

BNNY Business

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A century for Uncle Sam



Ron Thomson, owner and operator of Uncle Sam Boat Tours in Alexandria Bay, stands in front of the Alexandria Belle, the company's 360-passenger tour boat. His family is celebrating its 100th year offering tours on the St. Lawrence River. Craig Fox/Watertown Daily Times

By CRAIG FOX
cfox@wdt.net

ALEXANDRIA BAY — In 1926, Calvin Coolidge was the president. Babe Ruth led the American League with 47 home runs. Silent film star Rudolph Valentino died unexpectedly from an ulcer that

burst. Henry Ford invented the 40-hour work week.

And Uncle Sam Boat Tours got its start when competing companies merged and launched their boats into the St. Lawrence River from just

See TOURS T8



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Eddie Cito to host new morning show on Tunes 92.5 FM

"THE WAKE-UP REFRESHER WITH EDDIE CITO" LAUNCHES AUG. 31 AND WILL AIR WEEKDAYS FROM 6-10 A.M.

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — Intrepid Broadcasting Inc. has announced that longtime North Country singer-songwriter, community advocate and local personality Eddie Cito will become the new weekday morning host on Tunes

92.5 and 104.5 FM.

Cito will take over the morning airwaves Monday, Aug. 31, with the debut of "The Wake-Up Refresher With Eddie Cito." The show will air weekdays from 6-10 a.m.

Cito has been a familiar face and voice throughout the North Country for nearly two decades through his work as a singer-songwriter, his leader-

ship with Northside Records and his continued participation in community events and initiatives across the region.

"Eighteen years ago, after moving to the North Country, I knew this place would become a major part of my life," Cito said. "I'm honored to join the team at Tunes 92.5 and 104.5 in serving the community that I call home."

The new morning show will give Cito an opportunity to bring his personality, enthusiasm and connection to the North Country to listeners each weekday morning as the newest member of the station's on-air lineup.

"We are extremely excited and thankful that Eddie will be joining the North Country airwaves in a brand-new capacity

as host of the morning show on Tunes 92.5 and 104.5," said Timothy P. Sweeney, vice president of Intrepid Broadcasting. "We have had the pleasure of working with Eddie in the past as a highly talented singer-songwriter, and I'm very excited to see what he will do with this new opportunity."

See TUNES T16

Study: Childcare availability rated poor in Northern and Central New York; 1 in 5 adults need childcare

WATERTOWN — The Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College reported Aug. 10, that satisfaction with availability of childcare has fallen sharply across four counties in Northern and Central New York and that childcare challenges have substantial workforce impacts.

The study surveyed adults in Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego and St. Lawrence counties and combined results from a regional "Current Issues" survey conducted Oct. 2025 with a childcare-focused survey carried out March–April 2026. The center defines this four-county area as the "North Country."

Longitudinal data cited in the report show that about 10% of North Country residents rated the availability of childcare as "Excellent or Good" in October 2025, down from roughly 40% when the measure was first included about a decade earlier. County-level rates for "Excellent or Good" in October 2025 were below 10% in Oswego and St. Lawrence counties. In the October 2025 annual survey the most common county response was "Poor." A statewide survey completed in November 2025 using the same instrument found 20% of New York State residents rated availability "Excellent or Good" and 19% rated it "Poor," with 24% of Upstate residents rating it "Poor." The Center concluded dissatisfaction is more severe in the North Country than statewide.

Topline findings from the childcare study include:

- About 20% of adults in the four-county region have at least

- one child aged 12 or under in the household — an estimated 57,000 adults in the region. (Study sample and extrapolation described in methodology.)

- The most common childcare arrangements are a stay-at-home parent or care by other family members.

- The mean cost per child per week among parents of children 12 or under in the region is \$185 (Oswego \$199; Lewis \$165).

- Safety and emergency procedures, security of the facility and availability of childcare were rated most important in choosing childcare (each rated "Essential" or "Very important" by at least 90% of parents).

- Nontraditional-hours needs reported by parents included summer hours (53%), early mornings (36%), evenings (28%), weekends (22%) and overnight (12%). The average amount parents said they would pay per night per child for overnight care was \$81 (Lewis County average \$54).

- Parents said childcare is used primarily to support employment (83%) rather than education (12%).

- In the past two years, 58% of parents reported missing work because of childcare issues and 50% reported having to change work schedules.

- Among parents, 13.3% reported leaving a job because of lack of childcare, 15.2% declined a job for that reason, and 21.9% experienced one or both actions. The report extrapolates this to an estimated 12,724 adults across the four counties who have left or declined employment due to childcare issues, representing

about 4.5% of an adult population the report lists as 283,000.

- Among all surveyed adults, about 17% provide childcare to a family member or close friend at least one hour per week. About 2.0% of adults reported having left or declined a job in the past two years to provide childcare to family or friends; the report extrapolates this to an estimated 5,500 adults not working for that reason.

- Combining workforce impacts from both lack of childcare for parents and providing child-

care for others, the report estimates about 12,750 local adults have left the workforce due to childcare challenges.

Study methodology and sample

The center reports it collected data in two waves in late March and early April 2026.

Affiliations and support

The Center for Community Studies at Jefferson Community College is a member of the American Association of Public Opinion Research and its Transparency Initiative and of the As-

sociation of Academic Survey Research Organizations, the report says. The study reported it was funded by Jefferson Community College (SUNY), the Northern New York Community Foundation, the Development Authority of the North Country, the Jefferson and Lewis county boards of legislature, and Car-Freshner Corp.

Study development

The childcare questions were developed with assistance from a task force of local child-care experts convened in March 2026.

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JCC concludes Future Women in STEAM academy with awards

WATERTOWN — Jefferson Community College concluded its four-day Future Women in STEAM Summer Academy on July 30 with an awards ceremony recognizing students for their achievements in science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics.

The free academy introduced young women entering grades eight through 10 to educational and career opportunities in STEAM fields through hands-on activities and presentations from professionals.

All participants received a Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program Rising Star Award, recognizing curiosity, thoughtful questioning and a passion for learning.

Four students received additional awards:

Naima Bello of Clayton, entering 10th grade, received the Aubertine & Currier Engineering Excellence STEAM Award for creativity in problem-solving, innovative use of technology and thinking beyond existing solutions.

Amelia Crast of Lacona, entering ninth grade, received the Trailblazer STEAM Award for leadership, commitment to learning and supporting others.

