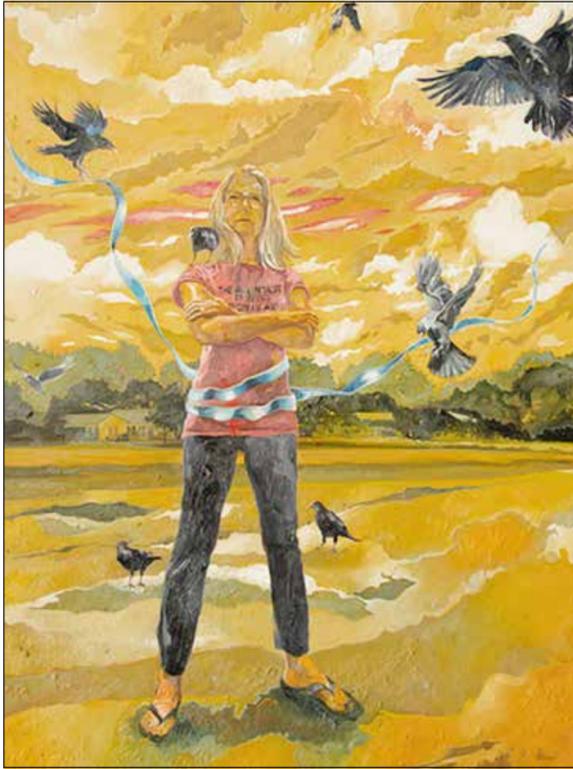


OUTLOOK 2026

MARCH 2026

Downtown Artist Cellar Launches SWAN Month and Announces 2026 Season



Malone, NY — Downtown Artist Cellar (DAC) with The Thrive Project begins March with SWAN: Support Women Artists Now — Voices, Language & Belonging, a month-long exploration of identity, perspective, and creative expression.

On March 5, visiting artist Anna Warfield presents Women's Work: Language, Identity & Reclaiming Process, reflecting on her fiber-based practice and how language shapes identity. Later in the month, artist Susan Hoffer will lead a talk on community and belonging through figurative painting.

SWAN also includes a shared reading of Big Magic by Elizabeth Gilbert and a culminating community forum examining how creativity remains both personally meaningful and professionally viable in our schools and workforce.

At the heart of SWAN is one shared belief: creativity belongs at the center of our

communities.

April features an Earth Day exhibition by Anne Ray, whose work reflects on our connection to the natural world and the role art can play in honoring and protecting the environment.

A major highlight of 2026 is DAC's expanded Artist in Residence program, welcoming nationally recognized quilt artist Lauren Austin in May for public programming and direct community engagement centered on her narrative textile practice. During her residency, Austin will also lead a public workshop inviting participants to use family photos, memorabilia, and personal artifacts to create their own story-based art quilts. No quilting experience is required. Later in the season, environmental psychologist and interdisciplinary, socially engaged artist Shandel Fraser will present Hands That Nurture, collaborating with local tradespeople to explore themes of labor, care,

and devotion.

Summer includes In the Beginning Was Unknown, a sculpture exhibition by Kaley Maher exploring material, weight, and transformation through stone and fiber-based forms. A special pop-up exhibition, Small Ships, Big Stories, by John Coryea will also be presented during the season.

The fall season continues with a full schedule of exhibitions and community programming. The Salmon River Valley Plein Air Festival welcomes artists traveling from across the region to paint throughout the North Country, celebrating the landscapes that define our community. The Art on Main Juried Exhibit highlights emerging and established regional artists, and TAKEOVER — now in its third year — returns as a student-curated exhibition led by Syracuse University students with participation from invited regional institutions.

A centerpiece of the fall is

The Right to Appear by Bright Kontor Osei, an immersive exhibition inspired by his childhood in Ghana's street markets. Through large-scale murals, painted vendor phrases, portraiture, and sound, Osei centers the voices of street vendors while exploring themes of labor, visibility, resilience, and dignity. The exhibition invites viewers to consider what it means to be seen, heard, and valued within both local and global systems of work and community.

The year concludes with the Annual DAC Artist Exhibit, a year-end exhibition celebrating the breadth and strength of DAC participating artists.

Monthly programming continues with Poetry @ DAC, led by house poet Jim Bourey; the Sunday Songwriter Series, curated by Jonathan Foster; and The Local, a relaxed community gathering featuring local beer, wine, and cider. Weekly yoga and wellness

See ARTIST A2

Almanzo Wilder Farm Preparing for the 2026 Season and a Very Special 'Little House on the Prairie' Cast Event

The 2026 public tour season at the Almanzo Wilder Homestead in Burke gets underway on Saturday, May 23 and runs through the month of September.

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE™ CAST EVENT

The Little House on the Prairie™ television series has been described as comfort TV and was a beloved TV show for generations. This summer, Little House fans will have an opportunity to meet several of the original cast members at a Wilder Homestead special event. Appearing will be four Wilder family characters, Dean Butler (Almanzo), Lucy Lee Flippin (Eliza Jane), Charles Bloom (Perley Day), and Jennifer Donati (Baby Rose),

along with Alison Arngrim (Nellie Oleson). It will be an opportunity to get autographs, take selfies with cast members, and reminisce about best-loved episodes. Event features will also include historical exhibits, live music, and craft demonstrations, tour the Wilder buildings, and more.

The Little House on the Prairie™ Cast Event is taking place July 25 and 26, at the Almanzo Wilder Homestead. On Friday, July 24, Alison Arngrim will present a comedy show at the Chateaugay Town Hall Theater. Save the dates and visit almanzowilderfarm.com for updates and advance ticket purchasing as details become available.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The support and assistance of dedicated volunteers enables the Wilder Homestead to continue to operate. The Wilder Homestead needs volunteers to assist with tours, maintenance, grounds keeping, and public events, including the upcoming Little House on the Prairie™ Cast Event.

Volunteers help with greeting and assisting visitors, organizing and carrying out events, providing craft and program activities, and facilitating positive museum experiences. They also help with behind-the-scenes tasks such as groundskeeping, gardening, and building maintenance.

Prospective tour guides should be familiar with or have an interest in learning

about Almanzo Wilder, the history of the Homestead, and the collected works of teacher, journalist, writer, and author of children's literature, Laura Ingalls Wilder. Training and support are provided. To volunteer, email robin@almanzowilderfarm.com with the subject line, 'I want to volunteer'.

LOCAL AND LITERARY HISTORY

The Wilder Homestead is a literary and historic site offering visitors a look into local history and cultural heritage. It's the setting for Farmer Boy, Laura Ingalls Wilder's 1933 book about her husband's childhood. Artifacts and storytelling bring the book to life, allowing visitors to connect with

See WILDER A2



Actors Dean Butler and Alison Arngrim played Almanzo Wilder and Nellie Oleson on the Little House on the Prairie television series. This summer, visitors to the Wilder Homestead in Burke can meet them both, along with three other series actors, at Almanzo's Little House Cast Reunion on July 25 and 26. Ms. Arngrim will also perform her comedy show, "Confessions of a Prairie Bitch", at the Chateaugay Town Hall Theater on July 24. Details will be at almanzowilderfarm.com.



Participate in our soon-to-be launched, northern Franklin County

Historical Walking Tour App & Map!

Area historical sites & points of interest, send us your information!

Register to include your event for the 250th anniversary of the US for the Malone Calendar.

Celebrate our history with an historic plaque for your home and/or business!

revitalizemalone@gmail.com malonerevitalization.com



OUTLOOK 2026 BUSINESS SERVICES DIRECTORY

Pine Country Outlet

Antiques • Furniture • Collectibles
Crafts • Coins • Jewelry • Crystals & Gems
Local Maple Syrup, Honey, Goat's Milk Soap and so much more!

Fun to browse & something for everyone!

46 Raymond Street, Malone [f](https://www.facebook.com/pinecountryoutlet) Tues. - Sat. 11-5
Sun. 12-4

YOUR DREAM CAKE COMES TRUE AT

DELECTABLES

CUSTOM BAKERY

(518) 483-9038

email: adkdelectables@yahoo.com
website: adironackdelectables.com



AllenCare Medical Transport

AMBULETTE SERVICE

Medical Appointments
Hospital Discharges • Dialysis
Family/Special Events



CALL FOR PRICING & SERVICE

Accepting Medicaid, Fidelis, VNA
Barry & Meloye Russell, Brushton, NY **518-651-9983**

Hosler's for sale; will remain open

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO

aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — A restaurant in the village is up for sale and the current owners say they plan to stay open until they can find a buyer.

Mike and Lynn Hosler have owned Hosler's Family Restaurant on East Main Street across from the Franklin County Fairgrounds in the village of Malone for nearly 30 years, with the restaurant celebrating its 25th anniversary in February 2023.

"The big thing I want the public to know is that nothing is going to change, we are going to be open, we are going to keep running," Mike Hosler told the Telegram on Thursday, "It may be a year or whatever, when we sell it we sell it, that's why we put feelers out now."

According to Hosler, the couple is getting older and wants to travel more and spend more time with family and friends, leading to the decision to put the business up for sale.

"That and I think we are at the top of our game right now and that's the time when we really want to put it on the market," he said, "We aren't closing. What we are doing is we put it on the market but nothing is going to change. When somebody does make us an offer and that might be in a year or two, I don't know, when that happens we'll walk out and they will walk in. They'll most likely keep the same staff and probably keep the same menu because I believe we are successful."

Lynn Hosler said for the most part the restaurant is open seven days a week and holidays.

"I would like to see a turn-key operation, people step right in and continue to serve the community," she said, adding that the restaurant has a lot of regulars, including elderly community members. "We put a lot of signs up with the news for them because they aren't always on Facebook."

Mike said he thinks it's important for the restaurant to stay open while it's on the market.

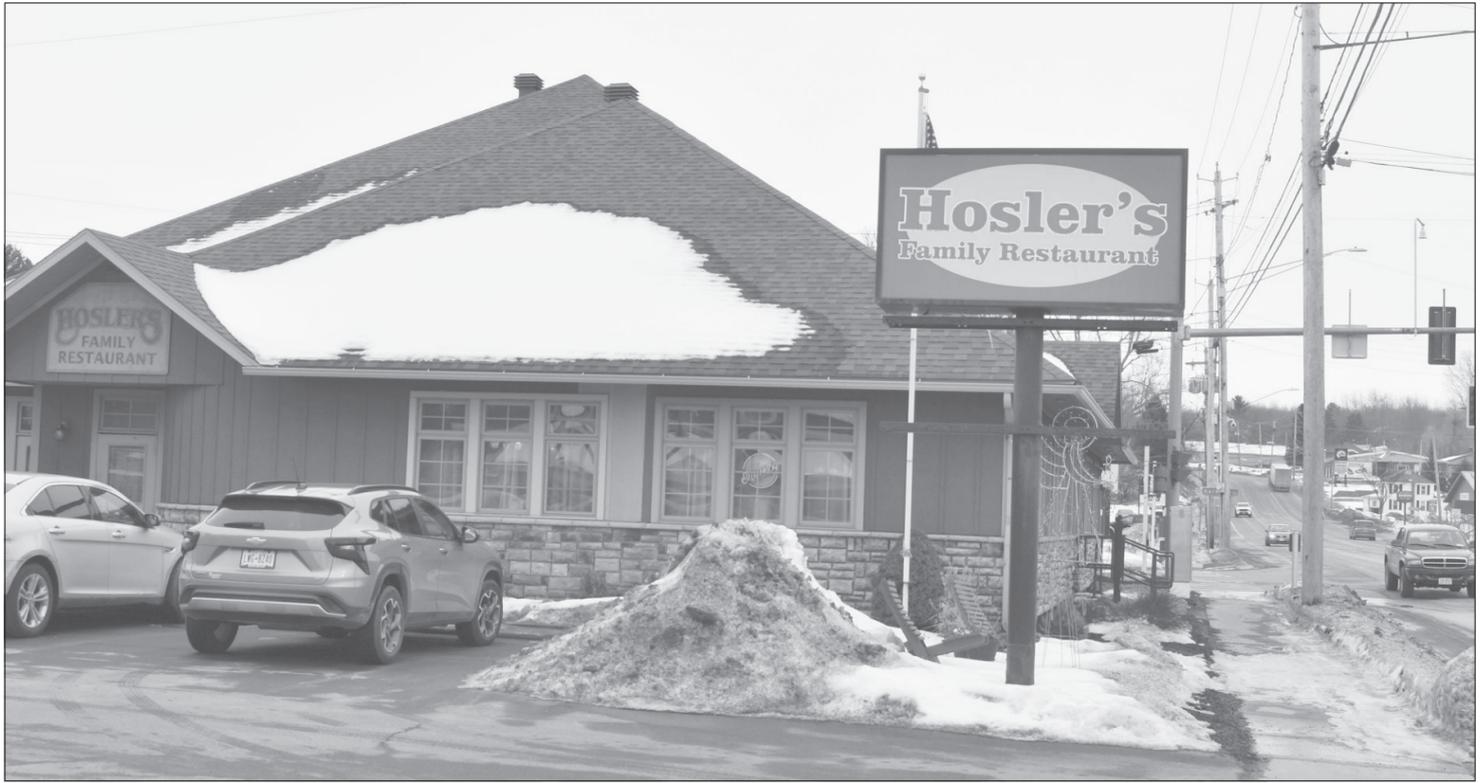
"It was very important because of our following," he explained, "We are living in Malone and Malone doesn't have a lot of choices and we have one of the best breakfast buffets and breakfasts."

According to Mike, the couple has a wedding catering business that will remain open after the restaurant sells.

"We aren't going to get rid of that. We aren't going to change that even if we sell, we are going to keep that business," he said, adding the couple plans to stay in Malone once the restaurant sells.

Mike stressed the importance of the restaurant's employees and regulars over the years, adding he thinks that has been the key to their success.

"We really have a good



Hosler's Family Restaurant on E. Main Street, seen here on Wednesday, has become a favorite stop for locals looking for breakfast, lunch and dinner since opening its doors. The restaurant went on the market this week but will remain open until a buyer is found, according to the owners. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram

clientele, 95% are super beings, and the staff," he said, "Employees make the difference end of story. We have got employees who have been here for 20 years. It's the people and the employees they are what makes us run."

Mike said the restaurant currently has 35 employees, and his wife said the restaurant's regulars appreciate seeing familiar faces when they visit.

"They know the regulars, they know when they walk in Joe is going to have two eggs over easy," Lynn said.

Some history

Before Hosler's, there was a bar, the 340 Club at the same location, and next door was the East End Diner, according to Mike.

"They were separate. Basically what happened is we got into the East End Diner and then we bought the 340," he said, "Then we had a fire and then we decided to tear down the 340 and we built this building in 2007 and we opened in 2008."

Lynn said they added the bar area to the restaurant about 12 years ago.

The restaurant is the sole licensed off-track betting parlor in Malone, according to Mike.

"We have six races going all the time plus the big TV people really like that," he said.

Mike said the couple first entered the restaurant industry after he retired from Alcoa in Massena.

