



**MENLO  
 MICROSYSTEMS  
 TO BEGIN  
 ITHACA-AREA  
 OPERATIONS  
 IN 2024**

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PHOTO CREDIT: NEW YORK STATE WEBSITE



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**BAE SYSTEMS TO PROVIDE ELECTRIC-DRIVE SYSTEMS FOR LARGE BUS ORDER IN QUEBEC**

PHOTO CREDIT: BAE SYSTEMS



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**PROPOSED ONSHORE ACT SEEKS TO BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO UPSTATE INDUSTRIAL SITES**

PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. SENATE MAJORITY LEADERS OFFICE

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# CNYBJ Data & Details

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**July 24 Special Report:** Construction/Real Estate

**July 31 List:** Credit Unions

**July 31 Special Report:** Banking & Credit Union Report

**August 7:** Revitalize Mohawk Valley Feature Publication

**August 14 List:** Certified Women-Owned Businesses (20 Employees or Smaller)

**August 14 Special Report:** Innovation/Entrepreneur Resource Directory

**August 21 List:** Cultural and Performing-Arts Organizations

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**September 25 Special Report:** Revitalize Syracuse Feature Publication

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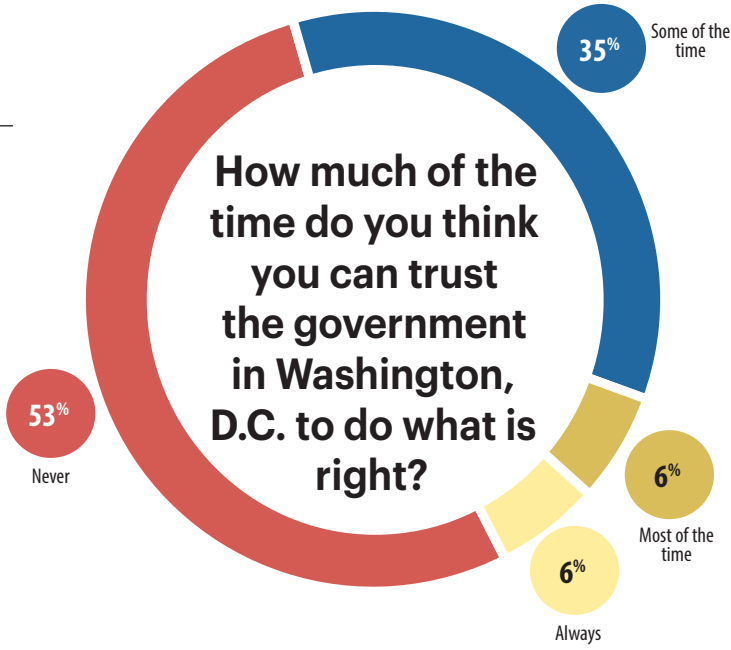
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## CNYBJ CANVASS

Here are the results of the latest poll on cnybj.com:

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## CNYBJ Briefs

### Seneca Foods' net sales flat in latest quarter, up in last year

FAIRPORT — Seneca Foods Corp. (NASDAQ: SENE, SENE) recently reported net sales of \$331.1 million for the three-month period ending March 31, virtually unchanged from \$332.4 million in the year-prior quarter.

The company — a Finger Lakes-based provider of packaged fruits and vegetables, with facilities across the U.S., including Geneva and Penn Yan — said the slight sales decrease was mainly due to lower sales volumes, mostly offset by higher selling prices.

Gross margin as a percentage of net sales in the latest quarter was 5.3 percent, down from 8 percent in the prior year. The year-over-year decrease was mainly due to a \$15.6 million rise in the firm's LIFO (last in/last out) charge.

Seneca Foods said its net sales for the one-year fiscal period ending March 31, totaled \$1.51 billion, up almost 9 percent from \$1.39 billion in the previous fiscal year. The year-over-year increase mainly resulted from higher selling prices, partially offset by lower sales volumes.

"Seneca Foods had an excellent fiscal 2023, delivering record sales and FIFO EBITDA, despite continued cost pressures for labor and raw materials which led to an unprecedented



PHOTO CREDIT: SENECAFOODS.COM

non-cash LIFO charge of \$100 [million]," Paul Palmby, president and CEO of Seneca Foods, said in the company's June 13 earnings report. "Significant past investments in our operating facilities paid off as our supply chain operated admirably this year amid a challenging environment. Entering fiscal 2024, we have replenished our inventory levels, which were depleted during the pandemic, and are in position to serve our customers' needs."

Seneca Foods says it is one of North America's leading providers of packaged fruits and vegetables. Its products are primarily sourced from more than 1,400 American farms and are distributed to about 60 countries. The firm's corporate office is in Fairport, near Rochester. Seneca says it holds a large share of the market for retail private label, food service, restaurant chains, international, contracting packaging, industrial, chips, and cherry products. Products are also sold under the brands of Libby's, Aunt Nellie's, Green Valley, CherryMan, READ, and Seneca.

### New York maple-syrup production slipped 8 percent this year

ALBANY — New York maple-syrup production totaled 750,000 gallons this year, down 8 percent from the 815,000 gallons produced in 2022.

However, the 2023 production total was 16 percent higher than the 647,000 gallons generated two years ago. The data is from a June 9 report from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

The number of maple taps in the Empire State was estimated at 2.5 million in 2023, down from last year. Yield per tap increased to 0.3 gallons per tap this year from 0.291 gallons in 2022, according to the USDA NASS.

National maple-syrup production in 2023 totaled 4.18 million gallons, down more than 15 percent from 4.94 million gallons in the prior season.



ERIN ZEHR/ CNYBJ

Fresh maple syrup is poured into new bottles at Beaver View Maple Makers in Lowville.



ADAM ROMBEL/ CNYBJ

Pathfinder Bank's main office at 214 W. First St. in Oswego.

### Pathfinder to pay 2nd quarter dividend of 9 cents on Aug. 11

OSWEGO — Pathfinder Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: PBHC), bank holding company of Pathfinder Bank, announced on July 3 that it has declared a quarterly cash dividend of 9 cents per share on its common stock for the second quarter of this year.

The dividend will be payable to all Pathfinder shareholders of record on July 31 and will be paid on Aug. 11, the banking company said in a news release.

At Pathfinder's current stock price, the dividend payment yields about 2.6 percent on an annual basis.

Pathfinder Bank is a New York State-chartered commercial bank headquartered in Oswego that has 10 full-service branches located in its market areas of Oswego and Onondaga counties and one limited-purpose office in Oneida County.

### McDonald elected to Bousquet Holstein board of managers

SYRACUSE — Bousquet Holstein PLLC announced that its members recently elected attorney Jana K. McDonald to serve on the law firm's board of managers.



McDonald

McDonald is a member of the firm's real estate practice group. She represents property owners on a wide range of land-use matters, including litigation of property rights and title disputes, according to a Bousquet Holstein release. She previously represented commercial developers in New Jersey and South Florida and served as director of planning for the City of Utica.

McDonald received a law degree from the University of Florida and a bachelor's degree in city planning from the University of Virginia. She is admitted to practice in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and the District of Columbia. McDonald is an active participant in the Volunteer Lawyer's Project of Central New York, providing pro bono legal services in Syracuse Landlord Tenant Court.

McDonald joins six other members on Bousquet Holstein's board of managers: Laurence G. Bousquet, David A. Holstein, Philip S. Bousquet, L. Michael Ordway, Joshua S. Werbeck, and Julia J. Martin.

Bousquet Holstein says it is a full-service law firm with offices in Syracuse and Ithaca. It provides representation in more than 40 practice areas.

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# BAE Systems to provide electric-drive systems for large bus order in Quebec

BY ERIC REINHARDT  
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ENDICOTT — BAE Systems plans to provide electric-drive systems for what it says is the “largest to date” battery-electric bus order in North America.

More than 1,200 battery-electric buses are on order for the 10 transit authorities that are part of the Association du Transport Urbain du Quebec (ATUQ).

The Gen3 electric-drive systems will allow the buses to “run emission-free,” BAE Systems said in a release.

BAE Systems will provide its electric-drive systems to Nova Bus of Quebec for integration on the buses. Servicing the order also builds on the 1,800 buses in the province already powered by BAE Systems’ technology, per a company news release.

ATUQ represents public-transportation organizations that serve the major

urban centers in the province of Québec: Montréal, Laval, Longueuil and the greater metropolitan area, as well as Québec City, Lévis, Gatineau, Trois-Rivières, Saguenay and Sherbrooke.

Together, they provide 99 percent of the public transportation trips in the province.

“We are proud to advance the transition to zero-emission public transportation in Quebec,” Bob Lamanna, VP and general manager of power & propulsion solutions at BAE Systems, said in the release. “This order marks the next step toward full fleet electrification – delivering reliable, high-performance systems to help ATUQ’s members reach their environmental goals.”

Gen3 — BAE Systems’ latest electric-drive system — includes an electric motor and advanced power electronics to produce a clean mode of transportation for buses, the company said.



PHOTO CREDIT: BAE SYSTEMS

BAE Systems will provide its Gen3 electric-drive systems to Nova Bus of Quebec for more than 1,200 buses on order for the 10 transit authorities that are part of the Association du Transport Urbain du Quebec (ATUQ). The ATUQ bus order is the “largest to date” in North America, BAE Systems said.

“This order represents our collective commitment to improving air quality, meeting the provincial government ambitious targets and contributing to Canada’s zero-emission future,” Marc-Andre Varin, general manager of ATUQ, contended. “BAE Systems has been with us from the beginning of our journey, starting with electric-hybrids and now the switch to all-electric buses. This is a big leap forward in our plans to provide sustainable transit service.”

BAE Systems has more than 16,000

propulsion systems in service on transit buses worldwide, the firm said.

## About BAE Systems

Headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, BAE Systems, Inc. is the U.S. subsidiary of UK-based BAE Systems plc, a global defense, security, and aerospace company. Its website says the firm employs nearly 90,000 people globally. That figure includes more than 1,300 employees in Endicott, a company spokesman tells CNYBJ.