Ella Dalpe of Sackets Harbor, entering 10th grade, received the Chemistry Sustainability Award for achievement in scientific inquiry, experimentation and exploration.

Paige Thompson of Copenhagen, entering eighth grade, received the STEAM Innovator Award for imagination, creative design and using art to express ideas.

During the academy, students participated in activities involving 3D design, paper circuits, aluminum embossing, converting recycled aluminum cans into salts and landscape architecture. Guest speakers also discussed their education and careers in STEAM fields.

“The Future Women in



Ella Dalpe (left) of Sackets Harbor received the Chemistry Sustainability Award, which recognizes excellence in scientific inquiry, experimentation, and the pursuit of knowledge through exploration. On right is Dr. Rabab Aoun, Instructor of Chemistry. Jefferson's Future Women in STEAM Summer Academy is sponsored by Aubertine & Currier Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.



Paige Thompson (left) of Copenhagen received the STEAM Innovator Award, which celebrates the essential role of art in STEAM by recognizing imagination, creative design, and the ability to express ideas in unique and meaningful ways. On right is Erin Kuhn, Instructor of Art. Jefferson's Future Women in STEAM Summer Academy is sponsored by Aubertine & Currier Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.



Amelia Crast (left) of Lacona received the Trailblazer STEAM Award, which honors leadership, a commitment to learning, and the ability to inspire and support others in their educational journey. On right is Donna M. Stevenson, Associate Vice President of STEM, Health Professions, and Business. Jefferson's Future Women in STEAM Summer Academy is sponsored by Aubertine & Currier Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.



Naima Bello (right) of Clayton received the Aubertine & Currier Engineering Excellence STEAM Award, which recognizes creativity in problem-solving, innovative use of technology, and the ability to think beyond existing solutions. On left is Kerry Kennett, Instructor of Engineering. Jefferson's Future Women in STEAM Summer Academy is sponsored by Aubertine & Currier Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors.

STEAM Summer Academy is about helping young women see what's possible,” JCC President Daniel J. Dupee II said. “By giving students the opportunity to explore STEAM through hands-on learning and mentorship, we're helping them build confidence, discover new

interests, and envision themselves pursuing careers in fields where their ideas and talents can make a lasting impact.”

Donna M. Stevenson, JCC associate vice president of STEM, health professions and business, said the academy was intended to give

students opportunities to experiment and explore potential careers.

“This academy gave students the opportunity to experiment, ask questions, and discover that they belong in STEAM careers,” Stevenson said. “We hope they leave knowing they

have the ability to become the next generation of engineers, scientists, designers, and innovators.”

The academy was sponsored by Aubertine & Currier Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Trout & Heron students win two statewide Agriculture in the Classroom challenges



Pictured is Anahita Ghazinour, a student at Trout & Heron Independent School, celebrating the school's first-place win in the 2025/2026 New York Agriculture in the Classroom Mac & Cheese Challenge. Provided photo

POTSDAM — Trout & Heron Independent School students earned first place in two statewide New York Agriculture in the Classroom educational challenges.

Students were named first-place winners in the 2026 New York Agriculture in the Classroom Ice Cream Challenge, with winners announced at the end of June. Through the project, students explored the science of ice cream making, New York's dairy industry and the journey of food from farm to table while integrating science, literacy, mathematics and art.

Earlier this year, Trout & Heron students also earned first place in the 2025/2026 New York Agriculture in the Classroom Mac & Cheese Challenge, where they investigated dairy farming, nutrition and food science through hands-on learning experiences.

"We were absolute-

ly thrilled," said Dr. Ashley Campbell, Educational Director. "Winning first place once was exciting, but earning first place in both statewide challenges this year was something we never expected. I'm incredibly proud of our students for their curiosity, creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm for learning."

The awards reflect Trout & Heron's focus on experiential learning and giving students opportunities to investigate real-world topics through creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.

Trout & Heron Independent School is a nonreligious private K-5 school in Potsdam, New York, offering a small, hands-on learning environment that combines academics with nature, community and real-world learning experiences.

New York manufacturing growth hits four-year high in August

New York manufacturing activity grew in August at its fastest pace in more than four years, with businesses reporting increases in orders, employment and hours worked despite mounting pressure from higher costs and supply shortages.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Empire State Manufacturing Survey showed its general business conditions index rising five points to 20.6, its highest level in more than four years.

The increase comes as manufacturers continue to contend with supply problems and rising costs. Delivery times lengthened substantially during the month, while manufacturers reported that the availability of supplies deteriorated further.

"New York State manufacturing activity increased at its fastest pace in over four years in August," Richard Deitz, economic research adviser at the New York Fed, said. "Employment continued to pick up modestly. However, delivery times were substantially longer and supply availability continued to wors-

en."

New orders and shipments both increased during August. The new orders index registered 17.3 and the shipments index was 11.7, readings the Fed said indicated continued solid growth.

At the same time, manufacturers were having more difficulty keeping up with demand. The unfilled orders index jumped from 5 in July to 15.5 in August, while the delivery times index increased from 13 to 20.6. Inventories declined.

Manufacturers also continued to add workers. The employment index was 9.3 in August, remaining in positive territory, while an index measuring the average employee workweek increased from 2.8 to 6.9.

Costs presented a less favorable picture.

The prices paid index climbed more than six points to 58.6, with 59.4% of manufacturers reporting higher input prices and less than 1% reporting decreases. The index measuring prices manufacturers received for their

products declined to 22.7, indicating selling prices were still increasing but at a slower pace.

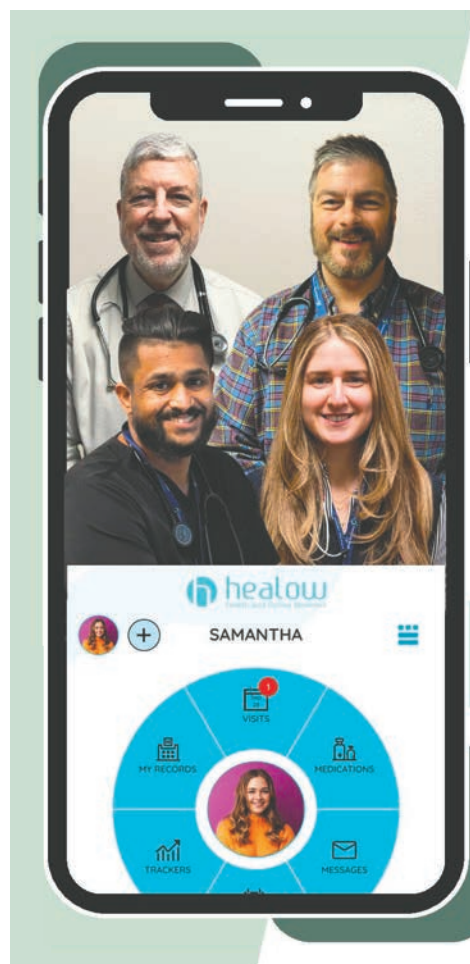
Manufacturers nevertheless expressed optimism about the next six months.