According to Lynn, working with family members has been a big part of the couple's time at Hosler's, and said it has been a first job for their children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, while also employing students from North Country Community College and other schools in the area.

"We have helped a lot of



Lynn and Mike Hosler stand behind the bar at Hosler's Family Restaurant.

Alexander Violo/Malone Telegram

them earn the money to advance," she said.

Mike said family has also helped to make running the restaurant manageable.

"My daughter Michele Danussi and my son Chad Hosler they have both done a lot for us and have taken a lot of the load off of us and made it a little easier for us," he said.

Lynn said running a restaurant isn't always easy.

"It hasn't always been easy there's a lot of stress, being married and being in business that's extra stress," she said, "We can't always agree on paint color or how many more TVs he wants to put in this room."

Reflecting on the couple's time running the restaurant

Mike said he believes the location has helped with their success.

"When we did decide to rebuild we wanted to be closer to the road," Lynn said, "We thought coming down the hill we wanted to capture their attention and I love the color of the building."

Mike said the menu has stayed pretty consistent

since the restaurant opened, adding they focus on home cooking.

"People like meatloaf and mashed potatoes on Mondays, they like chicken and biscuits, comfort food," Lynn said.

"We really appreciate our customer base and employee loyalty," Mike said.

Artist

From A1

classes round out the month.

Collaboration remains central to DAC's work. Founded

in 2017, Downtown Artist Cellar is an artist-led, woman-owned gallery in Malone. In 2022, The Thrive Project was launched as DAC's nonprofit partner to expand access to the arts through education, youth programming, and community partnerships.

Since 2017, DAC and Thrive have served more than 9,000 individuals, supported 655 artists, and invested over \$195,000 in arts programming.

In 2026, Thrive continues to grow Open Studio, its after-school pilot program

connecting students with professional artists, and remains part of the Arts & Corrections program, regranted through Wave Farm.

Together, DAC and Thrive remain committed to increasing access, supporting artists, and fostering creativity as a

vital part of community life. Together, DAC and Thrive remain committed to increasing access, supporting artists, and fostering creativity as a vital part of community life. This work is made possible through the support of donors, sponsors, grantors, and

community partners.

Workshops, wellness programs, and community offerings reflect DAC's belief that art is essential to personal and community well-being. Visit our website for current details as programming continues to evolve.

Wilder

From A1

rural homesteading life in

the late-19th-century.

Visitors to the Wilder site can tour the fully restored farmhouse and explore the barns, which were accurately reconstructed on the original site with guidance from

drawings made by Almanzo and housing carriages, wagons, and period farm machinery.

Visitors can also can acquaint themselves with time-honored heirloom vegetable

crops and customary gardening methods in the heritage garden, find vintage tools and learn about traditional farming methods in the museum, and explore a full-room reproduction of a one-room

schoolhouse, the most recent building constructed on the historic grounds.

The site features a walking trail to scenic Trout River, where the Wilders washed their sheep and caught fish, a

covered picnic pavilion, and gift shop. The Visitor Center with museum and shop is open to the public at no charge during open hours. More information is at almanzowilderfarm.com.

Lifeway Church set for renewal and growth in 2026

Coming from Malone, Lifeway Church is located just past the blinking traffic light on route eleven in N. Bangor. Lifeway has been a mainstay in providing various kinds of assistance and help to surrounding local communities in the North Country for fifteen years. This small, quaint, friendly rural church has attendees ranging from brand new searchers of faith to long time followers of Jesus. Sunday Services include a mix of worship methods ranging from traditional to contemporary that quickly connect in fellowship the diverse mix of attendees who find a sense of faith family and North Country neighbor connection at Lifeway.

The first connection point

for newcomers is most often its 11:00am Sunday Service that moves along at a fast pace while remaining meaningful and relevant. Lifeway is a small rural church with about forty to eighty folks regularly attending. The church has a Baptist foundation in method and understanding and a nondenominational welcoming emphasis. Biblical teaching and ministry come from a conservative Biblical inerrancy viewpoint and the desire to be most concerned about how that applies to individual and family life, in an everyday-everywhere manner while ever increasing in real relationship with Jesus.

Lifeway's helping hand community ministries add to the regular efforts and main

mission of Lifeway Church to worship God, to draw others toward Him and by providing a place for people to grow and beneficially change according to, and in response to the sacrificial love of Jesus.

Newcomers and visitors find the small church casual atmosphere at Lifeway comfortable, even at first visit. There is a simple, casual worship format that everyone that is easily followed. Lifeway Sunday Services start at 11:00am and end about an hour later. A coffee and snack Fellowship Café is open before and after services.

Pastors Ryan Kingsley and Joe Selenski can be texted or called for any questions or information needed at (518) 319-0078.

St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union helping to strengthen our community

St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union proudly presented a \$10,000 donation to the St. Lawrence Health Foundation as part of our \$50,000, five-year pledge, including sponsorship of the Visitor Lounge to support the care and comfort of patients, families, and our greater community.

St. Lawrence FCU remains deeply committed to strengthening the communities we serve, recognizing that access to compassionate, high-quality healthcare is essential to the well-being of our members and neighbors.



Pictured from left to right: St. Lawrence Health President Donna McGregor; St. Lawrence FCU Board Director John (Dick) Durkin; St. Lawrence FCU President & CEO Amber Taylor; St. Lawrence FCU VP of Operations Michelle Carkner; St. Lawrence FCU VP of Lending Ashlee Crosby; and St. Lawrence FCU Vice Chairman of the Board Dale Coats."

CKON 97.3
POWER PLAY
airs Monday – Friday from 12:15-1pm.

Have you ever wanted to take control of the music on the radio? Now is your chance. Pick 10 of your favorite songs and send them to frontdesk@ckonfm.com

If you're chosen we play your songs from 12:15-1pm. A new playlist is chosen every weekday. *If your music is chosen you go into a secondary draw at the end of the month for a chance to win \$97.30 Cdn.* You can submit one playlist per month.
613-575-2100 / 613-575-2101

CONTACT US TODAY!

stlawrfcu.com **315.393.3530**

JOIN US...
AS WE UNCLUTTER AND SIMPLIFY CHURCH...

Fewer in-building programs and expectations... MORE EVERYDAY, EVERYWHERE, MEANINGFUL, JESUS CENTERED, LIFESTYLE FAITH!

(518) 319-0078

LIFEWAY CHURCH

2426 Rt. 11, N. Bangor
11:00am Sun. Service

Downtown Artist Cellar Calendar 2026
In partnership with The Thrive Project

MARCH SWAN Support Women Artists Now A Month Celebrating Women in the Arts See website for full schedule of events.	Conversations: Susan Hoffer Mar 13 - Apr 25 Main Gallery Mar 13, 5-7pm Opening Reception	Street Level: Barry Lobdell Mar 4 - Apr 4 Small Gallery Mar 13, 5-7pm Opening Reception	DAC Songwriter Series Mar 15, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Poem Village National Poetry Month On display in Downtown Malone beginning April 17	Poetry @ DAC April 16, 7-8:30pm	DAC Songwriter Series April 19, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Save Our Planet: Anne Ray April 8 - 25 Small Gallery April 24 Reception 5-7pm Artist Talk 6pm	Young Artists in Action Elementary Art Exhibit Apr 29 - May 7 Main & Small Galleries May 7, 4-6pm Closing Reception	Artist in Residence: Lauren Austin Mar 10 - May 23 Main & Small Galleries	DAC Songwriter Series May 17, 3-5pm (cash bar) Poetry @ DAC May 21, 7-8:30pm	Artist in Residence: Shawndel Fraser May 24 - June 27 Main & Small Galleries	DAC Songwriter Series June 14, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Poetry @ DAC June 18, 7-8:30pm	In the Beginning was Unknown: Kaylie Maher July 3 - Aug 15 Main Gallery July 10, 5-7pm Opening Reception	DAC Songwriter Series July 19, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Poetry @ DAC Aug 20, 7-8:30pm	Small Ships, Big Stories: John Corryea July 30 - Aug 1 Pop Up July 31, 5-7pm Reception	Art on Main Juried Exhibit Aug 21 - Sept 5 August 21, 5-7pm Opening Reception	DAC Songwriter Series August 30, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Salmon River Valley Plein Air Festival Sept 9 - 12 Festival Sept 13-18 Works On View DAC Songwriter Series Sept 13, 3-5pm (cash bar)	TAKEOVER: Student Curated Exhibit Sept 23 - Oct 3 Oct 3, 5-7pm Closing Reception	The Right to Appear: Bright Kontor Osei Oct 9 - Nov 21 Oct 9, 5-7pm Opening Reception	DAC Songwriter Series Oct 18, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Poetry @ DAC Oct 22, 7-8:30	DAC Songwriter Series Nov 15, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Poetry @ DAC Nov 19, 7-8:30pm	Annual DAC Artist Exhibit Nov 27 - Dec 31 Nov 27, 5-7pm Opening Reception Nov 28, 12-3pm Small Business Saturday	DAC Holiday Open House Dec 5, 12-3pm	DAC Songwriter Series Dec 13, 3-5pm (cash bar)	Explore workshops, classes, wellness, yoga, The Local, and more at DAC— visitour website for the latest details, as programming continues to evolve though out the year.
---	---	--	--	---	---	--	--	---	---	---	--	---	--	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	--	--	---------------------------------------	--	---	--	--	--	--

OUR IMPACT SINCE 2017

PEOPLE SERVED 9,000
ARTISTS SUPPORTED 655
ART PROGRAM INVESTMENT \$195,000

GALLERY HOURS:
Wednesday - Friday 11-4pm
Saturday 12-3pm

410 EAST MAIN STREET, MALONE
downtownartistcellar.com
518-651-5172

ART CREATING COMMUNITY

NY's prison strike, one year later

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO
aviolo@mteleg.com

MALONE — On Feb. 17, 2025, correction officers across New York started a 22-day strike that led to the firing of more than 2,000 striking officers and the deployment of the National Guard to state prisons.

With three state prisons located near one another on Bare Hill and Brand roads, Malone was at the center of the strike and for over three weeks current and former correction officers, and their supporters, gathered last year to call for improved safety conditions within state facilities and the repeal of the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement Act.

One year later concerns remain about staffing levels at and officer safety in the state's correctional facilities.

Daniel G. Stec, R-Queensbury, a state senator, said staff levels are approximately 20% below what they were before last year's strike.

"I think in December of 24 the number of COs was 14,000 and change, and December of last year was 11,000 and change, we are down about 3,000 just from the end of 24 to the end of 25," Stec told the Telegram this week.

According to Stec, he believes the state's Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is making an effort to recruit more staff.

"I know it's true that they have made an effort to recruit more, it's not like they aren't trying to recruit more," Stec said, "Between legislation in the change of requirements and financial incentives they are trying to recruit more COs."

Stec said of the over 2,000 officers fired after the strike some were rehired.

"I do know a lot of them did come back to work, I know a lot of them were offered and decided to not go back for whatever reason," he said, "The bottom line is that in spite of recruitment efforts and a larger academy class, at the end of the day we are still down 3,000 from where we were just a month before the strike."

Stec said he does not believe careers in the department are as sought after as they once were when multiple family members would work as correction officers.

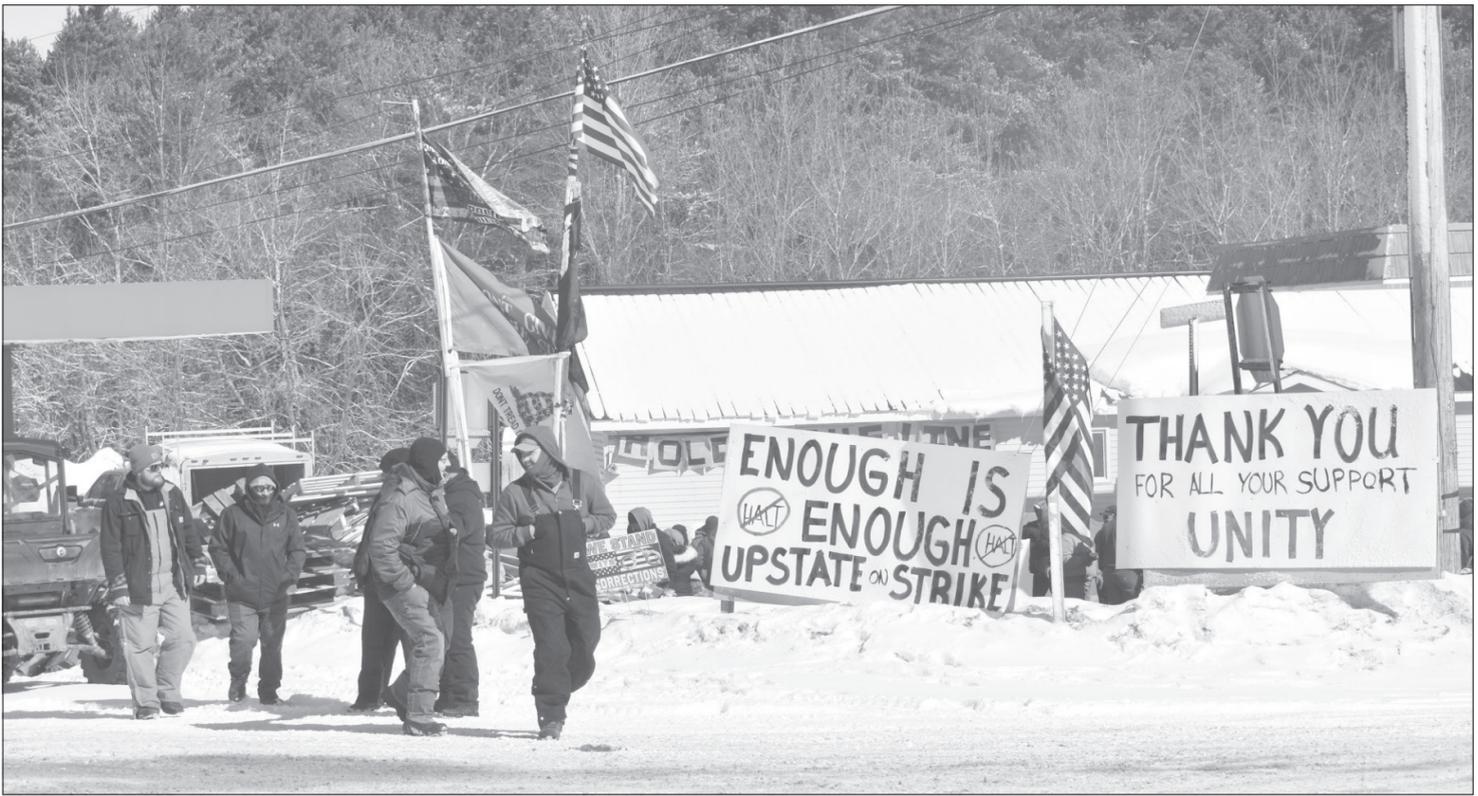
"I don't think those kitchen table conversations are happening with nieces and nephews, sons and daughters anymore," he said, "The negative news and the negative spotlight on the state making that job more miserable and less safe is I think keeping people away."

