



## Briarcliff wins in decisive fashion in Class B quarters

SPORTS, 1B

# The Journal News

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## Trump to be in Rockland

### He will appear at an event with Rep. Mike Lawler on May 22

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President Donald Trump is scheduled to appear with Rep. Mike Lawler, R-N.Y., in Rockland County on Friday, May 22.

The event is expected to focus on federal tax cuts in

a competitive House district Republicans are working to hold in November's midterm elections.

The White House recently released additional details about the visit, including the location and event schedule.

### Where is Trump's Rockland County event?

According to an RSVP link distributed by the White House, the event will be held at the Eugene Levy

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President Donald Trump signs a cap during the Congressional Picnic at the White House in Washington, DC, on May 19. ERIC LEE/REUTERS



## Plan to say yes to housing honored

### New Rochelle shares prize with TN city

**Thomas C. Zambito**  
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New Rochelle's plan to tackle its housing crisis by speeding up project approvals, a strategy that created 4,500 homes in six years, has been recognized by a national housing affordability group.

The city shared an Ivory Prize for its zoning and permitting innovations with Chattanooga, Tennessee in the Utah-based Ivory Innovations' policy category.

A decade ago, New Rochelle embraced a streamlined process that reduced approval timelines to 90 days for housing projects that had already cleared building codes.

The effort not only generated more affordable housing but stabilized rents and established New Rochelle as one of the state's fastest growing cities, according to Ivory.

Median rents rose by 1.6% since 2020 compared to 25% in surrounding communi-

ties. And between 2020 and 2023, rents fell by around 2%, far better than the national average.

Thousands of new apartments have been built downtown, about 10% considered affordable and 70% at the area's median income.

"We've approached the housing crisis with urgency and intention — demonstrating that forward-looking tools can increase supply, stabilize costs, and strengthen communities...," Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert said. "This recognition affirms that progress, and reinforces our commitment to deepening affordability and expanding pathways to homeownership."

### How New Rochelle's revival unfolded

The revival began more than a decade ago when the city recognized its downtown area was an underutilized asset, according to Adam Salgado, the city's development commissioner. Storefronts were vacant and parking lots empty since there were few places to go in a downtown once considered

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**TOP:** New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert embraces Joan McDonald, the deputy Westchester County executive, after Gov. Kathy Hochul announced that the state will contribute \$16 million to the LINC, New Rochelle's project to transform Memorial Highway from a six-lane thoroughfare into a local street and linear park Feb. 18. That day Hochul also toured Stella, one of the new housing developments downtown, as she touted her "Let Them Build" proposal to streamline approvals for lower cost housing.

SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS

## Defense in dog's death claims man misidentified

**Jonathan Bandler**  
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It was a moment of shockingly random violence. After stopping to fawn over an adorable, 12-pound Shih Tzu named Sisi on Manhattan Avenue in Greenburgh, a man grabbed the dog by the neck and hurled her into the street, killing her as the owner could only look on in horror.

That was the account of the dog's owner, Edison Prieto, gave on Monday, May 18, as the animal cruelty trial of Cory Eulin got underway in Westchester County Court.

"Cory had no justifiable reason for doing this," Assistant District Attorney Alexander Shapiro told the jury in his opening statement. "Sisi wasn't growling at him. She wasn't barking at him, wasn't trying to bite him or showing her teeth, or acting aggressive in any manner."

But the defense insists that Prieto's identification of Eulin moments after the killing to responding police officers - and from the witness stand Monday - was tainted by the cops' suggestiveness.

"A dog was killed; and it's a terrible thing," defense

lawyer Angelo MacDonald told the jury. "Animals are like a member of the family. I get it. But you know what's worse than the killing of an animal, or of this particular animal? It's convicting the wrong person."

**Angelo MacDonald**  
Defense lawyer

the wrong person."

Prieto said his canine companion of 12 years was a constant presence in his life, even at work where he brought her every day and his colleagues called her his boss.

"Sisi was my best friend," he told Shapiro, choking up moments later as the prosecutor asked him to identify a picture of the dog. "It breaks my heart seeing her at all."

Prieto said he had finished his construction job the afternoon of Dec. 19, 2024, and was going to visit his mother when he stopped first to walk the dog on Manhattan Avenue.

He said he saw two men laughing across the street when one of them crossed toward him and bent down to talk with Sisi. Less than a minute later, Prieto said, he started to walk away with Sisi when the man turned around, grabbed the dog by the back of the neck and hurled her to the pavement.

Prieto said he cradled Sisi, who was not breathing and bleeding from the mouth and nose, and shouted at the attacker, asking him why he would do such a thing.

The man then made a fist and swung at him, missing as Prieto backed away from the punch.

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