The index measuring expectations for future business conditions increased from 27.9 to 32.1. Businesses also anticipated significant increases in new orders and shipments and stronger hiring in the months ahead.

The outlook for employment was particularly strong. The future employment index rose from 14.4 to 28.2, with 36% of respondents expecting to employ more workers six months from now and 7.7% anticipating fewer workers.

Manufacturers expect some of their current challenges to persist. Businesses anticipate continued increases in prices and further deterioration in the availability of supplies. Capital spending plans remained modest.

The New York Fed collected responses for the August survey from Aug. 3 through Aug. 10.



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Expanded Jefferson County public transit opens more pathways to Jefferson Community College



Officials in late July met to cut the ribbon on the new Jefferson County Public Transit. Provided photos

WATERTOWN — Jefferson County Public Transit has launched a new rural bus service that will provide residents from Carthage and Alexandria Bay to Cape Vincent and Sandy Creek, and communities in between, an affordable option to reach Jefferson Community College.

Fares for the service are \$2 each way. The release says the service will help prospective students overcome mail transportation barriers to enroll in JCC programs.

"Transportation has long been a challenge for some students pursuing higher education," said Paul D. Keller, associate vice president of enrollment services at Jefferson Community College. "With this affordable public transit option, one more barrier to earning a college degree is being removed helping individuals gain the skills needed for a better-paying career. If you've been thinking about college, now is a good time."

Registration is underway

for the Fall 2026 semester, with classes beginning Aug. 24, 2026. Prospective students can choose from more than 50 degree, certificate and micro-credential programs designed to prepare graduates for the workforce or transfer.

Applying to Jefferson is free. Financial assistance options mentioned in the release include the SUNY Excelsior Scholarship (application closes Sept. 1, 2026), the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and JCC Foundation scholarships.

The release directs readers to Jefferson County Public Transit for route information, including four new rural routes, at www.jeffcopublictransit.com. For information about Jefferson's academic programs or to submit a free application, visit www.suny-jefferson.edu/apply or call Enrollment Services at (315) 786-2437.

New York drops union deal on latest I-81 contract to better chances with Trump



Interstate 481 at Kirkville Road and the CSX rail yard in DeWitt is widened in February 2025 as part of the Interstate 81 project. N. Scott Trimble/syracuse.com/TNS

By MICHELLE BREIDENBACH

Syracuse.com/TNS

New York state will not require contractors on a \$2.1 billion Interstate 81 contract to hire union workers for the first time on the largest ever transportation project in the state.

The DOT has dropped the project labor agreement it used for the first half of the I-81 project as a preemptive measure to get approval from President Donald Trump's administration, state and federal officials said.

Project labor agreements on earlier I-81 contracts required companies to hire 75% of their labor from union halls, documents show. The agreement also set guidelines for wages, benefits and work hours, documents show.

Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli, chair of the Assembly transportation committee, said Trump's highway administration tied the state's hands. Magnarelli and others said the federal government was simply not advancing state highway

projects with labor agreements attached.

The state rebid another project in the Hudson Valley and officials decided to bid the latest I-81 contract without a labor agreement.

"They weren't rejected, but they were never accepted. They just sat on people's desks," Magnarelli said. "It just got later and later and it was costing more money and they had to go forward...So the state took the PLA's out of the contracts and lo and behold, they all passed."

Contractors have historically fought project labor agreements, saying they drive up costs and kill competition. Trump has supported that argument with mixed results.

In July, a joint venture called CNY Alliance won the latest contract, which is the largest contract on the largest project in state DOT history.

The group has handled two earlier I-81 contracts that had project labor agreements. The lead contractors in that group are A. Servidone Inc. and B.

Anthony Construction Corp. based in New Jersey. Mark Servidone did not respond to an interview request.

Matt Nesbitt, president of the Central New York Building and Construction Trades Council, said state and union officials are encouraging the winning bidder to hire union workers even without the requirement.

That plea is their only hope to keep union workers in the field, he said.

The group includes two dozen trade unions that represent ironworkers, bricklayers, metal workers, Teamsters and other laborers.

The unions and area workforce development groups have invested heavily in training new workers for the massive and lengthy I-81 project.

"They have a lot of union employees on the job that are working for them and I'm assuming they would probably like to keep them," Nesbitt

'For Students, By Students' coffee shop coming to SUNY Plattsburgh

Malone Telegram

PLATTSBURGH — When SUNY Plattsburgh students, faculty and staff return this fall, they'll find a new type of café on the north end of campus.

Saxbys, a gourmet coffee and sandwich shop, will fill the space formerly occupied by Einstein Bros. Bagels in Hawkins Hall. The fare will be similar, but that's about where the similarities end, according to Catherine Keleher, executive director of College Auxiliary Services.

"Hands-on learning is an essential part of our college curriculum, and Saxbys provides a unique opportunity for students looking for experience in leadership, management, marketing, hospitality, finance and more," Keleher said in a press release.

She said they chose Saxby's for the Hawkins Hall dining location "because its experiential learning model aligns seamlessly with SUNY Plattsburgh's commitment to preparing students through hands-on educational experiences."

Experiential Learning

The Philadelphia-based chain operates about 30 cafes at colleges and universities in nearly a dozen states, including New York, Texas, Virginia, Massachusetts, Ohio and Georgia.

"Our student staff members will create delicious tea, coffee and espresso custom beverages along with breakfast sandwiches and handcrafted grilled cheese sandwiches," she said. The company whose mantra is, "For students, by students," supports an experiential learning environment where students gain professional experience by operating the business.

"It's an exciting addition to campus that enhances both the student experience and career preparation," Keleher said. The café "will function as a living classroom where students gain meaningful, real-world experience while earning both academic credit and compensation."