Assemblyman Michael S. Cashman, D-Plattsburgh, said there continues to be great concern about the health and safety of correction officers, civilian staff and incarcerated individuals at state correctional facilities.

"Every state employee, be it a correction officer, New York State DOT or teachers, they should have a safe environment and should be treated with dignity and respect and that's the crux of this, and our COs are still not receiving that," Cashman said.

According to Stec, in talking with officers who both went on strike, and those that remained within the facilities during the strike, the primary cause of last year's strike was safety.

"It was always about safety, and part of that safety, specifically was staffing, quality of life and time off," he said, "There was mandatory overtime, that was happening routinely everywhere in the state. While that doesn't seem to happen as much anymore they still can't take time off, they can't



One year after last year's strike at state prisons across New York concerns remain about staffing levels and officer safety in state correctional facilities. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram



The National Guard arrives at Malone-Dufort Airport, in February 2025, during the prison strike. Provided photo

take vacation, they can't schedule time off."

According to Cashman, he continues to push for safety reform on behalf of state employees, including correction officers.

"That includes making sure we are doing scans of packages going into the facilities, there have been numerous chemical exposures that need to be dealt with appropriately," Cashman said, "The issues remains yet billions of dollars are being spent on the National Guard being in there. It doesn't help with morale and it certainly doesn't help with recruitment."

Stec said when chemical exposures are reported at state prisons in rural communities it taxes local rescue squads and area hospitals.

"They don't know what causes it, some chemical, they try to suggest that it's psychosomatic or stress induced," he said, adding he disagrees that it's a psychosomatic or stress induced issue, "There's chemicals in there that they got to get out."

Cashman said one year after the strike staffing issues persist at state correctional facilities.

"That's why the governor continues to hold in her executive proposal for money to retain the National Guard there," Cashman said, "There needs to be broader range reform that supports these men and women. People often talk about that it was a wildcat strike but let me be very clear the core of the issue was health and safety."

According to Stec, the state spent around \$700 million last year on the National Guard in state prisons.

"They are not doing the job of COs, they are a body, eyes and ears, they are there for safety, they're a deterrent but they aren't taking groups to programming, they aren't in the watchtowers, they aren't doing those jobs," he said, "There's 2,800 National Guard people in these facilities."

Stec said in next year's budget there's a proposal to allocate around \$335 million on National Guard in state

correctional facilities.

"They're down on staff and that's a problem because it's a safety issue," he said, "They can't hire the COs that they need."

According to James Miller, director of public relations at the New York State Correctional Officers and Police Benevolent Association, staffing issues at state prisons create challenges for officers.

Safety of staff and providing a work life balance for our members is still a priority for NYSOPBA and will continue to be until staffing levels are increased and there isn't a need to supplement staff with National Guardsman, according to Miller.

Prior to the strike, staffing levels had decreased by 2,000 officers while the inmate population had increased by over 2,000 inmates since January of 2023, according to Miller, who said since the strike, that number has risen to over 4,000 officers, which has contributed to unsafe working conditions, and lack of any semblance of family life.

"NYSOPBA is committed to working with DOCCS to attract new recruits to increase staffing levels, but it is conceivable that it could take years to accomplish that while you continue to have officers retire each year," Miller said.

Miller said current staffing levels at state prisons are still contributing to mandatory overtime for correction officers.

"Officers are still stuck working mandatory overtime as a result of current staffing levels and it largely prevents them from having any work-life balance," he said.

According to Miller, recommendations from the HALT committee formed after the end of last year's strike have yet to lead to substantial changes to HALT.

"The HALT Committee, which was formed after the strike, submitted recommendations to the Governor last year and we have yet to see any positive changes made to the HALT Act," Miller said.

Stec said one issue he sees with HALT is the amount of programming for



Protestors and signs remained at the junction of Brand and Bare Hill roads, in the town of Malone, in the immediate aftermath of last year's strike. Alexander Violo/Malone Telegram

incarcerated individuals that the legislation mandates.

"HALT mandates a lot of programming and that's very labor intensive," Stec said, "If these guys have to be moved around every couple of hours and not isolated in their cell that takes staff. If you don't have the people to do that then the programming they want to see happen isn't happening."

Mayor Andrea M. Dumas, of the village of Malone, said she believes the situation at

state prisons remains largely unchanged since last year's strike.

"There has not been one thing that I can relay to the community that has changed," Dumas said, "I hear day in, day out that it's the same. We are continuing to hear rescue calls to the facilities for members being brought into the hospital."

Dumas said she hears from correction officers and civilian staff at the state prisons that nothing has changed.

"They have the scanners there but still the safety issues aren't changing," she said, "Now with them closing a prison and adding more incarcerated individuals to other prisons they are just moving the problems from one area to another with no change. We are concerned for them."

Bare Hill Correctional Facility in the town of Malone is slated to close in March.



The Clean

PROFESSIONALS



- Drycleaning
- Shirts
- Wash, Dry, Fold-Drop Off
- In-Store Carpet Cleaning
- Leather & Suede Cleaning
- Feather Pillow Cleaning
- Mat Rental





40 Catherine Street • Malone
518-483-7060
Monday - Friday 8-5 • Saturday 8-1 

Town board fills vacant seat

Greg Paye chosen; will join council until November

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO
aviollo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — A local town council on Wednesday voted to fill the five person board's remaining seat.

Malone Town Council voted unanimously on Wednesday evening to appoint Gregory Paye, a Republican, to serve on the board until November.

Prior to making the appointment Andrea M. Stewart said during her eight years as town supervisor and more than 30 years working in the town office she witnessed several vacancies filled by town council over the years.

"I have a unique perspective and insight into each of those outcomes," she said, "In November of 2025 we were faced with the untimely and sudden death of one of our board members. On Christmas Eve we faced an additional vacancy with the retirement and out of state move by another. I was not in favor of political expediency to fill two vacancies and believed the new board should determine that outcome."

Stewart, a Republican, was appointed to town council and as deputy supervisor at the board's organizational meeting in January, after retiring as Malone's town supervisor at the end of last year.

According to Stewart, she does not believe a three person board is sustainable.

"The law requires a majority of three for business to be conducted or for a vote to pass," she said, "I was asked to consider an appointment for a year to assist the board and town supervisor get through this precarious situation."

In last November's election, Republican Councilman Terrence C. Maguire ran unopposed and was elected as the town's new supervisor with Republican Councilman Brian Taylor reelected to the board and Jason Marlow, a Republican, elected for his first time.

Taylor's final total of 1,022 votes was only one higher than Kaitlin Parker's vote tally, 1,021 ballots, while a fourth candidate, Sara Poisson received 775 votes. Parker and Poisson ran as Democrats.

This November there will be two seats on the ballot for one-year terms to complete the remaining terms for Paul Walbridge and Jody Johnston, both Democrats.

Stewart said in November 2027 both seats will be on the ballot for three-year terms to comply with new state election laws before they revert to full four-year terms in 2030.

On Monday morning, town council interviewed four of the five candidates, Gregory Bleakley, Kaitlin Parker, Gregory Paye and Paul Richards, who submitted letters of interest after a board vote to solicit letters to fill the empty seat, in January.

A fifth candidate, Dan Marlow withdrew his name from consideration indicating he was not interested in the position prior to Monday's interviews, according to Maguire.

"I want to thank the five individuals who submitted letters of interest to be considered for the remaining vacant seat and the four who ultimately went through the interview process on Monday," Stewart said, "Each person gave their unique work and life experience, philosophical perspective, family and community background, all of which I have weighed before making my recommendation for a board decision."

According to Stewart, the candidate who aligns with her philosophy was reflected in the statements made by Paye, making the motion to appoint him to council for the year.

"All the background were varied but I felt his answers,



Town Clerk Abby Monica swears in Gregory Paye to Malone Town Council. Paye was one of four candidates interviewed by the town board to fill a remaining vacancy until November's elections. Town of Malone photo

his experience and his willingness to serve, in a way, similar to my own, allowing the people a robust campaign this fall," she added, "I fully expect all three and maybe another one to come out of the woodwork to run for the two vacant seats that the voters will definitely make their decision known."

At Wednesday's meeting Parker said she believes the board would have benefited from going in a bipartisan direction.

"I am sad that the board will no longer be bipartisan, we will have a single party board, I know it's mostly non-partisan," Parker said, "I think for me even more than party politics the people of Malone want to know the board is made up of individuals who do bring their own thoughts and beliefs and stay true to their moral cores and consciences, and that they aren't a rubber stamp for one person. I guess that would just be my hope going forward for all of you."

Maguire said any taxpayer in Malone should feel that they are represented.

"I voted for Brent Davison, he didn't win, it doesn't mean I'm not represented," he said, "Mr. Cashman represents me and if I have an issue or problem I am going to reach out to him, on a town level, on a personal level and I'm going to talk to him. I'm sure he's going to say OK Terry I'll look into it and do what I can for you, just like anybody on this board will. Call, text, show up at a board meeting, you don't have to show up at a board meeting if you got something going, send us an email or shoot us a text if you know somebody and say I see this problem what can we do about it."

The Candidates

Bleakley has lived in Malone his entire life and has worked at The Malone Telegram as a sports reporter, in the past, and is now working as an independent photographer, and said he is deeply passionate about Malone, on Monday.

Richards, who was born in Malone, said he owns a maple syrup business and builds homes on the side as a contractor through his businesses, Split Ridge Maple and Split Ridge Construction respectively.

Paye, a life-long Malone resident and former U.S. Customs Officer and longtime member of the American Legion in Malone, where he was chair of the legion's baseball committee until recently, said he feels confident that he can do the job and the research necessary to come up

with logical and thought out answers to any problems that might come up.

Parker, the only candidate to submit a letter of interest who was on the ballot last November, said she moved to Malone, where her grandmother grew up on Duane Street, in the summer of 2021, and said on Monday that she was convinced to run for public office by former Councilman Paul Walbridge.

Reached for comment after Wednesday's meeting, Parker said her first experience with local politics was a nice reminder that the world is full of surprises.

"Nothing is predetermined or predestined, there's always the ability for lots of twists and turns in the road. It certainly has been a journey," she told the Telegram, "I think at the end I am grateful that the board does now have full representation that the town is operating at full board capacity. I think we benefit from that."

Parker said she thinks voters in the last election should have been considered during the board's decision making process over filling the fifth seat on council.

"They really kept harping on the fact, the board members did that this has to be up to the voters, the voters have to have their say this is why they have appointed two people who have said they will not run in the fall," she said, "I guess I don't know why the voters this year are taking a precedence over the voters last year because I think the voters did have their say. I understand that I did lose but I also understand that it was by one vote and that more than 1,000 of their constituents did vote for me. It does seem like at the end of the day when they could have looked at the voices and desires of a large chunk of their constituency

they opted to set that aside and appoint a friend, basically."

Parker said despite being a small town there are different viewpoints in Malone.

"There are lots of different viewpoints and life experiences, and perspectives that are encapsulated by so many people who live in this town," she said, "I will just say the board in its new, current form is very well represented by Republican men with careers that are adjacent to law enforcement. We have that perspective on the town board for sure. There are a lot of perspectives that are not represented. Speaking for myself, I am newer to town, I didn't grow up here, I have young kids, I have aging parents, I am trying to work to attract people to the North Country and to Malone specifically that might not have grown up here."

Parker said having differing viewpoints might make the board's work more difficult.

"But I think the town would be better represented with some more diversity of thought," she said.

According to Parker, she has no regrets about her decision to run for local office.

"I really have met so many wonderful people that I might not have had a reason to encounter otherwise," she said, "I am exhausted and have been pretty tired throughout this process but it was worth it to meet all kinds of people across the community. I feel like a stronger, more connected community member. I think it's always good to learn and grow, and try new things. This absolutely was an opportunity to do all of that."

Parker described the majority of her experience campaigning as positive.

"Even though this is the end where we have come to overall it was still a really

positive process, most of the time, and for anybody else thinking about running for office I would say give it a shot you might surprise yourself and your community members where you end up," she said.

Moving forward Parker said she is going to take some time before deciding on running for office again.

"I'm going to take a beat. It's a big year for a lot of elections, we are heading into petitioning season and I am going to be carrying petitions for people running for state assembly, state senate and Congress," Parker said, "That's what I am thinking of for this next month and then I will see where we are heading into the caucuses."

Maguire said town council didn't ask each of the four candidates if they were going to seek reelection, in November, because they have no way to hold them to it.

Paye ended his interview with town council on Monday by indicating he would not seek reelection and that voters should decide who is on the board.

"That was another reason I was hesitant on filling the other open seat because it has to be somebody that you trust that isn't going to change their mind and say I kind of like this and now we have tipped the scales for someone, in my opinion, we have given someone an edge," Maguire said, "There's nothing stopping, legally, Andy or Greg to say I want to run. It's just such a gray area that I said there's no sense in asking the question because we can't hold anybody to that."

According to Maguire, he is not concerned about Stewart or Paye changing their minds and seeking reelection.

"Not a bit, both of those two 100% not a bit," he said, "They're both doing it not for ego, not for anything else but for the betterment of town of Malone. Both their exact quotes to me were we didn't want to leave the town high and dry and they aren't."

After being appointed to town council, Wednesday night, Paye said he believes there will be a robust turnout during this year's November election.

"With a governor's election this year there should be a lot of people at the ballot box and hopefully we can get some good candidates there," Paye said.

Maguire

Reached for comment after the meeting, Maguire said he wasn't concerned about partisanship following the board's decision on Wednesday.

"We have never, I've been on the board, one time there was three Democrats and Andy and I, we never had any partisan politics then," he told the Telegram, "Quite honestly it's too small of a town to worry about stuff like that. We really have too small of a budget where we don't waste money on anything we certainly wouldn't waste money on partisan politics and being petty about stuff. In eight years, nothing has come



ALMANZO WILDER HOMESTEAD

Site of the book *Farmer Boy* by Laura Ingalls Wilder

OPEN FOR THE SEASON MAY 23rd

Interested in volunteering? Have fun with us during our schooltour season or at special events!
Email: robin@almanzowilderfarm.com

Homeschoolers' Day MAY 15 A day just for homeschool groups and families. Two tour times: 10-12 and 1-3. Bring a picnic lunch! Watch for pre-registration information.

Fun on the Farm JUNE 20 Games & fun for kids! Awards for the art & essay contests winners. Honorary Laura and Almanzo will be announced. Reduced admission. The Dog Pound food truck will be on site.



Meet five of the original cast members of the TV series, including Dean Butler (*Almanzo*) and Alison Arnglim (*Nellie*). Plus, the Morgan horses from Wm. H. Miner Institute, music, demonstrations, and more! Watch our website as more detail and advance ticketing information is released.

Check website & social media for June hours!

