



BNNY **Business**

A Watertown Daily Times/
Malone Telegram production

Daily updates: NNY360.com **June 2025**

Congratulations to the 2025 class of 20 Under 40. These young professionals will be honored at a reception on Tuesday, June 3, at the Historic Paddock Arcade in Watertown. To purchase tickets, please scan the QR code.

20 UNDER 40

NORTHERN NEW YORK'S EMERGING LEADERS



Anthony Adamczyk

Joseph Austin

Adam Bullis

Brittany Doyle

Amanda Drake

Jessica Goodrich

Emily Griffin

Meghan Harney

Robert Killmer

Brittany Matott

Kylee McGrath

Derek McNeill

Tim Reddick

Jamie Roberts

Sarah Shoemaker

Ariel Snyder

Mara Snyder

Dylan Soper

Gregory Stickel

Danielle Young

Professional Connection Page 14

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Jessica Goodrich



20 UNDER **40**
NORTHERN NEW YORK'S
EMERGING LEADERS

Position and employer: Director of Infection Prevention and Control at Samaritan Medical Center, Watertown NY

Hometown: Sackets Harbor/Watertown (Town of Hounsfield)

Family: Granddaughter to the late Joseph and Mary Misercola and Daughter to Karen Misercola (Watertown), Sister to Donald Eastham III (Dexter). Married to my high school sweetheart Anthony Goodrich (Sackets Harbor), and a proud mother to Eric and Violet Goodrich (Brownville).

Community involvement: I am a proud member of the North Country community. My immediate involvement in our region includes serving on the Brownville-Glen Park Library Board of Trustees. I am always looking for ways to spread the important message of infection prevention to our community and have facilitated additional learning programs to SUNY Jefferson Community College Nursing Program, shared the importance of infection prevention via hand hygiene tips to the community via the Watertown Farmer's Market, participated as a co-team captain for the 2025 North Country Heart Walk, and provided ongoing community support during the COVID-19 pandemic via collaborative planning and Vaccination Clinics. I have also had state level involvement professional-



Jessica Goodrich. Contributed

ly, volunteering as a facilitator on the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS) 2024 CIC Exam Prep Class, and on the national level, presenting at the 2023 Quest for Excellence National Conference, the 2024 Breakthroughs National Conference, and currently serving a three-year elected term on SHEA's LearningCE Committee. I'm also an advocate of sustaining community programs via the activities of my two children, particularly as a member and supporter of the Watertown Tae Kwon Do Training Center family through my daughter's activities and as a supporter of the Northern Tier Trap League through my son's activities.

Education:

A high honors graduate of Sackets Harbor Central School (Class of 2004) and recipient of the BOCES Career and Technical Program Award (New Vision Healthcare)

A graduate of SUNY Jefferson Community College Nursing Program: Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing (2006) and Star Award Recipient

A graduate of SUNY Upstate Medical University Nursing Program: Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing (2008) Summa Cum Laude

New York State Education Department: Registered Professional Nurse (RN). Licensed year 2006-present

Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc: Certification in Infection Control (CIC). Certified 2023-present

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? Our community needs you! Staying local and giving back to the North Country has been a big drive for the success in my career and personal life. If you keep working toward your professional goals and chase the dreams that you have set for yourself, the community will always support you in return and success will come to you in many forms.

See **GOODRICH T7**

Tim Reddick

Position and employer: CEO/President, Con Tech Building Systems, Inc.

Hometown: Alexandria Bay
Family: Megan, Marc, Archer, and Maeve. Two Vizslas: Aspen and Segó

Community involvement: Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce (Board Member, past President), Samaritan Foundation (Board Member), Thousand Islands Golf Classic (Co-Chair), Adopt-a-Highway (Con Tech)

Education: Bachelors of Science, Building Construction, Virginia Tech Class of 2014

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? There's a work ethic here in NNY that can't be beat and there are many uncut gems to be found. It's our responsibility as leaders to find those uncut gems and polish them into diamonds.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? It's twofold: 1) Servicing others through leadership and encouraging them to be the best versions of themselves and 2) Striving to meet my own highest potential.

Who is your mentor, and why? Rob Reddick, father and founder of Con Tech. I'm proud



Tim Reddick. Contributed

to be the second generation running a small family business (with my partner and brother, Nick) in the North Country and have learned many things (both good and bad) from Rob.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? I'm a boomerang in that I was raised here, left for a decade, and returned when it was time to settle down. It was ultimately family and the business that brought my wife and I back to the North Country. We explored other areas of the country for a while but always knew we'd be back. And it's a wonderful place to start a family, build a career, and settle down!