Student team members, including a student café execu-

tive officer, are mentored and supported by the Saxbys team, Keleher said. Saxbys will work with Cardinal Way Culinary & Co., SUNY Plattsburgh's dining service partner through Sodexo, on responsibilities that will include ordering supplies, managing inventory and more, Keleher said.

Day-to-day Business Operations

"Students from the School of Business and Economics and the School of Arts and Sciences were invited to apply for positions. They will receive course credit, while also getting paid," she said. "In addition to gaining experience in day-to-day business operations, students will develop leadership, customer service, teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills that employers consistently value."

Part of the company's business model includes hiring a student café executive officer, or SCEO, who according to Saxbys "completely runs the shop through its Experiential Learning Platform. They take on full operational, financial, and team leadership responsibility."

The SCEO is responsible for hiring, training and managing a team of student staff members, coaching peer employees and promoting top team members into leadership tracks, working shifts behind the counter alongside their co-workers. They also oversee day-to-day business operations and serve as the public face of Saxbys on campus.

Student CEO Camp

Training is taking place this week at Student CEO Camp at Saxbys headquarters in Philadelphia, where Ashlee Morris, junior entrepreneurship and business administration major from Voorheesville, and self-described aspiring business owner, is learning the ropes as SUNY Plattsburgh's inaugural SCEO.

In a statement shared on LinkedIn, Morris said how excited she is to step into the role and how she's "always



A gourmet coffee and sandwich shop, will fill the space formerly occupied by Einstein Bros. Bagels in Hawkins Hall at SUNY Plattsburgh. Provided photo

dreamed of owning (her) own coffee shop one day."

"Having the chance to lead a café while I'm still in college is an incredible opportunity," she said. "I'm looking

forward to applying what I've learned in the classroom to a real business while developing my skills in financial management, team development and community leadership."

Saxbys plans a grand opening in early September. For more information, contact Keleher at 518-564-2033 or email cjenn006@plattsburgh.edu.

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New York BASS Nation tournament returning to Ogdensburg in September

OGDENSBURG — The New York BASS Nation Tournament will return to Ogdensburg next month, bringing more than 100 competitive anglers and their families to the St. Lawrence River.

The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19, according to the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce.

The event returns after a record-setting 2024 tournament in Ogdensburg, when Dante Piraino, a Clarkson University graduate from

Baldwinsville, caught a 9-pound smallmouth bass, surpassing the previous record of 8 pounds.

Kevin Steinruck of Sodus won the 2024 tournament with a five-fish weight of 27.6 pounds, breaking the previous tournament record of 24.6 pounds. He earned \$7,500 in prize money and sponsor contingencies.

"The fishing was tremendous both days, blessed by the calm sunny weather," Fred Blom, president and tournament director, said of

the 2024 event. "The community was very welcoming and showed a lot of support."

Organizers expect this year's tournament to attract more than 100 anglers and their families, generating business for area hotels, restaurants, gas stations and retailers.

According to information provided by the chamber, a typical BASS Nation event generates an estimated \$265,320 in economic activity for its host community over four days, including



spending on lodging, food, fuel, fishing tackle and entertainment.

Sponsorship opportunities and tournament sched-

ule information are available from Laura Pearson at the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce at 315-386-4000, ext. 6.

Union

From T6

said. "We'll see where it goes from there. At the end of the day, there's no guarantee that's going to happen."

Mike Elmendorf, president of the Associated General Contractors of New York State, said he expects CNY Alliance to continue to work with union labor. There is simply too much work to be done.

Elmendorf said the companies that make up CNY Alliance have a mixed history of working with union labor. Some are "open shop," which means they hire their own workers, and others have agreements with trade unions.

"The reality is a project of this size and scope is one where it makes sense to have a blend of both because there's not an open shop contractor

that has enough of a workforce to do this and the unions don't necessarily either," he said.

The NYAGC, which represents both unions and contractors, does not believe project labor agreements should be required by a government agency. He said both sides tend to oppose labor agreements controlled by government. Open shop contractors want to hire their own workforces. Unions want to negotiate their own agreements with contractors, he said.

Elmendorf said the group supports the state's decision to bid the time-sensitive contract without a labor agreement.

The project labor agreement also offered an incentive for hiring local workers who face barriers to employment. Contractors are paid higher amounts for workers in ZIP codes near the project who are also single parents, lack a high school diploma, have a criminal conviction or qualify for

federal benefits for food, housing or health insurance.

State officials say the contract retains that incentive.

Contractors so far on the I-81 project fell short of the goal for hiring local workers. They met the 15% goal when they counted the number of workers, but just 14% of hours worked and about 12% of total wages, according to a December report by the Urban Jobs Task Force.

Still, the report said, the I-81 project has brought 50 apprentices into jobs they can repeat on other projects.

President Joe Biden in 2022 signed an executive order that required contractors on federal projects, with some exemptions, to sign project labor agreements with unions that would govern wages, hours and terms of employment.

The Associated Builders and Contractors trade group sued unsuccessfully to stop the mandate.

Still, Trump has pushed the issue. He warned legislators in Minnesota earlier this year that he would block federal transportation funding if they did not drop labor agreements. The federal government later approved the funding anyway with the labor agreement attached, according to news reports.

The Trump administration also insisted Maryland officials rebid the contract to replace the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, which was over budget and time. Sean Duffy, U.S. Transportation Secretary, said the state's disadvantaged business enterprise program was discriminatory.

Elmendorf said Trump has been "all over the map" on project labor agreements. Projects were stalling when the state urgently needed approval for the sixth I-81 contract. Now, the federal government seems to be considering them again, he said.

The state expects project labor agreements to be part of future contracts, officials said.

Without elaborating, state DOT officials said in a prepared statement that it was not viable to use a project labor agreement on the sixth contract. They said they proceeded without one to avoid delaying the project.

The federal government has approved no project labor agreements on federally funded highway projects in New York during Trump's second term, they said.

The federal government contributed only 41% to the latest contract, officials said.

In the first five contracts, the split varied from a federal share of 65% to 84%, DOT officials have said.

The Federal Highway Administration did not respond to questions from syracuse.com.

Tours

From T1

about the same spot in A-bay that it still does 100 years later.

