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NORTHEAST COLLEGE UNVEILS NEW IMAGING-SCIENCES WING

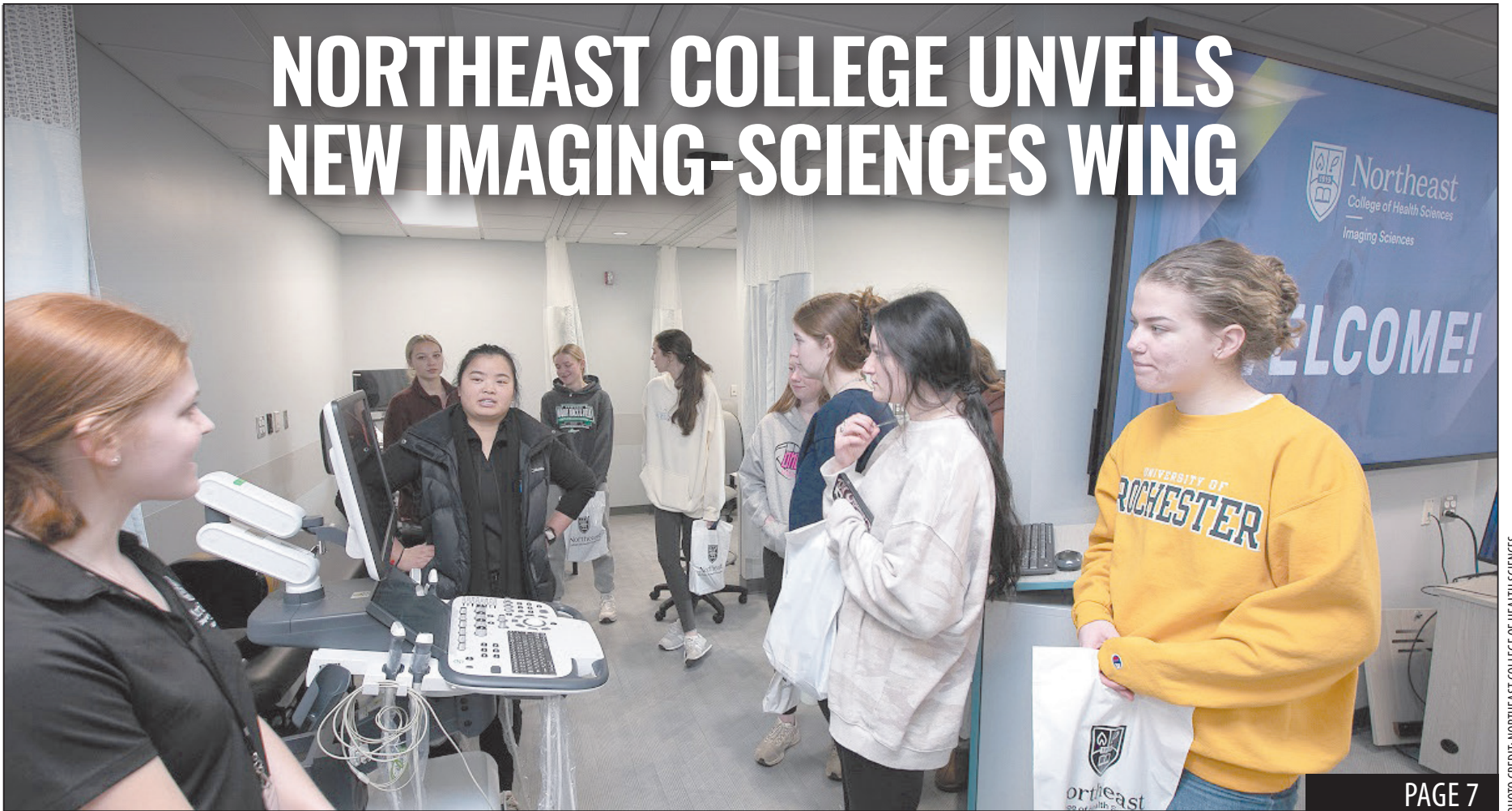


PHOTO CREDIT: NORTHEAST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

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**SOUTHWEST AIRLINES TO END SYRACUSE FLIGHTS
IN AUGUST**

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**BIDEN TALKS MICRON PROJECT FUNDING,
WORKFORCE HUB IN MOST VISIT**

ERIC REINHARDT / CNYBJ

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CNYBJ CALENDAR:

May 13 List: Minority-Owned Businesses

May 13 Special Report: Construction/Luxury Living

May 20 List: SBA Loans and Lenders *NEW!*

May 20 Special Report: Family Business/Small Business *NEW!*

May 27 List: Environmental Firms

May 27 Special Report: Energy/Environment/Sustainability

June 3: Revitalize Greater Binghamton Feature Publication

June 10 List: Financial Planners

June 10 Special Report: Wealth Management

June 17 List: CPA Firms

June 17 Special Report: Law/Accounting/Taxes

June 24 List: Engineering Firms

June 24 Special Report: Engineering/Architecture Directory

July 1 List: Largest Employers

July 1 Special Report: Health Care Quarterly/Business of Aging

July 8 List: Computer/IT Firms

July 8 Special Report: Workplace Technology *NEW!*

July 15 List: Certified Women-Owned Businesses (More than 20 Employees)

July 15 Special Report: Manufacturing/High-Tech/Incubators/Accelerators

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CNYBJ BRIEFS

Adirondack North Country Association adds two new directors to board

SARANAC LAKE — The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) recently announced the addition of Jaideep Khanna and Julian Mangano to the regional economic-development organization's board of directors.

Khanna, of Lake Placid (and Greenwich, Connecticut), brings decades of experience in investment and philanthropy to the nonprofit's board, according to an ANCA news release. Mangano, of Castorland, brings a background as a farmer, entrepreneur, and workforce-development specialist that aligns with ANCA's work in the local food and small-business sectors.

Khanna and Mangano were elected to ANCA's board of directors at its quarterly meeting on March 8.

"Jaideep Khanna and Julian Mangano are highly respected community leaders invested in the future of our greater region," ANCA Board President Kelly Chezum said in the release. "Together they offer practical, boots-on-the-ground experience with business development, as well as high-level strategic planning that can help our team build capacity, expand our programs, and serve more North Country businesses and communities. We're thrilled to welcome Jaideep and Julian to the team and look forward to working closely with them in the years ahead."

Khanna is the founder of Ananta-OM Management Inc., a diversified investment and philanthropic organization. Ananta-OM invests in fast-growth companies in the technology, data, environment, biopharma, and real-estate sectors. Its philanthropic initiatives focus

on the environment, education, health, and community development, ANCA said.

Mangano currently owns and operates Della Terra, a small organic, regenerative farm and composting operation in Castorland (Lewis County) and also serves as a workforce-development technical specialist at Jefferson Community College in Watertown. Originally from northeastern Ohio, Mangano in 2016 moved to Lewis County to focus on farming and has since been involved with various agricultural committees and workgroups including the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee and Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers, per ANCA. He earned a master's degree in management and organizational leadership from SUNY Potsdam in 2023.

Khanna and Mangano join the board as ANCA continues to expand programming that is responsive to the unique needs of North Country small farms, businesses and communities, the organization contended. With a focus on building economic strength and stability in our rural region, ANCA said it provides targeted programs that improve access to financing, grant opportunities and energy upgrades. ANCA also offers various business development and ownership-transition resources, as well as programs that empower community members to increase diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging across the region, the release stated.



Khanna



Mangano

Jefferson County hotel occupancy falls nearly 4 percent in March

WATERTOWN — Jefferson County hotels posted an almost 4 percent drop in overnight guests in March, as two other key indicators of hotel-business activity were mixed.

The hotel-occupancy rate (rooms sold as a percentage of rooms available) in the North Country's largest county fell 3.9 percent to 43.3 percent in the third month of this year from March 2023, according to STR, a Tennessee-based hotel market data and analytics company.

Revenue per available room (RevPar), a key industry gauge that measures how much money hotels are bringing in per available room, slipped 1.8 percent in Jefferson County to \$45.02 in March, compared to the year-prior month.

The average daily rate (ADR), which represents the average rental rate for a sold room, rose 2.2 percent to \$104 in March from the comparable month in 2023, per STR.

Oneida County hotels register decline in guests in March

UTICA — Oneida County hotels welcomed fewer guests in March, as two other key indicators of business performance were mixed.

The hotel-occupancy rate (rooms sold as a percentage of rooms available) slipped 4.5 percent to 53.7 percent in March from the year-prior month, according to a report from STR, a Tennessee-based hotel-market data and analytics company.

Revenue per available room (RevPar), a key industry gauge that measures how much money hotels are bringing in per available room, fell 2.8 percent to \$68.07 this March in the Mohawk Valley's largest county versus March 2023.

Average daily rate (ADR), which represents the average rental rate for a sold room, rose 1.8 percent to \$126.85 in Oneida County in the third month of 2024, compared to the same month a year earlier.



The Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors (GSAR) office in North Syracuse. PHOTO CREDIT: ZOEYADVERTISING.COM

Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors names new CEO

NORTH SYRACUSE — The Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors (GSAR) and Central New York Information Service (CNYIS) have recently named Reginia Tuttle as the new CEO of both organizations. She joined both GSAR and CNYIS on April 22.

"After an extensive national search, we are thrilled to bring Reginia and her deep [realtor association] experience to GSAR and CNYIS," Nancy Quigg, GSAR president, said in a news release. "We expect that she will hit ... ensure both organizations continue their rich tradition of serving Central New York's real estate professionals and consumers and advocating for private property rights."

Tuttle previously served as CEO of the Peoria Area Association of Realtors (Peoria, Illinois) and the River Counties Association of Realtors (Cleveland, Tennessee).

"I'm honored to join two of the leading real estate organizations in New York state," said Tuttle. "Central New York is on the rise with companies such as Micron investing in our communities, and I'm excited for the future and the opportunity to support" Central New York realtors.

The prior CEO of GSAR and CNYIS was Lynnore Fetyko, who retired late last year after nearly three decades leading the organizations.

The Greater Syracuse Association of Realtors is the trade association representing more than 2,200 realtors in Central New York. Since 1911, GSAR's mission has been to advocate for private property rights and provide its members with resources to foster their business success.

The Central New York Information Service is a multiple-listing service operated by a group of Central New York broker-owners.

Lockheed Martin Owego awarded more than \$88 million Air Force contract

OWEGO — Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems in Owego is the recent recipient of a nearly \$88.4 million Captains of Industry contract from the U.S. Air Force for the overhaul of the B-2 digital receiver and legacy defense-message system.

This pact provides for overhaul, management, and material lay-in, according to an April 19 contract announcement from the U.S.

Department of Defense. Work will be performed at Owego, and is expected to be completed by April 16, 2034.

This contract was a sole-source acquisition. No funds are being obligated at time of award, the contract announcement stated. The Air Force Sustainment Center at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma is the contracting authority.