Kylee McGrath

Position and employer: Chief Executive Officer, Watertown Local Development Corporation

Hometown: Philadelphia, New York

Family: I married my husband, Steven, in 2011—we've been together since high school. We have two children, Quynn (6) and Nash (4), who inspire me every day to be the best version of myself. They're the heart of everything I do, and their presence keeps me grounded and motivated, both personally

and professionally.

Community involvement: I'm actively involved in efforts to strengthen and grow Watertown's local economy and downtown culture. I currently serve on the boards of the Watertown Downtown Business Association, Advantage Watertown and the Watertown Industrial Center Local Development Corporation (WICLDC). I'm also a member of the Downtown Block Party

See **MCGRATH T6**



Kylee McGrath. Sarissa Melissa Photography.

Ariel Snyder

Position and employer: Architect, Associate at BCA Architects & Engineers

Hometown: Watertown

Family: I have a very close-knit family here in the North Country. I am married to Jeffrey Snyder who is originally from the Copenhagen area, and we have two beautiful children who are 4 (almost 5) and 7.

Community involvement: Coaching kids has always been a passion of mine. Before having children of my own, I was deeply involved in the Tae Kwon Do



Ariel Snyder. Chelsea M. Walts Photography.

See **SNYDER T6**

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Kiwanis Club of Ogdensburg
City of Ogdensburg**

EVENT CONTACT: Laura Pearson

Laura@SLCchamber.org | 315-386-4000 x6

Joseph (Joe) Austin

Position & Employer:

- Fiscal Manager – Lewis County Public Health (Worked for Public Health since 2015 – Multiple positions – Fiscal Manager since 2022)

- Fire Chief – Lowville Volunteer Fire Department (Chief Since 2019, Assistant Chief 2016-2019, Member since 2007)

- State Fire Instructor – NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control (Based in Lewis County) Since 2016

Hometown: Lowville

Fun Fact: With the exception of 2 semesters in College, I've lived in Lowville my whole life

Family: Wife (15 years) – Anna Austin, son: Jeremiah (11 Years Old, daughter: Agnes (8 Years Old)

Community Involvement:

- Volunteer Fire Department (Since 2007)

- Member of Abundant Life Community Church of Lowville

- Member of worship team / Co-Leader with Men's Ministry Events / Co-Leader of Safety Team

Education:

- Bachelor's Degree (2015) – Emergency Management and Fire Science

- Associate's degree (2013) – Business Administration

- Associate's degree (2010) mathematics concentration

What Advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY?

Try to figure out what your priorities in life are and then once you do work to meet those priorities. The rest of your life will fall in line if you are concentrating on your priorities. Take time, research different fields of studies, don't just do it because you're told to do it. Try to find something that you enjoy doing and if you do, you'll find it much easier to do.

What Inspires you to do what you do in your professional and personal life?

The first thing that comes to mind when I think of this question is my faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus is the number one priority in my life. That faith



Joe Austin. Contributed.

teaches me to be calm, caring, and compassionate and those are the traits that I try to implement in all that I do. Another factor of inspiration is the hope that I am instilling in my children a father figure who they know works hard, enjoys what he does, but most of all cares for them deeply. Balancing all of the time commitment of family, work, volunteer work is not an easy task. I just hope and pray that in the end I am able to do the best for my family first and my community second!

What has led you to remain in the North Country in make your mark?

Growing up in Lowville and enjoying the time as a young kid up into my adult life it did not make it hard for me to decide that I wanted to raise my family here. From being able to go out and play outside to knowing everyone who was in my class in high school, I've always known that this is a great community to build and raise a family. I've been very blessed to be given opportunities to grow in this community. From starting out my working career at the local fast-food joint, to joining a small family run business as their office manager, to beginning my career at Public Health, I've always had the opportunities needed to continue growth in the small community and I've appreciated it very much. Watching my kids grow, I know it was the right call to stay in this area. Being close to family has been very beneficial over the years and being able to really get to know your neighbors is just a great feeling!

Adam Bullis



Adam Bullis. Contributed.

Position and employer: District Forester, LandVest

Hometown: West Plattsburgh NY

Family: My girlfriend, Sara Sloan, and I have been together for 6 years and have had our Golden Retriever, Timber, for 4 of those years. My Mother-Michele Bullis and her partner Tim Parker, Father- Kevin Bullis and his partner Sharon Rascoe, Brother- Jeremy Bullis, Sister- Kathleen Bullis, Sister- Angeline Bullis. Grandmother-Ann Garrand, Grandfather- Dud Bullis(Diseased), Grandmother Mary Bullis (diseased) all grew up in the greater Plattsburgh area and other than my sister Kathleen still reside there (Kathleen didn't go far- just to Glens Falls). We are all very close and spend much of our free time together.

Community involvement: Son of the Post 1619 American Legion.

