



NFL draft comes into focus after free agency

SPORTS, 1B



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Report: Volunteer firefighters save New York \$4.7 billion



Yonkers firefighters and mutual aid companies battle a 4-alarm fire at 671 Bronx River Road on March 8. MARK VERGARI/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Organization cites overall force of 80K across the state

Steve Lieberman
Rockland/Westchester Journal News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Rockland volunteer firefighters respond to fires and other emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week at all hours. They enter burning buildings and respond in all types of weather: freezing cold, oppressive heat, rain and snow.

They don't get paid or receive many benefits for their public service.

Rockland's estimated 1,900 active firefighters are part of an 80,000 force of volunteers across New York state that

saves taxpayers an estimated \$4.7 billion annually, according to an economic study released by the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, known as FASNY.

Outside of paid firefighters in cities and urban areas, volunteer firefighters make up nearly 93% of the fire responders who protect life and property across the state, according to FASNY. Rockland volunteers answer an estimated 9,000 calls a year.

"This report underscores the importance and value of the volunteer firefighting service to New York," FASNY

President Edward Tase Jr. said. "Without the dedication and service of the brave volunteers throughout the state, local taxpayers would face a significant financial burden to fund the type of emergency response they are accustomed to."

In Rockland, the volunteer firefighters save taxpayers an estimated \$50 to \$60 million annually, Rockland Fire and Emergency Services Coordinator Chris Kear said, adding that too many variables are involved with a paid

See **FIREFIGHTERS**, Page 5A



In Endicott, the site of the former Red Carpet Inn across from En-Joie Golf Course, has generated interest among developers. FILE

Proposals to redevelop Red Carpet Inn in Endicott

Chris Potter
Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

For Town of Union officials, redevelopment of the former Red Carpet Inn at 749 West Main St. should be a hole-in-one.

The property sits across the street from the En-Joie Golf Course, which attracts thousands of annual visitors and hosts the Dick's Sporting Goods Open in June. The motel, though, fell into disrepair and has been shuttered for years.

Now, momentum is building to make the property a community asset once again.

"There seems to be a lot of interest," said Town of Union Economic Development Director Joseph Moody. "It's a good location. Given the big golf tournament we have right next door and the gem that is for our community, we need to see something nice there."

Here's what we know about where development proposals currently stand.

What developers have proposed for the property

The old Red Carpet Inn was purchased by Rakesh Shroff of OM Shirdi Sai LLC in late 2019 for \$325,000. Shroff, who owns a motel in New Jersey, initially intended to restore the Inn to its former glory. A model room was even constructed on the first floor, but the COVID-19 pandemic impacted that plan and possibly opened the door to a new developer.

Moody said the property has attracted several potential suitors. Two advanced far enough for the town to schedule public hearings to seek Restore New York funding in support of redevelopment. The deals fell apart before the town applied for grant money, but the town did learn what developers have in mind for the property.

Both proposals intended to utilize the property for market rate housing rather than a motel. Each plan called for transforming the Red Carpet Inn's 61 rooms into 36 to 40 one- and two-bedroom apartment units, Moody said, though one of the developers also considered razing the two-story building and starting fresh with a new structure.

A vacant restaurant next door to the

See **RED CARPET INN**, Page 3A

Greene, McCarthy pull closer to rioters

Lisa Mascaro
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene swept into the District of Columbia jail to check on conditions for the Jan. 6 defendants, with Republican lawmakers handshaking and high-fiving the prisoners, who chanted "Let's Go Brandon!" – a coded vulgarity against President Joe Biden – as the group left.

A day earlier Speaker Kevin McCarthy met with the mother of slain rioter Ashli Babbitt, an Air Force veteran who was shot and killed by police as she tried to climb through a broken window during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

And the House Republican leader recently gave Fox News' Tucker Carlson exclusive access to a trove of Jan. 6 surveillance tapes despite the conservative commentator's airing of conspiracy theories about the Capitol attack.

See **JAN. 6**, Page 3A



The tour Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene led at the D.C. jail Friday comes as nearly 1,000 people have been charged by the Justice Department in the attack on the Capitol – leaders of the extremist Oath Keepers convicted of seditious conspiracy. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP FILE

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