The popular boat tour company that attracts tourists to the Thousand Islands from Canada, all over the country and beyond is celebrating its 100th anniversary this summer. Uncle Sam Boat Tours

is inviting the community to commemorate the milestone with a day of events in its parking lot that include country and rock music, activities for children and a patriotic drone show to culminate the party.

Ron Thomson, whose family has been involved in the village's boat tour industry since its early days, is looking forward to Saturday's celebration.

"We'll have something for everybody," he said.

Uncle Sam Boat Tours has a rich history in Alexandria Bay.

While commercial boat tours in the Bay date back to the 1870s, Thomson's grandfather, Captain C.S. Thomson, had his own company that operated on the river. It was among several other boat tours that competed with each other to attract visitors to the river.

Known as "Cap," he had a sizable fleet in the competitive market. Two other owners, Captains D. H. Haas

and W.E. Adkins, decided to merge their separate operations to form the Combined 1000 Islands Boat Tours in 1926. Thomson's grandfather jumped on board, too.

Three other river boat captains also joined the merger, resulting in a fleet of 21 boats.

That was the start of Uncle Sam Boat Tours, Thomson said.

In those days, the fleet consisted of gas-powered, wooden vessels that held between

40 to 96 passengers. The Alexandria Belle was an early boat. Only one of those early watercrafts was originally named "Uncle Sam" and it was the most popular, Thomson said.

"That created a problem," he said. "Everyone wanted to go on that Uncle Sam and it was always full. The others were half full."

By the early 1950s, Thomson's grandfather became the president of the company and

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

is featured each Wednesday, Saturday as well as in NNY Business. This is found at your local Chamber of Commerce and in the third Thursday of each month's Watertown Daily Times.

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Tours

From T8

he rebranded the boats and the company with the Uncle Sam Boat Tours moniker. During his tenure, Captain Thomson ran a tight ship. He was instrumental in developing Uncle Sam Boat Tours and introducing the country to the Thousand Islands, his grandson said.

Cap died in 1967 at the age of 91.

From there, Thomson's father, Graham, took over the company. But he didn't get a chance to leave his mark. Just two years later, he died of a brain aneurysm at the age of 50.

That left Ron's mother, Therese, at the helm of the company.

"People figured she would sell," Thomson said. "She was a young mother with 14-year and 12-year-old children. But she didn't sell."

Under her leadership, Uncle Sam Boat Tours grew. In

1971, the company bought its first double-decker boat, followed by a second one five years later. In 1988, the boat tour company had the Alexandria Belle built with a maximum occupancy of 360 riders..

These days, Uncle Sam Boat Tours operates seven boats, including two triple-decker and a 60-passenger that still heads to Boldt Castle every 30 minutes. The Two Nation Tour, a sightseeing cruise on both sides of the Canadian and U.S. borders, remains its favorite.

"Boldt Castle isn't the number one tourist attraction in the Thousand Islands. The St. Lawrence River is the number one tourist attraction," Thomson said about why people come to the region.

From the end of June through the Labor Day weekend remains the peak time for boat tour visitors, with between 50 and 60 employees and 22 licensed captains. One of the skippers is a captain who works for a commercial tour boat company in Florida

and returns during the summers to captain for Uncle Sam Boat Tours.

Jadon Aikins, now 23, is the youngest captain of the fleet, getting his license at the age of 19 from the Maritime Professional Training school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, before starting as a tour guide and deck hand.

During the summer, he works seven days a week. In the winter, he's a boat mechanic and helps whatever he can to prepare for the season.

"I really enjoy it and want to do it for as long as I can," he said.

Last year, he joined Thomson and two of his boss's friends to pick up a 149-passenger boat from Wisconsin that the business purchased. It was week-long trip through the Great Lakes and up the river to get the vessel to its new home. The four slept on the boat every night.

It was a fun trip, both men said.

The Thousand Islands have always been a summertime destination. During the ear-

ly 1900s, rich industrialists boarded trains from Grand Central Station to stay in mansions on weekends on the river. After World War II, families drove from Canada and along Route 12 on this side of the board to vacation. Interstate Route 81 made those visits easier, Thomson said.

Over the past century, Uncle Sam Boat Tours has had a significant impact on the north country's hospitality industry, economy and history, said Corey Fram, director of the 1000 Islands International Tourism Council.

"How many passengers from around the world have they introduced to the 1000 Islands over the past century? A million or more? The longevity, the fleet and their hard work and passion combined to introduce this part of the world to more people than we can imagine," he said. "The worldwide reputation of the 1000 Islands would not be what it is today without the Thomsons and Uncle Sam Boat Tours."

As part of that impact, Uncle Sam Boat Tours also owns three A-Bay resort hotels, the Blu Anchor Bar and Grille and a gift store.

Thomson, 71, first started working at the company at the age of 14, when he directed cars in the parking lot. On this pleasant summer Friday, Thomson worked earlier in the day, on repairing one of the boats.

In the middle of this summer season, Thomson is contemplating his future. He's going to retire "very soon," without giving his definitive plan.

His son-in-law, Kevin Murman, and his business partner Pete Smith are the new owners, proprietors.

For Thomson, there's nothing like captaining a vessel on a sunny, calm day on the St. Lawrence River. Most recently, he got that chance during a fundraiser tour for the River Hospital just last week. It was good to be back at the ship's wheel.

It's like riding a bike, he said.

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Community invited to welcome area college students to downtown Potsdam

POTSDAM — The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will host First Saturday: Welcome Students on Saturday, Sept. 12, from noon to 5 p.m. in downtown Potsdam. The event is free and open to college students, residents, families and visitors.

Market Street will be closed to traffic for the afternoon. Students from SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University, St. Lawrence University and SUNY Canton are invited to attend,

explore downtown Potsdam and connect with the local community.

The afternoon will include live music and performances, vendors, student organizations, games and giveaways, a student scavenger hunt, food and other activities. Several downtown businesses will offer student specials during the event.

The event will coincide with a village-wide garage sale.

The Chamber is seeking

clubs, student organizations, performers, musical acts, vendors, businesses and community organizations interested in participating. Opportunities include reserving space along the closed street, hosting an activity, performing, offering a student special or contributing a prize to the student scavenger hunt.

More information and registration are available at www.potsdamchamber.com.



Pictured are 2025 SUNY Potsdam participants. Provided photo

Potsdam Chamber of Commerce approves four new members

POTSDAM — The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce said its board of directors has approved four new members.

