

# LOCAL

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yournews@messengerpostmedia.com.

### Episcopal SeniorLife Communities to host senior meet-and-greet

Episcopal SeniorLife Communities will host a free senior meet-and-greet neighborhood program from 1:30 to 3 p.m. on Jan. 15 at Valley Manor, 1570 East Ave., Rochester.

Seniors will be able to learn more about the East Avenue Neighborhood Program, a health and wellness initiative. The event will feature tours of the facility, refreshments and raffle prizes.

For information and reservations by Jan. 11, email [kpottetti@episcopalseniorlife.org](mailto:kpottetti@episcopalseniorlife.org) or call (585) 770-1962.

### The Capitol Steps to present New Year's Eve performances

The Capitol Steps comedy troupe will present a show of political satire at 2 and 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 at the Nazareth College Arts Center, 4245 East Ave., Rochester.

The show will include material from the troupe's current album, "Make America Grin Again." Tickets are \$45-\$75.

For information and tickets, visit [artscenter.naz.edu](http://artscenter.naz.edu) or call (585) 389-2170.

### Arc of Monroe seeking Adult Project Search interns

The Arc of Monroe is accepting applications for Adult Project Search, an internship service that prepares adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities for competitive employment.

Adult Project Search focuses on building relevant, marketable business skills while immersing participants in an inclusive work environment. Participants will work for 11 months at Del Monte Hotel Group locations around Monroe County.

An information session is scheduled for 2 to 3 p.m. on Jan. 9 at the Rochester Airport Marriott, 1890 W. Ridge Road, Rochester.

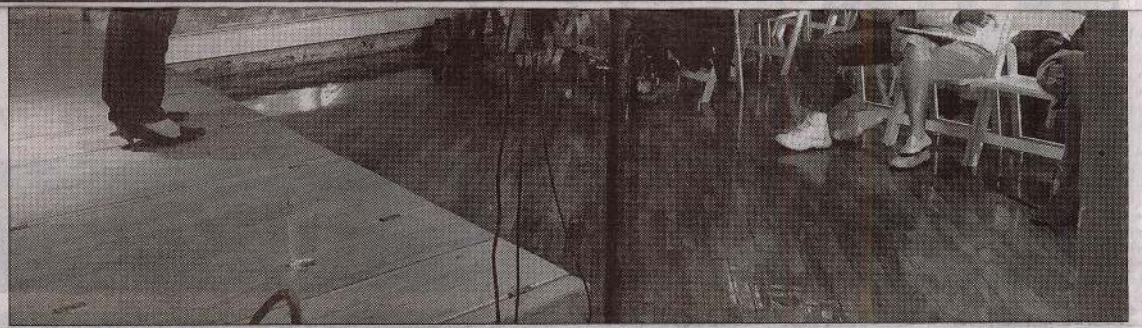
Call (585) 271-0660 or email [outreach@arcmonroe.org](mailto:outreach@arcmonroe.org) for information.

loss in contested races against Republican incumbents didn't dampen their drive.

On to 2020. That's when a presidential race will drive voters to the polls in droves — and once again, House seats will be up for grabs. The two Democrats who ran in districts representing much of the Finger Lakes aren't skipping a beat.

On Dec. 13, McMurray held a free thank-you party for supporters, with some 500 people expected to attend. The Grand Island town supervisor conceded the race for the 27th District to Rep. Chris Collins after trailing by just 1,300 votes. The event at McMurray's campaign headquarters in Erie County, among other things, called for "a little insight into 2019 events" for the candidate's "Fight Like Hell" campaign.

Mitrano lost to Rep. Tom Reed of Corning, who took 55 percent of the vote in the 23rd District. In a press release Thursday, Mitrano, a cybersecurity expert and former director of information technology policy at Cornell University, weighed in on the just-passed 2018 Farm Bill. The federal Farm Bill, which every five years reauthorizes farm and nutrition programs across the country, had lapsed after congressional leaders let the bill expire on Sept. 30. While both Democrats and Republican lauded final passage of the bill, the delay had left farmers hanging.



**Democratic candidate Tracy Mitrano speaks to a crowd in Geneva during the 2018 campaign for the 23rd Congressional seat she lost to Rep. Tom Reed, R-Corning. Mitrano has remained vocal in her criticism of Reed and Congress on such issues as the Farm Bill.** [JULIE SHERWOOD/MESSENGER POST MEDIA]

"Farmers need to know what they can count on in planning for next year," New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher said last week.