Biden talks Micron project funding, workforce hub in MOST visit

BY ERIC REINHARDT
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SYRACUSE — For the second time in less than two years, U.S. President Joseph Biden visited Central New York to tout the forthcoming arrival of Micron Technology, Inc. (NASDAQ: MU) in Central New York, bringing the promise of thousands of new jobs and a transformed regional economy.

The 46th president on April 25 formally announced a \$6.1 billion funding award for Micron during a visit to the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (the MOST) in downtown Syracuse.

Biden also used the visit to announce Syracuse as one of four additional Investing in America Workforce Hubs, and the Syracuse hub will focus on semiconductor manufacturing.

The president visited the region on official business when he visited Onondaga Community College in October 2022 following the announcement earlier that month that Micron had chosen the town of Clay to build a massive semiconductor campus.

Micron funding

The billions in funding will come through the federal CHIPS and Science Act for Micron projects in both the Town of Clay and in Boise, Idaho, where the chip manufacturer is headquartered.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has reached a preliminary agreement with

Micron to provide the funding.

This money will support the construction of two fabs in Clay and one fab in Boise, Idaho. The funding is part of \$50 billion in private investment by 2030 as the first step towards Micron's investment of up to \$125 billion across both states over the next two decades to build a "leading-edge memory manufacturing ecosystem," per a White House fact sheet about Biden's visit.

"In all, it's going to create over 70,000 jobs across both states, at least 9,000 of which are construction jobs; [and] 11,000 manufacturing jobs," Biden said in his remarks before a packed crowd at the MOST.

Biden also recalled the shortage of semiconductors during the coronavirus pandemic and noted that semiconductors are smaller than the tip of a human finger.

"[They] help power everything in our lives from smartphones to cars to dishwashers, satellites," Biden said. "We invented those chips here in America ... We made them move. We modernized them."

The U.S. at one time produced 40 percent of the global semiconductor market's chips, Biden added. "But over time, we stopped making them."

When the pandemic shut down chip makers overseas, prices on a lot of products shot up, the president explained. In the U.S., a semiconductor shortage helped drive the surge in inflation in 2021 and contributed to long waits for several products.



U.S. President Joseph Biden delivers remarks during an April 25 visit to the Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science & Technology (the MOST) in downtown Syracuse. He formally announced that Micron Technology (NASDAQ: MU) has reached a \$6.1 billion preliminary memorandum of terms (PMT) funding agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce under the federal CHIPS & Science Act for projects in both the town of Clay and in Boise, Idaho.

ERIC REINHARDT / CNYBJ

"Folks, I determined that I'm never going to let us be vulnerable to wait lines again," Biden contended. "We're going to make [them] here."

The funding will support the construction of the first two fabs of a planned four-fab "megafab" focused on leading-edge DRAM chip production at the White Pine Commerce Park in the town of Clay. Each fab will have 600,000 square feet of cleanrooms, totaling 2.4 million square feet of cleanroom space across the four facilities — "the largest amount of cleanroom space ever announced in the United States and the size of nearly 40 football fields," per the White House fact sheet.

Sanjay Mehrotra, president and CEO of Micron Technology, called it an "historic moment for semiconductor manufacturing in the U.S."

"Micron's leading-edge memory is foundational to meeting the growing demands of artificial intelligence, and we are proud to be making significant memory manufacturing investments in the U.S., which will create many high-tech jobs," Mehrotra said in a statement forwarded to the media ahead of the event. "We appreciate the foresight of U.S. President Joe Biden, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and the bipartisan delegation in Congress that supported the CHIPS and Science Act. Their steadfast focus championing these strategic investments will ensure U.S. semiconductor competitiveness for generations to come."

Micron established two project-labor

SEE BIDEN, PAGE 19 ▶

Southwest Airlines to end Syracuse flights in August

Cites Boeing delivery delays

BY ERIC REINHARDT
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SYRACUSE — Southwest Airlines (NYSE: LUV) will keep operating at Syracuse Hancock International Airport (SYR) for a couple more months before the airline ends service there and at three other airports.

Southwest informed the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority (SRAA) that it will halt flights at SYR on Aug. 4 of this year.

The news was part of a broader announcement the airline made April 25 regarding service and cost cuts.

In its first-quarter earnings report, Dallas, Texas-based Southwest said, "significant challenges presented by Boeing aircraft delivery delays, and the related reduction in second half 2024 capacity, negatively impact the Company's previous expectation for double-digit year-over-year

operating revenue growth for full year 2024."

Besides the Syracuse airport, Southwest will also shut down operations at Bellingham International Airport in Bellingham, Washington; Cozumel International Airport in Mexico, and Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Southwest said in its quarterly financial report.

Southwest says it now anticipates receiving less than half the number of new airplanes from Boeing this year that it had been expecting. This is crimping the airline's available flight capacity.

"While we are disappointed to hear this news, we recognize the challenges the airline is facing due to Boeing aircraft delivery delays and lack of available capacity," Jason Terreri, SRAA executive director, said in a SRAA news release on April 25. "We appreciate Southwest leadership flying in to deliver the news in person [April 24]. During this conversation, they shared our market was performing as expected for a new city. However, given the constraints of this new environment, the



A Southwest Airlines plane approaches Syracuse Hancock International Airport for a landing. The Syracuse Regional Airport Authority (SRAA) on April 25 said Southwest Airlines (NYSE: LUV) informed SRAA that the airline will cease operations at the Syracuse airport and three others this August.

PHOTO CREDIT: ZOEYADVERTISING.COM

airline had to make a decision to reallocate existing aircraft to other priority markets."

Southwest started offering flights from Syracuse in November 2021 and arrived to much fanfare.

Both the Syracuse Regional Airport Authority and the airline held a welcoming event for the flight that arrived from

Baltimore on Nov. 14, 2021.

The airline currently provides direct air service from SYR to cities including Baltimore and Orlando.

The SRAA said it will remain "actively engaged" with Southwest Airlines to determine a future date for the airline to relaunch service at SYR. ■

Schumer pitches Upstate to Japanese semiconductor suppliers

BY ERIC REINHARDT
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Several Japanese companies that supply the semiconductor industry recently gathered in Washington, D.C. to hear a pitch from U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) about the benefits of locating in upstate New York.

Schumer held the event April 9 at the U.S. Capitol as Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited the U.S., representing the first visit from a Japanese leader in nine years.

Attendees at the Schumer-convened meeting included Japanese government officials; along with Sanjay Mehrotra, president and CEO of Micron Technology (NASDAQ: MU) and Manish Bhatia, executive VP of global operations at Micron.

The attendees also included chief executives and other leaders from GlobalFoundries, IBM, Canon USA, EMD Group, Fujifilm Electronic Materials Japan, Hitachi High Tech America, JSR Corporation, JSR Micro, JX Metals Kanto

USA, Kioxia, Screen Holdings (DNS), Sumitomo Chemical, Tokyo Electron (TEL), Tokyo Ohka Kogyo (TOK), and Toppan Photomasks Round Rock.

Schumer told the gathering that upstate New York already has the semiconductor infrastructure needed to support new Japanese suppliers “thanks to his CHIPS & Science Act and major investments in the state” by companies like Micron, GlobalFoundries, Wolfspeed, and IBM, which need new supplier companies to support their operations.

“Locating in Upstate New York means locating at the center of the global semiconductor industry — with everything a company could want right at their fingertips: shovel-ready sites, cheap, abundant, reliable water and power, our top-notch research institutions, a skilled tech workforce, and major investments spurred by my CHIPS & Science Law that are creating significant demand for supplier products. With new semiconductor suppliers, New York will be truly unstoppable and quickly rise to the top of the global



In this provided photo, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) speaks to a Washington, D.C. gathering that included Japanese semiconductor supply-chain companies in which he pitched the benefits of locating in upstate New York.

PHOTO CREDIT: SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER'S OFFICE

semiconductor industry,” Schumer said in a news release. “Foreign investment between the United States and Japan has always been a two-way street, and as global reliance on chips increases, we have an opportunity for both countries to power

the semiconductor industry by working together. It’s clear — building in Upstate New York means big investments for the semiconductor industry and global economy, no matter if you are in New York or Nagasaki!”

Binghamton University starts new pharmacy-technician program

BY ERIC REINHARDT
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VESTAL — Binghamton University says it has approved a new educational program through its School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The pharmacy-technician program microcredential is a 19-week, 420-hour Binghamton University microcredential (noncredit) that will prepare graduates to start their careers in an expanding healthcare field, the school said in an April 22 announcement.

Kanneboyina Nagaraju, dean of the Binghamton’s School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science, originated the program to help both local hospitals and the community. “Thanks to a generous grant,” the program is free for anyone who wants to enroll, Binghamton University said in its announcement.

“There is an urgent need for pharmacy technicians in Southern Tier healthcare facilities,” Nagaraju said. “The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences is excited to offer this program for free to high school students in our area to fill this need. It will help encourage them to pursue a career in healthcare fields, especially pharmacy.”

For a student to enroll in this pro-

gram, they must be at least 18 years of age by July 1. Some of the requirements also include having a high-school diploma (by July 1) or high-school equivalency diploma or higher. They must also pass a criminal background check and urine drug screening.

The deadline to enroll is June 1. To apply, go to the Binghamton University website and search for Pharmacy Technician Program Microcredential.

Pharmacy technician role

Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists in various tasks related to medication dispensing and patient care, the school said.

The role of the pharmacy technician under the supervision of a pharmacist “has been expanded in recent years” to include medication reconciliation, screening for medication allergies, and immunization administration.

Besides those activities, a pharmacy technician also focuses on dispensing new prescriptions and refilling orders, packing and labeling prescriptions, preparing sterile and nonsterile compounded medications, tracking medication inventory and processing insurance claims.

“We are excited to partner with local community and hospital pharmacies to



UHS pharmacy technician Katie Sasina draws a syringe in the pharmacy’s sterile compounding area.

PHOTO CREDIT: SCOTT SASINA VIA BINGHAMTON UNIV. WEBSITE

both help fill a need in their workforce and expand the interest in pharmacy and pharmacy-related careers locally,” said Sarah Spinler, professor, and co-chair of the department of pharmacy practice. “Faculty members Elizabeth Hageman, Kenneth McCall, Nick Schweir and Marissa Langett have been working together as a team for the past year developing our curriculum and admission processes. The microcredential approval is the icing on the cake.”

“We are excited to identify persons locally who are interested in a high-demand healthcare career and train them to meet our local workforce needs,” Kenneth McCall, program director, co-chair, and clinical professor of pharmacy practice, said in the announcement.

Grant help, fee

For 2024, programmatic costs are funded through donations and a grant from the New York City-based Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.

It includes supplies and online access to ASHP’s PharmTech Ready curriculum, which includes online learning lectures, videos and virtual laboratory simulations. These estimated expenses “represent a good-faith effort” to disclose the true costs of attendance.

ASHP is the Bethesda, Maryland-based American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

In addition to these expenses, after graduation, a graduate will pay a \$175 one-time fee to the New York State Education Department’s Office of the Professions for pharmacy-technician licensure.