# Renzi Food Service of Watertown wins contract modification worth up to \$7.9 million

BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

WATERTOWN — Renzi Brothers Inc. (doing business as Renzi Food Service) of Watertown, was recently awarded a contract modification from the U.S. Defense Logistics Agency worth a maximum of

nearly \$7.9 million for full-line, food-distribution services to the military.

The contract adjustment exercises the first 18-month option period of a two-year base contract with two 18-month option periods, according to a July 5 contract announcement from the U.S. Department of Defense.

This is a fixed-price with economic-price-adjustment, indefinite-quantity contract. The ordering period end date is Jan. 4, 2025. Using customers are the U.S. Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, per the contract announcement.

The type of appropriation is fiscal 2023 through 2025 defense working-cap-



PHOTO CREDIT: RENZI FOODSERVICE WEBSITE

ital funds. The contracting agency is the Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

# Siena says Upstate, statewide consumer sentiment fell in Q2

BY ERIC REINHARDT  
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Upstate New York consumers became slightly less optimistic about the economy in the second quarter than they were in this year’s first three months, according to a new report.

Consumer sentiment in upstate New York was measured at 62.4 in the second quarter of 2023, down 2.2 points from the last reading of 64.6 in this year’s first quarter. That’s according to the latest quarterly survey of Upstate and statewide consumer sentiment that the Siena College Research Institute (SRI) released July 6.

Upstate’s overall sentiment of 62.4 in the second quarter was 11.1 points below the statewide consumer-sentiment level of 73.5, which dipped 1.5 points from the first quarter.

The statewide reading was 9.1 points higher than the second-quarter figure of 64.4 for the entire nation, which was up 2.4 points from the first quarter, as measured by the University of Michigan’s consumer-sentiment index.

New York’s current consumer senti-

ment index decreased 0.4 points to 69.7 and the future index decreased just over 2 points resulting in New York’s

measure of future expectations moving from 78.1 last quarter to 75.9 today. Overall confidence remains higher in New York than across the nation. Future confidence in the Empire State is now one point above the breakeven point of balanced optimism and pessimism and 14.4 points higher than national future confidence.

Consumer sentiment dipped slightly across New York state this quarter, but the overall and future scores continue to outpace national sentiment, Donald Levy, SRI director, said in the survey report.

“However, in New York scores vary wildly. New York City area consumers are more optimistic than pessimistic, [exceeding] the national score by nearly 16 points and the NYC index is nearly 18 points higher than Upstate,” Levy said. “Democrats’ index is over 10 points higher than the city and a whopping 32 points above Republicans across the state.



Geography and politics matter when it comes to New Yorkers’ economic outlook.”

In the second quarter of 2023, buying plans were up 2.2 percentage points from the first-quarter measurement to 47.2 percent for consumer electronics; buying plans were down 4.5 points to 12.6 percent for homes; declined 0.8 points to 27.4 percent for cars and trucks; dipped 0.6 points to 30.2 percent for furniture; and slid 1.8 points to 26.2 percent for major home improvements.

“Despite declines in current demand for homes and home improvements, those buying plans as well as those for cars, electronics and furniture are all up between two and nine points from this time last year,” Levy said.

## Gas and food prices

In SRI’s quarterly analysis of gas and food prices, 62 percent of Upstate respondents said in the second quarter that the price of gas was having a serious impact on their monthly budgets, down from 70

percent in the first quarter, and down from 68 percent in the final quarter of last year.

In addition, 62 percent of statewide respondents said the price of gas was having a serious impact on their monthly spending plans, off from 63 percent in the first quarter of this year and 66 percent in the fourth quarter of 2022.

When asked about food prices, 79 percent of Upstate respondents in the second quarter indicated the price of groceries was having a serious impact on their finances, unchanged from the first quarter and down from 80 percent in the fourth quarter of last year.

At the same time, 79 percent of statewide respondents indicated the price of food was having a serious impact on their monthly finances, down from 81 percent in the first quarter of the year and unchanged from the final quarter of 2022.

SRI conducted its survey of consumer sentiment between June 4 and June 12 by random telephone calls to 382 New York adults via landline and cell phone. It has an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.7 percentage points, according to SRI.



# Excellus names new advisory board members for Utica region

BY TRACI DELORE  
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Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, the largest health insurer in the Mohawk Valley and Central New York, announced it has named Lisa Betrus, Justin Hummel, Kelly Walters, and Dr. Mario Victoria to its Utica regional advisory board.

Betrus is the senior VP and chief value officer for Bassett Healthcare Network and president of Valley Health Services and Valley Residential Services in Herkimer. A licensed nursing-home administrator, Betrus holds a bachelor's degree in health-services administration from Ithaca College and completed her MBA degree, with a concentration in finance, at Sage Graduate School. She currently serves on the boards of the Central New York Community Arts Council, Mohawk Valley EDGE, and the Workforce Investment Board for Herkimer, Madison and Oneida

Counties.

Hummel is CEO of Hummel's Office Plus in Mohawk. He earned an associate degree in business administration from Herkimer County Community College and serves on several boards including the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce, Pinnacle Affiliates, Mohawk Valley EDGE, and Little Falls Hospital.

Walters has served as the executive director of 50 Forward Mohawk Valley for more than 18 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Utica College. Walters serves on numerous boards and committees, including the HomeOwnership Center, Center for Family Life & Recovery, Workforce Investment Board, Mohawk Valley Housing and Homeless Coalition board, Oneida County Office for Aging advisory board, City of Utica youth advisory board, and Oneida County Livable Communities Steering Committee.

Dr. Victoria is VP for medical affairs

and chief medical officer at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown and medical director for Clifton Fine Hospital. He is a member of the Health Care Partners of the North Country board and North Country Initiative board. Victoria is also a member of the Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Credentials Committee. Victoria earned his medical degree from the University of Medical Sciences of Havana and completed his residency in pediatrics at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences Center. He holds a master's degree in medical management from Carnegie Mellon University and is a member of the American Association of Physician Leadership, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American



Betrus



Hummel



Walters



Victoria

Medical Association, and the Medical Society of the State of New York.

"As a local health plan, our mission is to help people in our communities live healthier and more secure lives through access to high quality, affordable health care," Excellus Utica Regional President Eve Van de Wal said in a statement. "With their wide range of experience and expertise in health care, community well-

ness, and business, these individuals add breadth and depth to our board as we work to fulfill our mission." Excellus BlueCross BlueShield is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. The nonprofit health plan has 1.5 million upstate New York members. ■

## Ask Rusty: About Income Tax on Social Security Benefits

Dear Rusty: I just started receiving my Social Security [benefits] in February of 2023. I am also working part time at a

company 24 hours a week. My question is: I feel like I missed something when I signed up for Social Security because they

are not taking any taxes out. What did I miss? How do I go about fixing it so I don't get hit at the end of the year? They are taking taxes out of my paycheck now; do they still take it out of my Social Security because I am working? Please help if I am not doing something right.

Signed: *Conscientious Senior*

Dear *Conscientious*: Unfortunately, when the Social Security Administration (SSA) processes your application for benefits, it doesn't usually inform you that your Social Security benefits may become part of your taxable income. I expect that's because your benefits only "may" become taxable — they do not definitely become taxable, because Social Security benefits are taxed only if you exceed a certain income threshold.

The thresholds at which Social Security benefits become part of your taxable income are different depending on your income-tax filing status — those who file as an individual have a different threshold from those who file as "married — filing jointly." And to further complicate matters, there is more than one threshold for both individuals and joint filers. Here is how it works.

If you file your income tax as an individual and your "combined income" from all sources is more than \$25,000, then 50 percent of the Social Security (SS) benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your overall taxable income at your particular IRS tax rate. But if your combined income as an individual tax filer is more than \$34,000, then up to 85 percent of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your overall taxable income.

If your income-tax filing status is "married - filing jointly" the thresholds are higher — if your combined income from all sources as a married couple exceeds \$32,000, then 50 percent of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income. But if your combined income as a married couple exceeds \$44,000, then up to 85 percent of your SS benefits received during the tax year are taxable.

"Combined income" is also known as your "modified adjusted gross income" or MAGI. Your MAGI is your adjusted gross income on your tax return, plus 50 percent of the Social Security benefits you received during the tax year, plus any non-taxable interest or untaxed foreign income you had (note that withdrawals from a Roth IRA are not included). If your MAGI

exceeds the above thresholds, some of your Social Security benefits are taxable; if you are under the first threshold for your IRS filing status they are not.

The SSA doesn't automatically withhold taxes from your monthly benefits, and the FICA taxes being withheld from your earnings are not used for that purpose. Everyone who works and earns must pay SS tax on his/her earnings, which are mandatory contributions supporting the federal Social Security program. But that FICA payroll tax has nothing to do with income tax on your Social Security benefits. If you are working 24 hours per week and also collecting Social Security benefits, you will likely exceed the threshold for your tax-filing status, which means that at least some of your 2023 benefits will become taxable. That could, as you suspect, result in a surprise "hit" when you file next year's income-tax return. Nevertheless, fixing this is quite easy.

Download IRS form W-4V from the IRS website here: [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf). You will be able to choose the percentage of your Social Security benefits you wish to have withheld for income-tax purposes. Complete the form and mail it to your local Social Security office (get the mailing address here: [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator)). The SSA will then start withholding income tax from your monthly Social Security benefit payment, which will mitigate any additional tax due when you file your 2023 tax return next year. ■

*Russell Gloor is a national Social Security advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the nonprofit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC). The 2.4-million-member AMAC says it is a senior advocacy organization. Send your questions to: [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).*

*Author's note:* This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). The NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.



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### :: BUSINESS JOURNAL INDEX ::



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# Proposed ONSHORE Act seeks to breathe new life into Upstate industrial sites

BY ERIC REINHARDT  
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

SULLIVAN — The Town of Sullivan has been trying to develop the Harbor Lights Business Park for decades to make it shovel-ready for employers.

But it has “lacked the funding” to be able to complete the needed infrastructure upgrades, the office of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said.

With Micron Technology’s (NASDAQ: MU) \$100 billion investment in nearby Clay, Sullivan is now considering the park for high-tech opportunities, and programs like those created in Schumer’s proposed ONSHORE Act “could help bridge the gap needed to land these major employers in Madison County.”