Education: Saranac High School and Paul Smith's College

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? There is so much

opportunity in the North Country! Hard work, common sense, and attention to detail will allow you to succeed in whatever you put your mind to, anything is possible!

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? My love of the outdoors and passion for hard work have guided what I do in both my personal and professional life. For as long as I can remember I have loved to be outside so naturally my professional and per-

See **BULLIS T18**

Sarah Shoemaker



Sarah Shoemaker. Contributed.

Position and employer: Building and Grounds Director, Watertown Family YMCA

Hometown: Hillsborough, North Carolina

Family: Brook Shoemaker (husband of 7 years) and Tucker Cates Shoemaker (son, 4 months old)

Community involvement: My family is involved in our church, Park UMC, in Pulaski where my husband and I have served as high school youth leaders over the last 1.5 years. Since age 15 I have been involved in different organizations providing emergency home repair and have a lifelong commitment to volunteering for that cause, most recently taking our local youth group to Kentucky to serve a family in need by building a wheelchair ramp. Additionally, working

at the YMCA means being involved in as the Y's purpose is to strengthen community and I am grateful to be a daily part of that.

Education: I graduated from Appalachian State Uni-

See **SHOEMAKER T18**

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Snyder

From T3

community and loved teaching students of all ages. For me, it was never just about the sport—it was about the values it instills in young people and the opportunity to help shape confident, respectful, and resilient minds.

Although I've taken a pause from Tae Kwon Do training to focus on raising my family, the five tenets of the discipline—Courtesy, Integrity, Perseverance, Self-Control, and Indomitable Spirit—remain central to how I live and hope to lead.

Now that my children are getting older, I'm rediscovering my love of coaching and have recently become involved with the South Jefferson Little League Association, where I'm assistant coaching my son's T-ball team. It's a joy to help foster teamwork, sportsmanship, and a love for the game in the next generation.

Lastly, Since September of 2024 I have had the privilege of participating in the Jefferson Leadership Institute (JLI), a leadership development program offered by the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce. This experience has opened my eyes to the many ways I can contribute to and stay connected with our region. It also deepened my appreciation for everything the North Country has to offer and strengthened my commitment to its continued growth and vitality.

Education: I graduated from Watertown High School in 2008 where I went on to begin my college career at Onondaga Community College and received my Associates in the Applied Science of Architecture. From there I transferred

to SUNY Alfred State College and received my bachelors in the Applied Science of Architecture in 2012. Since then, I have become a licensed architect in June 2024.

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? Stay curious, be patient with your growth, and don't underestimate the power of relationships. The North Country has so many unique opportunities for leadership and impact—seek them out, and make your voice heard.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? Design has the power to shape how people live, work, and connect. I'm inspired by the potential to create spaces that are not only functional, but meaningful—places that foster belonging, purpose, and pride. Architecture is more than just constructing buildings; it's about improving lives through thoughtful, intentional design. What motivates me most is the opportunity to give back to the community I grew up in. There's something deeply fulfilling about helping to build a future where families can thrive and businesses can grow. I want my work to leave a positive and lasting impact—not just through the buildings themselves, but through the values they represent. Lastly, I'm inspired by my children. They remind me every day of the kind of world we're creating for the next generation. That perspective keeps me grounded and focused on doing meaningful work, both professionally and at home.

Who is your mentor, and why? I've been fortunate to have many mentors throughout my career—too many to name just one. Each has offered valuable guidance, perspective, and encouragement at

different stages of my journey. That said, Rick Tague, former leader at BCA (recently retired) stands out as someone who consistently believed in me. He had an unwavering confidence that I could figure out any challenge, even when I wasn't so sure myself. His support helped me grow not just as a professional, but as a leader. Rick never handed me all the answers—instead, he challenged me to think critically, trust my instincts, and stay calm under pressure. That kind of mentorship leaves a lasting impact, and I'm deeply grateful for it. I'd also like to highlight Mari Cecil, Senior Principal Architect and Travis Overton, CEO and Architect, who continue to play a unique roll in my professional development. Mari brings a deep bench of knowledge to every project, and I truly value the opportunity to learn from her. Her insight, attention to detail, and approach to problem-solving continue to inspire me and elevate my work. Travis leads with humility, humor, and heart—qualities that create a strong, positive culture around him. He makes people feel seen and heard and reminds me that leadership isn't just about what you know, but how you impact others. I admire the example he sets and aspire to bring that same sense of grounded confidence and human connection into my own leadership style.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? This region is home for me. The sense of community, the pace of life, and the chance to contribute to meaningful projects makes staying here a natural choice. There's so much potential in Northern New York, and I'm proud to be a part of shaping its future.

McGrath

From T3

Series Committee, working to bring energy, foot traffic, and a sense of community to Watertown.