Ask Rusty: Older Husband and Working Wife Seek Guidance

Dear Rusty: I am 74 years old, retired and receiving Social Security (SS). My wife will be 65 in January 2025. Our hope was to start paying off some credit-card expense by her receiving SS when she turns 65. However, it appears there would be a substantial reduction to her benefits. Her work income is \$37,500 a year, and she wasn’t planning on retiring from work at age 65. Because I am 11 years older, we felt it makes sense to use her Social Security

as a means to lower our debt. We have \$27,000 in credit-card debt, and I don’t really want to use my 401(k) funds due to taxes. We pretty much live on my Social Security and pension.

Signed: Seeking Suggestions

Dear Seeking: Your wife’s full retirement age (FRA) for Social Security purposes is age 67. Because she will not yet have reached her FRA

in January 2025 (when she is 65), if she claims SS to start at that time, not only will her monthly amount be reduced, but she will be subject to the Social Security annual-earnings test. The earnings test sets a limit for how much can be earned by beneficiaries who claim SS before FRA.

The earnings limit for 2024 is \$22,320. The limit for next year is not yet published (it’s based on



RUSSELL GLOOR
Social Security Matters

SEE GLOOR, PAGE 6 ▶

FOR OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY: A LEGACY OF TRUST AND INNOVATION

Celebrating 25 Years of serving Upstate New York, CH Insurance is poised to capitalize on what we see as an exciting year of opportunities in 2024. At CH Insurance, our journey is about more than just providing you insurance; it's about forging lasting relationships, building trust, and innovating for a better tomorrow, for all of us. As an independent local agency, right in the heart of downtown Syracuse, we continue our promise to be in your corner every day, every way.

Reflecting On Our Achievements

Looking back at 2023, we're proud of the milestones we've achieved together. Our continuing expansion into new markets, the successful launch of innovative products, and our ever-strengthening community initiatives have laid a solid foundation for the future. These accomplishments are not just ours but belong to every member of the CH Insurance family who has trusted and supported us.

Comprehensive Services: A Pillar of Strength

Our extensive range of services, detailed on our website CHInsurance.cc, is designed to cater to the unique needs of our clients. From personal insurance plans safeguarding your most cherished possessions, to commercial insurance solutions tailored for diverse business requirements in all industries, CH stands as a pillar of strength and reliability.

In the realm of risk management, we continue to break new ground. Our strategies are built on a deep understanding of industry dynamics and a proactive approach to identifying and mitigating potential risks. We're at the forefront with the best education, knowledge, and pro-active programs to make your organization better.

BOOSTing Your Growth: An Unwavering Commitment

Our BOOST group benefits program is set for remarkable growth and innovation in 2024. This program is not just about benefits; it's a commitment to enhancing the well-being and growth of your teams. With a specialized group benefits

team of experts, we're introducing new initiatives and partnerships that will elevate the value and reach of BOOST, ensuring it remains a leader in group benefits solutions. Let us demonstrate to you how we can give your company a BOOST!

Empowering Communities: One of Our Core Values

Our heart lies with the communities across Syracuse and Upstate NY. Our engagement goes beyond business – it's about creating a positive impact that spans generations. Community is a cornerstone of the CH organization. We believe in supporting the communities we live and work in. Whether it's through supporting local enterprises, participating in community events, or leading social initiatives, we're deeply committed to nurturing the regions we call home.

A Culture That Inspires

The culture at CH Insurance is another cornerstone. We champion a workspace where innovation, respect, and collaboration are not just encouraged but applauded and rewarded! This culture has fostered a team that is the best in the business and deeply committed to our core values and vision. Most importantly, we love insurance and what we do, and it shows! As we move forward, we will continue to invest in our people, ensuring they have the tools and environment to thrive and make a difference. We strive to continue to create an employee experience that supports work-life balance, while managing all aspects of a fun and rewarding insurance experience. The CH Team's excited to embark on a year-long celebration of our company's 25th anniversary to commemorate this significant milestone and we invite you to celebrate with us!



Joe Convertino, Jr.
President

Looking Ahead: Our Promise for 2024 and Beyond

As we move into this new year, our focus is on deepening our relationships, expanding our services, and continuing our journey of innovation and community engagement. We're more than just an insurance agency; we're a partner in your business. Continue to watch for our true stories across all CH Channels, from customers and partners about our time together in ensuring their businesses and families thrive.

Our promise of being "In Your Corner" is a commitment to being there for you, in every challenge and every success, every day, every way. We're excited to share this 2024 adventure with you, offering our expertise, support, and insurance passion every step of the way.

If you're already a partner with CH, we appreciate you beyond measure and look forward to continuing our growth and partnership together. If you're considering a change or even a review of your current programs with a local insurance agency this year, we welcome a conversation with any of our team members. Together, let's make this, our 25th year, a year of unparalleled success and growth for everyone. **We're in your corner!**

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State budget funds Empire AI, ON-RAMP initiatives

It includes a flagship facility in Syracuse

BY ERIC REINHARDT
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

ALBANY — New York State has established Empire AI as part of the newly enacted state budget, which also includes a \$200 million investment to support four ON-RAMP advanced-manufacturing training centers, including a flagship facility in Syracuse.

Empire AI is described as a “first-of-its-kind consortium to secure New York’s place at the forefront” of artificial intelligence (AI) research, the office of Gov. Kathy Hochul announced April 22.

The ON-RAMP advanced-manufacturing training centers will seek to prepare New Yorkers for the jobs of the future, Hochul’s office said in a separate April 22 announcement.

In addition, the spending plan includes a \$500 million capital investment to jumpstart a \$10 billion partnership for next-generation chips research.

Empire AI consortium

The consortium will leverage a \$275 million state investment to create and launch a “state-of-the-art” AI computing center on the campus of the University at Buffalo. The center will be used by New York institutions to “promote responsible research and development, create jobs, and advance AI for the public good,” the governor’s office contended.

The Empire AI consortium will include

seven New York-based founding institutions: Cornell University, SUNY, CUNY, Columbia University, New York University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and the Flatiron Institute.

“Whoever is at the forefront of artificial intelligence will dominate the next chapter of human history — and I’m committed to seizing that opportunity here in New York,” Hochul said in the announcement. “AI will have a transformational effect on our economy and industries, and these investments ensure that we are using the extraordinary growth opportunity to benefit New Yorkers.”

The initiative will be funded by more than \$400 million in public and private investment, including a \$250 million state capital-grant investment, and \$25 million over 10 years in SUNY funding. The project will also receive more than \$125 million from the founding institutions and other private partners. They include the Simons Foundation, whose Flatiron Institute works to advance research through computational methods, and Tom Secunda, co-founder of Bloomberg LP and the Secunda Family Foundation, which provides millions of dollars a year in grants to conservation, health care, scientific advancement, and other causes.

In addition, as part of the budget, Hochul signed legislation to prioritize “safe, ethical” uses as the state continues to build its AI footprint. The legislation includes a requirement that all forms of political communication — including image, video, audio, text or any technological representation of speech or conduct — “disclose the use of materially deceptive media.”



Gov. Kathy Hochul on April 15 announced a conceptual agreement with legislative leaders on key priorities in the fiscal year 2025 state budget, which state lawmakers approved shortly afterward. The spending plan includes funding for the Empire AI (artificial intelligence) consortium, which will focus on AI research.

PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE GROLL VIA HOCHUL FLICKR

ON-RAMP centers

The new spending plan includes a \$200 million investment to establish One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships (ON-RAMP). It’s a network of four new workforce-development centers to prepare New Yorkers for the jobs of the future, Hochul’s office said.

As the state continues to attract high-tech businesses in fast-growing industries like semiconductor manufacturing, ON-RAMP centers will offer credentials and training related to advanced manufacturing and “help expand opportunities for disadvantaged populations,” per the state.

The program will focus on “strategic, high-impact locations” in upstate New York.

Investing in chips research

The budget also includes a \$500 mil-

lion capital investment for NY CREATES’ Albany Nanotech Complex to help jumpstart a \$10 billion partnership and bring a High NA EUV Lithography Center to the complex.

Hochul announced the partnership with IBM (NYSE: IBM), Micron Technology Inc. (NASDAQ: MU), Applied Materials, Tokyo Electron, and other leaders from the semiconductor industry last year as part of the effort to establish a global hub for semiconductor manufacturing in New York.

Once completed, Hochul’s office said the new center will build on other semiconductor-related investments to make New York home to the first publicly owned High NA EUV Lithography Center in North America, support the long-term growth of New York’s tech economy, and create and retain thousands of direct, indirect, and union construction jobs. ■

CNY BUSINESS JOURNAL

BEST 2024

PLACES TO WORK

ANNOUNCING THE 2024 QUALIFYING COMPANIES!

See who made the list this year!

GLOOR:

Continued from page 4

changes to the national wage index) but will be a bit higher — likely about \$23,500. Thus, I can’t provide the exact impact, but if your wife’s 2025 earnings exceed next year’s limit, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (half of the amount over the limit). So, if your wife earns \$37,500 per year, that will likely be about \$14,000 over the limit and the SSA will take back half of that (\$7,000). It “takes back” by withholding future benefits, or you can repay the SSA in a lump sum. So, you will have a choice — repay the SSA from your other assets, or it will withhold your wife’s SS benefits for the number of months needed to offset her penalty for exceeding the earnings limit. The number of months the SSA will withhold depends on how much is owed and what your wife’s monthly SS benefit is. For example, if your wife’s age-65 SS benefit is about average (\$1,900) and her penalty for exceeding the limit is \$7,000, the SSA would withhold your wife’s benefit for four months to recover the penalty, but she would receive her full benefit for the remaining eight months of the year.

Unless your wife tells the SSA in advance that she will exceed the limit, the agency will find out the following year (after you file your income taxes). But, in any case, your wife cannot avoid the annual-earnings test for working before reaching her full retirement age. The earnings test goes away when your wife reaches her FRA of 67. Until that time,

if she continues working, she will have a choice to have her benefits withheld for a portion of the year, or simply repay the SSA in a lump sum (in which case her benefits would continue uninterrupted).

FYI, there is a silver lining in this. If your wife has benefits withheld because she exceeds the earnings limit before her FRA, after she reaches her FRA, the SSA will give her time credit for the months when benefits were withheld. This will result in her monthly Social Security payment amount increasing somewhat at her full retirement age. Thus, over time, your wife may recover the benefits that were withheld for exceeding the annual-earnings limit. But to get 100 percent of the benefit she’s earned from a lifetime of working, and be exempt from Social Security’s earnings limit, she would need to wait until she reaches her FRA to claim. ■

Russell Gloor is a national Social Security advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit 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: ssadvisor@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.

SPECIAL REPORT: HEALTH CARE QUARTERLY



Michael Mestan, president of the Northeast College of Health Sciences in Seneca Falls, on Feb. 13 cut the ribbon during the unveiling of the new imaging-sciences wing of the college's Anatomy Center. Pictured with Mestan are Jeff Shipley, president and CEO of the Seneca Falls Chamber of Commerce, and Anne Killen, provost and VP of academic affairs at Northeast College.

