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TIMES HERALD-RECORD

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Into the tick of it

New York's tick season could be the worst yet

Victoria E. Freile

New York Connect Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

Gear up, New Yorkers. This year's tick season could be among the worst, according to federal and state experts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Tick Bite Data Tracker, which uses real-time emergency room surveillance, shows weekly tick-bite ER visits are greater than historic averages in every U.S. region except the South Central states, with the Northeast recording the highest levels so far in 2026.

During the fourth week of April, about 114 out of every 100,000 emergency department visits nationwide were for tick bites, the highest rate for this point in the year since at least 2017, the CDC said. Nationally, the agency estimates around 31 million people are bitten by ticks each year, and roughly 476,000 Americans are treated annually for Lyme disease, the most common

tick-borne illness.

"Tick season is here and these tiny biters can make you seriously sick," said Dr. Alison Hinckley, epidemiologist and Lyme disease expert with CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases. "That means ticks are out and people are getting bitten, so now is the time for people to take steps to protect themselves and their loved ones."

"As the weather warms up and we get outside, it's important to remember, ticks live here too, and to them, we are a food source," said New York's Health Commissioner Dr. James McDonald.

Ticks can be found in many areas across New York. Although ticks are still active in cooler temperatures, spring and approaching higher temperatures increase the likelihood of exposure. Bites from an infected tick can transmit several diseases, including Lyme disease, the most commonly reported tick-borne disease within New York.

Over the last three years, New York averaged more than 17,500 new cases of Lyme disease each year, with nearly 19,000 cases reported in 2024 alone. Between 2024 and 2025 the number of ticks submitted to the

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An adult female American dog tick found in Middle Tennessee. The tick can spread diseases such as Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tularemia and Ehrlichiosis according to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania.

MAIN: DENNY SIMMONS/THE TENNESSEAN; TOP: GETTY IMAGES

Man gets prison for stabbing relative

Mike Randall

Middletown Times Herald-Record
USA TODAY NETWORK

A New Windsor man who previously pleaded guilty to attempted assault in the stabbing of a relative was sentenced May 12 in Orange County Court to 10 years in state prison and five years of post-release supervision.

Orange County District Attorney David Hoovler announced the sentence for Khiyan Bascus, 23, of New Windsor.

Bascus pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree assault, a felony.

According to Hoovler, it was alleged in documents filed and statements made in court that at approximately 9:10 a.m. on Jan. 2, 2025, a relative of Bascus was asleep at a residence in the Town of New

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Marist U to break ground on science hub

Nickie Hayes

Poughkeepsie Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Marist University is investing \$100 million into a new science and health initiative, including plans for a state-of-the-art 100,000-square-foot facility on campus connected to the previous Allied Health facility.

Marist made the announcement on May 12 and has hopes of a fall 2026 groundbreaking and future opening during the 2028-2029 academic year. The university is working with town leaders and planning officials on the required approvals.

The university stated this is its long-term plan to address a growing societal and workforce need for scientists and health care leaders.

The goals are to strengthen the university's existing program and launch new fields of study, invest in modern

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