177 Stacy Road, Burke, NY
almanzowilderfarm.com
TOURS • MUSEUM • SCHOOLHOUSE • GIFT SHOP • PICNIC AREA

Owls Head Mountain View
COMMUNITY CENTER
The Heart of the Community

Patsy's Place

Available for Your Special Occasions

Parties

Meetings

Celebrations

Reasonable Hourly Rates | ADA accessible building and restroom
Free Internet access | Tables and chairs provided
Adjustable lighting to suit your occasion
For details and reservations, call or text
OHMVCC Program Director Marcie Ryan | 1-315-705-1854

WEEKLY LICENSED PROGRESSIVE BINGO
Begins Wednesday April 8
Doors Open 4:30pm Games begin 6:00pm

GOOD OLE 4TH OF JULY
11:00am-4:00pm
Admission Free/Games & Raffles/Music/Vendors

The Community Center is located at 1977 County Route 27, Owls Head
www.ohmvcommunityconnection.org

SeaComm Grows and Adds Insurance Agency

2025 proved to be a strong year for SeaComm Federal Credit Union, marked by both membership and loan growth, while maintaining a strong financial position.

The credit union launched SeaComm Insurance Agency and acquired Maple City Insurance in Ogdensburg, to provide a more comprehensive financial experience for members. Insurance services will now complement SeaComm's core financial services of checking, savings, and lending products, along with Personal Financial Advisor Services, by offering auto, home, and business

insurance products.

SeaComm also upgraded several of its services including a new SeaComm Mobile App and online banking platform, ensuring that members have access to a more robust and improved mobile and online experience. Members are enjoying greater simplicity making debit and credit card purchases with all new cards having tap and pay, or contactless, functionality.

2025 was a milestone year for Personal Financial Advisor Services at SeaComm, as the credit union celebrated 10 years since launching in 2015,

providing members with a dedicated Advisor to help them pursue their financial goals. Understanding that some people are more comfortable investing on their own, SeaComm introduced Guided Wealth Portfolio, a digital investment platform that users can access to manage their own funds from home.

SeaComm remains dedicated to giving back and contributed more than \$350,000 to non-profits and charitable causes in 2025. This included a major gift of \$100,000 to the Canton-Potsdam Hospital in support of the hospital's capital campaign for the renovation of the pavilion and the construction of the SeaComm

Café, which is now open and provides patients, visitors, and employees with a warm and welcoming spot.

Demonstrating a continued commitment to education, SeaComm gave out a total of \$10,000 to 10 local, college-bound high school seniors in scholarship dollars and a \$500 grant to a young entrepreneur

through its Summer Grant Program.

In addition to donations and sponsorships, SeaComm gave back to the community throughout 2025 by way of their Beyond the Branch program. The credit union provided hundreds of free meals

See SEACOMM A9



Pictured: SeaComm Board of Directors Secretary Patricia Dodge, Insurance Support Specialist Erin Fennessy, VP of Accounting Michelle Patenaude, Board of Directors Chairman Myron Burns, President and Chief Executive Officer Scott A. Wilson, Licensed Insurance Agent Jake Bellinger, Manager and Lead Licensed Agent Tom Bellinger.

Visit us at Miller's Country Store

Miller's Country Store is a "Mom and Pop" shop offering housewares, storage sheds, garages, appliances, heating options, quick attach skid steer forks and so much more. They carry many off grid options too!

Miller's pride themselves on small town service and invite you to stop by at 275 East Road, Burke NY. They are open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Reach us at (518) 497-6373

MILLER'S COUNTRY STORE



**BUY OR RENT TO OWN!
ASK FOR DETAILS**

Propane Refrigerators & Ranges, Dry Goods, Spices, Gifts, Shoes, Boots, Vitamins, Essential Oils, Housewares, Wooden Clothes Racks, Wood & Coal Stoves, Coal AND MUCH MORE!

OFF GRID OPTIONS • WE HAVE QUICK ATTACH SKID STEER FORKS



275 East Road, Burke, NY • 518-497-6373
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm • Sat. 8am-3pm • Closed Sun.

AUTO
HOME
BUSINESS
and more!

PROVIDING YOU
peace of mind
WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

seacomminsurance.org | (800) 764-0566 ext. 585



Market Barn

The Market Barn on West Main Street Road in Malone has been well known for decades as a shopping go-to for unique gifts, interesting household items and decor, antiques, crafts, a good book and so much more. However, nestled in the middle is the cozy MB Deli, serving up sandwiches and wraps every day of the week. Using high

quality Boar's Head cheeses and meats and a variety of salads and sides, it's a great spot for lunch or for ordering ahead a supper to pick up and bring home. The deli is open from until 4:30 pm for dining in, delivery, or calling ahead for take-out. The deli meat and cheese can also be purchased by the pound. The deli phone number is 518-481-5710.

BRIDGE STREET AUCTION SERVICE

- Auctions At Your Site, Our Gallery & Facebook
- No Consignment, Estate or Business Liquidation Too Large or Too Small • Free Consultations • Consignments Welcome

FACEBOOK LIVE AUCTIONS!

f

Join our Auctions every Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 6pm, Sun. at 11:30 am

Pre-register by calling 518.563.9190
between 4-6pm then go to Steve Brodi Facebook Page

Check out our website for upcoming auctions!

Visit our shops in Plattsburgh

FURNITURE & DECOR • 2 MARGARET ST. • 518-324-4655

ANTIQUE VARIETY MALL • 12 MARGARET ST. • 518-563-7750

SECOND LOCATION • 315 CORNELIA ST. • 518-566-4184

VINTAGE VAULT • 30 BRINKERHOFF ST. • 518-578-9977

CHAMPLAIN VALLEY PICKERS • CHAMPLAIN CENTRE MALL

STEVE BRODI • 518-563-0568 • Auctioneer NY & VT

www.bridgestauction.com

Bridge Street Auction Service offers an array of services

Bridge Street Auction Service is owned and operated by Steve Brodi. This dynamic auction service provides a full spectrum of services handling everything from antique and collectibles to general household goods and more! Bridge Street Auction also provides assistance for business liquidation. There is no consignment, estate or liquidation too big or small. Attend in person or join us live on Facebook. For upcoming auctions, go to bridgestauction.com or call 518.563.0568.



The Farrar Home

Setting Adult Home standard since 1900
An Independent Lifestyle in a Supervised Setting

Private rooms include bath, cable TV, phone, and wireless internet. Handicap accessible.

- Medication management by a capable, caring staff
- Rental assistance for veterans and spouses.
- Long term care insurance accepted
- Respite Care available

Stop in or call for appointment
(518) 483-7550

46 Constable St. Malone • www.farrarhome.org

Attention: Homeowners and Contractors If You Are Excavating

Important Information You Need to Know From



Liberty™



UDIG-NY

SAFE DIGGING STARTS HERE

• **ALWAYS CALL 811: UDIG NY**, 2 to 10 working days prior to your dig or excavation. The call is free and will only take a few minutes.

- Be ready with all important information. The municipality, street address, extent and type of work, start date and time of excavation, contact person and phone number.
- Then, wait for the site to be marked! Marking could be color-coated paint, flags or stakes.
- Respect and protect the facility operator's marks. Note the color of the marking and what type of facilities they indicate.
- Dig with care! Always hand dig within two feet on either side of any marked lines.
- If damage, contact or disturbance of any underground utility ie occurs, immediately notify the affected facility operator, utility or pipeline company.
- If damage to underground facility creates an emergency, take immediate steps to safeguard life and property. Call 911

- BY NOT CALLING UDIG NY Here's what you could be getting into:

 - Personal injury, including loss of life
 - Damage to the environment
 - Costly property damage
 - Damage to the utility lines: communication (i.e. telephone, long distance, communications, cable tv, 911 Emergency, fire and police communications), electric, gas, pipelines, sewer, traffic signals and water lines
 - Costly delays and expensive repairs
 - Legal problems
 - Civil penalties



Liberty™

Liberty Utilities wants to make you aware of a potential safety issue that could arise when attempting to clear blocked sewer lines



- Clearing the sewer service line with any mechanical cutting equipment could damage the natural gas line.
- This could result in a serious natural gas leak into the sewer service line, mains and buildings posing an immediately safety risk.
- There is the potential that natural gas lines may have inadvertently penetrated sewer service lines during installation.
- Before you or your plumber attempt to clear blocked sewer lines, call Liberty Utilities

1-800-673-3301



Liberty™

- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- There is no charge for the sewer service check

33 Stearns St. • Massena • www.libertyutilities.com

1-800-673-3301

REPORT ALL GAS ODORS
1-800-673-3301 or 911

The MARKET BARN ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES CRAFTS • GIFTS

EST. 1993

We're full of Surprises!

You never know what you'll find when you wander among dozens of booths full of unique items...old & new!

Antiques Collectibles Jewelry Maple Syrup Handcrafted Furniture Herbs & Spices Honey Wilder Homestead Books Prints Jams Books Adirondack Gifts & T-Shirts Rugs More!

Enjoy lunch at the

MB Deli

EAT IN • TAKE OUT • WE DELIVER!

- Sandwiches
- Subs • Wraps
- Salads & Sides



Call ahead for delivery or to have your order ready when you get here!

518-481-5710

DELI OPEN DAILY 'TILL 4:30



3982 US Rt. 11, Malone • 518-483-9341
Monday - Saturday 10 - 5 • Sunday 12 - 5





10th Mountain Life features soldier shoutouts, photos of Fort Drum events, memories from post and more.

To recognize your favorite soldier or share photos, email news@wdt.net with subject "10th Mountain Life"

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Robert J. Dole addresses a Fort Drum news conference as part of the 1985 reactivation of the 10th Mountain Division, with which he served in World War II. With him were, from left, U.S. Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse M. D'Amato, U.S. Reps. David O'B. Martin and Sherwood Boehlert, Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr., U.S. Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. John A. Wickham Jr. From the Watertown Daily Times Archive

SPONSORED BY



Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization

www.advocatedrum.com



10TH MOUNTAIN LIFE

How does winter weather impact Fort Drum operations?

Fort Drum Public Affairs

Winters in the north country can be harsh and unpredictable. To address this, Fort Drum officials follow an established weather call policy designed to balance mission requirements with the safety of Soldiers, Army civilians, and their families. The installation's weather call process is based on multiple factors, including forecasts from the National Weather Service and 18th Combat Weather Squadron, road conditions on and around the installation, and input from multiple organizations, including the directorates of Public Works, Emergency Services, and Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security.

Under this policy, installation leaders may implement a Delayed Report, Early Release, or Do Not Report order. Rich Hughes, the installation emergency manager, said Fort Drum personnel are notified of the initial weather call before 4 a.m.

"Many of our Soldiers and civilian employees live across the North Country and report to work early each day, so we want to get the information to people for their awareness before they begin their morning commute," he said. The early decision also allows Fort Drum DPW snow removal crews to clear roadways and lots, unimpeded by normal traffic. Additionally, the installation informs local school districts about on-post conditions to inform their separate decisions on delays or closures. If weather conditions worsen, the data collection process is repeated for a potential status change before 7 a.m.

"If the severe weather is projected to continue, or roads and parking lots can't be cleared even by the delayed reporting time, we may recommend a 'Do Not Report' for non-essential personnel," Hughes said. For severe weather developing during the duty day, an early release decision is made before 11:30 a.m. "If we're already here and see that severe weather is going to impact the afternoon

hours and/or the drive home, we may recommend an early release to prevent personnel from having to drive in hazardous conditions," he added.

Hughes said the weather call policy is reviewed annually as part of a broader effort to maintain readiness while reducing unnecessary risk during severe weather events.

"There is so much more that goes into a decision than what the weather looks like at any given moment," he said. "It's not an exact science, but it is as informed a decision as we can make it based on multiple factors."

These include:

- The ability to clear snow in time for personnel to report for duty.

- Current weather and road conditions across a 40-mile commute radius, which involves canvassing local law enforcement agencies, monitoring travel advisories and bans in the tri-county area, and tracking 511NY.

- Forecasted weather conditions across the commute radius for the entire duty day. The unpredictability of lake effect snow bands in some areas can make this difficult to project. Any minor variations to wind speeds and directions can greatly affect the amount of snow.

- Mission-essential activities such as deployments, redeployments, special events, and critical training. The command team may designate certain activities as mission-essential to ensure personnel are available.

STAYING INFORMED

Information on post status, road conditions and how weather impacts Fort Drum is available at <http://wdt.me/FortDrumAlerts> and accessible through MAPA (My Army Post App). Status updates are also posted on the U.S. Army Fort Drum & 10th Mountain Division Facebook page. Community members can also call the Fort Drum Information Hotline at 315-772-3786 for road conditions, and delay and closure information.

Above: Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division and across the U.S. Army ski in the annual D-Series event at Fort Drum on Jan. 29. This event tested the strength and agility of different squads in the U.S. Army to build cohesion while honoring the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division ancestors. Check back this month for more D-Series photos in 10th Mountain Life. Courtesy of the 10th Mountain Division

NEWS FROM POST

■ The parents of a 10th Mountain Division soldier who embodied the values of courage and selflessness were notified this week that their son, Staff Sgt. Michael H. Ollis, who died in the summer of 2013 during combat in Afghanistan while protecting a comrade in arms from Poland, will posthumously receive the nation's highest military decoration. On Tuesday, Bob and Linda Ollis received a call at their Staten Island home from President Donald Trump informing them that Michael deserved the Medal of Honor for his actions.



Michael H. Ollis during his first deployment to Afghanistan.
St. Martin's Press

In August 2006, Ollis enlisted in the Army at age 17 after excelling in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program at the Michael J. Petrides School on Staten Island.

He completed basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was assigned to the 1st Armored Division in Baumholder, Germany. In April 2008, he deployed to Iraq and was promoted to sergeant before the combat tour ended. Ollis moved to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he served as a fire team leader with 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. He completed Air Assault School before deploying to Afghanistan with his unit. Ollis returned to Fort Campbell in May 2011, but he was soon reassigned to the 10th Mountain Division. He arrived at Fort Drum in November to join the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team. While stationed at Fort Drum, he lived in Sackets Harbor at Madison Barracks. He told his father he hoped to retire there after his Army career.

In 2013, Ollis was serving with the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Following two tense combat deployments in the mountains of Afghanistan, he earned the U.S. Army's Ranger tab. On Aug. 28, 2013, Ollis and his entire coalition military base, Forward Operating Base Ghazni, were caught in the middle of a major Taliban assault.

■ The 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Mobile Brigade Combat Team is set to deploy to the Middle East. The Army announced Monday that the 2nd Mobile Brigade Combat Team will be replacing the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Iowa National Guard, as part of its regular rotation of forces. The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team was deployed from Iowa in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

McDonald's worker retires after 5 decades

Malone native taught kids, grandkids of coworkers



Front row from left Elizabeth McGivney, Amy Pond and Robyn O'Neill. Back row from left Wendy Russell, Chris LaGray, Deb Boyea, Keri Peets, Rose Ero and Juli Favreau at Pond's retirement dinner. Pond was joined by friends and family at the McDonald's on Route 11, in Malone on Thursday afternoon, to celebrate more than five decades of serving the community. Provided photo



Amy Pond at her retirement dinner earlier in the month. She retired after more than 53 years at McDonald's this week. Provided photo

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO
aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — A local resident was joined by friends and family for a retirement party on Thursday afternoon, celebrating a career that spanned more than 50 years.