PHOTO CREDIT: NORTHEAST COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Northeast College unveils new imaging-sciences wing

BY ERIC REINHARDT
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

SENECA FALLS — The Anatomy Center at the Northeast College of Health Sciences in Seneca Falls has a new imaging-sciences wing that includes sonography and radiological suites.

The college formally opened the wing and suites during a ceremony held on Feb. 13, per its announcement.

The new imaging-sciences facilities provide advanced learning spaces for students in Northeast's new associate-degree programs in radiologic technology and

diagnostic medical sonography, the college said.

The suites are also the latest addition to the Northeast College's Anatomy Center, which already includes the computerized anatomy resource lab (CARL) containing 3D virtual Anatomage technology, a cadaveric dissection lab, and an observation theater.

The addition of the new sonography and radiologic technology suites provide incoming undergraduate students with the "most advanced" equipment as they study to earn their associate degrees in less than two years, the college said.

Other new Northeast College pro-

grams beginning in the fall of 2024 include a bachelor's degree in health-care administration that can be completed fully online in less than three years, and a massage-therapy certificate program that prepares students to become a licensed massage therapist (LMT). Northeast also anticipates offering a planned future master's degree in physician-assistant studies.

Michael Mestan, president of the Northeast College of Health Sciences, says the goal is to not only educate, but also inspire the next generation of health-care professionals.

"We are pleased to become a new source

of providing a highly skilled workforce for our regional health centers and hospitals, and to help improve the health and wellness of the members of our community," Mestan said in a statement. "Together let us continue to strive for excellence and make a lasting impact on the future of healthcare, our College and the Finger Lakes region."

The Northeast College of Health Sciences also anticipates offering a planned future master's degree in physician-assistant studies.

The college, founded in 1919, currently operates on a 286-acre campus. ■

Oswego Health reopens pulmonary function testing lab

BY ERIC REINHARDT
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

OSWEGO — Oswego Health has reopened its pulmonary function testing lab (PFT) following its closure in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The health system held a formal reopening ceremony for the PFT lab on April 3.

PFTs are noninvasive tests that show how well the lungs are working. The tests

measure lung volume, capacity, rates of flow, and gas exchange. Medical staff may use PFTs to check lung function before surgery or other procedures in patients who have lung or heart problems, who are smokers, or who have other health conditions. Another use of PFTs is to assess treatment for asthma, emphysema, and other chronic lung problems, Oswego Health noted.

Respiratory therapist Todd Davison will be managing the PFT lab at Oswego

Health and conducting tests that include basic spirometry, pre- and post-spirometry, and complete pulmonary function testing with or without a bronchodilator.

The tests also include industrial screening, plethysmography (lung volume determination), nitrogen washout, diffusing capacity, methacholine challenge test, simple pulmonary exercise test (six-minute walk test), arterial blood gases, and pre-op pulmonary function testing. ■



Oswego Health on April 3 formally reopened its pulmonary function testing lab after it closed in 2020 due to the pandemic. Pictured from left to right are: Marquand Brown, Oswego Health VP of human resources and chief people officer; Ciara Murphy, respiratory therapist; Stephanie Alnutt, director of respiratory therapy; Todd Davison, respiratory therapist; and Michael Backus, president and CEO of Oswego Health. PHOTO CREDIT: OSWEGO HEALTH

Five more hospitals join the Respect and Heal campaign

BY ERIC REINHARDT
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

SYRACUSE — Five more Central New York hospitals and health systems have joined the Respect and Heal campaign, which is aimed at ensuring the “safe and respectful treatment” of health-care workers.

Carthage Area Hospital, Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center in Ogdensburg, Oneida Health, Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, and the UHS System brings the total number of participants in the campaign to 12, per the April 25 announcement on the website of Upstate Medical University.

Seven other regional hospitals and health systems announced their commitment to the campaign in October 2023. They were: Mohawk Valley Health System, Auburn Community Hospital, Crouse Health, Oswego Health, Rome Health, St. Joseph’s Health, and Upstate University Hospital.

The campaign — initiated by Upstate University Hospital — was started in response to rising incidents of violent, disrespectful, and disruptive behavior aimed at

health-care workers.

“We welcome our health-care colleagues in this joint effort to ensure the safe and respectful treatment of our health care team members,” Dr. Robert Corona, CEO of Upstate University Hospital, said in the announcement. “Together, I’m certain we can make a difference on this important issue.”

“We welcome our health-care colleagues in this joint effort to ensure the safe and respectful treatment of our health care team members.”

— Dr. Robert Corona, CEO,
Upstate University Hospital

Part of the Respect and Heal platform addresses federal and state legislation that provides more penalties for individuals who knowingly and intentionally assault or intimidate hospital employees.

“Samaritan Caregivers deserve a safe and courteous workplace so they can care for our patients and residents,” Thomas Carman, president and CEO of Samaritan Medical Center, said. “The uptick in workplace violence from patients and visitors at Samaritan towards our caregivers is concerning. Being part of the Respect and Heal campaign is showing a united front that local healthcare will not tolerate violent, disrespectful, and disruptive behavior. Together, we can educate our



Upstate University Hospital CEO Dr. Robert Corona speaks at a press conference last fall announcing the creation of the Respect and Heal campaign.

PHOTO CREDIT: UPSTATE MEDICAL UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

communities and provide clear expectations.”

Officials say bringing together health-care leaders to speak in one voice demonstrates a vigorous commitment to “fostering a culture of safety and respect that values the physical and psychological well-being of healthcare workers and patients,” officials say.

John Carrigg, president and CEO of United Health Services, believes it’s a campaign that UHS should be involved in.

“Workplace violence comes at a high cost, but it can be prevented, and we have committed the resources to do so,” Carrigg said in the Upstate announcement. “As we unite with like-minded

healthcare institutions across Central New York for stronger standards and expectations, this effort also supports the vast majority of patients and families who are very grateful for our staff and services. Both our patients and our caregivers expect and deserve an environment where we can deliver great clinical care and focus on healing.”

When the Respect and Heal campaign was announced last October, Upstate’s Corona underscored the major goal of the campaign: “that all staff will be treated with respect, and that we redouble our commitment and implement and strengthen violence prevention strategies to ensure a safe healing environment for our health care workforce and patients.” ■



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Cayuga Health sets up shop at The Shops at Ithaca Mall

Offers cardiology, other medical services in new location

BY ERIC REINHARDT
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

LANSING — Cayuga Health has a new location at The Shops at Ithaca Mall with many of the health-care services already in operation.

The organization's cardiology service started operations in the new location on March 25. Formerly located in two separate facilities on Triphammer Road and at Island Health and Fitness in downtown Ithaca, those two locations of Cayuga Heart and Vascular are now together at one site, per a late March Cayuga Health announcement.

Besides the cardiology service, Cayuga Primary Care (formerly located at Brentwood Drive and Trumansburg Road) and Cayuga Rheumatology (formerly located at Community Corners) opened on April 8.

The health-care system also plans to

open a medical laboratory in the new space this June, Cayuga Health tells CNYBJ in an April 30 email.

The staggered implementation sought to "help minimize disruption" in providing patient care, Cayuga Health said in its March announcement.

"As we open the doors of our latest facility at the Ithaca Mall, we're not just providing care, we're creating a new standard of accessibility and excellence," Jeff Penoyer, VP of ambulatory services and COO at Cayuga Medical Associates, contended. "This milestone marks a pivotal moment in Cayuga Health's journey, symbolizing our unwavering commitment to serving our community with top-notch healthcare services."

The more than 60,000-square-foot space will house an increased number of exam rooms with updated equipment. A TCAT (Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc.) bus stop is located just outside the doors of Cayuga Health at Ithaca Mall, "allowing greater access for many patients," per the announcement.

The Shops at Ithaca Mall location also has ample parking, wheelchair accessibility, an onsite laboratory, and easy-to-use



Cayuga Health says it has opened a new location at The Shops at Ithaca Mall, where it now offers services that include cardiology, primary care, and rheumatology.

PHOTO CREDIT: CAYUGA HEALTH

kiosks for appointment check-in, Cayuga Health noted.

Penoyer went on to say, "By consolidating these specialties under one roof, we're not only simplifying the patient experience but also fostering stronger connections between our providers and those we serve. We're thrilled to welcome our community to this dynamic space."

About Cayuga Health

Ithaca-based Cayuga Health has two

hospitals — Cayuga Medical Center in Ithaca and Schuyler Hospital in Montour Falls — as well as a multi-specialty group, Cayuga Medical Associates.

Its combined employee count, including affiliated organizations, is more than 2,800. Cayuga Health also has clinical-service line affiliations with Mayo Medical Laboratories, Rochester Regional Health for cardiac services, and the University of Rochester for neurosciences. ■

Upstate Urology at Oswego Health moving to Fulton

BY ERIC REINHARDT
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FULTON — Upstate Urology at Oswego Health is moving to a new location at 806 West Broadway in Fulton where Associated Medical Professionals previously operated.

The urology practice will begin operations at the new location on May 6, Jamie Leszczynski, senior VP of com-

munications and chief brand officer at Oswego Health, tells CNYBJ in an email.

Oswego Health says it partnered with Upstate Urology "to expand access to urological care locally," per its April 23 announcement. The practice provides care for all urological disorders from general urology to more specialized issues.

It opened in Oswego in 2023 and was temporarily located in Oswego Health's Center for Surgical Services unit,



Dr. Eyal Kord

PHOTO CREDIT: OSWEGO HEALTH WEBSITE

but has now outgrown the space, Leszczynski said.

Dr. Eyal Kord, a urologist, will continue to provide specialty services at the new location.

About Dr. Kord

Kord is a clinical assistant professor in the Upstate Medical University's Department of Urology. He focuses on subspecialty urological oncology, as well as general urological care including urinary-tract conditions and kidney stones.

Kord is trained in minimally invasive techniques and is a daVinci-certified robotic surgeon, Oswego Health said.

Originally from Israel, Kord earned his master of public health (MPH) degree from Tel Aviv University and received his medical degree from Hadassah Ein Kerem in Jerusalem.

He completed his post-graduate training as a fellow at the Society of Urologic Oncology at the Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle. Kord completed his attending residency at the Department of Urology at the Shamir Medical Center in Zerifin, Israel. ■

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Samaritan uses Kinney gift to expand mental-health services

BY ERIC REINHARDT
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

WATERTOWN — Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown is using a donation from the Kinney Drugs Foundation to expand its mental-health treatment services and treatment space within the hospital.

Gouverneur-based Kinney Drugs and the Kinney Drugs Foundation donated \$250,000 in funding to the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation of Northern New York to help fund the expansion.

In recognition of this recent financial commitment, the adult inpatient mental-health unit space will be named in honor of Kinney Drugs.