Education: I graduated from Indian River Central School District in 2009—a place that played a bigger role in my journey than most might expect. It was there that my love for business first began. That early spark led me to Le Moyne College, where I earned my bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in Finance in 2012, through the Madden School of Business.

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? Don't stress if you don't have it all figured out right away. It's completely normal not to know exactly what you want out of your career when you're just starting. Give yourself the space to explore different paths. Try out new roles, ask questions, and don't be afraid to pivot when something doesn't feel like the right fit. Take the time to learn your strengths and weaknesses—they'll help guide your decisions more than a fixed plan ever could. Build your network early. The relationships you form can open doors you didn't even know existed. And above all, keep your values front and center. When you know what truly matters to you, it becomes a lot easier to find a career path that feels meaningful.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? My biggest inspiration is my family. I was raised by parents who balanced full-time careers while also running their own small business. Watching their resilience, grit, and dedication left a lasting impression on me. Entrepreneurship isn't easy—it takes heart, long hours, and a deep belief in what you're building. That spirit runs through my whole family. I've seen firsthand the challenges and sacrifices that come with chasing a dream.

So in my career, being able to support people who are building something of their own—helping turn their vision into reality—is incredibly meaningful. It's personal. I know what it takes, and that makes the work deeply rewarding. Professionally, I'm driven by the goal of helping create a community where families want to live, grow, and thrive. That means supporting the entrepreneurs who take the leap to start something of their own. I love being part of that journey—helping them find the financing they need, marketing their businesses so people know they exist, and watching those ideas turn into something real. Being a small business owner is hard. If I can make that path a little easier, a little more successful, I consider that a win—not just for the business, but for the entire community. There's something special about taking my kids to a local shop or café and saying, "I helped bring this to life." That connection—from someone's dream to a tangible piece of Watertown—is what keeps me going.

Who is your mentor, and why? I'm lucky to have had several mentors who have shaped both my career and personal growth. For the past five years, Don Rutherford has been a constant mentor in my life. He introduced me to the world of economic development and has always supported me in pushing forward the changes I believed were necessary. He took a chance hiring me with little economic development knowledge. His guidance gave me the confidence to trust my instincts and take initiative. Over the past year, Dawn Cole has become another key mentor. While we're in very different industries, her leadership style and commitment to community have made a big impact on me. I've learned so much from her example and her willingness to offer support and advice. I've also come to value peer mentorship. Amanda Stickel (Watertown First/Stickel Financial Services)

See **MCGRATH 7**

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Derek McNeil

Position and employer: Vice President, V.S. Virkler & Son, Inc.

Hometown: Glenfield

Family: Wife, Ashley McNeil. Children- Blake McNeil, 8; Savannah McNeil, 14. Parents, Rick and Shari McNeil

Community Involvement: Currently coaching Lyons Falls Little League baseball. We are always finding ways to donate to youth teams around the community through Virklers, as well as donating materials for field improvements.

Education: Class of 2005, South Lewis Central School

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? My advice would be to soak in your environment. Be the person who shows up consistently, puts your head down and does the work. It will circle back to you. Sometimes it takes years to get to where you think you should be, and if you are one of the fortunate ones, your future can be better than you ever imagined. It is a little bit of luck, and a lot of hard work and consistency.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? I am inspired by the team around me. I want to do what's best for the employees at Virklers every day. I feel the positive impact of their successes, whether it is a work win or personal win. It is a great feeling to know what we do at Virklers matters to the local community. You can't drive down the road without seeing our stone or concrete. You look at the wind towers, the local schools, and



Derek McNeil. Contributed.

you see why what we do matters and I am lucky to be a part of that. I've built great relationships with the local highway departments; it feels like a big team effort.

Who is your mentor, and why? I've worked at Virklers for 20 years now, so I've been lucky to have many mentors help guide me throughout the years. Joe Virkler and Sam Moore took a chance on me and helped develop me right out of high school. Joe Brown, Jim Kingsley, Harry Ortlieb, the list can go on for a while. These are all people

who saw potential in me at different points in my career. I've looked up to all of them and those relationships have turned into great friendships.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? I was born and raised here, so starting out in the North Country was easy. I never had the desire to leave because I have always loved what I have done at work. Virklers has made it easy for me to stay invested in the work I do here. I couldn't imagine doing anything else.

Goodrich

From T3

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? The versatility of being a registered nurse has allowed me so many experiences over the past 19 years. I am truly passionate about my profession, and the newest chapter as a leader in infection prevention and control has continued to fill my cup as a lifelong learner and facilitator of supporting and improving quality processes in the healthcare system. The safety and well-being of our community members that we care for each day here at Samaritan—patients, visitors, and employees—are my inspiration to always strive for more. Getting to meet new people in this field, build relationships, and collaborate on focused missions and projects provides me endless opportunities for continued growth and gives the big-picture purpose to what I do each day. In my personal life, working in a field that directly shapes the future of my children, my niece and nephews, and the youth of our community is a fulfilling motivation and inspiration to all that I do. My values are deeply rooted in

the betterment and facilitation of successes to support others, and my family and friendships mean the most to me.

