



Eddie
Murphy
talks life,
living in
the now

INSIDE, 5A

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025 | UTICAOD.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

SUNY grad brings
fried chicken to Utica

Cara Dolan Berry
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

“The best fried chicken ever! 100% Dominicano.” So says the copy in the logo for “Equis Pica Pollo,” a simple concept – a small but welcoming, bustling and bright cafeteria-style restaurant serving Dominican fried chicken, sides and sweets in the Caribbean/Latino neighborhoods of historic Northeast cities.

The 18th Equis Pica Pollo – meaning in English, essentially, “just delicious Spanish chicken,” cut the ribbon Nov. 12 to grand open its doors in the foodie-fete that is the ethnically diverse small city of Utica. “Eventually, we were going to bring one here. I was always going to bring one here,” Aneury Tamrez said of opening an Equis Pica Pollo on the corner of Mohawk and Eagle streets in the Corn Hill neighborhood, which he now calls home.

The creation myth
of Equis Pica Pollo

The relatively young endeavor was embarked upon by a trio of Dominican American “almost like brothers” entrepreneurs who grew up together in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Carlos Rijo worked to make his vision of opening a Dominican-style fried chicken digs a reality when he opened his first Equis

See RESTAURANT, Page 4A

What to know as
hunting season starts



Michigan gun deer season starts for 16 days beginning on Nov. 15. PROVIDED BY MICHIGAN DNR

Casey Pritchard
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Mohawk Valley hunters will be hitting the woods starting Nov. 15 as regular game season kicks off and the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office is urging hunters to practice safe hunting. “Hunting season is a tradition enjoyed by many residents and visitors in our region,” Oneida County Sheriff’s Office officials said in a statement. “Please remember to follow all laws and best practices to ensure a safe and successful season for everyone.” The regular hunting season for deer and bear runs through Dec. 7 in the Southern Zone, which encompasses Utica and much of the Mohawk Valley. The season started Oct. 25 in the Northern Zone, which borders the city of Rome and Rt. 49 to its west and Rt. 365 to the east.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Amanda Lefton said in a press release that this is the state’s most popular big-game hunting season. “This November, hundreds of thousands of big game hunters will head afield to enjoy the outdoors and a chance to harvest deer or bear in New York’s Southern Zone,” said Lefton. “As stewards of hunting traditions and New York’s deer population, all hunters should keep their conservation responsibilities as a top priority while enjoying

time afield. “Foremost among these responsibilities are following safe hunting practices and protecting the health of New York State’s deer population by harvesting antlerless deer and preventing the spread of deer diseases such as (chronic wasting disease).”

Safety tips for NY hunters

The Oneida County Sheriff’s Office published the following list with safety tips for hunters going out into the field. • Tell someone where you will be hunting and put hunting plans in writing, including dates, times, location,

See HUNTING, Page 2A

Early
holiday
weather
forecast

Cara Dolan Berry
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Thanksgiving Day weather forecast for the Mohawk Valley ranges from mild to cool to chilly temperatures, with clear – maybe sunny – skies in some regions, and rain showers in others, but free from snow, according to The Farmers Almanac. As for the lead-up to the day that all but officially kicks off the 2025 holiday season, Central New York weather is predicted by The Farmers Almanac to be what upstaters rely on it being this time of year, all over the thermometer. Expect milder temps mixed with sun and rain through mid-week until Nov. 18. From Nov. 19 through Thanksgiving Eve, expect a warmer-than-average forecast but rain showers should make for a wet week.

See WEATHER, Page 2A

IKEA sets
opening
date for first
Upstate
NY store

Emily Barnes
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Upstate New York IKEA lovers won’t have to wait much longer as the big day is almost here – Syracuse’s store will open later this month. The new Destiny USA location will host its grand opening on Nov. 21, the company announced Nov. 12. It’s the third store to open in New York and the first in upstate. “As we continue to grow in the U.S., we’re thrilled to bring the IKEA experience to the community in Central New York,” says Javier Quiñones, CEO and chief sustainability officer of IKEA U.S. “IKEA Syracuse reflects our commitment to meeting customers where they are, and offering smart, affordable solutions that make everyday life better.” The grand opening of Syracuse’s IKEA store will start at 9:45 a.m., according to the company’s news release, and customers can begin lining up at 7 a.m. “We’re excited to celebrate the opening of IKEA Syracuse with the Central New York community,” Unit Manager at IKEA Syracuse John Spence said. “Whether you’re looking to furnish your first apartment, upgrade your kitchen or simply enjoy some Swedish meatballs,

See IKEA, Page 2A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to uticaod.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 209 | No. 270
To subscribe 315-797-9150
Thank you.
©2025

\$2.99