On June 26, Schumer revealed the ONSHORE Act, a proposal targeting federal investment to “breathe new life” into industrial sites across upstate New York and bring good-paying manufacturing jobs back from overseas.

ONSHORE is short for Opportunities for Non-developed Sites to Have Opportunities to be Rehabilitated for Economic Development, Schumer’s office said.

Specifically, the new federal legislation would provide \$100 million per year for five years in dedicated funding for a “critical” supply chain site-development

grant program within the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Through this program, EDA would provide assistance for site and utility readiness, workforce development, distribution, and logistics, to prepare strategic mega sites and regionally impactful sites across places like upstate New York for new industrial investment.

Schumer spoke at Chapman Park at 1463 Route 31 in the Bridgeport area of the town of Sullivan in Madison County.

“The Onshore Act will help sites like the Harbor Lights Business Park take the final step to being ready for businesses to move in. Thank you to Senator Schumer for working with communities to remove the barriers in the way of developing shovel ready sites here in the U.S. It is now more important than ever to strengthen and grow domestic manufacturing. This will not only protect our economic future but also our national security,” Madison County Board Chairman and Sullivan Town Supervisor John Becker said. “Harbor Lights Business Park has so much to offer with a great location, modern infrastructure, high speed internet, and a supportive community. Thanks to this bill, this business park can become prime real estate for any potential Micron spinoff business. Making Harbor Lights Business Park a reality has been a longtime coming.”



PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. SENATE MAJORITY LEADER'S OFFICE

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) (at podium) on June 26 shared details of his ONSHORE Act, a proposal targeting federal investment to “breathe new life” into industrial sites across upstate New York and bring good-paying manufacturing jobs back from overseas. Schumer spoke at Chapman Park at 1463 Route 31 in the Bridgeport area of the town of Sullivan in Madison County.

Schumer said that this proposal would help provide “much-needed” federal support with “major” site-readiness and workforce development that can boost sites like Harbor Lights Business Park in Madison County; White Pine Commerce Park in Clay; and the Marcy Nanocenter in Oneida County, per the lawmaker’s office.

“Micron’s historic investment as well as investment’s like Wolfspeed’s at Marcy Nanocenter, are proof positive that with increased support for shovel-ready sites and workforce development, in tandem with the federal incentives I led to passage, we can bring manufacturing and good-paying jobs back from overseas to Central New York and the Mohawk Valley. The ONSHORE Act is about preparing our industrial sites and workforce to tap into Upstate NY’s amazing assets to power the revival of American manufacturing. Upstate NY can tap the

ONSHORE Act to supercharge critical industries like chips and clean technology and ensure they are made in America, including right here in places like CNY and the Mohawk Valley,” Schumer said in a news release. “The ONSHORE Act will build on the historic new investments and manufacturing boom that Upstate NY is already seeing from the bills I pushed through into law last Congress, and I will fight tooth and nail to lead the ONSHORE Act to passage to continue to deliver federal investment in manufacturing across Upstate NY.”

For his announcement, Schumer was joined by Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon; Madison County Administrator Mark Scimone; Becker; Madison County IDA Executive Director Kipp Hicks; Robert Simpson, president and CEO of Centerstate CEO; and New York State Senator Joe Griffo (R-Rome). ■

# Syracuse-area native serves as U.S. Navy fighter pilot

BY LT. GARRETT RICHARDS  
NAVY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Lt.** Shawn Picciott, a native of the Syracuse area, serves the U.S. Navy assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron 122. The command is a strike fighter squadron located aboard the U.S. Navy’s largest master jet base.

Picciott joined the Navy four years ago. Today, he serves as a pilot.

“I wanted to find a direction after high school,” says Picciott. “I saw attending the Naval Academy as a chance to serve and attend a prestigious college at the same time.”

Growing up in Camillus, Picciott attended West Genesee High School and graduated in 2015. Today, Picciott relies upon skills and values similar to those found in Central New York to succeed in the military.

“Growing up in Syracuse taught me how to live and work in a diverse environment,” says Picciott. “The Navy is extremely diverse, with people representing a variety of different backgrounds.”

These lessons have helped Picciott while serving with the Navy.

Members of VFA-122 fly and maintain



PHOTO BY JEROME FJELD, U.S. NAVY

U.S. Navy Lt. Shawn Picciott, a native of Syracuse

the F/A 18 Super Hornet, one of the most advanced aircraft in the world. The Super Hornet takes off from and lands on Navy aircraft carriers at sea and is capable of conducting air-to-air combat, as well as striking targets on land.

Operating from sea aboard aircraft carriers, the Super Hornet gives the Navy the power to protect America’s interests anywhere, at any time. The versatile jet has the ability to destroy targets located hundreds of miles inland. Super Hornets are an all-weather aircraft used as an attack aircraft as well as a fighter. In its fighter mode, the F/A-18 is used primarily as a fighter escort and for fleet air defense; in its attack mode, it is used for interdiction and air support.

With 90 percent of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the inter-

SEE PILOT, PAGE 15 ▶

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SPECIAL REPORT:

# MANUFACTURING/HIGH-TECH/ INCUBATORS/ACCELERATORS



Telecom company Smart Carrier recently moved out of the thINCubator in Utica and into its own office space at 43 College St. in Clinton. The company celebrated with a ribbon-cutting event on June 28.

PHOTO CREDIT: SMART CARRIER

## Telecom company opens new Clinton office

BY TRACI DELORE  
tdelore@cnybj.com

CLINTON — Smart Carrier, a telecom-compliance manager and service provider, recently cut the ribbon on its new office in Clinton.

After working for several years from the Mohawk Valley Community College thINCubator in Utica, it was time for the company to expand into space of its own says chief marketing officer and co-founder Rachelle Guitán, who operates the business with her husband Orlando Guitán.

Smart Carrier started as a part-time venture about 13 years ago as a telecom and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) consulting firm. In 2019, Orlando Guitán says they began to work on understanding the new Secure Telephone Identity Revisited/Signature-based Handing of Asserted Information Using toKENS

(STIR/SHAKEN) protocol issued by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

All telecommunications providers were required to implement the protocol by June 2021. It's a framework designed to validate the authenticity of phone calls in order to stop unauthorized spoof calls.

"It turns out there wasn't any software to do this," Orlando Guitán says. It took his company about four months to figure out a solution, working in partnership with Amazon Web Services, which provided some funding for the project.

Now Smart Carrier offers its solution to U.S.-based small- to medium-sized phone companies, call centers, and others so they can make the calls required for their businesses.

"Every phone call needs to have a token attached to it," Guitán says. Smart Carrier provides that token for its clients, which

lets the carrier at the other end of the call know that it's a legitimate one.

"We like to keep the good guys in and the bad guys out," Rachelle Guitán says. This helps Smart Carrier customers keep their contact rates high and helps them regain consumer trust after years of receiving junk robocalls and other spam calls trying to scam information.

In simple terms, Smart Carrier's technology allows the automated call from your doctor's office reminding you of an upcoming appointment to go through, she says, while blocking the "you've won a cruise" junk call. It also makes it easier for people to just go ahead and answer the call instead of having to screen every call in case it's junk, she adds.

It may not seem like a lot, but Smart Carrier conducts about 25,000 token transactions every second.

With the new office space in Clinton,

Smart Carrier is hoping to connect with more Oneida County businesses, Rachelle Guitán says.

Currently, Smart Carrier occupies two offices in shared space at 43 College St., with hopes of adding a third office soon, she says. The company also operates an office on Williams Street.

Smart Carrier has 13 employees, including contractors, and is also working hard to be involved in its new Mohawk Valley community. The company participated in several June events including a blood drive, a benefit for the Neighborhood Center, and the Heart Run & Walk. It also sponsored a Clinton Little League Community Day in conjunction with the Utica Blue Sox.

Smart Carrier's solutions also include Smart Caller ID, AI answering detection in conjunction with Khomp International, and more. ■



# Oneida County announces broadband expansion project in Vienna

BY TRACI DELORE  
tdelore@cnybj.com

VIENNA, N.Y. — Nearly 1,000 homes and 2,600 residents will now receive high-speed internet services as part of Oneida County’s \$2 million in broadband-expansion projects, County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. announced.

“We are committed to bridging the gaps that became evident during the pandemic,” Picente said in a news release. “Lack of high-speed internet creates an inequity that puts students at a disadvantage, leaves businesses unable to modernize, and limits growth in communities. Broadband is something that everyone should have access to, and this is a step toward making that a reality for everyone in Oneida County.”

The expansion projects cover 10 areas including six towns — Forestport, Ava, Boonville, Remsen, Augusta, and Vienna — working with two inter-

net-service providers selected through a request for proposals (RFP) process. Adirondack Techs will handle nine project areas and Charter will handle the remaining area.

The \$1,950,967 capital program includes \$150,000 in internet-service provider (ISP) investment and nine of the projects include a 2 percent revenue share to offset a percentage of the cost to the county.

An extensive mapping analysis between Oneida and Herkimer counties, the Tug Hill Commission, and Mohawk Valley Economic Development District allowed the Oneida County Department of Planning to identify 2,079 Oneida County homes in about 32 areas with clusters of 20 or more homes. This first step of the initiative will reach 46 percent of the unserved homes identified.

Oneida County offered municipalities the opportunity to partner financially and leverage the funding to expand coverage



PHOTO CREDIT: ONEIDA COUNTY

Oneida County Executive Anthony J. Picente, Jr. announced a broadband expansion project that will bring high-speed internet to nearly 1,000 previously unserved homes in the town of Vienna. The project is part of \$2 million in planned broadband projects across the county.