Who is your mentor, and why? I am shaped by so many people who I have/had the pleasure of knowing that it is truly impossible to select a mentor. Each life experience and relationship, personally and professionally, has been a stepping-stone of growth in my life thus far. I look forward to the continued adventure of life – it surely has a way of taking you exactly where you need to be!

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? I have immense joy in giving back to my community and supporting the North Country – I have always challenged myself to strive for more and it is such a pleasure to do what I do each day professionally to give back to our region. My family was established in Watertown three generations ago and my entire family and circle of friends have been such a support to me; I am grateful to be able to live so closely to so many of them here in the North Country. I am so lucky to continue making an impact in our community and look forward to continuing just that for many years to come.

McGrath

From T6

and Kayla Jamison (Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce) have both become incredible sounding boards and collaborators, along with Joy Nuffer my CFO. Surrounding myself with like-minded peers has helped me grow and stay inspired. Peer mentors offer a different kind of perspective—grounded in shared experiences and mutual support—and I encourage every young professional to build that kind of network.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? Family has always been the foundation for me. I have a large extended family, and most of us live here locally. While I once envisioned leaving the

area, when the time actually came, I realized I couldn't imagine missing out on the day-to-day moments. Birthdays, holidays, and everyday life with my family were too important to give up. I married my husband during my senior year of college, and after graduation, we made the decision to stay in the North Country. When we thought about the future—starting a family, building a life—it mattered to us that our children grow up surrounded by family. Professionally, I never expected to land at the Watertown Local Development Corporation. But now that I'm here, I can't imagine a better fit. Being involved in economic development has been both life-changing and deeply rewarding. It's given me the chance to make a real impact on the community I've always called home.



The Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority proudly congratulates

ANTHONY ADAMCZYK

on being named one of the Watertown Daily Times 20 Under 40 Northern NY Emerging Leaders! Your dedication, leadership, and commitment to community development have made a profound impact on the North Country region. We are proud to have you as part of our team!



OGDENSBURG BRIDGE & PORT AUTHORITY



Port of Ogdensburg
NEW YORK

Mara E. Snyder

Position and employer: Owner of Snyder's Sugar Shack, Office Manager at Miller's Turf & Eastview Grain

Hometown: Copenhagen

Family: Husband- Mike, Son- Chase (13) and Daughter- Carly (11)

Community involvement: Co-President of Copenhagen Youth Wrestling Club, Vice President of Lewis County Maple Producers Association, Lewis County Dairy Committee, Volunteer at the Copenhagen Booster Club

Education: High School- Copenhagen Central School, College- Bachelor of Science- Environmental Science at Paul Smith's College

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? One of the best pieces of advice I can give is inspired by something Mel Robbins says: "Let them." People will doubt you, question your choices, or not see your vision—and that's okay. Let them. Focus on your goals, your growth, and your values. Don't get distracted trying to prove yourself to everyone. In a close-knit region like Northern New York, it's easy to feel pressure to follow a traditional path or meet others' expectations. But real success comes from trusting yourself, staying consistent, and building something meaningful on your own terms. Let them talk. Let them doubt. And let you rise.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? My two beautiful children, Chase and Carly, are my greatest inspiration. Everything I do—personally and professionally—is rooted in the desire to set an example for them. I want them to grow up knowing the importance of kindness, resilience, and making a positive impact in a world that can sometimes feel overwhelming or uncertain.

Who is your mentor, and why?

I'm fortunate to have several influential people who have shaped my journey in



Mara Snyder. Contributed.

different, meaningful ways. My parents instilled in me the values of hard work and perseverance from a young age. Their example has been a constant guide in everything I do. My husband is my unwavering supporter, offering strength and encouragement no matter what the day brings. My younger sister, though not older in years, has become a powerful sounding board whose perspective I deeply value. And professionally, my boss Aaron has been a mentor throughout my career, supportive, insightful, and consistently helping me grow in every role I've taken on.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? Being born and raised in the North Country on a Dairy Farm in Copenhagen, I've always felt a deep sense of pride and connection to this community. It's where my values were shaped, where I learned the importance of hard work, resilience, and looking out for your neighbors. I've chosen to stay because I believe in the potential of this region and want to give back to the place that gave me so much. Whether it's through supporting local initiatives, mentoring youth, or contributing to economic growth, I'm committed to making a positive impact right here at home.

