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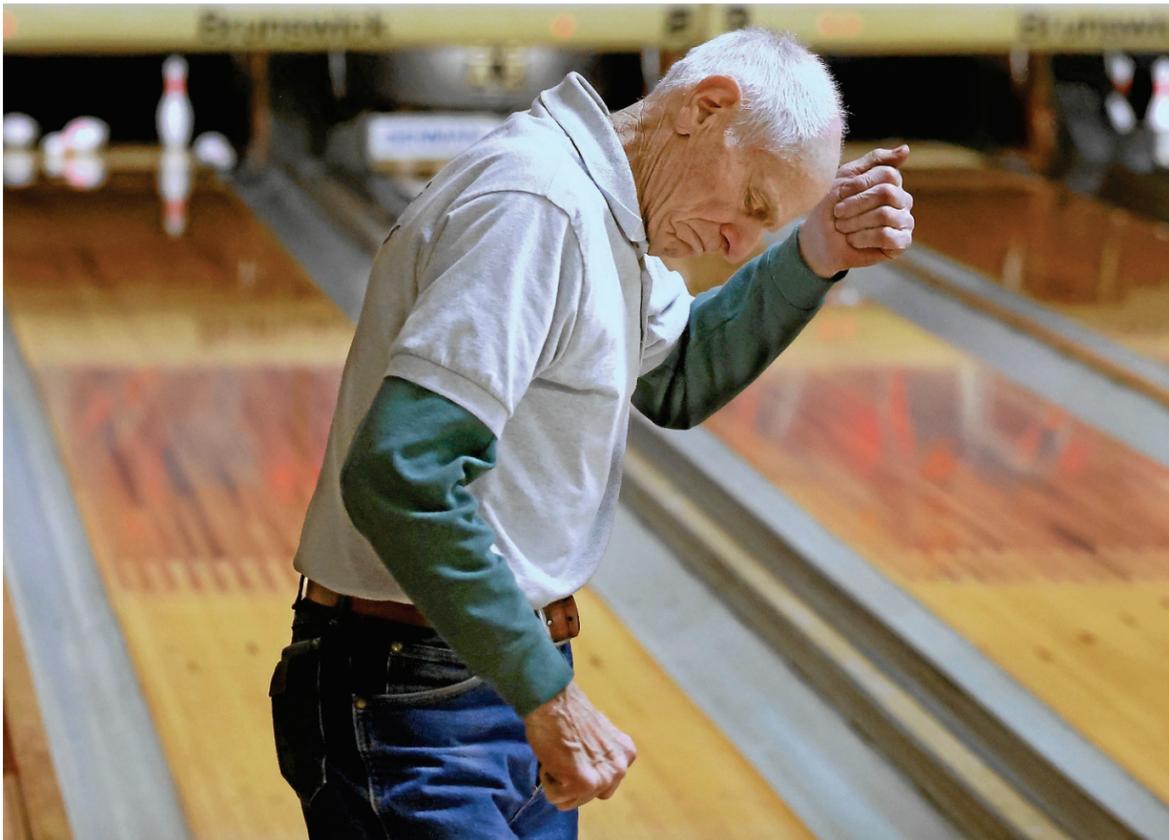
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Thursday, February 12, 2026

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RECREATION

LOSING ITS SHINE



KEVIN RIVOLI, THE CITIZEN

Norm Vaill, 81, leaves one pin standing during the Monday night men's league at the King Ferry Bowling Center Feb. 2. Vaill has bowled in the league for the past 47 years.

How losing three alleys in five years has affected Cayuga County-area bowling

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Decades ago, the sound of bowling balls crashing into pins echoed throughout the Cayuga County area on a regular basis.

Going back to the 1950s, the area was home to nearly a dozen bowling alleys. But in the last five years, three of its five remaining alleys — Starlite Lanes, Falcon Lanes

and Cedar House Lanes — have closed their doors. That leaves none in the Auburn area, and the only two in the greater county area still standing are Rainbow Lanes in Weedsport and the King Ferry Bowling Center.

In the wake of the closures, The Citizen spoke to several area bowlers and the owners of the two remaining local alleys about how

their sport has changed — and what its future holds.

'Integral part of my life'

Jim Vivencio Jr. grew up doing just about every job possible at a bowling alley. His father owned Cayuga Lanes on Grant Avenue in Auburn from 1962 to 1970.

Please see **BOWLING**, Page A2

GOVERNMENT

Election winner claims bullying

Locke supervisor-elect did not assume office

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In November, Karynn Kilts won the election for Locke town supervisor by 11 votes — but she never took office.

Before the start of the new year, the Locke town board appointed Thane Benson, whom Kilts defeated, to continue serving as supervisor. His appointment took effect on Jan. 1, when Kilts would've been sworn in.

A letter obtained by The Citizen reveals why Kilts did not take the job.

"While it was my intention to assume the responsibilities of this office, ever since winning the election I have been faced with intimidation, excessive and persistent phone calls, and conduct that I consider to be bullying," Kilts said. "After careful consideration of these circumstances and the current environment, I have concluded that it is in my best interest, and that of my family, not to assume the office."

Kilts' letter does not contain any more details about the alleged bullying she endured.

The Citizen learned of the situation when it received a letter from Diane Williams-Altman, a town of Locke resident. In her letter, she wrote that Kilts began receiving calls urging her to resign after the election and community members "expressed concern for her personal safety if she were to take office."

Williams-Altman said Kilts was invited to a meet-and-greet with the new town board. However, she said Kilts was "ambushed by current and newly elected board members pressuring her to step aside. One board member even stated that the town board

Please see **BULLYING**, Page A6

JOURNALISM

Rivoli wins Photographer of the Year for eighth time

THE CITIZEN STAFF

The Citizen photographer Kevin Rivoli has been named a National Press Photographers Association Photographer of the Year for the eighth time.

Rivoli previously won the honor in 1989, 1991, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022 and 2023, all while working for The Citizen.

While his previous wins came in the New York/international region, his latest comes in an expanded East Region that also includes New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and several more Mid-Atlantic states.

Rivoli competed in the association's monthly news photography contest, which is one of the most popular and longest-standing of its member contests. Open to association members, it provides still photographers with an opportunity to share their published work and compete against some of the best photographers in their region each month. A photographer must impress

as many as a dozen different panels of judges over the course of a year to be named a regional Photographer of the Year. The competition features seven categories — Spot News, General News, Sports Action, Sports Feature, Single Picture Feature, Photo Story/Essay and Portrait/Illustration — and eight regions.

Rivoli started his career in photojournalism as a staff photographer at The Citizen in October 1988. He left in 1996 to work for newspapers, magazines and news wire services, including The Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, The Syracuse Post-Standard, The New York Times, USA Today, Sports Illustrated and the Associated Press.

In 2008, Rivoli published his first book, "In Search of Norman Rockwell's America" (Simon and Schuster). Rivoli returned to The Citizen in October 2016 as a staff photographer covering daily life in Auburn and the surrounding towns and villages in the Cayuga County area.



KEVIN RIVOLI, THE CITIZEN

Multiple departments battle a two-alarm house fire on County Line Road in the town of Skaneateles on Jan. 20.

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