

Biting, punching alleged in brawl

Ithaca police say a woman bit a man on his shoulder and then broke a cell-phone as he was trying to dial 911.

The incident happened Dec. 22, police said. Krystina N. Page, 29, was charged with a felony count of fourth-degree grand larceny and a misdemeanor count of fourth-degree criminal mischief, along with a second-degree harassment violation.

Police say the man she's accused of biting, 23-year-old Shannon Page, was charged with a harassment violation for allegedly punching Krystina Page in the face during the incident.

In addition, police said, Krystina Page had an arrest warrant against her for failure to appear in court on a disorderly conduct violation.

Both were ordered to appear in Ithaca City Court.



Anthony Borrelli
Crime and Chaos

Taser used on suspect

A Binghamton man was yelling, swearing and honking his car horn repeatedly in front of a Town of Union residence, then he got unruly with Broome County Sheriff's deputies, officials say.

Deputies responded to Sarah Lane Dec. 26, around 12:30 a.m., where Sean R. Cobb had allegedly been causing the disturbance. Cobb was found lying on the ground when deputies arrived, police said, and he refused to obey any commands.

Then, police say, he became combative when deputies and an off-duty police officer tried to take him into custody. A Taser was used in drive-stun mode, so he could be handcuffed.

Cobb, 37, of Towpath Road, was charged with a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest and a disorderly conduct violation

But even after his arraignment in Union Town Court, deputies said, he remained combative and struck his head against a patrol car window, and also refused to be processed by corrections officers in the Broome County jail.

Bail for Cobb was set at \$1,000 cash.

Police say iPads snatched

Johnson City police say a man tried to snatch three iPad mini 2's from the Verizon store in the Oakdale Mall on Christmas Eve.

Richard E. Vanleuven, 23, of John-

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LOTTERIES

N.Y. lottery: (518) 388-3300
www.nylottery.org

SUNDAY

N.Y. Daily (day): 4-0-7
N.Y. Win 4 (day): 1-0-7-9
N.Y. Daily (night): 2-5-9
N.Y. Win 4 (night): 8-3-0-2

SATURDAY

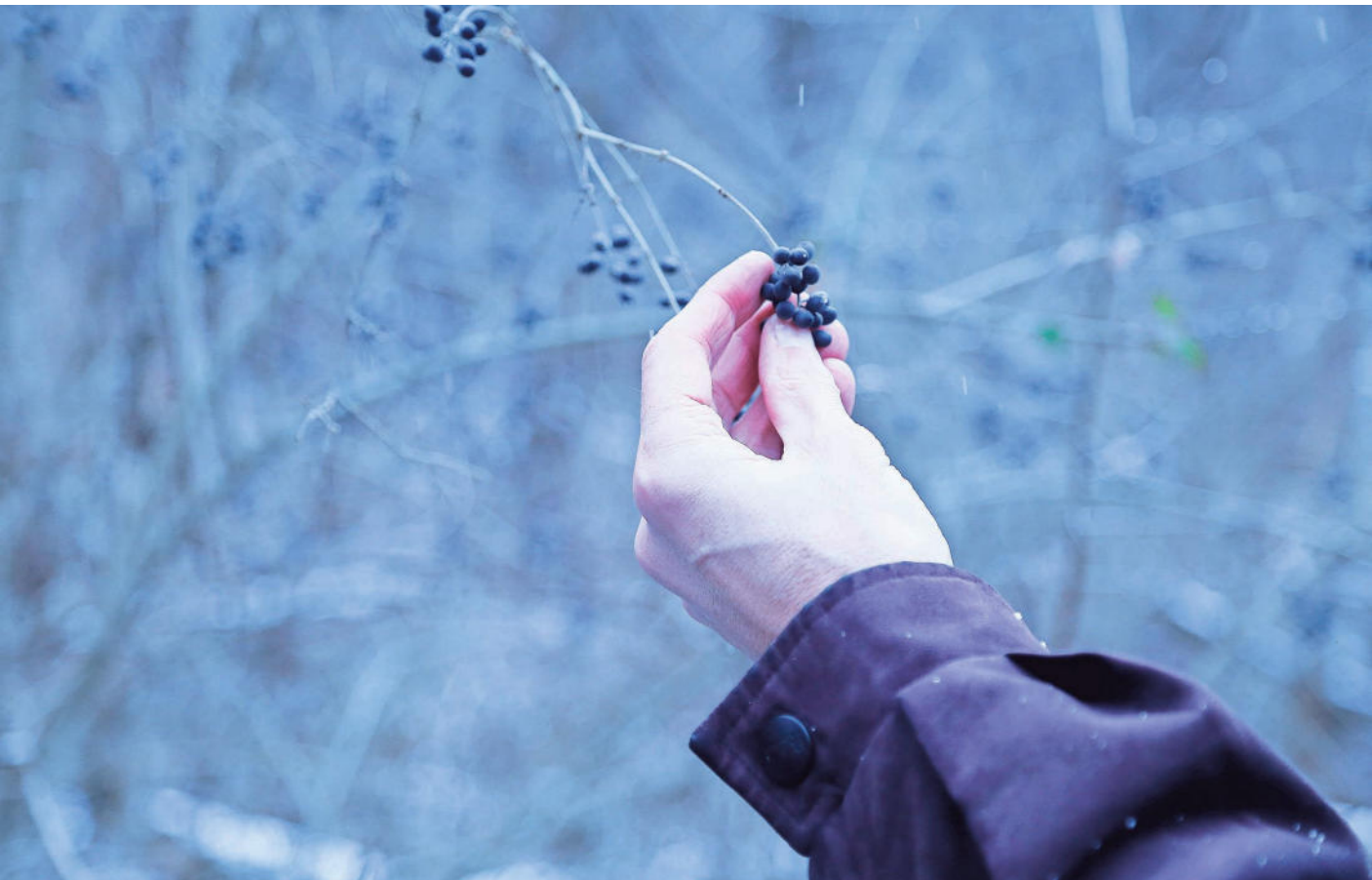
N.Y. Daily (day): 1-5-1
N.Y. Win 4 (day): 3-5-4-2
N.Y. Daily (night): 9-5-0
N.Y. Win 4 (night): 3-1-4-9
N.Y. Take 5: 2-3-15-22-31
N.Y. Pick 10: 3-9-11-13-14-28-30-34-35-43-45-52-57-59-63-65-69-70-77-78
N.Y. Lotto: 5-11-28-32-34-35
Bonus: 6
Powerball: 5-6-15-29-42
Power Ball: 10