Amy Pond is retiring after more than five decades of serving the community and mentoring crew members at the local McDonald's on Route 11 in the town of Malone.

Throughout her career, Pond became known not just as a respected leader, but as a caring and steady presence in town who helped shape generations of young employees, many of whom worked their first jobs with Pond. She said in all the years she worked at

McDonald's, over 53 years, no two days in a row were the same.

Pond said what has kept her going all these years is working with the managers and employees, and seeing community members every day.

"It's because I love the managers and I love the kids, and I love the Malone Community," Pond told the Telegram.

Pond said she has worked with the children and grandchildren of coworkers over the years, adding it was rewarding to teach young employees not just skills for working at a restaurant but life skills too.

"The kids and teaching them, and learning from them too," she said, "And you teach them not only specifics to McDonald's but other things too, manners

and teamwork."

According to Pond, when she started McDonald's was located across the street from its current location in Malone, and initially did not have a drive-thru.

"At first we didn't have a drive-thru, it was just a lobby and then they put in a window," Chris LaGray, the Malone location's general manager, said.

LaGray said the restaurant has been at its current location for 35 years as of last October.

Pond said in the past, she and LaGray, would bring food and drinks to the fire department when they responded to fires.

"The Callfiremen never had a women's auxiliary, so we used to bring them meals and coffee, just make a bunch for them," LaGray said, "In fact, they even gave us our own little fire

jackets, Amy and I."

LaGray said Pond has been an important mentor during her time at the Malone location.

"Amy has been a very good mentor over my whole 45 years here, in all the different positions that she held she was always supportive of the store and the people here," LaGray said.

Local owner and operators of the Malone McDonald's, Peter and Sal Napoli, hosted a celebration Thursday, at the location honoring Amy's career and the lives she impacted along the way

Pond went as far as visiting

beloved and loyal customers at their homes when it became too tough for them to travel into the restaurant, according to a press release issued regarding Pond's retirement, which states she also cooked at the local Ronald

McDonald House with her coworkers.

Pond said she is looking forward to retirement.

"Just doing what I want to," she said.

Westville broadband work planned

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO
aviolo@mtelegram.com

WESTVILLE — A broadband internet service deployment is anticipated in the coming weeks in Franklin County as efforts continue to expand public broadband infrastructure in the North Country.

Planned installation locations include Burns Holden Road, approximately 0.1 miles west of Fitzpatrick Road, Little Briggs Street Road, approximately 0.25 miles north of County Route 20, Stebbins Road, approximately 150 feet east of State Route 30 and on River-Westville Road, approximately 0.5 miles east of Sulphur Springs Road, according to a press release issued by Franklin County.

"There's going to be some build-out out there," County Manager Donna J. Kissane said, "There's going to be some activity and some build-out, some different construction to get this ready. Really it's called the make ready preparation to get internet services to

those areas."

These improvements support Franklin County's ongoing efforts to enhance public infrastructure and increase access to essential digital services, according to the county.

Kissane said Franklin County has received approximately \$16 million through state Municipal Infrastructure Programs and federal U.S. Department of Agriculture connect grants, adding in addition to the upcoming build-out in Westville future broadband work is planned across the county.

"We have also put in a request for increased funding because of the rising costs of the project," she said, "It's for the whole county we are doing work across several areas of the county, from the southern part to the northern part. We are asking for several million dollars more, in funding, to complete the project because rising costs have really impacted the work."

Franklin County was

awarded a grant from Empire State Development through the Municipal Infrastructure Program to support the expansion of broadband internet service, according to the release, and this initiative is intended to extend reliable connectivity to areas identified as unserved or underserved.

This project involves the installation of new fiber-optic infrastructure and fixed-wireless broadband components, the release said, and as part of the fixed-wireless deployment, utility-pole-mounted structures will be placed within the public Right-of-Way. These structures are similar in design to lighting poles commonly used at athletic facilities and will support point-to-point antenna equipment necessary for broadband signal transmission.

For more information, visit the county's website, www.franklincountyny.gov, for project announcements and notices.

SeaComm

From A6

at local restaurants, and paid for fun family activities including mini golf, tubing, museum passes, event tickets, in addition to countless other events and giveaways.

For the fifth consecutive year, SeaComm was Certified™ as a Great Place to Work®, which was determined by its employees through an anonymous survey process. 88% of the credit union's

employees rated SeaComm as a great place to work, compared to 57% of employees at a typical US based company. Not only do SeaComm employees think it's a great place to work, but they are also engaged in the community through the "Do Some Good" Program, which grants them the opportunity to volunteer for a charity of their choice during work hours.

BauerFinancial, and independent financial rating company, rated SeaComm their superior five-stars, deeming that it is a safe financial institution, financially sound, and

operating well above regulatory capital requirements.

SeaComm serves the financial, lending, and insurance needs of more than 56,000 members with nine branches located throughout the North Country and Vermont, from Watertown, NY to South Burlington, VT. Founded in 1963 with headquarters in Massena, SeaComm has a current asset size exceeding \$780 million, and remains dedicated to providing its members with the highest level of service along with giving back to the community.

CUT AND SAVE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MALONE REGION

2026
Calendar

- MARCH 12 - TRIVIA NIGHT at Cafe Nouveau
- MAY 1-29 - DECORATE with FLOWERS. Malone and area
- MAY 23-25 - MALONE GARAGE SALES. Malone and Rt 30 area
- JUNE 1-26 - HOME DECORATING CONTEST, Malone and area
- JUNE 20 - SUMMERFEST & FLEAMARKET. Arsenal Green - Live Music by Last Call
- JULY 3 - CONCERT in the PARK, Arsenal Green - Honky Tonk Zach
- JULY 4 - 250th Anniversary Events, All around Malone and area
- JULY 10 - CONCERT in the PARK, Arsenal Green - Jimmy Wade and Matrix
- JULY 17 - CONCERT in the PARK, Arsenal Green - Too Tall String Band
- JULY 24 - CONCERT in the PARK, Arsenal Green - Ian Campbell
- JULY 31 - CONCERT in the PARK, Arsenal Green - M & M Entertainment
- AUGUST 22-23 - FLY-IN, Malone Dufort Airport Last Call, Friend's Union, Josee Allard
- OCTOBER 1-23 - HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST, Malone and area
- NOVEMBER 7 - ANNUAL DINNER MEETING, Details to be announced
- NOVEMBER 21 - COMMUNITY DECORATION DAY, Arsenal Green
- NOVEMBER 28 - SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, All local businesses
- DECEMBER 5 - SANTA in the PARK, Arsenal Green
- DECEMBER 1-18 - STAR of the NORTH DECORATING CONTEST, Malone and area
- DECEMBER 1-23 - ELFIE BUSINESS VISITS, Malone Business Members

Trivia and Business after Hours dates will be announced when set up.

Board meetings 1st Wednesday of every month, 5:15 PM at the Chamber office. Members are welcome. Please call if you wish to be put on the agenda or attend a board meeting, The public is welcome to attend all of our events. If you are interested in joining or volunteering with the Chamber, please call 518-483-3760 or email: malonechamber@gmail.com

497 East Main Street, Malone
malonechamberofcommerce.com

CUT AND SAVE





FRANKLIN COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE AGING

is here to help with services.

**BENEFITS ASSISTANCE • EISEP • HIICAP • LEGAL SERVICES • SENIOR REC & ED
HEALTH PROMOTION & MORE!**

Assessment and Linkage to Long Term Care Services like

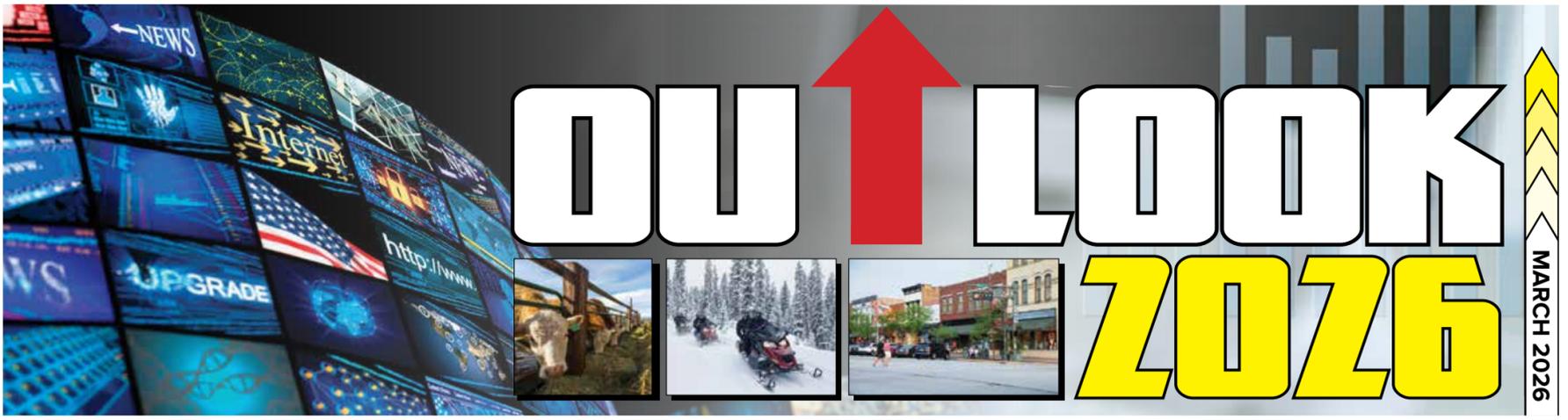
- **Bathing and Dressing Assistance**
- **Mobility Assistance**
- **Eating and Meal Prep • Housekeeping**
- **Respite for family and caregivers at home**



NY Connects
Your Link to Long Term
Services and Supports

Call For More Information

518.481.1526 or 1.877.410.5753 ext. 526



Hudson Headwaters Malone Family Health Now Open

MALONE, NY – Malone Family Health, a new primary care center operated by Hudson Headwaters Health Network, is now open. The center is located at 24 Fourth Street, on the University of Vermont Health Alice Hyde Medical Center campus. Since December 2023, Hudson Headwaters has operated Family Health at Malone, also on the hospital's campus, that this new, expanded facility replaces.

"The opening of Malone Family Health represents a critical step forward in improving access to care for Malone and Franklin County," said Tucker Slingerland, M.D., Hudson Headwaters CEO. "Investing in Malone reflects the Network's long-standing commitment to strengthening rural health care and responding to community needs. We look forward to continuing to work with our regional partners throughout North Country to develop strategies and actions that create sustainable health care for everyone."

Malone Family Health is a state-of-the-art health center equipped with 16 exam rooms. The center offers family medicine, immunizations and screenings, gynecology, care management, behavioral health, nutritional counseling and diabetes education and more. Providers include Susan Foster, FNP, Alison Guile, M.D. and April Worlock, FNP. The Network is currently recruiting additional providers.

"Hudson Headwaters has proudly served the Malone community for more than two years," shared Susan Foster, FNP, lead provider at Malone Family Health. "We look forward to welcoming



current and new patients, as well as a growing team of providers, at our new facility and delivering high-quality primary care to Malone families for years to come."

Malone Family Health includes a Hudson Headwaters pharmacy, which is currently pending NYS Board of Pharmacy approval and is anticipated to open in the spring. The Network will share more details about the in-house pharmacy as

opening plans are finalized.

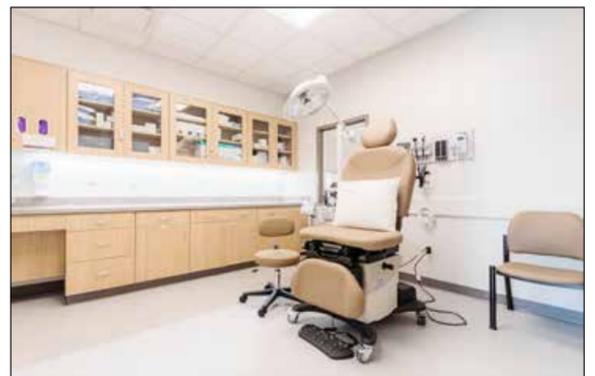
Malone Family Health is open Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. New patients are welcome and most health insurances are accepted, including Medicare and Medicaid. Budget plans, sliding fee program and prescription assistance are also available for qualified patients. Online scheduling is available and appointments may be made by phone. For more information, call the

center at 518-824-2562 or visit HHHN.org.

A grand opening celebration for Malone Family Health is being planned for early June.

ABOUT HUDSON HEADWATERS: Hudson Headwaters Health Network is a non-profit network of 26 community-based primary care health centers serving patients of all ages from

See HUDSON B3



Making Financial Planning Simple, Understandable — Even Enjoyable



By **BRADLEY HARTE**
Harte Solutions

When people hear the words financial planning, they often think of complexity, stress, or stacks of paperwork. For many, it feels overwhelming — like something they should understand but never quite had the time to learn.

One of the things I enjoy most about what I do is changing that perception.

For me, financial planning has never been about charts, jargon, or intimidating conversations. It's about clarity. It's about helping people understand their options, feel confident in their decisions, and walk away knowing they have a plan that makes sense for their life.

**EXPERIENCE BUILT
IN THE COMMUNITY**

From 2007 through 2020, I had the privilege of serving as a Retirement Specialist with the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan. During that time, I visited state, county, and local municipal agencies across our region, meeting with employees one-on-one and in group settings to help them begin preparing for retirement.

Those years were invaluable.

I worked with teachers, highway department crews, corrections officers, administrative staff, social workers, and countless public servants who dedicate their careers to serving our communities.

I sat at conference tables, in break rooms, and in small offices answering questions like:

- "Am I saving enough?"
- "What happens to my pension?"
- "How does Social Security fit into this?"
- "When can I realistically retire?"

More importantly, I learned how to explain retirement planning in a way that feels human — not technical.

FAMILIAR FACES, COMFORTABLE CONVERSATIONS

Over the years, I've had the opportunity to meet many people throughout Franklin, Clinton, Essex, and St. Lawrence Counties. There's

See PLANNING B7

MEDICARE HEALTH PLAN QUESTIONS?

CALL YOUR LOCAL AGENT!

NIKKI TOWLE | 518-353-9211



Rotary Club recognizes educators



The Rotary Club of Malone hosted its annual dinner to celebrate special educators that are nominated by their peers on Dec. 2 at the Elks Club in Malone. Rotary President Nancy Montevago awarded the following educators with a plaque and

gifts from the Rotary Club of Malone for their distinguished service to the children in our community. Pictured, from left to right:

Pam LeDuc, St Joe's Elementary; Jennifer Monroe, FEH BOCES; Vicky Biondo, FA High School; Kendra Wright, Davis Elementary;

Trixie Borden, Davis Elementary; Brianne Supernault, Malone Middle School; and Melissa LaFlesh, Flanders Elementary

School. Missing from photo is Tim Lamay from the Malone Middle School who was also honored. Provided photo

Malone resident gets senior award for work during Statewide convention

Staff report

Malone resident Mary Degon, a member of the North County Chapter of The New York Statewide Senior Action Council (SAC), was recently awarded the Robert E. O'Donnell Memorial Award for a senior who has done extraordinary work to promote the growth and development of StateWide at its annual convention in Saratoga Springs.