NNY Business

20 UNDER 40
NORTHERN NEW YORK'S
EMERGING LEADERS

— CONGRATULATIONS —

MARA SNYDER

OWNER OF SNYDER'S SUGAR SHACK



PICTURED (LEFT TO RIGHT): CHASE SNYDER, MARA SNYDER, CARLY SNYDER, MICHAEL SNYDER

**2025 NNY BUSINESS
20 UNDER 40 HONOREE**

A STANDOUT LEADER SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR REGION.
CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS WELL-EARNED RECOGNITION!

Anthony Adamczyk

Position and employer: Director of Economic Development for the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority

Hometown: Lisbon, NY

Family: Loving Wife Brandi and Newborn Son Isaac

Community involvement: I serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce. I am also an active member of the Diocese of Ogdensburg serving as an usher at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg.

Education: Bachelor of Science – BS, Innovation and Entrepreneurship (2011) from

Clarkson University

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? I have found throughout my career thus far that it is important to maintain a sense of optimism as well as to stay humble when approaching life and work. There are so many things that can and will go wrong when you're trying to accomplish great things but it's important to stay positive, be patient, and remember that you're capable of working through the challenges. Do not accept the status quo and always ask yourself: Why not? Fundamentally believe that,

God willing, tomorrow will be better than today. I feel it is also important to have humility in all that you do. I find it goes a long way when collaborating and trying to find common ground and get things done. Remember to always be proud of your accomplishments and abilities but also be humble.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? I am motivated by always trying to leave a place better than when I found it – for my family, colleagues, and fellow citizens. I want to see good for our region and am thankful that I work for an organization

that has the ability to provide better for the people we serve. Whether it be the development of a much-needed child care facility to aid in local workforce development or the re-imagining of an airport to also serve as a space to bring the community together, I am having the great privilege of working on projects that are transforming our region for the better. I try to always remember that we only have so much time on this earth and for the most part it is up to each of us to choose what we do with that time, so why not make the most of it?

Who is your mentor, and why? I have been very fortunate throughout my personal and professional life to be around people who I've looked up to and consider mentors. My parents had a big influence on me, teaching me foundational values such as hard work, perseverance, kindness, and to always go above and beyond what is expected of you. Throughout my time at Clarkson University and the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority I've worked for leaders who have taught me that with leadership comes great responsibility and service. In my current role I have been particularly blessed to work with leadership that has the faith and confidence in me to grow in my career which is so important for the development of a young professional. I am truly grateful for their support and belief in me as we continue to do great things together.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? I appreciate the fact that what we have here in the North Country is something truly special. There is immense



Anthony Adamczyk.
Contributed.

potential for our region and I feel that a person can have a huge impact here through vision and determination. I don't like to admit it but having been born in New Jersey and spending many of my summers there as a child I had always wanted to leave the area when I grew up and move to somewhere with a faster pace of life. But as I grew older and traveled to other places, my perspective changed in that I looked forward to returning home to the North Country. It has been a great place to grow up and begin a career. I have been very fortunate to work for some great organizations that I've learned much from. The North Country is a place that allows you to connect with beautiful nature and that gives you the room to live, think, and accomplish. I feel that the North Country has a very bright future with all of the many exciting things happening in economic development which I am looking forward to playing a role in for years to come.



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Emily Griffin

Position and employer: On-line Communications Coordinator at Samaritan Health, Marketing Director at Zoo New York at Thompson Park

Hometown: Copenhagen, NY

Family: Lori Atkinson, Mother, Ronald Griffin, Father, Rachel Griffin, Sister, Rilynn & Bodie, beloved niece and nephew

Community involvement: Board member of the Jefferson County Historical Society, Member of the Jefferson County Genealogical Society

Education: Graduated from Copenhagen Central School in 2015 as the Class Salutatorian and Treasurer with an Advanced Regents Diploma and honors.

Graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2019 Summa Cum Laude with completion of the Honors Program. Majored in Broadcast Journalism and Minored in Newsprint Journalism.

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY?

My advice is to find something in the community that you care about and get involved in it. It could be from a professional level or a volunteer level on the side. Committees, boards, clubs and groups are always grateful to see younger people participating, because we are the ones that will carry on these organizations. We have to know them and care about them if we want them around in the future. Our perspectives matter, and being involved creates a sense of purpose, belonging, and pride in our community. As professionals, we have to care about the community as a whole, and getting involved is a great way to expand our networks and truly understand the area.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life?