The New York State Office of Mental Health has approved the request from Samaritan's inpatient mental-health unit to increase the bed count in the unit from 34 to 39 beds, the hospital tells CNYBJ in an April 30 email. It expects crews to complete construction work within five months.

The five additional rooms will be private, which is a "significant need," per a March 13 announcement from Samaritan

Medical Center. The current physical space consists of only of double-occupant rooms. The rooms "often cannot be used" for two patients due to aggression, infection control issues, and other reasons, the hospital said.

The unit is "typically full," and with the "increase in mental-health crises," patients go to the emergency department. Fifty percent of the adults who visit the emergency department in a psychiatric crisis will need a stabilization inpatient stay within this unit, Samaritan noted.

Kinney's support

The Kinney Drugs Foundation is the philanthropic arm of KPH Healthcare Services, Inc. with locations in 14 states, including its home state of New York. Since its inception in 2002, the Kinney Drugs Foundation has provided more than \$12 million to help the communities in which it operates, per the Samaritan announcement.

Kinney Drugs and its foundation remain among Samaritan's top donors, supporters, and partners. They are dedicated to the pediatric-patient population and



The Kinney Drugs Foundation has donated \$250,000 in funding to the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation of Northern New York to help pay for the expansion of mental-health treatment services and treatment space at Samaritan Medical Center. Pictured here (from left to right) are Beth Fipps, VP of foundation & community services at the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation; Thomas Carman, president and CEO of Samaritan Medical Center; Dave Warner, president of the Kinney Drugs Foundation and EVP of KPH Healthcare Services; and Rich McNulty, SVP of human resources at KPH Healthcare Services.

PHOTO CREDIT: SAMARITAN HEALTH WEBSITE

have donated needed funds in multiple departments within the Car-Freshner Center for Women & Children, including the Level II neonatal intensive care unit (or NICU); the play area on the pediatric-inpa-

tient unit; and a cesarean surgical suite in labor and delivery.

In addition, Kinney is a partner and fundraiser for the Samaritan's Children's Miracle Network program. ■

Geneva General Hospital adds neurosurgeon to medical staff

BY JOURNAL STAFF
news@cnybj.com

GENEVA — Neurosurgeon Lucas Aurich has recently joined the medical staff of Geneva General Hospital, which is part of UR Medicine Finger Lakes Health.



Aurich


Aurich is an assistant professor of neurosurgery at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester and serves as neurosurgery director of Geneva General Hospital, according to an April 22 announcement from UR Medicine Finger Lakes Health.

His clinical interests encompass minimally invasive spine surgery for disc herniation, spinal stenosis, spondylolisthesis and spine fractures, as well as complex spine surgery, spine tumors, brain tu-


mors, and stereotactic radiosurgery.


Aurich joined UR Medicine after completing two years of neurosurgery fellowship training at Yale University, focusing on complex and oncological spine surgery and stereotactic radiosurgery. He obtained his medical degree from the Federal University of Espirito Santo, Brazil, and completed a neurosurgery residency at the Neurological Institute of Curitiba, Brazil. Additionally, Aurich completed a spine-surgery fellowship at Rummelsberg Hospital in Germany and gained eight years of experience as an attending physician at two prominent referral centers in Brazil.

In his practice, Dr. Aurich aims to offer individualized and minimally invasive neurosurgical solutions for his patients. His office is located at 200 North St., Suite 304, in Geneva. ■



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Thompson outlines goals as new Bassett CEO

BY TRACI DELORE
tdelore@cnybj.com

COOPERSTOWN — For Bassett Healthcare Network's new president and CEO Staci Thompson, joining the rural health-care organization just felt right.

She first came aboard Bassett in 2023 as its chief operating officer (COO) after working for more than 27 years at the Guthrie Clinic in Sayre, Pennsylvania. Guthrie is another rural-based provider where Thompson held several positions including executive VP and COO.

"What drew me to Bassett ... was I felt connected with it," she says. The organizations share the same mission of working to ensure patients have access to medical care.

After joining Bassett last May, Thompson served as its interim president and CEO since Jan. 1 of this year after her predecessor Dr. Tommy Ibrahim left the post. Bassett's board made the role permanent in May.

"I'm right where I'm supposed to be," Thompson says of Bassett and her new role there as leader.

She's excited to take the help at the health-care organization and knows there are some hurdles to overcome. The biggest challenge on her to-do list? "It's, first and foremost, organization efficiency and stability," she says.

Thompson's focus is on five key areas — recruitment and retention, improving the patient experience, providing improved access, organizational culture, and organizational stability.

"Making sure financially we have an organization that's healthy and can invest back into the organization," she explains.

Her goals build upon those set by Ibrahim, who focused on bringing the organization together.

In recent years, Bassett has grown into a health system that includes five corporately affiliated hospitals — A.O. Fox Hospital in Oneonta, A.O. Fox Hospital Tri-Town Campus in Sidney, Cobleskill Hospital in Cobleskill, Little Falls Hospital in Little Falls, and O'Connor Hospital in Delhi.

Ibrahim's focus was on making sure all locations were using the same systems

and things like that. "So that work had started, and my goal is to continue to build upon that," Thompson adds.

Her focus is on the bigger picture, making sure the entire organization functions as a system to avoid unnecessary duplication while also recognizing the unique history and individuality of each of those locations that have become part of the Bassett network.

Like many health-care organizations, Bassett lost many employees during the COVID pandemic and has struggled to fill those empty slots, especially when other organizations are looking to hire as well. "Everyone is recruiting from the same pool of resources," Thompson says.

Currently, Bassett has about 150 employment-agency workers filling those open roles — a solution that gets expensive.

With a goal of having enough staff to not need agency fill-ins, one of the changes Bassett has made under Thompson's guidance is to bring recruitment back in-house. "We're seeing good results with that," she contends.



Staci Thompson, who joined Bassett Healthcare Network in 2023, became the organization's president and CEO in March.
PHOTO CREDIT: BASSETT

Other efforts include partnering with area institutions to train the future workforce. Bassett recently announced a new partnership with the Otsego Northern Catskills Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) for a practical nursing certification program.

"I'm excited about being able to grow the organization," Thompson says. "It's exciting to me to look how we can do things a little differently." ■

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Pictured are three of the five new certified nursing assistants (CNAs) that graduated from a training program through their employer, Valley Health Services (VHS). From left to right are: Lisa Kupris, Rose Melo, and Victoria Jones. Not pictured are Kailee Jasewicz and one other graduate whose name was not released.
PHOTO CREDIT: VHS

Bassett's Valley Health Services recognizes five newly certified nursing assistants

BY JOURNAL STAFF
news@cnybj.com

HERKIMER — Valley Health Services (VHS) in Herkimer recently celebrated the most recent graduates of its nurse-aid training program that helps its resident assistants become certified nursing assistants (CNAs).

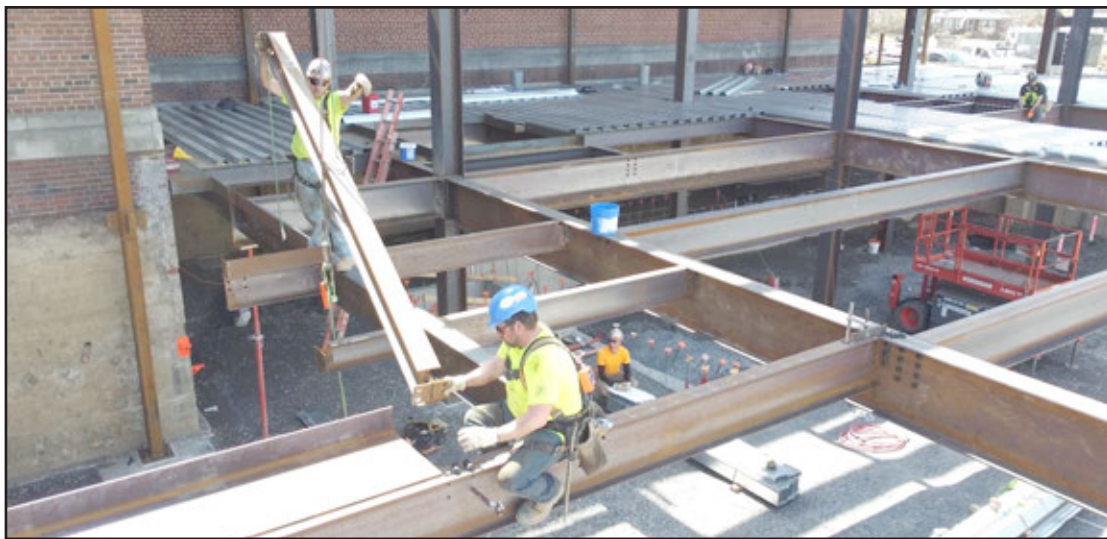
The program graduated five new CNAs on April 11, VHS announced in a news release.

"At Valley Health, we are all extremely proud of these five new CNAs," Bryan Ehlinger, the administrator who oversees the program, said in the release. "It shows remarkable commitment to their studies and dedication to our residents. We are happy to come alongside them and help advance their careers."

Peggy Cool, a registered nurse, teaches the 120-hour course through the Center for Corporate and Community Education at Mohawk Valley Community College. The program teaches basic nursing skills, preparing students to care for residents, and qualifying them to sit for the CNA exam.

VHS will offer more nurse-assistant training programs soon for those interested in beginning a career in health care. Those interested in more information can call (315) 866-3330, extension 2254.

VHS is a 160-bed long-term care and rehabilitation facility that offers both inpatient and outpatient services. It is part of the Bassett Healthcare Network. ■



Construction-crew members working on the \$45.7 million addition to the Rome Health hospital for a new intensive-care unit and the Kaplan Center for Surgical Services.
PHOTO CREDIT: ROME HEALTH WEBSITE



A rendering, showing what the Kaplan Center for Surgical Services will look like when complete.
PHOTO CREDIT: ROME HEALTH WEBSITE

Work underway on Rome Health's surgical center, ICU addition

BY ERIC REINHARDT
ereinhardt@cnybj.com

ROME — Rome Health says work on the Kaplan Center for Surgical Services and ICU (intensive-care unit) construction project “is really starting to take shape,” per an April 15 announcement on its website.

The milder weather in February gave the crew from the Hayner Hoyt Corporation of Syracuse a window of time to excavate the site and start pouring the footings for the new addition, Rome Health said in an earlier announcement.

Construction workers will complete the \$45.7 million

project in three phases, and Rome Health anticipates project completion in the summer of 2026.

The project involves constructing a 30,000-square-foot, three-floor addition on the north side of the hospital. The expansion will allow the hospital to replace its aging operating rooms and ICUs.

The Kaplan Center for Surgical Services is named in honor of Charles and Florence Kaplan.

“The \$45.7 million capital project will enhance the experience for patients and their families while supporting the care team in delivering the best care out there here,” AnneMarie Czyz, president and CEO of Rome Health, contended in a statement.

King + King Architects of

The expansion will allow the hospital to replace its aging operating rooms and ICUs.