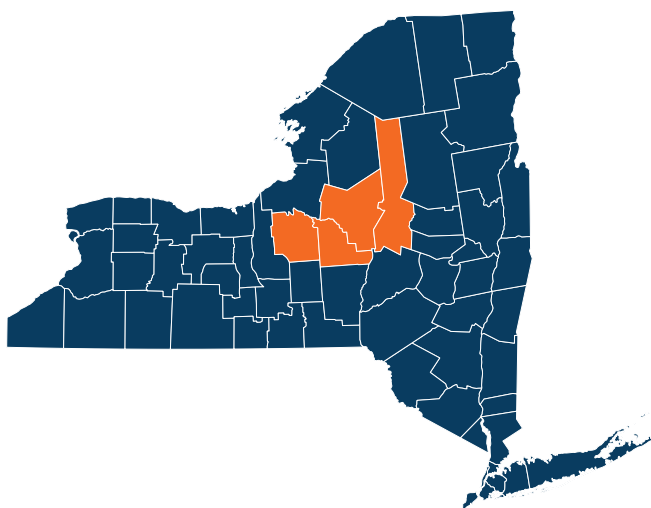
even further into their communities. The Town of Vienna was the only municipality to take the county up on the offer, which led to the town securing \$226,761 to service 111 homes.

“Since becoming town supervisor, the expansion of internet service is something I hear about most often from residents and was an issue I have looked to tackle since

day one,” Town of Vienna Supervisor Michael M. Davis, Sr. said.

Oneida County is utilizing American Rescue Act funding to expand internet service to underserved areas of the county. The federal funding must be allocated by 2024 and spent by 2026 on projects, initiatives, or programs that address issues exacerbated by the pandemic. ■

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# SUNY Poly joins UB on Internet of Things lab project

BY TRACI DELORE  
tdelore@cnybj.com

MARCY — Faculty at SUNY Polytechnic Institute and the University at Buffalo (UB) have partnered on a project called SUNY OpenIoT Lab: The SUNY Laboratory Federation for Wireless Intelligent Internet of Things.

The project received a \$60,000 SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology grant. The initiative will develop UnionLabs, an open, cloud-enabled federation of heterogeneous testbeds for sharing data, code, software, and hardware resources for research in next-generation networks and wireless Internet of Things.

The joint effort is led by UB's Zhangyu Guan and Nicholas Mastronarde, along with SUNY Poly Associate Professor Timothy E. Busch of the electrical and computer engineering program. Other key project personnel include associate

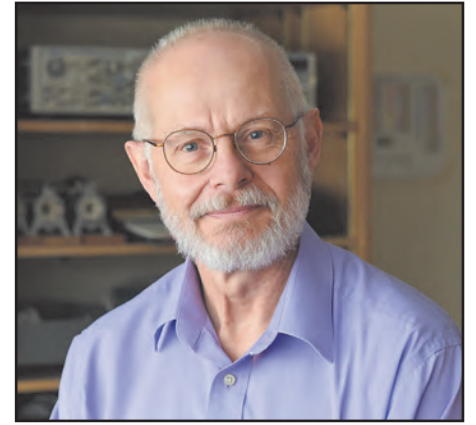
professors Michael J. Medley, Daniel Benincasa, and Arjun Singh with Adjunct Professor Chester Wright.

"Given the evolution of wireless network systems in recent years and the impact on our daily lives, there is a great need for a shared resource for collaboration, education, and experimentation of these systems," Busch said in a press release. "Significant efforts have been made to fill the void, and this project between SUNY Poly and the University at Buffalo is yet another step forward. We are grateful for this grant and for the support we have received from our peers, project partners, and institutions."

The proposed UnionLabs initiative will provide the Air Force, UB, and the wireless community an open experimental ecosystem where researchers and engineers can collaborate and share resources. Once deployed, UnionLabs would serve as the global entry for academia, the U.S.

Department of Defense, and industrial researchers to conduct experimental research in the field of next-generation networks and wireless Internet of Things.

UnionLabs' objectives include: creating a collaborative campaign to democratize access to wireless research testbeds with heterogeneous hardware resources and network environments spanning aerial, ground, underwater, and underground domains, and in a wide range of frequency bands, from sub-6 GHz up to the mmWave and terahertz bands, per the release. It also seeks to deploy a federation plane that will be hosted in the Amazon Web Service (AWS) cloud to bridge the testbeds and users and enable researchers to share, remotely access, and control their resources and conduct experiments collaboratively via a unified user interface. Another goal is to build a two-tier cloud, comprising a public cloud powered by AWS and edge computing resources



Timothy Busch

PHOTO CREDIT: SUNY POLY

at individual wireless systems to allow researchers to share experimental datasets, wireless communication, networking and sensing algorithms/code, and evaluate them over heterogeneous testbeds.

UnionLabs' federation plane APIs will be made available for other wireless testbeds to join the federation. The team also plans to eventually commercialize it by launching a startup. ■

# Genius NY finalists begin prepping for October pitch event

The startups are based at the Tech Garden in Syracuse

BY ERIC REINHARDT  
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

SYRACUSE — The seventh round of the Genius NY business-accelerator program at the Tech Garden in Syracuse has five finalists looking ahead to the final pitch event in October.

Genius NY stands for Growing ENtrepreneurs & Innovators in UpState New York.

The teams are from New York City, Maryland, Michigan, the United Kingdom, and Florida, Empire State Development (ESD) announced.

The program is described as the "largest business accelerator for the UAS industry in the world." An uncrewed-aircraft system (UAS) includes a drone and equipment used to control its flight. A drone is also referred to in the industry as an unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV.

The five finalists are the following startups.

- Voltela is from the Brooklyn borough of New York City and provides connectivity assurance for commercial drones. "Remote pilots must rely on reliable Command and Control connections. The mobile network was not built for aerial connectivity and changing the infrastructure is not viable. Voltela's patented software operates with off-the-shelf modems enabling prioritized connections

with guaranteed low latency via any mobile network. Voltela's superior connectivity performance achieves aviation-grade reliability levels and is the foundation for building the Aerial Virtual Network Operator," as described in an ESD news release.

- Aloft from Silver Spring, Maryland is an FAA-approved UAS service supplier (USS) for LAANC (low altitude authorization and notification capability), "powering the vast majority of recreational and commercial airspace authorizations ... Through state-of-the-art technologies and sophisticated data services, Aloft aims to enhance the safety and efficiency of drone operations, facilitating their integration into the National Airspace System," ESD said.

- Blueflite from Detroit, Michigan is a company designing and manufacturing a logistics drone platform to solve the "modern-day challenges in the logistics industry. Blueflite's drones offer faster and greener deliveries at a lower cost compared to conventional transport. The unique and patent pending tiltrotor design features vectored thrust giving it unrivaled maneuverability and the ability to operate under challenging conditions. The digital element of the platform allows for integration into an all-automated supply chain for high-speed deliveries at scale," ESD stated.

- Greenjets from Milton Keynes, United Kingdom is building next generation electric propulsion systems for advanced air mobility. Its "ducted fan propulsion technology is the quietest, safest and most efficient of its class. The Greenjets team has over 300 years of deep



The five finalists in this year's seventh round of the Genius NY business-accelerator program are scheduled to begin their work in mid-July, Empire State Development announced. CenterState CEO and the Tech Garden administer the program, described as the "largest business accelerator for the UAS industry in the world." UAS is short for uncrewed-aircraft system.

domain knowledge carried over from Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems & Formula 1. Learnings from these experiences are reflected in a unique design & manufacturing methodology, which allows production of propulsion systems at an unrivaled pace, the release contended.

- Votix of Weston, Florida is an "American Enterprise Drone Orchestration and Automation platform and the first universal (hardware-agnostic) drone operating system for commercial operations at scale. "VOTIX integrates the entire drone ecosystem, ensuring high-quality results, and safe and robust operations, guaranteeing compliance with regulators and stakeholders, creating synergies within the industry's ecosystem, reducing process time and generating superior intelligence. VOTIX supports VLOS/EVLOS while enabling BVLOS operations, autonomous flights, real-time cloud video streaming and AI, precision landing, drone-in-a-box integration and much more," per the ESD description.

Starting July 12, the five selected companies were scheduled to move into downtown Syracuse where they will begin to

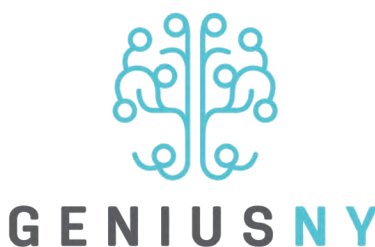
refine work on their business cases, which they'll present at the pitch finals event on Oct. 4.

The five finalists were selected from a pool of more than 450 submissions. They will compete for \$3 million in direct investment, with one grand prize of up to \$1 million and four \$500,000 awards.

Supported by the CNY Rising Upstate Revitalization Initiative and administered by CenterState CEO and the Tech Garden in downtown Syracuse, these startup, uncrewed-systems industry companies will participate in a yearlong program.

"The GENIUS NY accelerator has helped to establish Central New York as a hub for uncrewed aerial systems by attracting the next generation of innovative entrepreneurs," said Empire State Development president, CEO, and commissioner Hope Knight. "New York State's ongoing UAS investment will ensure that continued industry leadership, bringing top-quality jobs and growth to the region and beyond."

Genius NY participants are required to commit to operating their business in Central New York for at least one year. ■





# Schumer details how Congress can harness AI's benefits

All while limiting its potential harms

BY ERIC REINHARDT  
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It was a speech outlining his vision for how Congress can harness the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and protect society from its "potential harms."

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) on June 21 spoke on the topic of "SAFE Innovation in the AI Age" at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C., his office said.

The Senate leader was joined by Manish Bhatia, executive VP of Boise, Idaho-based Micron Technology Inc., which is building a semiconductor campus in Clay, and Jonathan Adashek, chief communications officer and senior VP of IBM.

Schumer said that as AI transforms the world around us, leading manufacturers and innovators of semiconductor chips like Micron and IBM "will be at the cen-

ter," and the increased demand for their products will help "boost business" for the companies in the years ahead.

## Portion of Schumer's remarks

In his address, Schumer outlined a two-part proposal to move the nation forward on AI: one part on framework, one part on process.

"First, Congress needs a framework for action...what should our framework be? What issues within AI should we look at to prepare legislation?" Schumer pondered.

After months of talks with more than 100 AI developers, executives, scientists, researchers, workforce experts, and advocates, Schumer shared his proposed blueprint for action.

He calls it the SAFE Innovation Framework for AI policy.

"The SAFE Innovation Framework. I call it that because Innovation must be our north star. The U.S. has always been a leader in innovating on the greatest technologies that shape the modern world," the senator said.

