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— Karen M., Caregiver for her 82-year-old mother



“The alert may have saved his life” — Terry M

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People held signs of support, called for legislative change at the state level and chanted slogans like “drunk is not consent” at an Oct. 13 rally in Ithaca.

HUNDREDS RALLY TO BACK JANE DOE

Ithaca event sign of solidarity with former Cornell student

Jillian McCarthy Ithaca Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

In the middle of Ithaca Commons, hundreds of people gathered to rally in support of Jane Doe, the former Cornell student suing the university and seven members of the Chi Phi fraternity for an alleged gang rape. • With onlookers hanging on every word, a letter reportedly from Jane Doe herself was read to the crowd. She thanked those protesting for “turning belief into action.” • “Please continue to make your voice heard with conviction, compassion and peace,” she wrote.

The rally was held on Oct. 13, just over a week after a student protest brought thousands to the heart of the Ivy League campus. Organizers included high profile victims of sexual assault – Jess Michaels, who has alleged she was sexually abused by Jeffrey Epstein in 1991, and Alva Johnson, a former campaign staffer for President Donald Trump who filed a lawsuit in 2019 alleging sexual misconduct. Most of the people participating in the rally wore red – in addition to being Cornell University’s signature hue, lead organizer and advocate Finley Muratova said it is Jane Doe’s favorite color.

See RALLY, Page 7A



Ithaca rally organizers said thousands of handwritten letters were collected and would be sent to Jane Doe through her attorney.



A group of women led the crowd in a group scream at an Oct. 13 rally in Ithaca while holding signs with the names of the seven men who have been accused by Jane Doe. PHOTOS BY JILLIAN MCCARTHY/PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

Social Security benefits to increase

Beneficiaries will receive a 3.6% COLA in 2027

Victoria E. Freile
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

The figures are in: Millions of Americans will receive larger monthly Social Security payments next year. The Social Security Administration announced Oct. 14 that Social Security beneficiaries will receive a 3.6% cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, in 2027. The increase will affect more than 76 million retirees, disabled workers and other beneficiaries. The adjustment is the largest in four years and the biggest since the 8.7% increase announced in 2022 for 2023, when inflation reached a 40-year high. Annual COLAs are designed to help beneficiaries, most of whom are seniors, keep pace with inflation and maintain their purchasing power.

What is the Social Security COLA for 2027?

The Social Security Administration announced a 3.6% COLA for 2027. The increase applies to Social Security retirement, survivor and disability benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income payments.

See **BENEFITS**, Page 6A

Animal abuse registry is approved by Monroe panel

Kerria Weaver
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

Monroe County will soon launch an animal abuse registry after the Monroe County Legislature approved the proposal on Oct. 13. The proposal for a registry comes after the Ontario County Board of Supervisors approved an animal abuse registry on July 16. The New York State Humane Society shows that slightly more than half of the state’s 62 counties have such laws. The registry would identify individuals residing in Monroe County convicted of animal abuse crimes that prevent them from adopting or purchasing pets. A person’s name, address, date of birth and a photograph will be included on the registry. Individuals who have committed crimes such as poisoning, stealing, abandoning or torturing an animal will be required to register. They will remain on the animal abuse registry for

See **REGISTRY**, Page 6A