Syracuse designed the project, Ryan Thompson, COO of Rome Health, also noted.

The project is being funded through a partnership of more than \$29 million in public funding and

private philanthropy, including a \$26 million New York State Transformation Grant and \$3 million in ARPA funds from the City of Rome, according to a November 2023 Rome Health website posting.

ECA Onondaga names director of family wellbeing

BY JOURNAL STAFF
news@cnybj.com

SYRACUSE — The Early Childhood Alliance (ECA) Onondaga, a coalition of community stakeholders with a shared vision for a more coordinated and strategic early childhood system, announced it has recently appointed Brandi Mee as director of family wellbeing.

In her new role, Mee will develop, implement, and evaluate community-informed strategies to drive transformative change and better meet the needs of pregnant and parenting families in Onondaga County. She will also provide project-management support to Pediatrics Supporting Parents Onondaga (PSP) — a partnership with Upstate Pediatric and Adolescent Center (UPAC) and others focused on promoting early relational health and increased alignment and collaboration among families, community-based organizations, and the UPAC care team.

“I am excited to join a team where I can combine my own lived experience with my love for human-centered de-

sign,” Mee said in a news release. “I look forward to fostering authentic community and stakeholder engagement and to furthering the ECA’s mission of strengthening family support systems in Onondaga County.”

Mee began her career in the human-services field in the Early Intervention Unit of the New Jersey Department of Health, where she gained knowledge and insight of state-level policy, grants management, and program development. She most recently served as a senior consultant with M.S. Hall & Associates, lending her expertise as lead project manager for the implementation and maintenance of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model within federally qualified health centers (FQHC).

While raising her two sons, Mee earned her associate degree in fine arts at Cayuga Community College and her bachelor’s degree in psychology with a concentration in applied-behavior analysis from SUNY Canton.



Mee



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New York State Budget Bill's Impact on the Workplace

State enacts paid prenatal leave, keeps paid COVID-19 sick leave on the books through mid-2025

After much anticipation, New York State lawmakers came to a final agreement on a budget bill that contains several key changes employers should note. Three employment-law provisions of Gov. Kathy Hochul's executive-budget proposal, which we reported on in January, survived in altered form. Others did not make it into the final approved budget bill.



KRISTEN E. SMITH
Viewpoint

Paid prenatal leave

New York becomes the first state to mandate paid prenatal leave, with a budget amendment requiring employers to provide pregnant employees with 20 hours of paid prenatal leave during any 52-week calendar period. This mandate

is an amendment to Labor Law § 196-b and is in addition to the state's existing mandatory paid sick leave. The 20-hour allotment is a decrease from the governor's original proposal, which would have required 40 hours of leave. The leave can be used for "physical examinations, medical procedures, monitoring and testing, and discussions with a health care provider related to the pregnancy," and can be taken in hourly increments. The paid prenatal-leave requirement will take effect on Jan. 1, 2025, and only applies to private-sector employers.

Paid breaks for breast-milk expression

Gov. Hochul also proposed adding paid break time to the state's existing requirement to provide nursing mothers with unpaid break time to express breast milk. The original proposal of 20 minutes of paid break time was increased during budget negotiations. The final law amends Labor Law § 206-c and requires all private and public-sector employers to provide 30 minutes of paid break time and allow employees to use other paid break or mealtime for time in excess of 30 minutes "each time such employee has reasonable need to express breast milk." Given the "each time" language, it is conceivable an

employee would be entitled to multiple paid breaks during a workday for this purpose. The paid breast-milk expression mandate begins on June 19, 2024.

Paid COVID-19 sick leave

One of the more closely watched budget items for employers was the proposed end of paid COVID-19 sick leave. Many employers have been hoping for the leave mandate to expire, viewing it as irrelevant, confusing, and duplicative of existing sick-leave mandates in light of the end of the public-health emergency. As we recently reported, the law's application is questionable given recent changes to CDC guidance.

The budget bill repeals the paid COVID-19 sick-leave requirement — but not for another 14 months. While Gov. Hochul originally proposed ending the law on July 31, 2024, the final bill adds an extra year. Paid COVID-19 sick leave continues to be the law of New York State until July 31, 2025.

Proposals that failed to make the cut

Two proposals we reported on in January did not make it into the final bill. Despite the governor and both houses including an increase in the benefit amount for short-term disability insurance in their

legislative proposals, the topic was removed from the bill during negotiations. Therefore, the state-mandated disability benefit will remain \$170 per week for the foreseeable future.

The governor's proposal to clarify Labor Law § 198, related to the requirement that manual workers be paid on a weekly basis and the damages available in the event of a violation, also failed to survive the legislative process. The bill would have made clear that if employees are paid at least semi-monthly, they would not be entitled to 100 percent liquidated damages, settling a split among New York courts. Without a legislative clarification, the issue of liquidated damages for manual workers who employers fail to pay on a weekly basis will continue to be litigated until the state's Court of Appeals settles the split in authority among courts — or until lawmakers take further action. ■

Kristen E. Smith is a member (partner) at Syracuse-based Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC. A member of the law firm's Labor & Employment practice, Smith works with employers to help ensure compliance with the complex maze of labor and employment laws. She also co-chairs the firm's municipalities practice. This article is drawn and edited from Bond's website.

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UPCOMING LISTS:

May 13
Minority-Owned Businesses

May 20
SBA Loans & Lenders

ABOUT THE LIST

Information was provided by representatives of listed organizations and their websites, as well as the New York State Office of Addiction and Supports (<https://oasas.ny.gov>). 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

ADDICTION-TREATMENT PROGRAMS

Ranked by Number of CNY Addiction-Treatment Offices

Rank	Name Address Phone/Website	No. CNY Addiction Treatment Offices	Addiction-Treatment Services Available	Program Type(s)	Problem Gambling Resources Avail. (Y/N)	Top Executive or Program Administrator
1.	Helio Health 329 N. Salina St. Syracuse, NY 13203 (315) 474-5506/sbh.org	12	residential reintegration, opioid outpatient treatment, outpatient clinic, inpatient rehabilitation, certified community behavioral health clinic, medically supported withdrawal - inpatient. stabilization and rehab	crisis services, inpatient treatment, opioid treatment, outpatient services, residential services	Y	Kathleen Gaffney-Babb, President & CEO
2.	Beacon Center 303 W Liberty St Rome, NY 13440 (315) 367-1290/beaconcenter.net	5	residential reintegration, outpatient clinic, opioid outpatient treatment	opioid treatment, outpatient services, residential services	N	Admira Spahic, Director of Program Operations
3.	Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc. 595 West Main St. Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 788-1530/ credocommunitycenter.com	5	residential reintegration, outpatient clinic, opioid outpatient clinic, residential rehab for youth	opioid treatment, outpatient services, residential services	N	John Wilson, Executive Director
4.	CASA-Trinity, Inc. 911 Stowell St. Elmira, NY 14901 (607) 737-5215/casa-trinity.org	3	outpatient clinic, opioid outpatient clinic, primary prevention	opioid treatment, outpatient services, prevention	N	Sean Smith, Director of Recovery Services
5.	Liberty Resources Inc. 1045 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 (315) 425-1004 /liberty-resources.org	2	community residential, supportive living, outpatient clinic	outpatient services, residential services	N	Carl M. Coyle, CEO
6.	Oswego County Opportunities, Inc. 239 Oneida St. Fulton, NY 13069 (315) 598-4717/oco.org	2	residential reintegration, supportive living	residential services	N	Diane Cooper-Currier, Executive Director
7.	North Star Industries 650 State St Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 262-3073/ citizenadvocates.net	2	outpatient clinic	outpatient services	N	James Button, President & CEO
8.	Catholic Charities of Utica/Rome 1505 Whitesboro St Utica, NY 13502 (315) 792-1007/ccharityom.org	2	community residential	residential services	N	Renee Coppins, Chief Program Officer
9.	Alcohol & Drug Council of Tompkins County 2353 N Triphammer Rd Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 274-6288/ alcoholdrugcouncil.org	2	outpatient clinic, residential stabilization, medically supervised withdrawal - inpatient, primary prevention	crisis services, outpatient services, prevention, residential services	N	Jennifer Maine, Residential Program Directory
10.	Unity House of Cayuga County, Inc. 217 Genesee St., Suite 14 Auburn, NY 13021 (315) 253-6227/unityhouse.org	2	residential reintegration congregare and scattered	residential services	Y	Elizabeth Smith, Chief Executive Officer
11.	Rochester Regional Health 20 Cottage St. Potsdam, NY 13676 (315) 265-3300/ rochesterregional.org	2	inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient clinic	inpatient treatment, outpatient services	N	Emily Marquart, Program Director
12.	United Health Services (UHS) 10-42 Mitchell Ave. Binghamton, NY 13903 607-762-2200/nyuhs.org	1	inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient clinic, opioid outpatient treatment	inpatient treatment, opioid treatment, outpatient services	N	John Carrigg, President & CEO
13.	Catholic Charities of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse 240 E. Onondaga St. Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 470-1415/ syracusediocese.org/offices/ catholic-charities	1	community residential, supportive living	residential services	N	Mike Melara, CEO
14.	Crouse Health 736 Irving Ave. Syracuse, NY 13210 (315) 470-7111/crouse.org	1	outpatient clinic, outpatient rehabilitation, inpatient rehabilitation, opioid outpatient treatment	inpatient treatment, opioid treatment, outpatient services	N	Seth Kronenberg, President & CEO
15.	Conifer Park, Inc. 526 Old Liverpool Road Liverpool, NY 13088 (315) 453-3911/coniferpark.com	1	opioid outpatient treatment, outpatient clinic	opioid treatment, outpatient services	N	Rachel Long, Program Director
16.	New York Council on Problem Gambling 5800 Heritage Landing Dr East Syracuse, NY 13057 (315) 748-1188/ nyproblemgambling.org	1	problem-gambling resource center	program support	Y	Elizabeth Toomey, Senior Contract Coordinator
17.	Community Health & Behavioral Services 1002 Oswego Street Utica, NY 13502 (315) 798-8868/upstatecp.org/ behavioral-health	1	group therapy, individual therapy, peer support services, crisis support, individual/group counseling, treatment recovery planning, medication for addiction treatment, intake assessment, driver impairment assessments, treatment recovery planning	crisis services, opioid treatment, outpatient services, prevention, program support	Y	Geno DeCondo, Executive Director
18.	Tully Hill 5821 Route 80 Tully, NY 13159 (315) 696-6114/tullyhill.com	1	inpatient rehabilitation, medically supported withdrawal - inpatient, outpatient clinic	crisis services, inpatient treatment, outpatient services	N	Cathy Palm, Executive Director