I just want people to see what I see when I look at the North Country. I look at the Historical Society and I see the thousands of artifacts that represent the generations who came before us. Stories that deserve to be shared, preserved, and learned from. I look at the zoo and I see incredible animals, many of



Emily Griffin. Contributed.

which have come from heart-breaking backgrounds, yet they trust zookeepers and get excited to see guests. I see the visitors who come from near and far, enjoying the recreation and learning to connect with nature. I look at Samaritan and I see the caregivers receiving patients who are scared and hurting, and they greet them with compassion. I look at the farmers working the fields to feed us. I look at the teachers in small schools educating students on limited resources. I look at the small business owners holding their own against chain companies. Outside I see clean air and beautiful waterways and birds chirping. All around, I see a community that is GOOD. We are so fortunate to be surrounded by so much positivity- it inspires me to help propel it.

Who is your mentor, and why?

It may sound cliché, but my parents have been my mentors. They have always been advocates for bettering the community. My mom is involved with all things education, advocating for her students at Copenhagen, and for all students in New York, to have the best chance for academic success. She would do ANYTHING if it meant improving a student's learning experience. And my dad is a longtime leader with the Board of Directors for NRCIL, helping improve independence for those with disabilities. They both taught me by example. Volunteering and

See GRIFFIN T18

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Brittney P. Doyle

Licensed Cosmetologist and Owner of Polished. Beauty Studio

Hometown: Lowville

Family: Married to Kevin p. Doyle II with three beautiful Children. Nolan, Raelynn and Elias

Community involvement: Volunteerism has always been close to my heart. I am a proud member of the Lowville Elks Lodge 1605, currently serving as the first woman Exalted Ruler of the 1605. In this role I am a part of planning and implementing many community centered events – The Christmas Giving Tree, Youth Organizations Chicken BBQs, Easter Outreach Dinner, Coat Drives, and various fundraising events. I am involved in the Lowville Youth Lacrosse fundraising committee. I continue to sit in on the advisory committee meetings for the Cosmetology program at H.G. Sackett Technical Center in Glenfield. As the owner of Polished. We host interns from the BOCES program each year – this being my sixth year as a host site. This year I am proud to announce that we are in the middle of hosting our first Cinderellas closet event for any senior girl attending LACS; they pick out a dress, book a nail and hair appointment the day of prom- free of charge.

Education: I graduated in 2018 from Herkimer Community College with an Associates Degree and continued on at SUNY Empire to complete my Bachelors in History. At the time I thought I wanted to work in the school systems as a teacher, turns out I became



Brittney Doyle. Contributed.

an educator, just in a different compacity.

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? My advice to young professionals in NNY is to keep striving to be the best version of yourself. If we continue to improve ourselves everything else will come in time. It is important to stay reflective, in the good times and bad.

Who is your mentor, and why? My inspiration comes from my children. As cliché as that sounds it's the truth. My children inspire me to give back to the community that I am raising them in. I want them to know they will always have roots to fall back on. It is my job to show them that giving to the community in which you live is what makes everyone in that community thrive.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? The North Country is home, and it always will be. The people here, the atmosphere, the space to dream, create, and implement is unlike any other community! We are so fortunate to live in a space the genuinely cares about the person living next door – for this I will remain.

Danielle Young



Danielle Young. Contributed.

Congratulations DANIELLE



Danielle Young is the Assistant HR Director for THRIVE Wellness and Recovery, Inc. The 20 under 40 is a prestigious award that honors individuals who are not only outstanding in their professions but also serve as role models, leaders in their communities, and dedicated volunteers. Danielle exemplifies these qualities through her professional excellence. Community involvement, and unwavering commitment to making a positive impact.

Position and employer: THRIVE Wellness and Recovery, Inc.

Hometown: Oswego

Family: I've got a super supportive husband, Anthony Young and two sweet babies.

Community involvement:

- President Elect- North Country HR Association
- Board Member- Watertown Urban Mission
- Board Member - Greater Watertown North Country Chamber
- Presenter at Bloom Leadership Conference
- JLI Class of 2024

Education: Le Moyne College - Bachelors in Business Management

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY?

Keep asking questions, stay curious, and advocate for yourself. Have the courage to keep growing and the intention to build meaningful connections along the

way.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life?

A naturally curiosity, a love for finding new connections and being the best role model I can be for Daisy and Mason.

Who is your mentor, and why?

My mentor is my supervisor, Jeanette Hardy. She has taught me so much about Human Resources and has guided me and helped prepare me to be a future leader in the community.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark

The North Country is somewhere that has welcomed me and I've welcomed it! This community is so supportive and there are so many awesome people that want to make a difference. I want to continue to make an impact here now and for many years to come!

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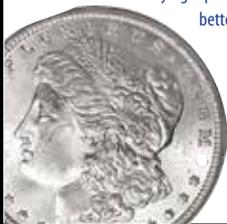
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Brittany Matott



Position and employer: I am a licensed real estate associate broker with County Seat Realty located in Canton.