He went on to say, "But if people think

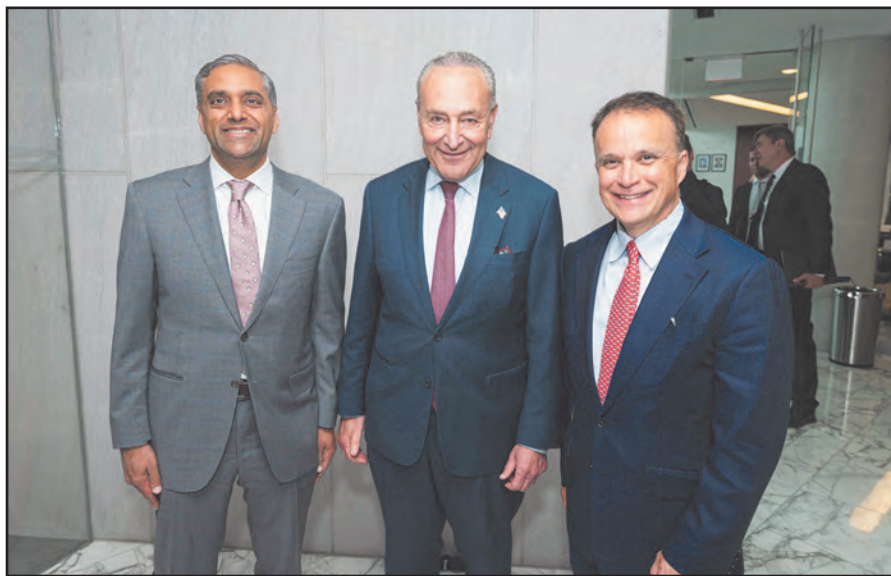


PHOTO CREDIT: U.S. SENATE MAJORITY LEADERS OFFICE

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) (center) on June 21 outlined his vision for how Congress can deal with artificial intelligence (AI) and protect society from its "potential harms." Joining Schumer for his remarks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. were Manish Bhatia (left), executive VP of Boise, Idaho-based Micron Technology Inc., and Jonathan Adashek, chief communications officer and senior VP of IBM.

AI innovation is not done safely, if there are not adequate guardrails in place, it will stifle or even halt innovation altogether. So it is SAFE innovation that we must seek."

Second, Congress will also need to invent a new process to develop the right policies to implement the framework.

"AI moves so quickly and changes at a near exponential speed, and there's such little legislative history on this issue, so a

new process is called for. The traditional approach of Committee hearings play an essential role, but on their own won't suffice. We will need help from creators, innovators, and experts in the field," Schumer noted. "That is why later this year, I will invite the top AI experts to come to Congress and convene a series of first-ever AI Insight Forums, for a new and unique approach to developing AI legislation." ■

# Hodge rejoins MACNY as director of Partners For Education & Business

BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

DeWITT — MACNY, The Manufacturers Association, recently welcomed Taylor Hodge back to the team as director of Partners for Education & Business, Inc.



Hodge

Stepping down from her role as director, Tanya M. Eastman will remain with MACNY as senior advisor for STEM workforce initiatives, the association said in a June 26 release.

Hodge was hired at MACNY in January 2021 as a workforce-development specialist. In October of the same year, the organization promoted her to associate director. In her role, Hodge will oversee and support the expansion of Partners for Education

& Business Inc.'s initiatives, while also contributing to MACNY's overall workforce-development goals.

During her time away from MACNY, Hodge served as the assistant director and Lock 4 program manager for ERIE21 at Le Moyne College. Hodge also has experience as the program manager for adult and continuing education at Cazenovia College, where she spent more than six years.

"We are thrilled for Taylor to return. Her expertise and previous experience at MACNY will ensure a smooth and seamless handover for our internal team and external partners. We are also excited to continue to work with Tanya in this new capacity as we grow our programs from Central New York to across New York State," MACNY President and CEO Randy Wolken said in the release.

Hodge holds a bachelor's degree in inclusive elementary education from Cazenovia College and a master's degree in education from SUNY Potsdam. She

serves on the Leadership Council for the Women's Fund of Central New York and has previously served on the executive board for Cazenovia Children's House. ■



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# MACNY appoints Pipes as chief growth & development officer

BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

DeWITT — MACNY, The Manufacturers Association, recently welcomed Kyle Pipes to the organization as its chief growth & development officer. He started in his position on July 1.



Pipes

Pipes brings MACNY experience in helping develop organizational culture. He is especially skilled at assisting organizations through assessment

and development of relational habits, leadership, healthy systems, and organizational practices, the association said. Prior to building his own

coaching and consultancy business, Pipes gained relevant experience developing energy projects with hospitals, universities, and major corporations. In that role, he worked with a number of current MACNY member companies.

Pipes' expertise will continue to round out MACNY's executive-level leadership offerings, with an emphasis on building and maintaining healthy workplace cultures, MACNY President and CEO Randy Wolken, contended. "We are excited to bring Kyle on to the team to expand our workplace development offerings. Kyle brings a unique perspective that will assist our membership in gaining a competitive advantage and operating more effectively," Wolken said in a June 13 news release.

Pipes said he is excited to get to work, "Central New York is positioned for a dynamic future. I look forward to working with such a vast network of talented leaders to achieve this together. MACNY is doing inspiring work and I am grateful to be joining the team," Pipes said in the release.

The first training Pipes will facilitate in his new role is titled: "Listening So Others Feel Heard," which will take place on July 26 and Aug. 2 from 9-11 a.m. This training is designed to reinforce the value of listening, teach four practical habits to improve as a listener, and give insight into designing and structuring teams, meetings, and environments for deeper listening, MACNY said. More information, including how to register, is available at: [www.macny.org/events](http://www.macny.org/events). ■

# Oswego Health promotes two in Info Services & Technology Department

BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

OSWEGO — Oswego Health recently promoted two long-time employees, Brooke Windey and Jennifer Bacon, to clinical analyst III managers in its Information Services & Technology (IS&T) Department.



Windey



Bacon

A clinical analyst III manager offers support to all 1,300 employees at Oswego Health. From day-to-day technological demands to troubleshooting clinical requests, to process and

workflow efficiencies, both Windey and Bacon play a key role in the organization's equipment integration and updates, Oswego Health said in a June 20 release. In addition, they

work side-by-side with clinical providers and ancillary services to ensure the best technology and advancements are available to meet the needs of patients.

Windey, a registered nurse, started at Oswego Health in 2000 as a nurse aide in the Medical Surgical Unit at Oswego Hospital. For the past 23 years, she has held various positions as a registered nurse, including clinical trainer for the health-care system, before understanding her passion was in information services & technology. That came when Windey was asked to advise on the adoption of a new clinical technology that would assist with patient care. In 2011, Windey transitioned to the IS&T department as an IS&T clinical analyst II. In 2013, she was promoted to clinical analyst III and now, clinical analyst III manager.

Bacon started working at Oswego Health in 2005, originally in the Pharmacy Department at Oswego Hospital as a technician. In 2011, she was also tasked with assist-

ing the IS&T department with a new clinical platform and quickly realized how both careers could overlap. Bacon was then promoted to pharmacy IT technician before transitioning fully to the department in 2013 as an IS&T clinical analyst II, then a clinical analyst III in 2017, before earning her new title as clinical analyst III manager.

"It gives me immense pleasure to announce the promotion of Brooke and Jennifer to Managers in our Applications Department. They have both been an integral part of the IS&T Clinical Applications Team for more than a decade and have been instrumental in building and deploying the applications that we have today. We are all so proud of their accomplishments and are eager to see their continued growth in the organization," Barry Ryle, Oswego Health's VP of information systems & chief information officer, said in the release. ■

# Visit Binghamton receives award for website

BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

BINGHAMTON — Visit Binghamton, the tourism organization promoting the attractions and experiences of Broome County, announced it has received the 2023 Award of Excellence in the travel and tourism category by The Communicator Awards.

The awards celebrate creative excellence among marketing and communications professionals.

Visit Binghamton said it was honored for its website, which offers "a comprehensive and engaging plat-

form that showcases the Greater Binghamton region's charm, natural beauty, and cultural vibrancy."

"We are immensely proud to receive the 2023 Award of Excellence for our website from The Communicator Awards," Visit Binghamton Director Judi Hess said in a news release. "This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team in creating an exceptional digital presence that effectively captures the essence of Binghamton and entices travelers to discover our remark-

able destination."

The award showcases Visit Binghamton's "commitment to innovation, creativity, and excellence in promoting the area using technology and compelling storytelling," the organization said.

For more information about the organization and the Greater Binghamton region, visit: [www.visitbinghamton.org](http://www.visitbinghamton.org).

The Communicator Awards are part of an annual competition that recognizes outstanding achievements in corporate communications, public relations, and design. ■



# MVCC names director of Airframe & Powerplant program

BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

UTICA — Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) has announced that Walter Constantini, previously director of Aviation Programs, has transitioned to the role of director of the Airframe & Powerplant program.



Constantini

In his new role, he will be responsible for planning, leadership, and administration of the Airframe & Powerplant program and other Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)-related programming, MVCC said in a July 5 release.

Constantini has served as director of Aviation Programs at MVCC since 2006. He previously worked as a logistic manager/facilities manager for Empire Aero Center in Rome, a lead technician for Bombardier Aerospace Learjet, and an aviation marketing member at Mohawk Valley EDGE. Constantini holds an airframe and powerplant license from the Riverside School of Aeronautics and a bachelor's degree in aviation maintenance management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. ■



PHOTO CREDIT: ZOEYADVERTISING.COM

# Lockheed Martin's suburban Syracuse plant awarded more than \$13M Navy contract modification

BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

SALINA — The Lockheed Martin Rotary and Missions Systems plant in Salina has recently won a nearly \$13.4 million firm-fixed-price modification to a previously awarded U.S. Navy contract.

The pact is for provisioned spare parts in support of the full-rate production of Surface Electronic Warfare Improvement Program AN/SLQ-32(V)6 and AN/SLQ-32C(V)6 systems, according to a July 6 contract announcement from the U.S. Department of Defense.

