

Carey Building sets new heights



Local developer Frost Travis looks out from the seventh-floor balcony of the newly completed Carey Building. A five-story overbuild has been constructed atop the former two-story commercial building just off Ithaca Commons.

New studio tenants will find every square inch put to work

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From the seventh-floor balcony view at the top of the Carey Building, you quickly notice there's a lot going on below you.

Facing west, you see a packed Commons full of people either at ease and relaxed or restless and hurried, cellphones to their ear as they bustle from one office to another. In the distance, you can make out the green hills ringing Cayuga Lake, and if you look down, you can see the roof of the single-story Trebloc Building as construction vehicles zoom by.

By Friday, a family of three will be relaxing on this balcony, and Frost Travis, who developed the former two-story midrise into the 30,000-square-foot structure it is now, will have nearly all 24 beds filled in his first ground-up development.

Travis-Hyde Properties didn't pull any punches on its approximately \$6 million quest to add five stories of office space on top of the formerly two-story commercial building. There are luxury-grade materials furnishing the top floors, sleek and glossy interiors, and brushed aluminum accents, and beneath it all, a million dollars' worth of unanticipated 5-by-5-foot steel rebar



The kitchen space in one of the Carey Building's studio apartments.

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Dryden plant moving to Florida

Nearly 200 jobs will leave Tompkins

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Following a troubling trend for the Southern Tier's manufacturing sector, nearly 200 jobs in the region will be lost after Mettler Toledo Hi-Speed, an international supplier of precision scales and instruments, announced it will relocate its plant in Dryden to Florida.

Announced in a Tuesday news conference in Florida attended by 17 state, county and company officials, General Manager Viggio Nielsen said the company would close its plants outside of Ithaca and in Hillsborough County, Florida, and consolidate operations in a new \$30 million, 250,000-square-foot facility in Lutz, Florida, just outside of Tampa Bay.

The Lutz plant, set to open in fall 2017, will absorb the 185 jobs in Dryden and 320 jobs in Hillsborough County, in operation since 1998, into the single facility.

According to the Tampa Bay Business Journal, the positions involved in the deal include manufacturing, sales, management and engineering jobs with an average annual salary of \$50,000. Some employees from the local plant will be transferred to the Florida plant.

Calls to Mettler Toledo have yet to be returned.

The company, based in Switzerland but with domestic operations centered in Toledo, Ohio, has been active in the Ithaca area since 1953. The 27,000-square-foot facility at 5 Barr Road was built in 1990, according to county records. The Tompkins County facility, off Hanshaw Road in the Town of Dryden,

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It will be the biggest manufacturing job loss in the Ithaca area since 228 jobs at the Emerson Power Transmissions plant were moved to Kentucky.

Amid scandals, lawmakers limit their travel spending

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ALBANY – Maybe seeing fellow legislators head to jail is changing some state Capitol practices.

State lawmakers appear to be cooling their collection of daily stipends for trips to Albany — an oft-abused system that was at the heart of several criminal convictions in recent years.

Also, they enacted reforms last year that may be limiting the reimbursements for travel expenses.

Per-diem and travel expenses for legislators during the six-month legislative

session that ended in June were nearly \$2.3 million — which is about 8 percent less than the \$2.5 million collected during the same period last year, state records show.

For all of 2015, state lawmakers collected \$3.2 million in expenses.

“The abuse of the per-diem system has been a persistent problem in Albany,” said Blair Horner, legislative director for the New York Public Interest Research Group.

New York state lawmakers can receive up to \$172 a day for every day they are at the Capitol.

But they get the \$172 a day whether

they spent it all or not. So some lawmakers choose to stay at the least costly hotels they can find and eat free meals at events or inside the chambers.

Then they can pocket what is left over. The daily rate is set by the federal government.

Some of them own second homes in the Capital Region, allowing them to pay their mortgages with the daily expenses.

The bigger, and illegal, issue is lawmakers who have claimed per diems for days they are not at the Capitol — which was what led two New York City legisla-

How much did lawmakers get in per diems?

Visit our database to see how much each state lawmaker has received in reimbursements for travel and expenses since 2013:

<http://ithacajournal.nydatabases.com/database/legislative-diems-and-travel-expenses>

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