TECHNOLOGY-BASED COMPANIES Ranked by No. of CNY Employees

Rank	Name Address Phone/Website	CNY Employees	% Services % Hardware % Software	Products & Services	Key Local Executives	Year Estab.
1.	Lockheed Martin 1801 State Route 17C Owego, NY 13827 (607) 751-2200/lockheedmartin.com	4,100	NA NA NA	systems engineering, software development, complex program management for global security, civil, and commercial markets	A. Hamid Salim, Owego GM	1957
2.	The Raymond Corporation 22 S. Canal St. Greene, NY 13778 (607) 656-2311/raymondcorp.com	2,400	34% 36% 30%	electric forklifts, end-to-end material-handling equipment and intelligent-intralogistics solutions including automation and robotics, telematics, virtual-reality learning, and advanced-energy solutions that optimize warehouse and distribution operations	Michael Field, President & CEO	1922
3.	BAE Systems 1098 Clark St. Endicott, NY 13760 (607) 770-2000/baesystems.com	1,300	NA NA NA	software, systems integration, support for defense applications, electronic-control and power-management systems for military, commercial air, and land vehicles	Tom Arseneault, President & CEO	1999
4.	Indium Corporation 301 Woods Park Drive, Suite 301 Clinton, NY 13323 (315) 853-4900/indium.com	1,031	0% 100% 0%	materials for electronics assembly, semiconductor packaging and assembly, and thermal management, such as solders, fluxes, thermal-interface materials, indium, gallium, and germanium inorganic compounds, and metal alloys	Gregory P. Evans, CEO Ross Berntson, President & COO Mike McKenna, CFO Tim Twining, VP of Sales, Marketing, and Technical Service	1934
5.	SRC, Inc. 7502 Round Pond Road North Syracuse, NY 13212 (315) 452-8000/srcinc.com	966	60% 30% 10%	radar, communications, subsystems, satellite, modeling & simulations, antennas, air & ground surveillance, systems & analysis, electronic warfare, cybersecurity/critical infrastructure defense, bio assays, toxicology & risk assessments, counter-UAS	Kevin Hair, President & CEO	1957
6.	Lotte Biologics USA 6000 Thompson Road East Syracuse, NY 13057 (315) 432-2121/lottebiologics.com	430	100% 0% 0%	manufacturing of therapeutic proteins (biologics)	Michael C. Hausladen, General Manager	2022
7.	Giotto Enterprises 161 Clear Road Oriskany, NY 13424 (315) 736-2206/giottoenterprises.com	425	0% 100% 0%	communication fiber-optic connectors, fiber-optic cable and test equipment; safety relays, injection-molded plastic components, CNC machining, sheet-metal fabrication	Frank Giotto, President & CEO Kirk Donley, SVP of Sales Susan Grabinski, Exec. VP & CFO Mark Cushman, VP, Org. Dev./HR	1985
8.	INFICON Inc. 2 Technology Place East Syracuse, NY 13057 (315) 434-1100/inficon.com	358	NA NA NA	instrumentation, critical sensor technologies, and Smart Manufacturing/Industry 4.0 software solutions	Hannah Henley, President	2000
9.	ICM Controls 7313 William Barry Blvd. North Syracuse, NY 13212 (315) 233-5266/icmcontrols.com	300	30% 70% 0%	electronic controls & engineered products	Joseph Bonacci, Chairman & CEO Zachary H. Kadah, Executive VP Patrick Nugent, CFO	1984
10.	Knowles Precision Devices 2777 Route 20 E. Cazenovia, NY 13035 (315) 655-8710/ knowlesc capacitors.com	250	0% 100% 0%	RF/MW filters, single layer capacitors, thin-film & build-to-print components	Sam Vinci, VP, Global Sales & Marketing	1974
11.	TechMD 111 Grant Ave. Endicott, NY 13760 833-706-2229/techmd.com	224	72% 28% 0%	managed IT services, modern office (cloud), cybersecurity solutions, IT projects, unified communications, security & compliance, help desk, business continuity & disaster recovery, VCIO services	Kevin Blake, CEO & President Travis Hayes, Chief Security Officer Jason Griffin, VP Sales, NY Region Brian Hanify, Chief Revenue Officer Jim King, VP of Enterprise Michael Cooke, CFO	1986
12.	CXtec 400 South Salina St., Suite 201 Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 476-3000/cxtec.com	150	15% 80% 5%	certified pre-owned server, storage, networking and voice equipment, data center cabling products, third-party maintenance services, IT asset-disposition services	Peter E. Belyea, CEO Barbara Ashkin, VP & CFO	1978
13.	Assured Information Security (AIS) 153 Brooks Road Rome, NY 13441 (315) 336-3306/ainfosec.com	140	96% 2% 2%	research, development, consulting, testing, forensics, remediation, and training	Charles Green, President & CEO	2001
14.	Usherwood Office Technology 1005 W. Fayette St. Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 472-0050/usherwood.com	100	50% 30% 20%	managed IT, managed print, unified communications, mailing solutions, security & surveillance, video conferencing	Louis F. Usherwood, CEO Ken Stinson, President	1976
15.	Fiberdyne Labs, Inc. 127 Business Park Drive Frankfort, NY 13340 (315) 895-8470/fiberdyne.com	80	10% 90% 0%	fiber-optic networking products and cabling-installation services; LED-sign manufacturing sales and installation.	Anthony Polus, CEO & President AI Amendolare, CFO Chad Polus, VP Operations Heather Mosny, Treasurer	1992
16.	M.A. Polce IT & Cybersecurity 401 Phoenix Drive Rome, NY 13441 (315) 338-0388/mapolce.com	45	50% 30% 20%	managed IT services, hardware procurement, networking and wireless, storage and virtualization, VoIP, remote monitoring and management, network, server, and device support, proactive IT services, cybersecurity, managed detection and response services, and managed risk and compliance services.	Michael A. Polce, President	1998
	Chimera Integrations 6035 East Taft Road North Syracuse, NY 13212 (315) 849-2080/ chimeraintegrations.com	45	30% 50% 20%	integrated-security systems	Casey White, President/CEO Kip White, General Manager	2017
18.	Eastern Security Services 911 North Geddes St. Syracuse, NY 13204 (315) 422-4141/easternsecurity.net	35	NA NA NA	sales, installation and service of alarm, fire, access control, intercom, and camera systems	Cooper MacDonnell, President	1976
	Brady Systems 811 N. Alvord St. Syracuse, NY 13208 (315) 422-9271/bradysystems.com	35	50% 50% 0%	weighing and food systems	Chris Stefano, President Alex Kerr, Director, Industrial Sales Alisa Lupia, Director, Sales & Marketing Brian DiMartino, Director, Service Nicole Sivers, Operations Manager	1955
20.	Infinet Technology Solutions 7037 Fly Road East Syracuse, NY 13057 (315) 432-1323/infinet-tech.com	34	25% 55% 20%	engineering company providing advanced IT services and hardware solutions in voice and data networking	Thomas A. Klink, Jr., President	2005
21.	MPL Incorporated 41 Dutch Mill Road Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 266-0480/mplinc.com	30	100% 0% 0%	contract manufacturer of printed circuit-board assemblies, specializing in surface mount technology	Shane French, Owner	1991
22.	ProArch 344 West Genesee St., Suite 103 Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 424-7736/proarch.com	25	60% 15% 25%	IT consulting, cybersecurity, compliance, cloud, data analytics, application development, and managed services	Michael Spoot, President Jeanne Morelli, COO Ben Wilcox, CTO	2006
23.	Quanterion Solutions Incorporated 266 Genesee St. Utica, NY 13502 (315) 732-0097/quanterion.com	24	75% 5% 20%	cutting-edge analytical services, products, and training across a range of disciplines including cybersecurity; managed cloud services; reliability, maintainability, and quality; information systems management; software development; information and knowledge management; and C4ISR systems and software	Eric MacDiarmid, President Alex MacDiarmid, VP	2000
24.	CREG Systems Corp. 1039 Water St. Watertown, NY 13601 (315) 788-0000/cregsystems.com	19	75% 25% 0%	managed IT services; network design and security solutions; unified-communication services; security services; fire-protection solutions; voice, data, and structured-cabling solutions; cybersecurity services; compliance-consulting services	Jason Wendt, President & CEO	1973
25.	The Garam Group 6522 Basile Rowe East Syracuse, NY 13057 (315) 473-9600/garamgroup.com	17	85% 10% 5%	information technology and VoIP communications services	Dan Napolitano, Founding Partner	2002
26.	TERACAI 400 South Salina St., Suite 201 Syracuse, NY 13202 (315) 883-3500/teracai.com	10	40% 50% 10%	core networking, collaboration, data center, cloud, managed and professional services	Peter E. Belyea, CEO Barbara Ashkin, VP & CFO Timothy Duffy, President	2009

THE LIST

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Antisemitism on College Campuses is a Direct Threat to Our Democracy

Tensions on our college campuses have risen to unsustainable levels, and without targeted, immediate action, I fear what further escalation might look like. Protests over the conflict in the Middle East have created dangerous conditions, especially for our Jewish students who are fearful to go to class, visit family, or leave their dorms at all.

**WILL BARCLAY**
Opinion

Protesting violence by creating an atmosphere of fear is both hypocritical and un-American, yet that is exactly what we have seen in recent weeks at institutions across our country and most recently at Columbia University. Tensions on campus have become so toxic it is virtually impossible to move about the campus without risk of intimidation or worse.

College is supposed to be where young minds meet to share ideas, learn, and prepare for a career. That is the furthest thing from what our reality is here in New York.

Antisemitism on college campuses has been a growing problem. In November, I sounded the alarm after incidents at Cornell University and in our City University of New York schools shook our higher-education system. Now, we are approaching even more dangerous levels of hatred. As a legislative body, we must intervene.

To that end, Assemblyman Ed Ra (R-Franklin Square) has spearheaded the charge to enact the "Dismantling Student Antisemitism (DSA) Act," which would require comprehensive sensitivity training for students, faculty, and staff and establish critical reporting requirements for higher-education institutions.

Colleges who fail to take necessary steps to reduce antisemitism would lose access to state funding. This legislation needs to move forward, and the fact that it has been repeatedly stalled by Democrats represents a stunning lack of awareness or empathy to the hardships Jewish students are facing on campus.

The rising level of threats and violence on college campuses is a danger to every-

"The rising level of threats and violence on college campuses is a danger to everyone."

one. Racism and hatred are not partisan considerations, and they have no place here. I understand protesting the conflict abroad and people have a right to express their opinions. What I do not understand or condone is fostering an environment of hatred, danger and disruption under the guise "peaceful protests." I call on the leadership of these universities, their staff, faculty, and students to do better. The safety of our communities depends on it. ■

William (Will) A. Barclay, 55, Republican, is the New York Assembly minority leader and represents the 120th New York Assembly District, which encompasses all of Oswego County, as well as parts of Jefferson and Cayuga counties.

Bridge collapse highlights importance of infrastructure

The collapse [in late March] of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore is a vivid reminder of the crucial role that infrastructure plays in our 21st century economy. It's also an opportunity to reflect on the importance of government in maintaining our roads, bridges, and ports.

**LEE HAMILTON**
Opinion

The 1.6-mile-long bridge, a fixture of the Baltimore skyline, collapsed in an instant when a giant container ship lost power and struck one of its columns. Tragically, six bridge workers lost their lives. The toll could have been much worse, but bridge traffic was stopped in time.