According to a press release from the organization, Degon became active in her community when she moved into senior housing at the Malone Adult Center where she delivers Home Delivered Meals four days a week. She also volunteers to sell tickets for both StateWide and the local adult center, and at Bingo for Notre Dame outreach center. She also gives communion to people in her apartment complex, the nursing home and to people who are not ambulatory during Mass.

Degon is a StateWide board member and an advocate for the organization in the senior community, according to the release.

"We are thrilled to honor Mary for everything she has done and continues to do for New York's seniors. We look forward to working with her on current and future initiatives," Maria Alvarez, executive director of NY StateWide Senior Action Council, said in the release.

The New York State Senior Action Council (StateWide), www.senior.org, is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for the needs and well-being of the State's some 2.5 million senior citizens, the release said, and the organization is governed and directed by its members.

StateWide operates three toll free helplines (1-800-333-4374) staffed by professional counselors certified by the state, the organization said, these helplines offer seniors free timely information and guidance on issues critical to their overall quality of life. According to the release, they are staffed by nationally known experts in patients and resident rights in hospitals, nursing homes, and other institutions.

Ideas, inspiration, local referrals and special offers for your best living space - inside and out!
 Deadline for reserving space is March 31st

The Malone Telegram
[email ads@mtelegram.com](mailto:ads@mtelegram.com)

McDonald's worker retires after 5 decades

Malone native taught kids, grandkids of coworkers

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO
aviollo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — A local resident was joined by friends and family for a retirement party on Thursday afternoon, celebrating a career that spanned more than 50 years.

Amy Pond is retiring after more than five decades of serving the community and mentoring crew members at the local McDonald's on Route 11 in the town of Malone.

Throughout her career, Pond became known not just as a respected leader, but as a caring and steady presence in town who helped shape generations of young employees, many of whom worked their first jobs with Pond. She said in all the years she worked at McDonald's, over 53 years, no two days in a row were the same.

Pond said what has kept her going all these years is working with the managers and employees, and seeing community members every day.

"It's because I love the managers and I love the kids, and I love the Malone Community," Pond told the Telegram.

Pond said she has worked with the children and grandchildren of coworkers over the years, adding it was rewarding to teach young employees not just skills for working at a restaurant but life skills too.

"The kids and teaching them, and learning from them too," she said, "And you teach them not only specifics to McDonald's but other things too, manners and teamwork."

According to Pond, when she started McDonald's was located across the street from its current location in Malone, and initially did not have a drive-thru.

"At first we didn't have a drive-thru, it was just a lobby and then they put in a



Amy Pond at her retirement dinner earlier in the month. She retired after more than 53 years at McDonald's this week. Provided photo

window," Chris LaGray, the Malone location's general manager, said.

LaGray said the restaurant has been at its current location for 35 years as of last October.

Pond said in the past, she and LaGray, would bring food and drinks to the fire department when they responded to fires.

"The Callfiremen never had a women's auxiliary, so we used to bring them meals and coffee, just make a bunch for them," LaGray said, "In fact, they even gave us our own little fire jackets, Amy and I."

LaGray said Pond has been an important mentor during her time at the Malone location.

"Amy has been a very good mentor over my whole 45 years here, in all the different positions that she held she was always supportive of the store and the people here," LaGray said.

Local owner and operators of the Malone McDonald's, Peter and Sal Napoli, hosted

a celebration Thursday, at the location honoring Amy's career and the lives she impacted along the way

Pond went as far as visiting beloved and loyal customers at their homes when it became too tough for them to travel into the restaurant, according

to a press release issued regarding Pond's retirement, which states she also cooked at the local Ronald McDonald House with her coworkers.

Pond said she is looking forward to retirement.

"Just doing what I want to," she said.

Hudson

From B1

Saratoga County to the Canadian border, an area of about 7,900 square miles. Hudson Headwaters serves 157,000 patients throughout seven counties. The Network is the sole medical provider in much of this rural, medically underserved region. In much of the area, Hudson

Headwaters is the only primary care "safety-net" provider, and the organization's doors are open to all regardless of insurance or ability to pay. For the past twenty years, Hudson Headwaters has depended on the 340B Federal Drug Pricing Program to fulfill its mission by maintaining crucial health care services and responding to the growing needs of our region. Learn more at HHHN.org.

PLANS TO BUILD? BUY NOW AND SAVE \$\$\$\$\$

BUY DIRECT & SAVE!

POLE BARN PACKAGES

16x20
24x32
40x60
CUSTOM SIZES AVAILABLE

GARAGE PACKAGES

24x24 or 28x32
2 Garage Doors, Vinyl Siding, Metal Roof, 2 Vinyl Windows, 1 Entry Door

Standard Package Includes:
Header Material, 2x4 Spruce Wall Construction, Pressure Treated Bottom Plate, 7/16 OSB Exterior Sheathing, 5/12 Pitch Engineered Trusses

Yes, we can quote custom size packages!

GARAGE DOORS
Call for Great Prices and lead times!

"Put your money where your home is"

Metal Roofing • Trusses • Lumber • Insulation • Plumbing • Electrical • Hardware • Paint • Kitchen & Bath • Windows & Doors • Vinyl Siding
Pole Barn, Garage & House Packages

Phone: 518-358-4476

745 County Route 32 | Brushton, NY 12916
johnstonsawmill@yahoo.com

Find us on Facebook

Phone: 518-358-2714

2342 State Rt. 37 | Fort Covington, NY 12937
smith.lumber.inc@gmail.com

Owners: Phillip Showen • Bryan Phelan



Malone Family Health

HHHN.org

New Name, New Location, Same Quality Care!

Malone Family Health Opening in March, New Patients Welcome!
Call 518-824-2562 or Schedule Online.



SPONSORED BY

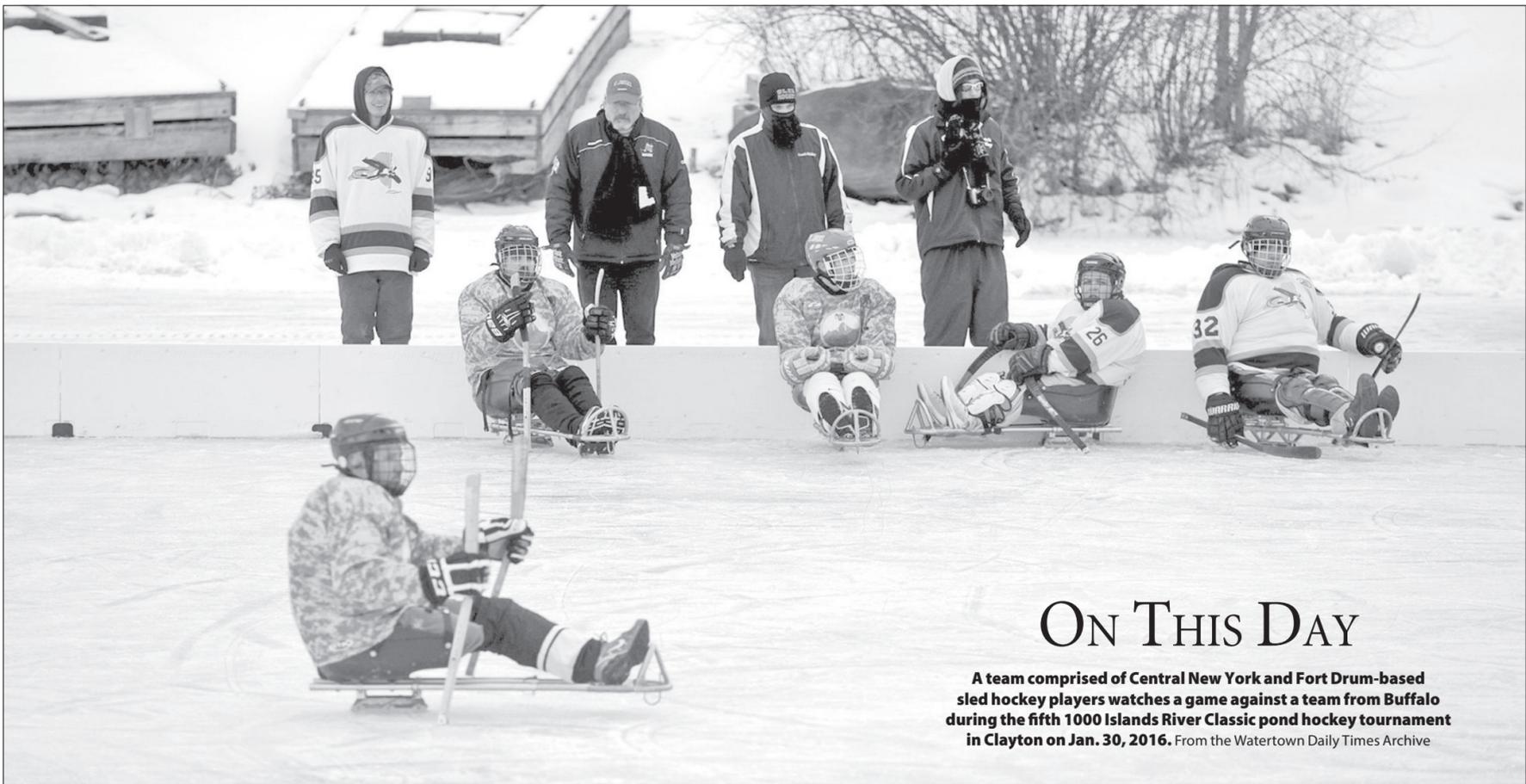


www.advocatedrum.com

10th Mountain Life features soldier shoutouts, photos of Fort Drum events, memories from post and more.

To recognize your favorite soldier or share photos, email news@wdt.net with subject "10th Mountain Life"

The Madison Barracks 9th Division of the 25th Field Artillery, on maneuver at the Pine Camp artillery range, prepare to fire a 75-millimeter gun. In 1906, the area of Pine Camp near the communities of Black River and Deferiet was selected by the commanders of Madison Barracks for training. Courtesy of the 10th Mountain Division & Fort Drum Museum



ON THIS DAY

A team comprised of Central New York and Fort Drum-based sled hockey players watches a game against a team from Buffalo during the fifth 1000 Islands River Classic pond hockey tournament in Clayton on Jan. 30, 2016. From the Watertown Daily Times Archive

10TH MOUNTAIN LIFE

10th Light Support Battalion honored by Assemblyman Gray

By JONATHON WHEELER
jwheeler@wdt.net

FORT DRUM — The 10th Light Support Battalion was recently recognized by Assemblyman Scott A. Gray for extraordinary efforts during high-priority missions.

The battalion had completed more than 20 high priority missions without a single error.

"It really came down to extraordinary work by the unit," Gray said. "We thought it was worthy to point it out and actually thank them for it and welcome them home."

Gray said that when units complete the high-level missions without error, it is worth officially recognizing at the state level.

"They're under extreme pressure," Gray said. "It's like having a perfect season in sports... It's worthy of recognition when somebody can execute at that level."

Gray called the Fort Drum connection to the north country "huge" while complimenting the work of Capt. Kenard Hird, who is the Company C commander.

"There are certain units and there are certain leaders and Kenny Hird is one of those leaders, one of those



Assemblyman Scott Gray presents the citation to Capt. Kenard Hird, right, and 1st Sgt. Darlson Osias. Provided photo

exceptional leaders," he said.

He said Hird leads the unit at a high level.

"We're talking about not only war-fighting, when they're operating flawlessly, but we're talking about when they come home, they train hard...

they incorporate moral type of building activities in there and they're very community oriented," Gray said. "When you talk about well rounded leadership and you're talking about a well-rounded unit, you're looking at Kenny leading that unit."

JOB WELL DONE



Sgt. Pedro Crespo Jesus, a human resources NCO, gets awarded by soldiers and leaders with HHC, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade during his ETS ceremony at Fort Drum on Dec. 9. Pedro reaffirmed his dedication to service in the United States Army by reenlisting for 3 years the prior month. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Mason Nichols

OUT AND ABOUT

■ Seven soldiers, including one from the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Polk, started off 2026 by earning their newest Military Occupational Specialty — 91J — by completing five weeks of training in the 91J10 Quartermaster and Chemical Equipment Repairer Course at Regional Training Site (RTS)-Maintenance at Fort McCoy. Spc. Chandler Petrimoulx with 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, was among them.

■ Although he never wore a military uniform, Charles Minot Dole's service to the U.S. Army proved invaluable as his advocacy and recruitment efforts led to the establishment of the 10th Mountain Division in 1943. Fort Drum community members and invited guests gathered inside the post museum to celebrate his legacy Jan. 23 during the dedication ceremony of the Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole Heritage Complex. "Today we are not simply renaming a building," said Maj. Gen. Scott Naumann, 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum commanding general. "We are recognizing the individual whose vision, persistence, and love of the mountains helped create this division and, probably more importantly, helped define who we are."

Dole, the founder of the National Ski Patrol, recognized a critical gap in the U.S. military and relentlessly petitioned the War Department for a specialized mountain unit.

Inspired to follow dream of becoming a sportscaster

By Jason Hunter
SUNY Potsdam

POTSDAM — A lifelong dream to be a sports broadcaster on ESPN is coming true for SUNY Potsdam's Caramia Carista '26.

Last week, as Division I swim and diving athletes in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) converged in Ohio for the championships, Carista, a Norwood-Norfolk graduate, was on site providing the color commentary for the event—a major milestone in her rapidly rising broadcasting career.

"My mouth just about dropped to the floor when they offered me the position," Carista said. "I've broadcast on cable TV, radio and streams, and I've covered high school sports, Division III, Division II—and my first and my first Division I opportunity isn't a normal game, it's a big championship meet."

AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

Carista's path to the broadcast booth was shaped by resilience and reinvention. A three-season athlete in high school and one of the top soccer goalies in New York State, she finished her high school soccer career just 30 saves shy of breaking the state record. With Division I college soccer offers on the table, her future seemed set—until a devastating injury abruptly changed everything.

Shortly after the soccer season ended, Carista was training on an indoor court when she jumped for a header and landed awkwardly, twisting her leg. Initial scans suggested two meniscus tears, an injury she believed she could recover from in time to play softball that spring. Surgery, however, revealed a far more serious reality.

"I woke up from surgery, and the first thing the doctor told me was, 'We're sorry, you can no longer play sports, it wasn't a minor meniscus tear, you completely shattered your ACL.' It was devastating," she said. "I spent seven months on crutches, and I did physical therapy for a long time in high school. I was finally learning how to walk by the time I graduated, but I couldn't run, my knee would give out, and I'd fall down the stairs. You really learn to appreciate mobility when you lose it. It just opened my eyes to so many other things."