FRIDAY

N.Y. Take 5: 1-4-9-10-32
N.Y. Pick 10: 5-8-12-14-15-29-38-40-44-46-47-50-57-67-69-70-72-76-78-79
Mega Millions: 7-18-37-38-39
Mega Ball: 9

FOR CORRECTIONS

The Journal attempts to correct errors in its news columns. To report a need for a correction or clarification, call 274-9261 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Cornell Ornithology Lab researcher Jody Enck holds up berries found in the brush of the woods near his home. Enck said birds can typically be found in areas of thick brush with food sources, like berries, present.

YEARLY OUTING: THE BIRD COUNT

Ithaca's enthusiasts partake in an old New Year's tradition

NICK REYNOLDS
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One of Ithaca's oldest New Year's traditions has little to do with champagne-fueled festivities or resolutions.

For 53 years, dozens of volunteers with the Cayuga Bird Club have begun the new year, binoculars in hand, plodding across a 15-mile radius stretching from Dryden to the edge of Enfield with their eyes to the sky. Taking copious notes, this group joins thousands of others worldwide in a tradition of discovery, consistency and trend-making; this group exists to document the demographics of the bird population in Tompkins County. They are led by Jody Enck, club president and researcher at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

This year's crop of around 50 volunteers came from as far away as Syracuse drove out to Tompkins County's forests and sidewalks to assist in the yearly tradition of the Christmas Bird Count, founded by the National Audubon Society in 1900.

Some go alone. Some in pairs. Some even count from the comfort of their own living rooms, sipping coffee with a pair of binoculars trained on their birdfeeders in the backyard. Enck, for the last four winters, has taken a more active approach, electing to venture four-and-a-half miles through the depths of the Sapsucker Woods to track species among the brush and the trees.

Walking the trail with binoculars in hand, Enck gazes in thickets, up toward



Birds flock to a feeder in Jody Enck's backyard. Enck, president of the Cayuga Bird Club, headed an effort this year to document all the species of birds in a 15-mile radius, stretching from Dryden to Enfield.

the skies and among tree branches, listening for bird calls over the soft patter of falling snow and the rushing waters of a swollen Fall Creek and, if hearing one, imitating them best he could. Some birds, like Chickadees, are a curious species and upon hearing a bird call, would typically flock to investigate. Others, like Woodpeckers, have a lesser sense of wonder and stay away.

Even among the trees and out of the wind, Enck's calls went unanswered, the

forest the quietest it's been on New Year's Day in years. Of course, it's not as if the birds follow any set timetable. "That's the nature of nature," Enck said.

Tracking down the numbers

Even with a fruitless search in the woods that morning, over the years Enck has had much more luck tracking

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Ithaca's first baby of 2016 arrives on Jan. 2

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Joseph Pluta held on for a little longer past his December due date to become the first baby born in 2016 at the Cayuga Medical Center. Joseph, who arrived at 9 pounds, was born at 6 a.m. on Saturday morning.

His parents, Christopher and Jennifer Pluta, of Lansing, said they had a quiet New Year's Eve before arriving at the Cayuga Birthplace at the Cayuga Medical Center Friday evening around 7.

Jennifer described having a good experience at the hospital. "The nurses here are great, the staff is great, the doctor's great," said Jennifer Pluta.

Jennifer Pluta described herself as a stay-at-home mother and Christopher is an engineer.



From left, 2-year-old Alex Pluta of Lansing, with his dad Christopher and his baby brother, Joseph, born Saturday morning being held by his mother Jennifer. Joseph was the first baby born at Cayuga Medical Center in 2016.