Work will be performed in Salina (78 percent) and Lansdale, Pennsylvania (22 percent), and is expected to be completed by December 2027. Fiscal 2023 other procurement (Navy) funds totaling almost \$8.3 million (62 percent); fiscal 2021 other procurement (Navy) funds of nearly \$4.2 million (31 percent); fiscal 2021 shipbuilding and conversion (Navy) funds totaling \$833,153 (6 percent); and fiscal 2018 shipbuilding and conversion (Navy) money of \$82,575 (1 percent) will be obligated at the time of award, the contract announcement stated. Of that amount, almost \$4.3 million will expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, D.C. is the contracting authority. ■



# Menlo Microsystems to begin Ithaca-area operations in 2024

Expects to create more than 100 jobs in the next five years

BY ERIC REINHARDT  
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

LANSING — Menlo Microsystems, Inc. (Menlo Micro) says it has finalized an asset purchase in Tompkins County, which will house the company's first domestic microelectronics fabrication (fab) facility, which it dubs the Ideal Fab.

Menlo Micro will invest \$50 million in the Ideal Fab over the next three years, creating more than 100 high tech jobs at the site within the next five years, per its July 11 announcement.

Built out of a "decade-long effort" at General Electric's global research center in Niskayuna, Menlo Micro's research and development (R&D) arm is located at the Albany NanoTech Complex, the Irvine, California-based company noted.

In its online news release, Menlo Micro describes itself as the company "responsible for reinventing the electronic switch with its Ideal Switch technology."

Menlo Micro expects U.S.-based manufacturing to begin in 2024 with the new Lansing fab that will produce thousands of wafers per month when fully operational. The company has university partnerships with the SUNY Polytechnic Institute and the University at Albany, with hopes to expand its research and workforce-development partnerships to Cornell University and other universities across upstate New York with the launch of the new Ideal Fab.

To support the construction of Menlo Micro's new fab, Empire State Development will provide \$6.5 million in performance-based Excelsior Jobs tax credits in exchange for 122 new jobs in Lansing. As with all Excelsior Jobs proj-

ects, Menlo Micro will receive the credits after demonstrating that it has met its job and investment commitments, New York State says.

The company will locate its fab in the Cornell Business and Technology Park, per a Facebook post from Ithaca Area Economic Development.

"This is a tremendous investment in the Ithaca area and a testament to the local, state, and federal partners that worked together to bring Menlo Micro's fab to our community, with a special thanks to Senator Schumer for ensuring passage of the CHIPS and Science Act, and to encourage Menlo Micro to site in New York State," Heather McDaniel, president of Ithaca Area Economic Development, said in a statement. "They will benefit from our dedicated and highly educated workforce, and we stand ready to support them in their efforts to create quality employment opportunities."

## CHIPS and Science Act effect

Both U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Gov. Kathy Hochul say the Menlo Micro announcement follows "their long advocacy to make New York a global microelectronics manufacturing hub and Schumer's personal call to Menlo Micro CEO Russ Garcia last year."

"Today's announcement represents the first step toward significantly increasing the domestic-production capacity of our Ideal Switch to help secure critical infrastructure and further strengthen America's technology stronghold," Garcia said. "We want to thank Senate Majority Leader Schumer for his leadership on the CHIPS and Science Act, which is directly supportive of and aligned with our plan to onshore our manufacturing capabilities. We look forward to continuing to work with Sen. Schumer, Gov. Hochul, Sen. Gillibrand, Rep. Molinaro



PHOTO CREDIT: NEW YORK STATE WEBSITE

Irvine, California-based Menlo Microsystems Inc., which has research and development operations in Albany, plans to invest \$50 million to prepare a facility in Lansing for its first domestic microelectronics fabrication (fab) operation, creating more than 100 jobs.

and the entire New York delegation as we begin ushering in the next generation of electrification, delivering unprecedented cost and energy savings to essential U.S. industries. We believe this fab modernization project is in 100% alignment with the presidential directive on bringing semiconductor manufacturing back to the United States."

Schumer and Hochul said that the retrofitting of Menlo Micro's new Ideal Fab has already begun in the village of Lansing.

"With this agreement to bring Menlo Microsystems to Tompkins County, we are once again declaring New York State as Chips Country," Hochul said. "Menlo Micro's groundbreaking chip technology powers the tools and electronics that New Yorkers rely on every day, and thanks to a remarkable partnership between local, state, and federal officials, their New York

production facility will create more than 100 high-tech jobs and unlock millions of dollars in investment to support the entire region. I am excited to welcome Menlo to New York's chip-making ecosystem as we continue our work to attract the innovative, 21st century businesses that will provide good-paying jobs, grow our advanced manufacturing sector, and move our economy forward."

Menlo Micro says it has pioneered next-generation switch technology, which includes "hyper-efficient" switches that have broad base application, including aerospace, energy, communications, critical infrastructure, and more.

The switches are also a vital component of the microelectronics industry, supporting the growth of the domestic semiconductor industry "that is being driven by Schumer's CHIPS and Science Act," per Schumer's office.



The Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) campus in Utica.

PHOTO CREDIT: MVCC WEBSITE

# Michaels named STEM GEAR UP program assistant at MVCC


BY JOURNAL STAFF  
news@cnybj.com

UTICA — Daniel Michaels has recently transitioned to the grant-funded position of STEM GEAR UP program assistant in the Student Affairs Division at Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC).

Michaels will provide instruction to GEAR UP students in support of the grant's STEM priority and improve GEAR UP students' academic perfor-

mance through the delivery of a wide range of instructional support, per a July 5 release from the college. He was an educational-support specialist for the GEAR UP program and has been a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) pilot and technician for Microdrones/Pro Drones USA.

Michaels holds an associate degree in remotely piloted aircraft systems and a certificate in computer-aided drafting from MVCC.



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## FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESSES Ranked by Year Established

Rank	Name Address Phone/Fax Website	Year Estab.	Total CNY Employees No. of Generations in Business	Founder(s)	Products/Services Offered	Key Executives
1.	<b>The Mid-York Press, Inc.</b> 2808 State Highway 80 Sherburne, NY 13460 (607) 674-4491/midYorkpress.com	1828; inc. 1946	71 2	Robert C. Roberts (1946)	packaging, offset, and digital printing	Robert W. Tenney, CEO Patrick W. Dowdall, CFO Shawn M. Aikins, VP Operations
2.	<b>Bailey Place Insurance</b> 2 N. Main St. Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 756-2805/baileyplace.com	1858	25 1	Charles F. Brown, George B. Bailey	insurance and risk management	Stephen D. Franco, Owner and President
3.	<b>King + King Architects, LLP.</b> 358 W. Jefferson St. Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 671-2400/kingarch.com	1868	75 NA	Archimedes Russell	architectural, engineering, and planning	Kirk Narburgh, CEO / Managing Partner Chad Rogers, Partner Jason Benedict, Partner Kerry Tarolli, Partner Phil Squadrito, Partner
4.	<b>Hueber-Breuer Construction Co., Inc.</b> 148 Berwyn Ave. Syracuse, NY 13205-0515 (315) 476-7917/hb1872.build	1872	75 5+	Louis Hueber, Sr.	construction management, building construction, design-build, development	James V. Breuer, Chairman J. Andrew Breuer, President Charles F. Breuer, Executive VP Joseph Cotter, CFO
5.	<b>Paragon Supply, Inc.</b> 1300 W. Fayette St. Syracuse, NY 13201 (315) 475-5115/paragonsupply.com	1888	25 3	Jacob Amos, Jr., Albert Eugene Nettleton	masonry and landscape supply	David Kellish, President William Kellish, President Timothy Kellish, VP
6.	<b>M. Lemp Jewelers</b> 300 S. Warren St. Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 422-7228/lempjewelers.com	1890	NA NA	Michael Lemp	jeweler	Don Lemp, Owner
7.	<b>Bates Troy Healthcare Linen</b> 151 Laurel Ave. Binghamton, NY 13905 (607) 723-5333/batestroy.com	1890s; incorporated in 1940s	NA NA	NA	health-care linens and textiles	Brian Kradjian, President
8.	<b>Unalam</b> 18 Clifton Street Unadilla, NY 13849 (607) 369-9341/Unalam.com	1892	10 5+	John W. Van Cott	heavy timber laminated arches and beams	Craig H Van Cott, President
9.	<b>Dickman Farms LLC</b> 13 Archie St. Auburn, NY 13021 (315) 253-3030/dickmanfarms.com	1903	110 5+	Herman and Carl Dickman	grow and ship bedding plants and 225 million starter plants for retail garden centers in all 50 states	Dave and Jim Dickman, Owners

10.	<b>Northland Communications</b> 1 Dupli Park Drive Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 671-6200/northland.net	1905	NA 3	Ellis Jones	telecommunications product and services provider	James P. McCarthy, President
11.	<b>Syracuse Blue Print Co., Inc.</b> 825 E. Genesee St. Syracuse, NY 13210 (315) 476-4084/syracuseblueprint.com	1909	15 4	Andrew B. Nye, I	commercial printing of construction-related documents	Carl S. Nye, President Andrew B. Nye, II, VP
12.	<b>Beak and Skiff Apple Farms</b> 2708 Lords Hill Road LaFayette, NY 13084 (315) 696-8683/beakandskiff.com	1911	NA 5+	George Skiff, Andrew Beak	apple orchard, producer of hard ciders & spirits, concert venue	Ed Brennan, President & Co-Owner
13.	<b>O'Connell Electric Company</b> Hancock Air Park Syracuse, NY 13212 (315) 437-1453/oconnellelectric.com	1911	385 NA	John O'Connell	electrical contractor	Don Coon, VP
14.	<b>Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.</b> 1500 Brooks Ave. Rochester, NY 14603 1-800-WEGMANS/wegmans.com	1916	5,140 5+	Walter and John Wegman	groceries, restaurant foods, general merchandise, etc.	Colleen Wegman, CEO
15.	<b>Vicks Print &amp; Distribution</b> 5166 Commercial Drive Yorkville, NY 13495 (315) 736-9344/vicks.biz	1918	75 3	Dwight E. Vicks, Sr.	soft-cover book printing and distribution services	Dwight E. Vicks, III, President
16.	<b>Speech Family Candy Shoppe, Inc.</b> 2400 Lodi St. Syracuse, NY 13208 (315) 478-3100/speechfamilycandy.com	1920	10 4	Michael Speech (Michele Spicciati)	candy shop specializing in chocolates and confections made on-site, carrying a large selection of candies	Michael E. Speech, Jr., President & Head Chocolatier
17.	<b>United Radio</b> 5703 Enterprise Parkway East Syracuse, NY 13057 (315) 446-8700/unitedradio.com	1923	500 3	Jacob Rubenstein	remanufacturing	Phillip Rubenstien, President
18.	<b>Morse Mfg. Co., Inc.</b> 103 Kuhn Road Syracuse, NY 13208 (315) 437-8475/morsedrum.com	1923	45 3	J. Mott Morse	55-gallon drum handling equipment, 5-gallon pail handlers	Nathan R. Andrews, President
19.	<b>Gasparini Sales, Inc.</b> 917 Granger Road Syracuse, NY 13219 315-471-1438/gasparinisales.com	1927	10 4	N.E. Gasparini, Arthur Gasparini, Lola Gasparini	food brokers serving wholesale supermarkets, retail, and food-service suppliers	Edward Gasparini, Owner Susan Gasparini-Metz, Senior VP, Partner
20.	<b>P. J. Green Inc.</b> 100 Whitesboro Street Utica, NY 13502 (315) 235-2627/pjgreen.com	1928	55 4	Phillip J Green - 1st Founded 1928 Terence Green, Patrick Green - 2nd - 1971 Marianne Reynolds, Kerry Gradel, Rick Green - 3rd - 1990 Robert Reynolds, Andrew Reynolds - 4th - 2010	specializing in printing and mailing promotional materials for businesses in and outside of New York state	Marianne Reynolds, Owner