The new members are:

- Bjorn Fitness, 22 Depot Street, Suite 23, Potsdam. The business is a personal training facility that the chamber said provides customized fitness programs and personalized coaching. (www.bjornfitness.com)

- The Home Zone, 6826 U.S. Route 11, Potsdam. The chamber said the business offers furniture, appliances, mattresses and hot tubs, and participates in the Potsdam Chamber Gift Card Program. (www.thehomezone.com)

- United Way of Northern New York, 167 Polk Street, Suite 300, Watertown. The organization serves Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties with programs and partnerships focused on child and youth success, economic stability, and health and wellness. (www.unitedway-ny.org)

- St. Lawrence Power & Equipment Museum, 1755 NY-345, Madrid. The chamber said the volunteer-driven nonprofit preserves and shares the region's agricultural, industrial and rural heritage through



Kai Wood-Davis, the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce's St. Lawrence University PIC intern, volunteers with new chamber member United Way of Northern New York during the St. Lawrence County Community Food Drive at Walmart in Potsdam. The annual event collected nonperishable food and personal care items to support local food pantries and families throughout the North Country. Provided photo

interactive exhibits, historic buildings and events. (www.slpowermuseum.com)

"Each new member brings unique strengths, services, and opportunities to our business community," Melanie Flack, executive director of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce, said. "We're excited to welcome these outstanding organizations to the Chamber and look forward to supporting their continued growth

while connecting them with other local businesses and community partners."

The chamber said it continues to bring together businesses, nonprofits and community organizations committed to strengthening the local economy and enhancing quality of life in Potsdam and the surrounding region. For information about membership, the chamber lists its website at www.potsdamchamber.com.

IDA supports Defense contractor's bid for power allocation to proposed Massena drone plant

By **ANDY GARDNER**

agardner@wdt.net

CANTON — Defense contracting company Ombra, based in Tampa, Florida, wants two megawatts of power allocated from the Moses-Saunders Power Project so it can open a new facility in Massena, and the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency is backing its request.

The IDA's Local Development Corp., which has the same members as the IDA board, passed the supportive resolution during its Aug. 4 meeting. This doesn't grant the allocation. It urges the New York Power Authority to make the two-megawatt allocation.

"It's not ours to give. The power program looks for me to make the recommendation to them as part of the project," IDA CEO Patrick J. Kelly said.

The St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency passed the same resolution at its monthly board meeting on Tuesday.

Massena native Michael Fieldson owns the company. It has an office on Market Street in Potsdam. The Massena expansion would be a drone manufacturing facility with about 50 people working there.

It does contract work for the U.S. military and other federal agencies. Its website, ombra.us, lists three of their contracts with the U.S. government. It also lists some of their products for sale. However, the descriptions of those products and contracts are written in industry jargon and may be difficult for a layperson to understand.

The products they develop are in areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, biometrics, chemical detection, space tech and others.

IDA board members during the meeting earlier this month spoke favorably about the project.

"I want to commend the Massena Electric Department and the IDA staff for working with a St. Lawrence County person who lives in the North Country and wants to bring this project to life here in the North Country and bring more jobs to people in the Massena area," board member James E. Reagen said.

"You have to have businesses that are willing to take a risk and invest in the North Country," he added. "It's good to see local people bring their skills back here and build a business here in the North Country."



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Jefferson Community College holds annual recognition celebration



Emeritus — Jefferson Community College held its Annual Recognition Celebration on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. From left: David J. Males, chair, Jefferson Board of Trustees; Cindy F. Intschert, vice chair, Jefferson Board of Trustees; Dr. Eugene M. Renzi, Sackets Harbor, newly appointed trustee emeritus; and Daniel J. Dupee II, president. Unavailable for photo: Dr. Venkat Chebolu, Watertown, professor emeritus; Martin P. Schatz, Watertown, trustee emeritus; Suzanne C. Tingley, Williamsburg, Va., trustee emerita.



Honored for 35 years of service — Professor Ronald R. Palmer of Black River (left) pictured with President Daniel J. Dupee II.

WATERTOWN — Jefferson Community College held its Annual Recognition Celebration on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, honoring retirees, SUNY Chancellor's Award recipients, employees reaching milestone years of service, continuing appointments and promotions. The college also announced the 2026 Spirit of Jefferson Award recipient.

Retirees honored were Dwight Austin of Adams,

Monica J. Papagni of Adams Center, Cynthia L. Sloan of Watertown and Gerland Zoanetti of Henderson. Austin joined the college as an adjunct instructor in the Paralegal A.A.S. program in 1992, became a full-time instructor in 2022 and retired in 2025 after more than three decades at Jefferson. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from SUNY Albany, a Juris Doctor from Western New England College School



Honored for 25 years of service — President Daniel J. Dupee II (far left) with employees honored for 25 years of service: John A. Trumbell, Sackets Harbor, coordinator of high school enrollment; Terri L. Weller, Watertown, mail supply clerk; and Renee L. Elliott, Lowville, library automation coordinator.



Jefferson Community College held its Annual Recognition Celebration on Tuesday, May 19, 2026. From left: David J. Males, chair, Jefferson Board of Trustees; Cindy F. Intschert, vice chair, Jefferson Board of Trustees; Dwight Austin of Adams, instructor and retiree; and Daniel J. Dupee II, president. Unavailable for photo: Monica J. Papagni, Adams Center; Cynthia L. Sloan, Watertown, library clerk; Gerald Zoanetti, Henderson Harbor, assistant professor.

of Law and a Master of Laws from Syracuse University College of Law. Austin served as an Army intelligence officer, rotary wing aviator and judge advocate, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve after 23 years of service. He also served as an assistant district attorney in Jefferson County, a legal assistance attorney at Fort

Drum and retired as a Department of the Army civilian attorney after 33 years of federal service.

Sloan joined the college in 2010 as a library clerk and supported day-to-day operations until her retirement. She holds a Bachelor of Science in geology from SUNY Oneonta.

Zoanetti retired after 22

years of service as a biology faculty member. During his tenure he developed Saturday tutoring sessions, served as the Biology EDGE (high school concurrent enrollment program) liaison and contributed to campus committees including the Curriculum Committee and Senate Nominating Committee. He supported the college's Super Science Saturday program for more than a decade and served as the college's United Way coordinator. He holds an associate of science in mathematics and science from Jefferson, a bachelor of science in biology from SUNY Oswego and a master of science in biology from SUNY Potsdam.