The injury sidelined her from basketball and softball during her senior year and ended her hopes of playing collegiate soccer. But in that void, Carista found a new way to stay connected to sports—by using her voice.

During her senior year at Norwood-Norfolk Central School, she launched a podcast on Spotify, **Caramia Carista's Spinning it On!**, reframing her relationship with athletics through storytelling and analysis.

"After I tore my ACL, it wasn't a great mental slope. It was a very long recovery, two years to learn how to walk again, but during that time I knew I had to channel my energy into something more positive and a podcast is something that I always wanted to do," she said.

She wasted no time booking high-profile guests, including Norwood-Norfolk alumna Jennifer Hildreth—an Emmy Award-winning play-by-play broadcaster who has covered three FIFA World Cups—and Bob Rathbun, the longtime voice of the Atlanta Hawks. Carista took to the role naturally, earning two nominations for Best Female Podcast Host and Best Entertainment Show.

FINDING HER VOICE

After graduating from high school, Carista enrolled at SUNY Brockport to pursue a



At left: SUNY Potsdam's Caramia Carista poses for a photo with Paul Walbridge, Voice of the Huskies who inspired her along in her career path, in the broadcast booth. At right: she works on the sidelines during a soccer game. SUNY Potsdam photos



degree in physical education. She also joined the college radio station as a DJ, further fueling her passion for broadcasting. Academically, however, the physical demands of the program did not align with her ongoing recovery.

"I still couldn't move like I wanted to, and by that point they were expecting me to be able to run," she said.

After a month and a half, she made the difficult decision to leave Brockport and return home to the North Country. She enrolled at SUNY Potsdam with plans to begin the following semester and, in the meantime, sought hands-on broadcasting experience. Carista secured internships at WPDM and WICY (both now Wild Country FM), working alongside Chris Engel and the late Paul Walbridge.

"Paul Walbridge, rest in peace, was THE voice of the Malone Huskies. He was my broadcasting partner and taught me everything I knew about sports broadcasting. As a woman, I wasn't necessarily given the open door to be welcomed into this male-dominated environment. Paul was a very open-minded person and had convinced people to give me a chance, because he was a well-respected broadcaster, and without him I wouldn't have had that foot in the door and the opportunity," she said.

In addition to high school and collegiate coverage, Walbridge also encouraged Carista to step into professional sports broadcasting—an experience that further tested her confidence and resolve in a male-dominated field.

"I did minor league baseball for a little bit. That was an interesting experience being a woman, doing baseball. People didn't necessarily love that because women don't play baseball. So, again, Paul gave me that opportunity. He said, 'Listen, guys, you just got to give her a chance.' I ended up broadcasting games featuring Pedro Martinez and Gary Sheffield's sons."

Carista still thinks back fondly on her first broadcast with Paul, where they teamed up to cover a Malone Huskies women's soccer game, one of the standout teams in the league that fall.

"It was so cool to watch this dynamic team, and broadcasting it with the best sportscaster in St. Lawrence County," she said. "He taught me the ropes. When you have a broadcasting partner, you need to have a dynamic connection. We just clicked instantly and he was a father figure to me."

Her passion for broadcasting continued to grow. Over the next year, Carista traveled

hundreds of miles across New York State covering live sporting events, often unpaid, to gain experience.

"I wasn't getting paid, but I took whatever opportunity that I could for the experience," she said.

THE NEXT LEVEL

Carista enrolled at SUNY Potsdam in Spring 2024, returning to a campus that had long been part of her life. As a child, she attended the College's summer basketball camp beginning at just three years old and returned every year through high school. Now, she was back—this time as a student and broadcaster.

She quickly became the voice of the women's swimming and diving team, and a broadcaster for everything from basketball to soccer games on **PotsdamBears.com**.

"To my knowledge, they've never had someone do play-by-play for swimming at SUNY Potsdam. Now I'm one of the most well-known SUNYAC swimming broadcasters in our area. I'm also the only female broadcaster overall in a five-hour radius south of Potsdam, just to show how male-dominated the industry is," she said.

Last fall, Carista expanded her experience through an exchange program at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS), where she covered Division II athletics.

"I learned some more production tips out there and took them back and shared with Dan Bronson [SUNY Potsdam's director of athletic communications]. Our broadcasts were just voice-over before, but we started an on-camera experience now at SUNY Potsdam. It's good publicity for our college when we're recruiting. We can say, 'Look, we have people covering your sport, and it's done well.' I love that I can provide that experience for not only our athletes but our viewers as well."

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION

Academically, Carista is pursuing a degree in English, a choice that has strengthened her work in the broadcast booth through writing, critical thinking, and public speaking.

Faculty mentors such as Dr. Sharmain van Blommestein and Dr. Judith Funston, have played a pivotal role in her development. Carista recalls repeatedly revising an early paper for Funston's class, as she improved it with each draft. One revision required reading the paper aloud before submitting it again, an exercise that proved transformative.

"I had looked over that paper many times before I turned it in and didn't see one spelling

error, then I read it over out loud and saw 10 errors on that page. Since then, I have used that method for everything, including writing my script for broadcasting. It's something that I've carried into my professional career, my other academic papers, and life in general," she said. "Dr. Funston is a phenomenal professor, and she really helped elevate my writing and speaking ability, and helped me hone my skills."

Her decision to major in English was also influenced by Rathbun, who followed the same academic path into sports broadcasting and continues to mentor her.

"It's a very unconventional path to get an English degree

to be a sports broadcaster. Typically, you go for communications or sports media, sports broadcasting or TV production, but I was told by him that an English degree is best because it sets you apart. He has helped me map that out and has been a big inspiration for me," she said.

With a minor in Gender & Women's Studies, Carista is especially committed to amplifying women's sports and underrepresented athletic programs.

"I'm a very big advocate for women's sports. Being a woman in a mostly male-dominated field, I've had a lot of high school and middle school athletes come up to me and thank

me for being an inspiration to them," she said. "I like to give everyone equal opportunity. Whether it be swimming that needs more coverage overall, or the women's basketball team vs. the men's basketball team, as long as everyone has equal coverage it's a good thing at the end of the day. I like being able to say I'm part of that change."

ON THE ROAD

Last week, Carista headed to Ohio to provide color commentary for the Division I MAAC swimming and diving championships on ESPN+, drawing on years of preparation, mentorship, and on-air experience.

After returning briefly to Potsdam, she will travel to Buffalo, N.Y., to cover the SUNYAC swimming and diving championships—becoming the first broadcaster to cover the Division III event in 15 years.

"There are not too many female broadcasters in general, but slim to none female swim broadcasters. I like bending those gender expectations to say, 'Look, I can do this just as well as a guy can.' I just like to show that I'm capable of doing it and that other people have that opportunity," she said. "It's hard work and determination. I've wanted it so bad, and I've put everything into it."

After the whirlwind experience, she will return to SUNY Potsdam to finish her English degree as she continues to prepare for a dynamic career as a sports broadcaster.

"There's something about this campus—you know your professors care about you, and we have a phenomenal English department that has supported me on this," Carista said. "I absolutely love it here at SUNY Potsdam."



CONTACT US!

Here is how to reach us...

NEWS

As we're working remotely with reduced staff, the best way to reach the newsroom is through email. Include your best contact information, so we can get back to you easily. If you do leave a voicemail, please leave return contact information and a detailed message, so we can make sure you hear back from the correct person.

To send general news and calendar items, email
news@mtelegram.com

EDITOR

Richard Rosentreter
rrosentreter@mtelegram.com
315-755-1521

REPORTER

Alexander Violo
aviolo@mtelegram.com
315-755-1524

SPORTS

sports@mtelegram.com
315-755-1523

OBITUARIES

315-782-0400
obits@wdt.net

ADVERTISING

(518)483-4700 dial 3
ads@mtelegram.com

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Karen Carre
kcarre@mtelegram.com
315-755-1527

ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Geri-Ann Clark
gaclark@mtelegram.com
315-755-1528

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

(518)483-4700 dial 4
classified@mtelegram.com

LEGALS

legals@johnsonnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION & CUSTOMER SERVICE

315-782-1012
circulation@wdt.net

The Malone Telegram
mymalonetelegram.com



Decades of Knowledge and Experience at Mullarney's

Mullarney's Garden Center in North Bangor has been in business for over 36 years, offering the expertise that comes with longevity. Mike Allen has been working with owners, Colin and Kathy Miller, for 33 years and Joel Allen for 29 years. Customers know they can trust their knowledge and experience when shopping for the right piece of equipment or stove or need reliable service.

Mullarney's Garden Center in North Bangor, was recognized in 2025 by the Cub Cadet Corporation as one of their "Top 100" dealers, an annual honor awarded based on sales volume country-wide. Mullarney's has been a Cub

See MULLARNEY'S B8



Mullarney's Garden Center in North Bangor, was recognized by the Cub Cadet Corporation as one of their "Top 100" dealers in 2025, an annual honor awarded based on sales volume country-wide. Pictured are Joel Allen and business owners, Kathy and Colin Miller, showing off Mullarney's line-up of Cub Cadet mowers.




The Chateaugay Farm & Cheese Store

36 McCadam Lane, Chateaugay, NY
(518) 497-6341 Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm, Saturday 8am-12pm

More than just Cheese!
 Full line of Poulin Grains — Dairy & Cheese Products
 Pet Supplies—Farm Supplies— Boots & Gloves— Ag Plastics — Garden Tools and Supplies — And Much More!!



Stop in and take a look at our line of Dryshod Boots!





SAVE ON SELECT MOWERS FOR A LIMITED TIME.
 MARCH 1 - APRIL 1, 2026
\$300 OFF
 Z2 S



OTHER OFFERS AVAILABLE - CALL OR STOP IN TODAY!

\$300 off the regular retail price of Cub Cadet Z2 S. Offer valid 3/1/2026 - 4/1/2026 at participating Cub Cadet Dealers and online at cubcadet.com for shipments in the 48 contiguous states. Prices may vary by dealer. Offer applies to the products featured in this promotion only. May not be combined with any other discount or offer and does not apply to purchases made before or after the promotion dates. Discount does not apply to tax or shipping and handling. If you return the merchandise, the value of this promotion is not refunded or credited to your account. No cash value, except where prohibited. All federal, state, and local laws and regulations apply.

MULLARNEY'S GARDEN CENTER
 2545 State Route 11, North Bangor, NY 12966
 (518) 483-1111 • www.mullarneys.com

Rethink Retirement Living

The Mohawk Indian Housing Corporation advocates for and provides safe, sanitary and affordable housing located in Roosevelttown, New York.

Our housing is located in a quiet area a short distance from medical facilities, community centers, shops, and churches.

Benefits include: Free parking, snow & garbage removal, lawncare, bus shuttle, weekly bingo and special events. On site laundry, mail delivery, and resident manager.

Mohawk Indian Housing, Corp.
 Hogsburg Housing DFC Inc.
 188 McGee Road, Akwesasne, NY 13655



VACANCIES AVAILABLE
SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT TODAY!



Housing - It's What We Do - 518.358.4860

ACCESS OUR AWARD WINNING PRIMARY & PEDIATRIC CARE

Experienced Providers | Accepting All Insurances






Melissa Benardot, PNP/FNP-C, Dr. Craig Richards, DO, Emily Frank, FNP & Abby Smith, FNP

COME EXPERIENCE OUR NEWLY REMODELED FACILITY



Community Health Center of the North Country




380 Creighton Road, Malone | 518.483.0109 | chcnorthcountry.org

Planning

From B1

a good chance that if you've worked in a public agency during that time, we've crossed paths.

That familiarity matters. Working with someone you already recognize — someone who understands the structure of public employment benefits and retirement systems — removes a layer of uncertainty. You're not starting from scratch with someone who doesn't understand your world. Instead, you're continuing a conversation with someone who has likely helped your colleagues and coworkers navigate similar decisions.

Financial planning should feel collaborative and comfortable, not intimidating.

EDUCATION MEETS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

While education and professional training are critical in this field, what truly makes financial planning effective is the ability to translate that knowledge into everyday language.

Over the years, I've focused on staying educated, informed, and up to date — but I've always believed that knowledge is only useful if it's shared in a way that makes sense.

- My goal is to simplify:
- Retirement projections
 - Social Security timing
 - 401(k) and 457 plan decisions
 - IRA strategies
 - Income planning
 - Risk management

Instead of overwhelming clients with complexity, I break things down into manageable steps.

When people understand what they're doing and why they're doing it, financial planning becomes empowering — and even enjoyable.

PLANNING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE STRESSFUL

One of the most rewarding parts of my work is watching someone shift from uncertainty to confidence.

Financial planning isn't about predicting every market movement or having a perfect crystal ball. It's about preparation. It's about creating structure. It's about helping families feel secure in the decisions they're making for their future.

And yes — it can even be fun.

There's something satisfying about putting the pieces together, seeing the numbers align, and knowing there's a thoughtful plan behind your retirement goals.

A LOCAL APPROACH TO LONG-TERM PLANNING

I'm proud to serve the same communities where I've built my career. I understand the local employers, retirement systems, and

economic realities that shape the financial lives of people here in the North Country.

At the end of the day, my work is simple:

Make financial planning easier. Make it understandable. Make it approachable.

And help people feel confident about where they're headed.

If you've worked with me in the past — or simply recognize my name from those years visiting agencies across the region — I'd welcome the opportunity to continue the conversation.

Retirement planning doesn't have to be overwhelming. With the right guidance, it can be one of the most empowering steps you take.

Bradley Harte
(518)524-3661
bradley.harte@prudential.com

"WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS!"



FUEL OIL • KEROSENE • DIESEL FUELS

- FULL HVAC SERVICE
- FURNACE INSTALLATION AND REPAIR
- FLAT BED SERVICES
- 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

Serving the North Country with prompt & friendly service!



harrisfuel.com

175 CT. RT. 7 GALE ROAD, BRUSHTON

518-529-6185   Check us out on Facebook & Instagram



IT'S YOUR TURN TO WIN! **AMERICAN MONEY PAYOUTS FOR GAMES 1-6**

BINGO!

CASH PRIZES

EVERY TUESDAY! Starts at 7pm **It's Your Turn to WIN!**

Cards can be purchased at

ON ROUTE 37 WEST AKWESASNE	Smokers Warehouse Twin Leaf Akwesasne Western Door Wild Bill's One Stop	East End Convenience Queen Leaf Dispensary Smoke Stacks Tobacco Smokey's Tobacco Speedway Convenience Truck Stop #9 Twin Leaf Express Wolf Pack Gift
American Legion Post 1479 Akwesasne Mini Mart Big Boys Gas & Tobacco Bear's Den Crossroads Tobacco Keegan's Tobacco	ON ROUTE 37 EAST AKWESASNE Another Damn Cigarette Shop	

518.358.3426 / 518.358.3427  Find us on Facebook **CKON RADIO**




"Offering tailored financial services along with investment management solutions to help you achieve your financial goals."

