



SPORTS
Albany, arena snubbed as MAAC tourney to remain in Atlantic City. **B1**



STATE
Poll finds Hochul with commanding 54%-to-28% lead over Blakeman. **A3**

REGION
Documents detail link between Epstein, Union College trustee. **C1**

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Albany Law student alleges discrimination in suit

School and professor accused of retaliation after complaint filed

By **Brendan J. Lyons**
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — An Albany Law School student has filed a federal lawsuit against the school alleging he faced retaliation when administrators took steps to formally discipline him after he accused a Black professor of directing racist remarks at him for appearing to be a “white conservative.”

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Albany on behalf of Rowland A. Rupp IV, claims the student became the target of a retaliatory disciplinary proceeding after he dropped out of the law professor’s class and immediately reported his “unprofessional conduct” to school administrators. Rupp, whose father is an attorney in Erie County, has also filed two relat-

ed civil actions in state Supreme Court in Albany — one alleging the school violated his due process rights in a disciplinary investigation, and another accusing the professor, Anthony Farley, of defamation. The latter complaint cites social media posts Farley allegedly published within hours of an incident that took place in a law school classroom 13 months ago. The federal complaint alleges that Farley engaged in “racially discriminatory conduct toward

Mr. Rupp as a white student” and that Albany Law School administrators subsequently retaliated against Rupp for complaining about that conduct. It also alleges the school “selectively enforced its policies in a manner that favored professor Farley and disadvantaged Mr. Rupp.” The alleged incident unfolded on Jan. 13, 2025, when Rupp, then a second-year student at Albany Law, was attending the first session of Farley’s *See LAWSUIT, A4*



Lori Van Buren/Times Union

Lawsuits accuse Albany Law School and a Black professor of retaliation after a “white conservative” student filed a complaint alleging he was singled out in class.



Vianney Thibaut/NordicFocus

Lake Placid’s Tate Frantz competes during the FIS World Cup on Jan. 25 in Oberstdorf, Germany. Frantz was selected to represent the U.S. Olympic Ski Jumping Team at the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics.

Lake Placid jumper set to soar at Olympics

Frantz fulfills childhood dream with U.S. team



PAUL GRONDAHL
COMMENTARY

Ever since he built snow ramps as a little kid to do flips off the deck of his house, Tate Frantz dreamed of being an Olympian. His quest has been to fly faster, farther, better. He hurtles through the air at 70 mph, defying gravity for 7 seconds, covering a staggering distance of 2½ football fields before returning to terra firma with gracefully flexed knees and out-



Marcin Golba/NurPhoto via Getty Images

Frantz finished last season as the world’s No. 22 ski jumper and collected the most World Cup points in a single season of any U.S. man ever.

stretched arms. At 6-foot-1 and 138 pounds, he’s a rocketing exclamation point, a fever dream in a skin-tight microfiber suit soaring like

a winged creature. Two weeks ago, Frantz got the call he’s been hoping to hear for his whole life. He was selected to represent the U.S. Olympic Ski Jumping Team at the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics. The opening ceremony is on Friday. “Getting that call was the best feeling in the world,” Frantz, 20, told me from Lillehammer, Norway, where he trains with a Norwegian coach. “Competing in the Olympics was something I wanted more than anything else,” he said. “How friggin’ cool is this?” Frantz was one of three men and three women who qualified for the American ski jumping team. An Olympic rookie, *See GRONDAHL, A3*

Trump signs bill to end partial shutdown

Attention turns to Homeland Security funding after ICE killings

By **Kevin Freking**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed a roughly \$1.2 trillion government funding bill Tuesday that ends the partial federal shutdown that began over the weekend and sets the stage for an intense debate in Congress over Homeland Security funding. The president moved quickly to sign the bill after the House approved it with a 217-214 vote. “This bill is a great victory for the American people,” Trump said. The vote Tuesday wrapped up congressional work on 11 annual appropriations bills that fund government agencies and programs through Sept. 30. Trump has said he will sign the bill when it reaches his desk, ending the partial government shutdown that began Saturday. Passage of the legislation marked the end point for one funding fight, but the start of another. That’s because the package only funds the Department of Homeland Security for two weeks, through Feb 13, at the behest of Democrats who are demanding more restrictions on immigration enforcement after the shooting deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good by federal officers in Minneapolis. *See ENDS, A5*



Rod Lamkey/Associated Press

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., left, talks with Rep. Christian Menefee, D-Texas, right, during a ceremonial swearing-in at the Capitol, Monday, in Washington.

County, city skirt conflict over redevelopment project

By **Patrick Tine**
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — A conflict between the city and county of Albany and their respective public-private development arms over tens of millions of dollars in development funds for the Avila Retirement Community appears to have been averted, though tension over which enti-

ties can finance and profit from large projects in the county is likely to persist. The Albany County Capital Resource Corporation, which helps nonprofits finance capital projects, had been working with the retirement community on issuing \$22 million in bonds to redevelop the campus on Washington Avenue Extension in Albany. City financial planners,

including Treasurer Darius Shahinfar, have objected to the county CRC’s role in the project, arguing that the city of Albany Capital Resource Corporation should be the body that issues the bonds and receives the project’s fees. He described a “potential for conflict” at a Jan. 28 Common Council caucus meeting and told members that county policy

in place for decades required “projects that are within local municipalities go to the local (industrial development authorities) or CRC, if they have one.” He asked members for their support if the county fought the city’s efforts to bring the Avila project under the aegis of the city’s CRC. That support, at least for the Avila project, appears to no lon-

ger be necessary. Albany County CRC Chairman Gary Domalewicz told the Times Union on Tuesday that the project would be sent to the Albany CRC at the county’s CRC board meeting on Wednesday. “We’ll be taking no action on it. ... And then I’m going to refer it back to the city,” Domalewicz said. Shahinfar said the city would *See SKIRT, A3*