## THE LIST

Research by Vance Marriner  
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Due to space considerations and a large number of submissions, we are only able to publish a portion of the records for this list. The full list containing 91 total records can be purchased for \$20.00 by contacting Vance Marriner at vmarriner@cnybj.com or (315) 579-3911. A free copy of the full list will be made available to all of the companies that submitted information to appear on it.

### UPCOMING LISTS:

**July 24**  
Leadership & Management Consultants

**July 31**  
Credit Unions

### ABOUT THE LIST

Information was provided by representatives of listed organizations, their websites, and data from previously published lists. Other groups may have been eligible but did not respond to our requests for information. While *The Business Journal* strives to print accurate information, it is not possible to independently verify all data submitted. We reserve the right to edit entries or delete categories for space considerations.

Central New York includes Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego, St. Lawrence, Seneca, Tioga, and Tompkins counties.

**WANT TO BE ON THE LIST?**  
If your company would like to be considered for next year's list, or another list, please email: vmarriner@cnybj.com

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# Biden losing Millennials as 2024 rapidly approaches

**P**resident Joe Biden, who is seeking reelection in 2024, before he was elected in 2020, enjoyed national polling leads among key age demographics across the country, with a solid base of support among younger voters. He led 49 percent to 32 percent among 18–29-year-olds and 54 percent to 33 percent among 30–44-year-olds against former President



**ROBERT ROMANO**  
*Opinion*

Donald Trump, according to the *Economist-YouGov* poll taken in October 2020.

Almost three years later, the situation has dramatically changed. Inflation is higher, the economy is slowing down, and Biden's legislative record or lack thereof has been laid bare (Biden had very slim majorities his first two years, making major bills difficult to enact). And, now other programs he campaigned on, including student-loan forgiveness and aggressive lawmaking under the guise of regulations by federal agencies, have been rolled back by Supreme Court — with more to come.

Now, in the June 2023 *Economist-YouGov* poll, among key age groups, Biden still holds a 40 percent to 27 percent lead over Trump among 18–29-year-olds,

but is now losing to Trump 40 percent to 39 percent among 30–44-year-olds. Those are Millennials, who are now fully integrated into the U.S. labor force and many are getting married and having kids. They started paying taxes years ago.

Overall, it represents a 22-point swing among Millennials, (who number 72.2 million), or almost 16 million potential voters with shifting attitudes born between 1980 and 1996. That creates a massive opening for Trump or another potential GOP nominee to build Republican support among the largest age demographic in the country, more than either Baby Boomers or Generation X, who Trump also comfortably leads among at the moment.

Trump is ahead of Biden among 45–64-year-olds by 46 percent to 34 percent, and among those 65 years old and older, by 48 percent to 40 percent. Biden's only lead comes among Generation Z, or 18-29-year-olds.

Given that partisan attitudes have remained roughly the same — Democrats still support Biden and Republicans still support Trump — the greatest shift for the moment appears to be among younger independents, or just independents in general.

Whereas in 2020, Biden led independents by 48 percent to 39 percent, now Trump leads Biden 38 percent to 28 per-

**“Inflation is higher, the economy is slowing down, and Biden’s legislative record or lack thereof has been laid bare.”**

cent, with a third of independent voters up for grabs. For an incumbent president like Biden, that is indeed troubling news, as he attempts to reconstruct the coalition that got him elected during the COVID pandemic.

If demographics are destiny, then an aging population may be an emerging strength for Republicans in elections going forward, if indeed shifts in attitudes come with age. But swings among independents can be deceptive that way, and could just as easily signal an unpopular incumbent, opening the potential for Democrats to later win back wayward Millennials. But so far, Biden isn't closing the deal. Stay tuned. ■

*Robert Romano is the VP of public policy at Americans for Limited Government (ALG). The organization says it is a “non-partisan, nationwide network committed to advancing free-market reforms, private property rights, and core American liberties.”*

# Russian uprising remains a mystery

**R**ecent events in Russia have been surprising, even shocking. When the private army employed by Russia's Wagner Group left Ukraine and moved toward Moscow last month, it caught everyone by surprise.



**LEE HAMILTON**  
*Opinion*

We're used to thinking of Russian leader Vladimir Putin as a dictator who has complete control of his country. Maybe he does, but the Wagner Group mutiny certainly shook that idea. It presented Putin in a very different light than the one most Americans are accustomed to seeing. It suggested he has some real problems, even if it's hard to know what or how serious they are.

It's likely to take time for the meaning of the events to shake out. Reports out of Russia have been incomplete and contradictory. Because of Putin's suppression of free speech and the press, Russia lacks a strong, independent news media that we can rely on for the truth.

The initial reaction in the West was that the uprising weakened Putin. That ought to be good news for the U.S.-backed Ukrainian military, which has begun a counteroffensive in response to Russia's invasion. But Putin could also use the chaos to further crack down on critics and strengthen his hand.

At the center of the controversy is Yevgeny Prigozhin, an oligarch who says he founded the Wagner Group in 2014. A

former caterer and restaurant owner, he leveraged a relationship with Putin to build a business network, including a private army with an estimated 25,000 troops.

The use of private forces in warfare isn't unique to Russia. In 2016, one in four U.S. personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan were private contractors, the *Navy Times* reported. But the Wagner Group has played an unusually prominent role on the battlefield. In Ukraine, it was heavily involved in the capture of the city of Bakhmut. It's also fought in Syria, Libya, the Central African Republic, and Mali.

Many Wagner fighters are former prisoners who took up arms in exchange for being released. Some have been accused of atrocities, including the killing of civilians, torture, rape and robbery.

Prigozhin clashed publicly with Russian military leaders, accusing them of incompetence. He seemed to hope Putin would remove the top generals, but that didn't happen. Instead, he lost access to prisons for recruiting and was told to sign a contract with the military.

It's not clear what became the last straw, but on June 24, Prigozhin's troops left Ukraine, took over a military headquarters in southern Russia, and started moving toward Moscow. Then, abruptly, they stopped. After a wild weekend of confusing news, Prigozhin was exiled to Belarus, a staunch Russian ally. The Kremlin “went into overdrive” to project stability, the *Washington Post* reported.

It's tempting, for us in the West, to see any development that seems to weaken Russian leadership as positive. That's

not necessarily true. From all indications, Prigozhin, if he were to regain influence, is every bit as murderous and unpredictable as Putin.

More seriously, we should be concerned about instability in Russia's government and military. Russia and the U.S. are the world's leading nuclear powers by far. Russia possesses 6,000 nuclear warheads, 1,584 of which are deployed, according to the Union of Concerned Scientists. Some are deployed in Belarus. Anything that makes their control unstable is cause for worry.

Putin has shown himself to be a ruthless leader, devoted to holding onto power at all costs. If he believes his authority is threatened, it's not clear how he would react.

We Americans rely on our intelligence officials and foreign-policy experts to understand what's happening in Russia and how it's likely to play out. But even the best experts cannot predict the future.

Winston Churchill famously described Russia as “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.” He said those words in 1939. They are every bit as true today. ■

*Lee Hamilton, 92, is a senior advisor for the Indiana University (IU) Center on Representative Government, distinguished scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies, and professor of practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Hamilton, a Democrat, was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years (1965-1999), representing a district in south-central Indiana.*



**JULY 18**

■ **NUCANY July Membership Meeting** from 5-8 p.m. at Maxwell's Restaurant, 122 E. Genesee St., Syracuse. As we work to formalize our New York state chapter of the National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA), we invite you to join us to share your thoughts, learn about NUCA, hear about recent legislative developments impacting the industry and your business, and network with other contractors and suppliers. All members of the utility construction industry in New York state are welcome. Registration for prospective members is free, but all must register individually. Register to attend at: <https://nucany.org/july-membership-meeting/>

**JULY 25**

■ **Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours** event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Utica Zoo. Join the chamber for a night at the Zoo, with live music by Ryan Quinn, animal presentations, chances to win day passes, free giveaways, and food and beverages provided by Kookie's Q. For more information and to register, visit: <https://greateruticachamberofcommerce.com>.

