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NEWS, 7A

# The Journal News

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## NY board makes appeal to Blakeman matching funds ruling

Emily Barnes  
New York State Team  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The state's Public Campaign Financing Board has appealed a ruling that would give Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman time to right his matching funds program wrongs after winning his case against them earlier this week.

In March, PCFB members determined Blakeman, along with five other candidates, were not eligible to receive additional public matching funding for their campaigns due to a paperwork error. In Blakeman's case, board members said his running mate, Madison County Sheriff Todd Hood, did not file his own paperwork applying for matching funds.

On Tuesday, May 12, an Albany County Supreme Court judge reversed Blakeman's ineligibility to participate in the state's matching campaign funds program. The judge ruled the board did not notify Blakeman's campaign of the need for his running mate to separately apply for the program or give him time to make necessary corrections.

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## Judge sentences Ossining home burglar with prior convictions

Jonathan Bandler  
Rockland/Westchester Journal News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A parolee who burglarized an Ossining home last year in a distinctive two-tone jacket that he was still wearing a short time later when police arrested him was sentenced to 20 years to life in prison.

Westchester Judge Robert Prisco imposed the prison term requested by prosecutors for Lorenzo Chambers on May 12, after calling the evidence against him "overwhelming" and rejecting Chambers' continued insistence that police got the wrong man.

He said that Chambers' has repeatedly violated the right of people to feel secure in their homes, entering unlawfully to steal from them even though they might be home.

### What happened on Feb. 12, 2025?

On the evening of Feb. 12, 2025, Chambers climbed through a living-room window of a home on South

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Jawonio CEO Randi Rios-Castro, center left, and Maureen O'Brien, president of New York Industries for the Disabled, Inc., cut the ribbon to launch H.E.A.R.T. Food Pantry that helps frontline staff and individuals experiencing food insecurity at Jawonio in New City on May 14. PHOTOS BY TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

## Employer starts food pantry to assist staff

### Jawonio pay set by state often lags entry-level jobs

Nancy Cutler  
Rockland/Westchester Journal News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEW CITY – People with disabilities and the front-line direct care workers who support them often struggle on the margins. Jawonio, which serves one group and employs the other, has launched a food pantry as one way to help.

On May 14, the nonprofit opened the H.E.A.R.T. Food Pantry – it stands for Helping Employees and Individuals Access Resources Together – officially launched.

The pantry at Jawonio's main campus in New City will offer twice-monthly non-perishable food distributions.

Albany-based New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. secured grant money for the pantry from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation. NYSID then selected Jawonio as a site for the pantry.

The pantry is being run by Jawonio's pre-vocational program, so it will provide the added benefit of job and skills training.

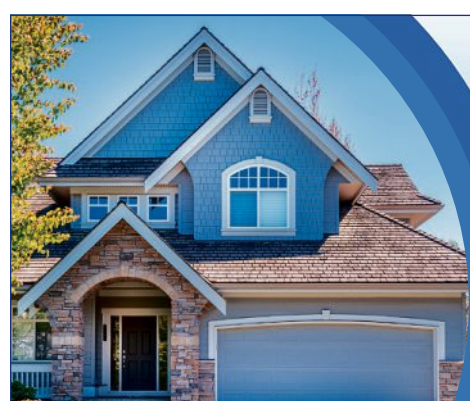
### Low wages, set by state, plague the job

Low pay has been an ongoing frustration for workers in nonprofits that serve people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

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Direct support professional Ronald Roberty, right, helps Eric Perez, a participant in Jawonio day services, pack his bag at the newly launched food pantry that was created to help Jawonio's DSP workers and individuals who receive services at its main campus in New City.



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