Retirees who received emeriti designation were Dr. Venkat Chebolu of Watertown, professor emeritus; Dr. Eugene M. Renzi of Sackets Harbor, trustee emeritus; Martin P. Schatz of Watertown, trustee emeritus; and Suzanne C. Tingley of Williamsburg, Va., trustee emerita.

Dr. Venkat Chebolu was recognized for 30 years of service as a chemistry faculty member. He earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from SUNY Stony Brook, served as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee for two terms, mentored undergraduate honors research projects and participated in multiple campus committees. He was an early leader in online science education, developing one of the State University of New York system's first fully online chemistry courses with a laboratory kit for at-home experiments, and in 1996 secured Jefferson's first National Science Foundation grant. He was a founding member of Super Science Saturday and organizer of National Chemistry Week. His awards include the 2020 SUNY Chancellor's Award



Honored for 30 years of service — Professor Timothy F. Grosse of Watertown (left) pictured with President Daniel J. Dupee II.

JCC

From T12

for Excellence in Teaching, the Tom Meyers Award and recognition as Phi Theta Kappa Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Member of the Year.

Dr. Eugene M. Renzi served on the Jefferson Board of Trustees for 18 years after his appointment in April 1989, including terms as vice chair from 1997 to 1999 and chair from 1999 to 2001. An OB-GYN physician, he opened a medical practice in Watertown in 1963, served as an attending physician at Mercy Hospital and the House of the Good Samaritan, was a diplomate of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and served as president of the Jefferson County Medical Society. His service on the board concluded in April 2007.

Martin P. Schatz's association with Jefferson began as a student and continued through service on the foundation board and the board of trustees. A member of the Class of 1967, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus and received the SUNY Alumni Confederation Outstanding Alumni Award. Appointed to the board in 1997, Schatz served 10 years, including terms as vice chair and chair, and chaired the Budget and Planning Committee. He previously served on the JCC Foundation Board, includ-

ing as president, and helped lead the college's first capital campaign. His board service concluded in November 2007.

Suzanne C. Tingley served on the board of trustees for 11 years after her 1999 appointment, including terms as vice chair and chair, and chaired the Academic and Educational Services Committee while serving on the Personnel Committee. During her tenure she participated in the college's accreditation review process that culminated in unconditional reaccreditation from the Middle States Association. Before joining the board she collaborated with the college on its distance-learning initiative and held leadership positions in K-12 education. Her board service concluded in June 2010.

SUNY Chancellor's Award recipients from Jefferson were Dawn Bartlett of Watertown, associate professor of humanities, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service; Robert Cooper of Lowville, adjunct instructor of lab sciences, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching; Katie Corbin of Chaumont, coordinator of advising, career & transfer services, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service; Kathy Flanders of Clayton, assistant professor of lab sciences, Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching; and Cheryl Martin of Watertown, secretary, Chancellor's

Award for Excellence in Classified Service.

The 2026 Spirit of Jefferson Award, which recognizes a campus team that exemplifies cooperative effort and

achieves exemplary results, was presented to the Jefferson Concern, Attention, Respect for Every Student (CARES) Team. Members listed were Team Chair Tan-

ya Hoistion; Daniel Buckley of Glenfield; Jennifer Dalton of Theresa; Sean Duffany of Watertown; Matthew Gor-

See JCC T14

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White's Flowers celebrates 75th anniversary

CANTON — White's Flowers celebrated its 75th anniversary with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, marking three-quarters of a century on Miner Street.

About 30 community members attended the ceremony, which was organized by the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce. Local officials at the event included Canton Mayor Michael Dalton and Town Supervisor Jim Smith. A representative from the office of Assemblyman Scott Gray presented a proclamation recognizing the milestone.

The shop was founded in 1951 by Frank White and has had three owners since its founding. Brenda and Mike Snow purchased the business from White in 1984 after seeing

a "For Sale" sign while visiting friends. The couple expanded the business tenfold over four decades before selling to long-time neighbors Ed and Kathy Palmer, who bought the shop two years ago.

Brenda Snow continues to assist at the shop. Daily operations are supported by a staff of 14 to 15 employees. Mary Singleton "Sigie" Barr, whose family originally constructed the square cement-block building before White's purchase, remains a regular at the shop.

Palmer, now entering his third year as owner, said he aims to build on the shop's established legacy while exploring new growth opportunities, including a summer satellite location in Alexandria Bay.



A large contingent of public officials, folks from the neighborhood and current and past employees gathered to mark the 75th anniversary of White's Flower on Miner Street in Canton. Chamber of Commerce photo

Jefferson Community College offers tuition-free Direct Support Professional microcredentials while grant funding lasts

WATERTOWN — Direct support professionals are invited to earn DSP I and DSP II microcredentials at Jefferson Community College at no cost while grant funding remains available. The part-time programs offer flexible course formats; fall classes begin Aug. 24, 2026.

The grant covers tuition, fees, books and National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) credentialing. Eligible students also receive a \$750 incentive upon successful completion of each microcredential.

"This is an incredible opportunity for direct support professionals to advance their careers without taking on the financial burden of paying for college," said Dr. Mallory Jackson, associate professor of human services at Jefferson. "Participants can gain valuable credentials, earn transferable college credit, and strengthen the skills that can lead to greater career opportunities and increased earning potential — all at no cost."

The DSP I microcredential provides foundational

knowledge in human services, ethics in the helping professions and interpersonal communication. The DSP II microcredential builds on that foundation with coursework in health care systems, case management and professional communication, preparing students to coordinate services and advocate for clients.

Both microcredentials align with NADSP certification requirements. Programs consist of three credit-bearing courses and can be completed fully online

or through a combination of online and in-person instruction. Successful participants will receive a \$750 bonus once eligibility requirements are met, one or more SUNY microcredentials, national certification(s) and transferable college credit.

The DSP I and DSP II microcredentials prepare students for Jefferson's Human Services A.S. degree and provide pathways for students who already have an associate degree and are seeking a bachelor's degree.

Apply at www.sunyjefferson.edu/microcredentials. For more information, contact Jefferson enrollment services at (315) 786-2437 or admissions@sunyjefferson.edu.

The program is made possible through the SUNY Direct Support Professional Microcredential program with support from Jefferson Community College, the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities and the State University of New York.