Taking the House and Reed to task for the nearly three-month delay and other points, Mitrano stated the late agreement "came too late for many dairy farmers in upstate New York." She said 271 farmers in the 23rd district went out of business this year.

"Not only would I have pressed to pass this bill on time, I would have fought harder to obtain more immediate help for our struggling farm community," Mitrano said.

She also pointed to the issue of mandating additional work requirements for SNAP, the program commonly known as food stamps. Reed pushed for putting additional work requirements into the final Farm Bill. Mitrano argued the added rules "were just designed to throw two to

three million people off food stamps on administrative technicalities, not taking into account food insecurity."

"Studies have shown that food insecurity — lacking reliable access to affordable, nutritious food — affects one in six Americans," said Mitrano, adding the ratio could be as much as one in four in the 23rd District.

"Food bank staff tell me that people still aren't getting enough affordable, nutritious food," Mitrano said. "Almost half the children in our district receive free and reduced-price lunches, and as many as 25 percent more are eligible but aren't getting them. The changes Reed sought would have affected us adversely when we are already suffering greatly."

On high-speed Internet access, Mitrano also faulted the Farm Bill for not doing enough to help bring more rural areas up to speed.

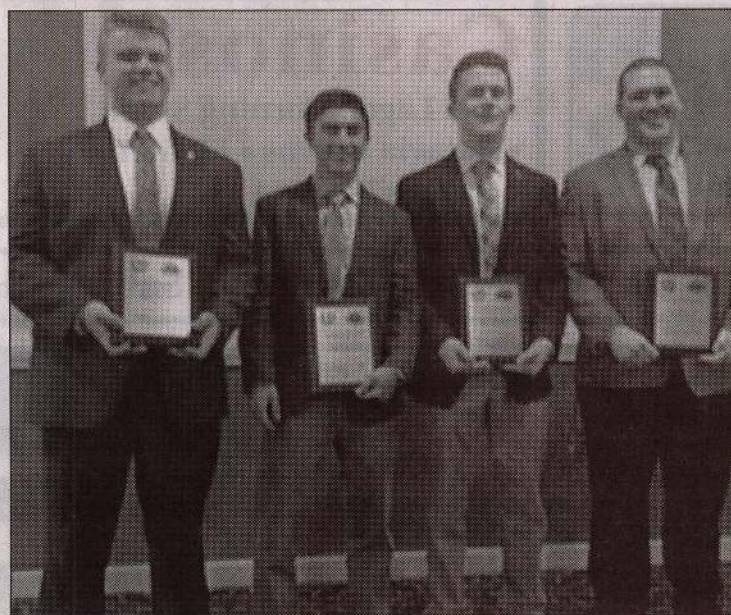
"Yes, it's good there are

allocations for broadband deployment, but they are insufficient," she said. "The total allocation isn't even adequate to address Internet connectivity in our region for one year, but it's supposed to meet the need for the next 10 years, for the entire United States. Small farmers do not have 10 years to wait for connectivity to the degree and kind that they need to survive the tough times that they currently face."

Since the election, Reed has been keeping up a swift pace of social media posts and continuing his weekly media calls, and is known for his ongoing schedule of town hall meetings throughout the district. The congressman has also ramped up his appearances on national media, appearing regularly since the election on CNN and other outlets.

Claudia Wheatley, a campaign volunteer for Mitrano,

**See 2020, A12**



**McQuaid Football National Football Foundation Hall of Fame inductees, from left, are Gabe, of Pittsford; Mark Passero, of Webster; Hunter Walsh, of Webster; and James Schnell, of Pittsford.** [PHOTO PROVIDED]

## 4 McQuaid football players inducted into NFF Hall of Fame

Messenger Post Media

Four McQuaid Jesuit Football Seniors were inducted into the Rochester Chapter National Football Foundation Hall of Fame on Dec. 10, and their names will be inscribed on a plaque that sits in the College Hall of Fame in Atlanta.

Hunter Walsh and Mark Passero each received the NFF award. James Schnell and Gabe Gelke each received the

NFF Silver Award — money award.

The NFF & College Hall of Fame is a nonprofit educational organization that runs programs designed to use the power of amateur football in developing scholarship, citizenship and athletic achievement in young people. The NFF's mission is to promote and develop the qualities of leadership, sportsmanship, competitive zeal and the drive for academic excellence.