The damage was considerable, however, and its effects will be widespread. The Port of Baltimore shut down, putting the jobs of thousands of dock workers on hold. Commuters and others who relied on the bridge will have to find alternative routes. The impact on the city and region is large and immediate.

The effects will also ripple through the economy and affect us in ways we can't entirely predict. The Port of Baltimore is one of the 20 largest U.S. ports for the volume and value of its shipping, and it's one of the biggest on the East Coast. In 2023, the port handled 52.3 million tons of foreign cargo worth almost \$81 million, according to Maryland data. It supports more than 15,000 jobs.

The port plays an outsized role in certain industries. It's No. 1 for shipping cars and light trucks, and it ranks near the top for coal and soybeans. Distributors will have to reroute their traffic through other ports, possibly resulting in delays and higher costs for consumers.

Just a few years ago, it was rare to hear news reports about the supply chain. That changed with the COVID-19 pandemic, when it became hard to purchase face masks, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, medical equipment, and even toilet paper. Firms shut down or reduced production, and shipping became more difficult and expensive. The network of businesses and people getting products to market couldn't keep up. As COVID vaccines became widely available and the economy recovered, shortages of semiconductors and other essentials disrupted trade.

These issues highlighted the importance of infrastructure, and the government stepped up when Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in November 2021, making about \$1 trillion available over time for improvements. It was one of President Joe Biden's rare initiatives to receive bipartisan support. Rolling out massive spending legislation in a way that's fair and transparent is like turning a battleship, however. A Brookings Institution analysis found the infrastructure bill was just hitting its stride two years after it passed.

The Baltimore bridge collapse is a reminder that we not only need to build infrastructure, but also that we need to maintain and protect it. A series of rare cir-

cumstances apparently caused the container ship to strike the bridge, but it will be important to understand what went wrong and to prevent similar incidents.

Meanwhile, it will take a lot of work and resources to repair the container ship, remove the wreckage from the Patapsco River, and reopen the port, all while helping support affected workers. The Biden administration has promised support, and Maryland requested and received an initial \$60 million.

It's goes to show how, when disaster strikes, Americans turn to government. We criticize and complain about government, often with justification. But when we get into a crunch — when we need to rebuild a bridge or reopen a port — we rely on government to get the job done.

And the importance of infrastructure to America's economy is almost immeasurable. The quality of our roads, bridges, ports, rail lines, airports and utility systems is intricately tied to our security and prosperity. Regardless of party or political orientation, we should agree on that. ■

Lee Hamilton, 93, 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.

MAY 9

■ **Cayuga County Chamber Awards Luncheon** from 12-1:30 p.m. at The Springside Inn, 6141 West Lake Road, near Auburn. The Chamber Awards recognize individuals and businesses for their unique contributions to the economy and overall development of Cayuga County. Tickets are \$50. For more information and to buy tickets, visit: www.cayugacountychamber.com/awards

MAY 13

■ **Tompkins Chamber Government & Community Affairs Roundtable** from 12-1:15 p.m. at the Tompkins Chamber office, 124 Brindley St., Ithaca. This month's discussion will include an overview of Cornell's economic impact on the community and region, and an introduction

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Email us at movers@cnybj.com

to Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc.'s (TCAT) new general manager, Matthew Rosenbloom-Jones. For more information, visit: <https://business.tompkinschamber.org/events/details/government-community-affairs-roundtable-193067>

MAY 15

■ **Spring Networking Event: Fisher Women in Family Business** from 4:30-7 p.m. at Innovation Square, 100-140 South Clinton Ave., Rochester. Enjoy networking with other women in family firms, food/drinks from women-led family firms, a talk from Lauren Gallina Payne on her family business journey and a (condensed) tour

of her family's extraordinary property. Music will be provided by Innovation Square Eastman School resident students. More information is available at: <https://www.sjf.edu/news-and-events/news-archive/spring-2024/networking-event-at-innovation-square/>. You can register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-networking-event-fisher-women-in-family-business-tickets-868539925297>

MAY 16

■ **2024 Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce Businessperson of the Year** award event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Delta Hotel by Marriott, 200 Genesee St., Utica.

This year, the chamber is proud to honor Eve Van de Wal, regional president of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield's Utica region as its 2024 Businessperson of the Year. At the event, you'll enjoy food stations, a variety of wine and beer, entertainment, and a special presentation honoring Eve. For more information and to register, visit: <https://greateruticachamberofcommerce.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/GrZdQv3P?mode=Attendee>

■ **CNYSME Connections & Brews** event from 4-6:30 p.m. at Meier's Creek Inner Harbor, 720 Van Rensselaer St. Syracuse. Unwind with a cold one while making connections in a laid-back atmosphere. This event is perfect for expanding your circle over a pint. No charge for Central New York Sales & Marketing Executives (CNYSME) members; it's \$5 for non-members. For more

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19 ▶

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PEOPLE ON THE MOVE NEWS

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Effective with the June 3 issue, People on the Move entries will no longer be available free of charge. After that time, entries will be available at a cost of \$99 per person.

The Central New York Business Journal made these entries available for free long after other business journals and similar publications began charging for them. However, the economic realities of the publishing business make that approach no longer feasible. After much deliberation, we arrived at a rate that we believe is fair, accessible to firms across all industries and sizes, and amounts to half — or even less than half — of comparable publications in the region.

We believe that the new approach represents a sustainable model that allows us to continue offering a platform for area organizations to proudly announce their new hires and rising stars. The new-format will be easy to use by providing users with an online submission form. It will also allow for more user discretion in what can be contained in the entries, and more of a presence on our digital platforms.

Marny Nesher
President

BANKING

CASSANDRA GEHRIG has been named first VP of marketing at Pathfinder Bank. She will continue leading all marketing efforts, spanning traditional and digital channels, public relations, and brand content. Gehrig's primary objective is to develop and execute impactful strategies that help drive growth through enhanced customer acquisition, engagement, and retention. Additionally, in this expanded role, she will emphasize a focus on customer experience, reinforcing the brand, and ensuring strategic alignment across various bank wide projects and initiatives. Since joining Pathfinder Bank in 2012, Gehrig has continuously advanced her career and showcased her skills within the organization, including positions within the branch network, lending, and various roles within the marketing department. In 2020, Gehrig was promoted to VP, marketing manager and held that title up until this promotion. Gehrig is



Gehrig

a graduate of SUNY Oswego, holding a bachelor's degree in marketing, with a minor in economics. Active in her community, Gehrig serves as a chair of the board for the Greater Oswego Fulton Chamber of Commerce and is an active member of the Promotions and Tourism Advisory Board of Oswego.

GOVERNMENT

KATE AUWAERTER has been appointed preservation planner in the Syracuse Office of Zoning Administration in the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development (NBD). Auwaerter will be responsible for managing the implementation of the city's preservation program, establishing preservation-planning priorities, and providing oversight on historic preservation efforts. She will also provide professional staff assistance to the Syracuse Landmark Preservation Board and administer the city's certified local government program. Auwaerter most recently served



Auwaerter

as both the city's preservation planner and public art coordinator for the last 15 years. With the establishment of the Office of Zoning Administration, which moved from the joint Syracuse-Onondaga County Planning Agency (SOCPA) to NBD in July 2023, the preservation-planner role was established as a full-time position. The city is currently in the process of hiring a new public art coordinator. Auwaerter has more than 25 years of experience in historic preservation and planning related fields in the private, nonprofit, and public sectors. Her work includes positions at the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the New York Main Street Alliance, the Downtown Committee of Syracuse, and the Center for Community Design Research at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). Auwaerter received her master's degree in historic preservation planning from Cornell University and her bachelor's degree in history from Oberlin College. She serves as president and board member of the Thornden Park Association and board member of the Syracuse Parks Conservancy. ■

BIDEN:

Continued from page 3

agreements (PLAs) at both the New York and Idaho sites for construction of new fabrication facilities. Both PLAs are the "largest in each state's history," per the White House fact sheet.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul; Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon; U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.); and Micron's Mehrotra spoke to the gathering ahead of Biden.

Workforce hub

Besides Syracuse, Biden also announced hubs for Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Detroit and Lansing, Michigan.

The hubs complement five existing workforce hubs, including those in Phoenix, Arizona, and Columbus, Ohio that have supported new semiconductor training programs, per a White House

fact sheet about Biden's visit to Syracuse. These hubs seek to leverage and develop partnerships between companies, educational institutions, and labor unions on workforce development.

"And I know that Micron is also partnering with American Federation of Teachers to develop technology curricula for high schools in New York State," the president said in his remarks at the MOST.

First Lady Jill Biden in 2023 announced the first five workforce hubs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; Baltimore, Maryland; Columbus, Ohio; and Augusta, Georgia.

"Thousands of workers will be training in these facilities," Biden said.

Federal officials first discussed the announcement of Syracuse as a workforce hub during an April 24 press call with reporters in New York and Idaho ahead of the president's visit to Syracuse.

"I worked with the Biden Administration to make Syracuse one of only a handful of locations around the country designated as

a workforce hub, and that's going to help deliver assistance to companies, educational institutions, labor unions ... to build a pipeline of workers to fill the thousands of good-paying jobs being created," U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), said in the press call. "It's one of the reasons that Micron was excited to come to Syracuse ... they knew they'd

have a good labor supply. The workforce hub designation will build on the major efforts Micron is already undertaking on its own to train a new generation of workers."

Schumer went on to say, "Major funding from [the] CHIPS announcement will help support these workforce efforts and highlight Micron's leadership in investing in workers in the entire region." ■

CALENDAR:

Continued from page 18

information and to register, visit: <https://cnysme.org/events>.

MAY 21

■ **Tompkins Chamber Women in Business Roundtable** from 3-4:30 p.m. Join the chamber for its second Women in Business Roundtable of the year. Attendees can expect peer mentorship, networking, beverages, and snacks in a supportive environment. For more information, visit: <https://business.tompkinschamber.org/events/details/women-in-business-roundtable-193109>

MAY 22

■ **Mohawk Valley GEAR Awards** from 5-8 p.m. at Beeches Manor in Rome. The event, presented by the CNY Business Journal


and BizEventz, recognizes companies that are integral to the growth, energy, and revitalization of the Mohawk Valley region. This year's honorees are: Delorio's, Holland Farms Bakery & Deli, Human Technologies, and Kris-Tech Wire. For more information and to buy tickets, visit: <https://www.cnybj.com/2024-mohawk-valley-gear-awards/>

MAY 31

■ **May FOCUS Forum: Onondaga County Legislators** Online Zoom from 12:05-1 p.m. Meet the newest members of the Onondaga County Legislature. During this free, virtual FOCUS Forum, panelists will introduce themselves and explain why they chose to run for office and discuss their top priorities. A moderated Q&A session will follow the panelists' introductions. For more information and to register, visit: <https://www.focussyracuse.org/may-focus-forum-onondaga-county-legislature/>

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