Bradley Harte
Financial Planner

RETIREMENT • ESTATE • INVESTMENTS • MORE

hartesolutionsfp.com | bradley.harte@prudential.com

274 West Main Street, Suite 3
Malone, NY • 518.524.3661 



Spring INTO SAVINGS



STYLE AND COMFORT!



SAVE NOW!

✓ In Stock Product ✓ All Major Brands ✓ Next Day Delivery ✓ Guaranteed Prices

0% FINANCING UP TO 48 MONTHS

WE HAVE HOT TUBS! 

Accent Cabinets - Accent Chairs - Appliances - Bedroom Furniture - Dining Room Furniture - Lamps • Loveseats Mattresses - Direct Vent Heaters Pellet & Wood Stoves - Recliners - Reclining Sofas - Sofas

BRING IN YOUR TAX REFUND! **SEE OUR OUTDOOR FURNITURE!**

627 East Main St., Malone • 518-483-4400 • www.TheHomeZone.net

Mon. 9-5, Tues. & Wed. 9-6, Thurs. & Fri. 9-5 Sat. 9-3 **Low Monthly LEASING LAYAWAY** **GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE** **Quality Products Unbeatable Prices** 



PLANNING SPRING PROJECTS? WE CAN HELP! 

YODER & SONS
METAL ROOFING SUPPLY L.L.C.



RESIDENTIAL



COMMERCIAL



WE CARRY VINYL SIDING



AGRICULTURAL

FULL LINE OF TRIM & ACCESSORIES • PIPE BOOTS SCREWS • RIDGE VENT CLOSURES • CLEAR PANELS SLIDING DOOR COMPONENTS • FOIL INSULATION TIMBER FILL BLOWN IN INSULATION & MORE!

DELIVERY AVAILABLE!



GREAT SELECTION OF METAL ROOFING! 18 COLORS TO CHOOSE FROM!



AMERICAN MADE PRODUCTS

Come Visit Our Friendly Staff
5571 State Route 11, Burke • 518-483-4099
Hours: Monday-Friday 7:00AM-5:00PM
Saturday 8:00AM-12:00PM • Sunday Closed

Come to our open house at Stonewall Equine

Stonewall Equine, owned by Cristy and Lydia Mae Yoder, is a new equine facility located at 5004 State Route 11, Burke, NY. The public is invited to attend an open house on March 13th from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Enjoy free coffee and donuts! Katie from DAC Vitamin and Minerals will be on hand to answer questions. At 4:00 pm they will be driving horses that are consigned to the Romulus horse sale along with their stallions. This will be followed with a free supper sponsored by DAC with a DAC meeting afterward. If you have any questions, call 518.483.4484 or 518.521.9730.



Tiffany's Dance Studio offers something for all ages and levels!

Tiffany's Dance Studio, owned and operated by Tiffany Bedner and located at 446 E. Main St., Malone, offers many dance classes for boys and girls of all ages. With more than 20 years of dance experience, we offer classes in tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop, lyrical, contemporary, modern, tumbling, gymnastics, '50s-'60s style and technique and do many first dances for weddings and parties.

We accept boys and girls from 18 months to adult. We offer groups, solos, duets and trios. Students perform in competitions and our home

recitals.

Tiffany's Dance Studio is one of the fastest growing dance studios in Franklin County and is now accepting applications.

Sign up now for our 2026 Boot Camp four week program beginning early June. Ask about H & T step aerobics/dance class! This is a six week program. Call Tiffany at 518-651-0031 to register or with any questions.

As a fun-loving, professional dance studio, we would love for you to join our growing dance family at Tiffany's Dance Studio.

Parking lot being transferred to village

County votes to take the action on Pearl St. lot

By ALEXANDER VIOLLO
aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE—Franklin County legislators voted to transfer a parking lot off of Pearl Street, the former location of a movie theater, from the county to the village in an effort to open up parking downtown.

According to Malone Mayor Andrea M. Dumas, the county demolished the former movie theater, Cinema Plaza, on Pearl Street in May 2022.

Village Clerk Rebahka Scaccia said trustees passed a resolution in 2024 expressing interest in utilizing the space to add municipal parking in the downtown portion of the village.

Dumas said the village is paying the county \$9,259.69 for the property, adding the transfer will appear on the village's bills at the next trustees meeting on Monday, Feb. 23.

"We couldn't do that until we received the appraisal and the county passed their resolution authorizing the village of Malone to move forward," Dumas said.

At a past trustees meeting Dumas said she believes there needs to be more parking downtown to help the village's local businesses.

"We are struggling. We are working on trying to bring businesses to Main Street," she said. "I think we should move forward and try to get this parking lot."

Franklin County lawmakers passed a resolution from the floor on Thursday, Feb. 5, to

transfer the county property to the village of Malone.

The county took title to the property at 6 Pearl Street as the result of foreclosure proceedings in 2009, according to the resolution, which states the village of Malone will take ownership of the property and remediate the premises for the benefit of the community.

"This is a property that we have been working on the transfer of for a couple years I would say," County Manager Donna J. Kissane said, "It's where the old Cinema Plaza was and there's some desperate need for some municipal parking for economic development. We appreciate the village it's not free for the village there's some cost that they have to pay to get this transferred, taxes and you have to pay for an appraisal. I just want to be clear that in my opinion this is a good move to really increase parking on Pearl Street, it's been a problem."

Dumas, a legislator representing Malone in the county legislature, said she receives regular feedback on the desire for more parking downtown.

"We hear it all the time," she said.

Kissane said the property on Pearl Street is near dance studios on Main Street and other buildings that offer programs for the county's younger residents.

"Those buildings have programs for children and you go and for parking you're climbing over snowbanks," Kissane said.



Franklin County lawmakers passed a resolution from the floor, on Thursday, Feb. 5, to transfer the parking lot at 6 Pearl Street to the village of Malone.



250TH ARMY ANNIVERSARY MEDALS OF HONOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 4/2/26 • DEADLINE 3/27/26

The Watertown Daily Times and Malone Telegram will publish a Medal of Honor edition to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Army and salute veterans of all branches of service.

FORT DRUM MEDAL OF HONORS PROFILES

In addition to appearing in the Watertown Daily Times & Malone Telegram and on NNY360 & mymalonetelegram.com

To advertise your business contact one of our advertising specialists at

Watertown 315-523-1047

Lowville 315-523-1047

St. Law. County 315-661-2528

Malone 518-483-4700

ads@mtelegram.com

Watertown Daily Times

The Malone Telegram

NYN360

MyMaloneTelegram.com

AD RATES

Business Card 2col (3.65"x2") \$50

1/8 Page 3col (5.55"x2") \$100

1/4 Page 3col (5.55"x5") \$200

1/2 Page 5col (9.35"x5") \$400

Full Page 5col (9.35"x10.75") \$800

(12.50 PER COLUMN INCH) FOR ALL OTHERS.

Mullarney's

From B6

Cadet dealer for twenty-one years and this is the first year they achieved this status. They offer a full line of mowers and snow blowers for properties of any size and to fit any budget. Most popular for spring are the Cub Cadet "Pro Z" mowers feature zero-turn technology, with a steering wheel and mower decks up to 72 inches or lap bars for true zero turning.

Mullarney's Stove Center sells and services Harman pellet stoves and fireplace inserts that ignite automatically and have a thermostat with high efficiency ratings and very low emission output, saving money at a time when fuel prices continue to rise. Customers can now save from \$250 to \$500 on Harman pellet stoves and Vermont Castings wood stoves during the March promotion!

With from 12 to 60 months no-interest financing if credit qualified, Mullarney's can

make any mower or snowblower fit your budget. Right now, Cub Cadet and Mullarney's are offering \$200 to \$3600 off on Zero Turn mowers, throughout the month of March. You can check out the inventory of Cub Cadet mowers and the financing at Mullarney's or give them a call. Colin recommends booking your spring Cub Cadet purchase now to guarantee spring delivery.

Honda generators, Echo handheld power equipment, and Toyostove and Monitor vented heaters round out the offerings at Mullarney's, and as always, they service and have parts available for all the equipment they sell. You can also test drive all the Cub Cadet Zero Turn mowers and Cub Cadet tractors at Mullarney's on Route 11 in North Bangor. More information is always at mullarneys.com and their Facebook page.

10TH MOUNTAIN LIFE

SPONSORED BY



www.advocatedrum.com

Welcome to 10th Mountain Life, where you'll find soldier shoutouts, photos of Fort Drum events, memories from post and more.

To recognize your favorite soldier or share photos, email news@wdt.net with subject "10th Mountain Life"

From right: Third graders John Carr, Scott Hyde and Joseph Trombley watch the complicated gauges and controls of an Army UH-1 "Huey" helicopter from Fort Drum that landed on the fields of General Brown Central School for a brief visit one morning in September 1984. From the Watertown Daily Times Archive



HISTORIC DRUM



Above and below: Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team conduct rail load operations on Jan. 24, 2019, at the Fort Drum rail yard to prepare for deployment to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Photos by Sgt. Keegan Costello/U.S. Army

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

Sgt. Rocio Ceja is our 10th Mountain Division's soldier of the month. She was chosen for her efforts on ARSTRUC and her exceptional performance at the Basic Leader Course (BLC). Her subject matter expertise and personal drive led to hundreds of processed HR actions critical to DIVARTY's ARSTRUC transition. In addition, she graduated BLC on the Commandant's List and received the class Superior Writing Award.

NAME: Rocio Ceja
AGE: 26
RANK: Sergeant
HOMETOWN: Coachella, California
YEARS IN SERVICE: 2

WHAT MAKES FORT DRUM HOME?

Fort Drum is home because of the people and the community. I have been fortunate enough to have met motivated Soldiers that inspire me to be the best I can. The local community is also very supportive of Fort Drum. Growing up in the desert, I am out of my element here in Drum. But when I get invitations to go snowboarding or watch hockey games it's not so cold when I'm with friends.

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE YOUR JOB?

As a 42A, my job is characterized by change. I do my best to keep my Battalion informed on the best course of action for the types of requests/processing they are most likely to submit for so we "get it right" the first time. We have demanding training cycles, and I understand the time other Soldiers take out of their day to visit the S1. My role in support is to prevent as many hiccups as possible.

Soldier of the Month is a collaboration with the Fort Drum Garrison Public Affairs Office.

ON THIS DAY



OUT AND ABOUT

■ The 10th Mountain Division helped the Buffalo Bills and their fans say goodbye to Highmark Stadium on Jan. 4. The flyover involved crews for two Blackhawk helicopters, one Chinook and one Apache helicopter. The Buffalo Bills extended the flyover opportunity to the 10th Mountain Division as part of its celebration of the final game to occur at Highmark Stadium. The Bills won their final game at the stadium — 35 to 8 over the New York Jets. The Bills played the first game at the Orchard Park site on Aug. 17, 1973, in what was then called Rich Stadium. This year marked the final season at what is now called Highmark Stadium.

■ The New York State Assembly recently honored the 10th Light Support Battalion, Challenger Company, at Fort Drum with a citation recognizing the unit's courage, sacrifice, and performance during deployment and their lasting impact at home. The citation was presented by Assemblyman Scott A. Gray. **Read more about the honor next week.**



Sgt. Rocio Ceja
 Photo courtesy of the 10th Mountain Division

Quality, affordable style at Flemings Fine Furniture

Family owned and operated since June 15, 1987, Flemings Fine Furniture has gone from being the smallest furniture store in Malone to the largest furniture and mattress store in the North Country! They've done so by offering a large selection of quality furniture and mattresses at affordable prices.

"Quality Furniture for Less.. GUARANTEED!" is more than their slogan; it's their way of doing business. Flemings displays six floors of quality furniture and bedding from Made in the USA manufacturers like La-Z-Boy, Bassett, Lancer, Howard Miller, Vaughan-Bassett, Archbold, Sealy, Tempurpedic, Stearns & Foster, and more. Flemings has the North Country's only La-Z-Boy Comfort Studio. They are a Tempurpedic Elite dealer. They display over 50 different mattresses and over 50 different recliners.

Their owners and staff



have over 100 years of combined experience helping customers find the right product at the right price. No high pressure sales; just a friendly face willing to take the time to help. In addition, Flemings will meet or beat

any competitors advertised sale price.

Flemings offers a number of payment options including all major credit cards and no interest financing from Synchrony Financial. As always, delivery and



setup throughout much of the North Country is FREE!

Flemings is located at 424 East Main Street, Malone. Their store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 to 5:00, Saturday from 10:00 to 3:00, and anytime

by appointment. There is plenty of parking behind the store and a convenient side entrance on Mill Street.

YODER'S COUNTRY MARKET

Baked Goods • Bulk Foods Subs • Sandwiches

Deli Meats & Cheese, Jams, Eggs, Natural Sugars, Flours & Grains, Old Fashioned Canned Goods, Maple Syrup, Local Honey & So Much More!

Fry Pies Every Wednesday!

Homemade Donuts Friday & Saturday!

PIZZA ORDER AHEAD!

Mon.-Sat. 8am - 5pm
950 State Route 122, Constable • (518) 483-8700

Tiffany's Dance Studio

Owned & Operated by Tiffany Bedner
Over 20 Years Experience

Tap • Ballet • Hip-Hop • Jazz • Irish Step
Contemporary • Solos/Duets • 50's/60's Style
Lyrical • Modern • Tumbling • Gymnastics
1st Dance for Weddings, Parties & Special Events

Ask About H & T Step Aerobics/Dance Class!
6 week program

446 E. Main St., Malone
For More Info Call • 518-651-0031

Enjoy Stress Free Living In Our Quiet Community!

- Fully Equipped Kitchens • Handicapped Apartment Available
- Laundry on Site • Affordable Rent
- Rent Based on Income for Qualified Seniors (62 or Older) • Smoke Free Environment

Bangor, Brushton, Moira & St. Regis Falls

MAPLE LEAF HOUSING, INC.

To Join Our Wait List, Please Call
518-483-0548

THE LARGEST FURNITURE & BEDDING STORE ~IN THE NORTH COUNTRY~

Over 50 Bedding Floor Models!

Wilmette Stationary Sofa \$1099

Brooks Reclining Sofa \$1299

LA Z BOY Live life Comfortably.

Recliners Starting At \$499
*Styles May Vary

Leather Recliners Starting At \$999
*Styles May Vary

STEARNS & FOSTER • TEMPUR-PEDIC • Bassett • LA Z BOY • Sealy

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE FINANCING! **FREE DELIVERY & SETUP!**

GUARANTEED BEST Selection, Quality & Lower Prices!

Flemings FINE FURNITURE

424 East Main Street, Malone • 518-483-0114
shopflemings.com

Enroll. Earn. Easy.

everyday moments

Introducing NBT Bank Debit Card Rewards

Your everyday spending now earns you points! With NBT Bank Debit Card Rewards, every \$2 spent earns points that you can redeem for Amazon Shopwith Points, cashback, gift cards, and more. **Everyday banking should be this easy—and this rewarding.**

Start Your Rewards Journey Today!
Visit your local branch or scan the QR code to enroll now.

NBT BANK
It starts here
800.NBT.BANK www.nbtbank.com

Member FDIC