JCC

From T13

man of Watertown; Korine Ingerson of Watertown; Mallory Jackson of Woodville; Jessica Raymond of Watertown; and Gabrielle Thompson of Watertown. The

CARES Team provides outreach, support and interventions for students in distress, connects them with campus, community and family resources, and promotes student success.

Employees recognized for milestone years of service:

Five years — Joanna Brislan, Carthage; Korine Inger-

son, Watertown; Andrew Lackey, Watertown; Nichole McDonald, Watertown; Eric Monroe, Glen Park; Michael Pitts, Theresa; Christopher Rowland, Chaumont; Jane Rounds, Henderson.

10 years — Betsi Bentz, Watertown; Joshua Canale, Syracuse; Michael Guga, Dexter; Kady Hoistion, Wa-

tertown; Angel Lafountain, Carthage; Tyler Peterson, Watertown.

15 years — Trevor Bradish, Watertown; Todd Parody, LaFargeville; Johanna Pierce, Watertown; Whitney Snyder, Redwood.

20 years — Teresa Boulton, Adams Center; Pamela Dixon, Redwood; Jessi-

ca Leigh, Brownville; John Scovel, Adams; Laura Young, Watertown.

25 years — Renee Elliott, Lowville; John Trumbell, Sackets Harbor; Terri Weller, Watertown.

30 years — Timothy Grosse, Watertown.

35 years — Ronald Palmer, Black River.

Schumer asks Army to pick Fort Drum for nuclear project



Sen. Charles E. Schumer speaks at a news conference on Fort Drum in April 2024. Jonathon Wheeler/Watertown Daily Times

By ALEX GAULT

agault@wdt.net

Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., is urging the Department of Defense to select Fort Drum to host Project Janus, the next-generation nuclear power project that the Army is looking to construct on a U.S. military post.

On Wednesday afternoon, Schumer told the Watertown Daily Times that he'd sent a formal letter to the Department of Defense requesting Fort Drum be selected from the nine locations shortlisted to host the project.

"Fort Drum's facilities, personnel, and infrastructure make it uniquely positioned to spearhead the Army's Janus Program and demonstrate this important, innovative nuclear microreactor technology. Fort Drum is top-of-class to lead in advanced nuclear development. Bringing a safe and secure nuclear energy source to Fort Drum is a win-win for strengthening the base's energy security and protecting

our Army from vulnerabilities like grid failures," Schumer said. "As one of the most advanced and strategic military installations in the country, Fort Drum is ready, and the critical missions it carries out to protect our nation demand reliable, resilient, and independent onsite power generation."

In his letter, Schumer argued that Fort Drum is the right site to host the next-generation power plant because it's in need of clean, reliable independent energy supplies and hosts the Army's single most-deployed division of the last 30 years.

Project Janus was launched in late 2025, identifying nine U.S. Army posts across the continental U.S. that could host a small, modular nuclear reactor designed to supply a moderate, consistent and constant supply of energy. The project aims to switch on a nuclear power plant by September 2038.

New York Sea Grant survey hopes to take stock of cormorant issues

PUBLIC URGED TO UPLOAD PHOTOS, INFO AS PART OF NEW REPORTING TOOL

By CHRIS BROCK

cbrock@wdt.net

OSWEGO — Following reports of increasing populations of double-crested cormorants and their fish-eating ways, a new survey hopes to record, analyze and further scrutinize the activity and impact of the birds.

New York Sea Grant, a collaborative program of Cornell University and the State University of New York, is inviting the public to document the presence, activities, and impacts of double-crested cormorants — a native, federally protected migratory bird species. New York Sea Grant partnered with Wayne County GIS to develop an online reporting tool at <https://nyseagrant.org/cormorant> for the public to upload photos and report observations of double-crested cormorant numbers, nesting, and feeding activities.

The survey includes options for logging the birds' impact to natural habitat, water quality, infrastructure and recreational usage.

New York Sea Grant, a collaborative program of Cornell University and the State University of New York, is inviting the public to document the presence, activities, and impacts of double-crested cormorants. Double-crested cormorants are a native, fish-eating, federally protected migratory bird species. New York Sea Grant partnered with Wayne County GIS to develop an online report-

ing tool at <https://nyseagrant.org/cormorant> for the public to upload photos and report observations of double-crested cormorant numbers, nesting, and feeding activities.

Although originating in Wayne County, the cormorant survey is designed for use by the public across New York's Great Lakes region and statewide.

CHARTER FISHING CONCERNS

The birds' wide-ranging diet of fish is a cause of concern for the recreational fishing industry. Double-crested cormorants were identified as a serious issue by New York's charter fishing industry during industry meetings held by New York Sea Grant along New York's Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River shoreline.

Such reports of issues with the birds have gone back decades. Cormorants were widely blamed for decimating the bass population on areas of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River in the late 1990s, culminating in the shooting death of as many 2,000 of the black birds on Little Galloo Island in 1998.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation has operated a long-running cormorant control program on eastern Lake Ontario. It uses regulated strategies like egg oiling and nest destruction on island habitats like Little Galloo Island to protect sport fisheries and local waterbird diversity.

"In meetings in Oak Orchard,

Irondequoit, Oswego, Henderson, and Alexandria Bay, charter captains expressed concerns about increasing populations of double-crested cormorants and interest in seeing more research on the birds and their predation on fish, particular after stocking," New York Sea Grant Great Lakes Fisheries and Ecosystem Health Specialist Stacy Furgal said in a news release.

New York Sea Grant Associate Director Katherine Bunting-Howarth said, "This new reporting tool responds to local leaders' interests in having a way for community members to report, track, and share with resource managers information about double-crested cormorant activity statewide."

In Wayne County, town of Huron Supervisor David Fantuzzo said, "Town residents have been calling to report issues with cormorants. New York Sea Grant has developed a way for people who live, work, and enjoy recreation along Wayne County's shoreline to report their individual observations while at the same time, getting a broader picture of the problem here."

Double-crested cormorants utilize the Great Lakes region for breeding, with nesting colonies of a few dozen birds to more than a thousand pairs. Their droppings can destroy the trees and vegetation below their nests.



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try knows that his overwhelm-

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ing positivity and enthusiasm
are not only contagious but
highly impactful,” Sweeney
added. “We look forward to
seeing Eddie bring all those at-
tributes to listeners as the new

host of ‘The Wake-Up Refresh-
er With Eddie Cito.’”
“The Wake-Up Refresher
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