepper), toasted rice, dried apricots and raisins. Raisins were an especially popular ingredient at the time, he says.

The author of "De fait de cuisine," in which this recipe appears, would use a liquid made with spinach to paint the pork loin a bright green, a shade Kendall compares to Jolly Rancher green apple candy. Kendall thought about painting the loin for this meal, but decided against it at the last minute.

"The end result is not delicious looking. It is a lot of work for a lot of spectacle, but the spectacle is not appetizing," he says.

The pork was served with a pea potage, which Kendall calls "the great-granddaddy of split-pea soup."



Vural Yavas/Dreamstime/TNS

Daniel Neman writes that in medieval times one popular dish featured pears poached in sweetened red wine flavored with a pumpkin spice mixture.

# Outlook

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