# BUSINESS CALENDAR

Email us at [movers@cnybj.com](mailto:movers@cnybj.com)

[growthzoneapp.com/chamber-events/Details/july-2023-business-after-hours-hosted-by-utica-zoo-fitzgerald-depietro-and-wojnas-883174?sourceTypeld=Hub](http://growthzoneapp.com/chamber-events/Details/july-2023-business-after-hours-hosted-by-utica-zoo-fitzgerald-depietro-and-wojnas-883174?sourceTypeld=Hub)

**JULY 26**

■ **Tompkins Chamber Small Business Roundtable** event from 9-10:30 a.m. at Mama Said Hand Pies, 1710 Trumansburg Road, Ithaca. Join peer business owners for a quarterly check-in. Share successes, challenges, and find camaraderie in this confidential space. Small Business Roundtable events are open to small businesses with less than 50 employees who must also be chamber members in good standing. For more information, including registration details, visit: <https://business.tompkinschamber.org/events/details/july-2023-small-business-roundtable-at-mama-said-hand-pies-ulysses-location-191843>

**JULY 27**

■ **Greater Oneida Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours** event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Community Bank, 182 Main St., Oneida. Meet and network with fellow chamber members and area business professionals. Business After Hours are open to the public and free for all chamber members and their employees. It's only \$10 for non-members. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chamber-business-after-hours-hosted-by-community-bank-tickets-666805421967>

**AUGUST 1**

■ **Greater Oswego-Fulton Chamber of Commerce (GOFCC) Summer Celebration & BBQ** from 4-6 p.m. at Kristen's Kitchen at Battle Island State Park Golf Course, 2150 NYS Route 48, Fulton. Enjoy delicious food and beverages, live music, and networking. Cost is \$55 per person

**AUGUST 2**

■ **Lunch and Learn with the Office of the Advocate for Business** webinar from 12-1 p.m. The Workers' Compensation Board will present a webinar on the basics of the workers' compensation system, including insurance types, coverage requirements, and employers' obligations under the law. Sessions are free and there will be time at the end for questions. Registration is not required. You can join this session via the following link: <https://www.wcb.ny.gov/webinars/#employers>

**AUGUST 10**

■ **2023 Greater Binghamton Job & Career Fair** from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at SUNY Broome Ice Center, 901 Upper Front St., Binghamton. For more information and to register, visit: <https://business.greaterbinghamtonchamber.com/events/details/2023-greater-binghamton-job-career-fair-8999?calendarMonth=2023-08-01>

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# PEOPLE ON THE MOVE NEWS

## CREDIT UNIONS

First Source Federal Credit Union announced four recent staff appointments. **TONY FUMAROLA** has been promoted to assistant branch manager of the Rome branch. He has been with the credit union a total of 10 years in various roles. Fumarola also spent some time in between these First Source roles, as a commissioner of elections in Herkimer County. **JOHN CALABRESE** has been promoted to director of lending and technology and has been appointed to the First Source executive management team. Calabrese served on the credit union's board of directors for eight years while running Express Employment Professionals. That family business transitioned to his son John, Jr., and Calabrese joined the credit-union staff full time at the end of 2022.



Fumarola



Calabrese



Dovi



Barone

**CHRISTOPHER DOVI**, director of member services, has been appointed to the First Source executive management team. Dovi has been with the credit union for 14 years — starting as a branch manager, moving through various leadership roles in the organization. **EDWARD BARONE** has been hired by First Source as a community development manager. He previously worked at Empower Federal Credit Union.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**JESSICA DeJOHN BARBUTO** was recently promoted to assistant director of inclusive growth at CenterState CEO. She leads the team's grant management, budget management, and team administration. Barbuto is tasked with the management and refinement of existing systems and

processes, and the creation of new ones to maintain oversight and execution of programmatic and administrative tasks. Prior to CenterState CEO, she held positions at the Upstate Center For Bioethics and Humanities and in the real estate division at Home Headquarters. **LAUREN CHYLE** was elevated to director of inclusive growth at CenterState CEO. She supports the team in planning and developing goals, objectives and metrics, ensuring a culture of collaboration and support, and managing systems and processes that ensure effectiveness and accountability among the team. Chyle has worked in nonprofit administration and development for 15 years. Before coming to CenterState CEO she served as assistant director of the Everson Museum of Art, where she helped manage a \$1.2 million auditorium renovation and helped initiate a \$17 million comprehensive fundraising campaign. **AIMEE DURFEE** was promoted to VP of workforce innovation at CenterState CEO. In this position, she leads the Work Train team, which creates partnerships and workforce strategies designed to attract, train, retain, and advance unemployed and underemployed individuals into careers in high-growth industries. With more than 25 years of experience working on poverty issues, her areas of expertise include workforce development, public benefits, asset building, and community economic development, as well as racial/gender equity and employment discrimination issues. Durfee holds a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College, and a law degree from the UC Berkeley School of Law. **JESSICA UNDERWOOD** was elevated by CenterState CEO to director of digital services. She oversees the development and ongoing operations of CenterState CEO's digital chamber platform Click. Underwood supports internal and external users and works to onboard new groups of members. She previously served as digital platform manager. Underwood has over 15 years of sales and customer service experience from the hospitality and tourism industries. She has a bachelor's degree in theatre from Jacksonville State University.



Barbuto



Chyle

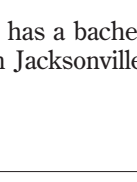


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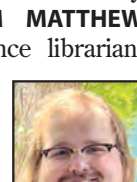
Syracuse University Libraries' Law Library recently hired **WILLIAM MATTHEW KRUEGER** as a law-reference librarian. Krueger worked as a reference assistant in the Law Library while pursuing his juris doctorate from Syracuse University College of Law. He received his bachelor's degree from Nazareth College. **ANA CALIZ CASANOVA** recently joined Syracuse University Libraries as monograph cataloging librarian in the Acquisitions and Cataloging Department. In this role, she is responsible for maintaining bibliographic and authority records for single-subject works in the Libraries' principal (non-special) collections in all formats. Caliz Casanova will work closely with subject librarians to catalog general, as well as unique materials within the Libraries' collections, including architectural drawings, audios/videos, maps and various gift donations. She will also provide supervision, training, and support library technicians working on monograph cataloging. Prior to joining Syracuse University Libraries, Caliz Casanova was a supervisory cataloger at Cornell University Library and also previously worked at the National Library of Spain in Madrid.



Underwood



Krueger



Casanova

## LIBRARIES

**TAYLOR CASAMASSIMA** has joined Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. — a non-profit that helps people with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, and substance-use disorders — as director of mental-health rehabilitation services. She first joined the agency in 2014, working her way up from senior residential counselor to quality assurance specialist. Casamassima left in 2019 to gain leadership experience overseeing other residential-program operations. She has now rejoined Unity House as the director of the PROS mental health program. Casamassima holds a master's degree in business management from Keuka College. **HANNAH YOUNG** has joined Unity House as director of clinical services. Dr. Young was promoted to lead the newly created Clinical Department. Young has been with Unity House for almost nine years and is a licensed psychologist. She earned her doctorate in psychology from Alfred University and was previously a professor at the university. Young is also a certified trainer for school-crisis intervention. **AMANDA McMANUS** has joined Unity House as director of unity employment services. She joined Unity House in the fall of 2021, as a program manager, and was then promoted to director in the fall of 2022. McManus aims to continue the Unity House legacy of providing person-centered, quality employment services, and looks to create meaningful community connections for its pre-vocational and career-specific vocational training programs. McManus holds a master's degree in literacy education (grades 5-12) from SUNY Oswego.



Casamassima



Young



McManus

## NONPROFITS

**TAYLOR CASAMASSIMA** has joined Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. — a non-

## PILOT:

*Continued from page 5*

net relying on the security of undersea fiber-optic cables, Navy officials continue to emphasize that the prosperity of the U.S. is directly linked to trained sailors and a strong Navy.

As a member of the Navy, Picciott is part of an organization focused on maintaining maritime dominance, strengthening partnerships, increasing competitive warfighting capabilities, and sustaining combat-ready forces in support of the National Defense Strategy.

"The Navy is critical to national secu-

rity and superiority at sea," says Picciott. "F-18 pilots can travel across the world at a moment's notice, which is a unique capability in the Navy."

Picciott and the sailors they serve with have many opportunities to achieve accomplishments during their military service.

"I was extremely proud to earn my wings as a fighter jet pilot," he says. "There are many challenges to overcome in order to become an F-18 pilot, requiring a significant amount of dedication and perseverance."

As Picciott and other sailors continue to train and perform missions, they take pride in serving their country in the U.S.

Navy.

"Serving in the Navy means purpose and dedication," he says. "My work in the service is part of a larger effort and I am proud to contribute to a greater goal."

Picciott is grateful to others for helping make a Navy career possible.

"I would like to thank my family from Syracuse, who has been there every step of the way," says Picciott. "I am also extremely grateful for my Naval Academy family, who continue to provide me with a community wherever I go."

"Making the most of every situation is critical," added Picciott. "Having an open mind and building relationships can make every Navy challenge great." ■



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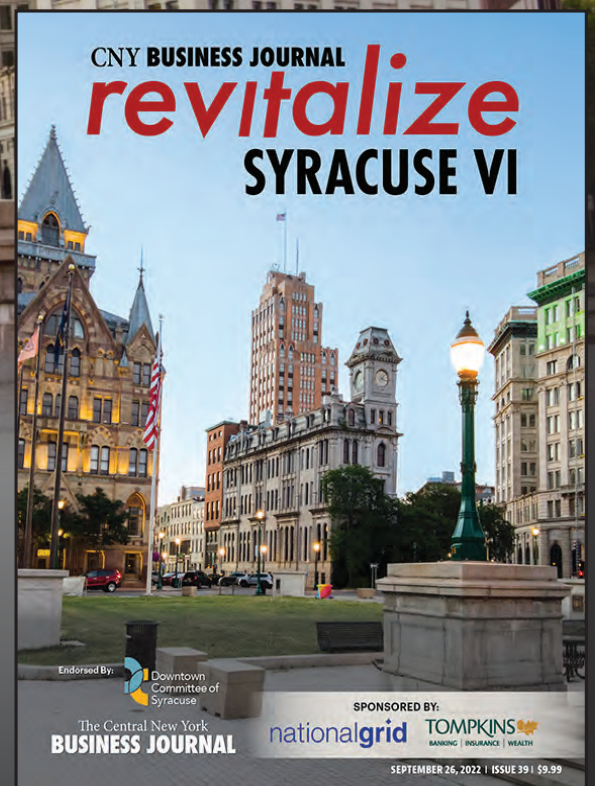
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