Hometown: Heuvelton

Family: I have been married for nearly 13 years to my husband Ben, and we have an 11 year old son, Jackson.

Community involvement: Over the past several years, I have volunteered at various food pantries, served on the board of directors for the St. Lawrence County Board of REALTORS® for nine years, including President of the board for 3 years. I have also served on several committees for the New York State Association of REALTORS® and the National Association of REALTORS®.

Education: I graduated from Heuvelton Central School in 2005 and went on to earn an Associate's degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Management. I also hold a broker's license with the state of NY for real estate, and I am an approved real estate instructor.

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY?

My advice to young professionals is to say yes to the things that scare you the most. For me, that was obtaining a real estate broker's license and becoming an instructor. As someone who wasn't always the most outspoken, I found my voice in real estate and was able to do so by completely stepping out of my comfort zone. I would have never imagined that I could be the President of a 200-member association or the Legislative chairperson of the New York State Association of REALTORS (a 60,000-member association). I would have never imagined I could apply and be chosen to speak at a Tri-State real estate conference not once, but twice, and teach to a room of over 400 REALTORS®! Annually, I visit both Albany and D.C. to lobby for private property rights. I have spent hours with clients, walking them through the

complex process of buying or selling a property. These are all things that 15 years ago I would have never imagined I could do, let alone love! The other advice I would share with young professionals is to be kind and courteous to your fellow professionals. With our fast-paced world, a kind word or handwritten note is often forgotten but is always appreciated by those who are in your corner. I love to write a handwritten thank you note to a client, fellow REALTOR®, or even another small business. Those gestures are genuine and lacking in today's crazy life.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life?

I love what I do, I know that is cliché, but when I started in real estate, I found my calling. My clients are amazing people from all walks of life, and every day is different for me. It doesn't matter what their budget is or what their time frame looks like, I love helping folks do what they need to do to live a better life. Whether that is buying a home in the North Country that I love so much, or selling a property here so that someone else can enjoy it. My clients truly allow me to love what I do every day. When I became a REALTOR®, right away it was important for me to get involved. I joined committees, organized events for our members, and ran fundraisers for food pantries and scholarship funds. If there was a need, I filled it. Giving back to my fellow REALTORS® and teaching others became a really important part of my success. Real estate is a very unique business. As professionals, we collaborate together regularly but really are competitors all out here competing for the same listings and buyers. I never saw it that way; to me, it was about empowering people to be the best at this profession that they could be. In 2019, just before COVID I took a public speaking class to improve my skills. Upon completion

of that course, I applied with NYS to be a real estate instructor. Fast forward 6 years, and I have written over 25 original courses, and I teach all over New York state. My students are my fellow REALTORS®, and I love taking everything I know about real estate and all my experiences and sharing them so that they can provide a better experience for their clients. Whether that is fair housing classes so everyone has equal opportunities, or following our REALTOR® Code of Ethics and maintaining ethical business practices. I pride myself on always working in the best interest of my clients, whether they are buying or selling. I really truly enjoy using my expertise, experience, and skills to help my clients achieve the American dream of home ownership.

Who is your mentor, and why?

While there have been a lot of influential folks for me in real estate, my mentor is my Broker, Debbie Gilson.

Debbie has a long real estate career herself and she instilled in me the importance of treating folks the way they deserve to be treated, whether they are selling a \$50,000 house or a \$500,000 house. Debbie has also run a successful office with several agents working alongside us. With her guidance and mentorship, County Seat Realty has been in business since 2001. She taught me the importance of taking your time with people and that real estate is so much more than just a sale. As a REALTOR, we often have a profound influence on people's largest investment, their property. I learned early on not to take that responsibility lightly, and I carry all that she has taught me with me every day.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark?

I have traveled a lot in my volunteer real estate career. Often go to conferences, meetings, lobbying events,

and fundraisers. The North Country is home to me. The beauty of the area, the historic nature of our homes, and the kindness of the folks here keep me rooted in St. Lawrence County. I love traveling to other places and telling folks I'm from "upstate NY." They usually respond with Oh, Westchester? I will smile and say no, keep going for about 6 hours. If you are looking for kind folks, beautiful scenery, and a comfortable place to live, then you've found the right spot! I love how our community comes together for folks in need as well. From food drives to jamboree, someone is always helping others, and I love being a part of that. One of my favorite sayings is, "If I have more than you, I don't build a taller fence, I build a longer table." I think that truly is the North Country way, and I'm honored to be a part of it.

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Congratulations JAMIE



Jamie Roberts is a SPOA Coordinator for the Lewis County Adult Health Home for THRIVE Wellness and Recovery, Inc. The 20 Under 40 award celebrates young professionals who not only demonstrate excellence in their careers but also inspire others through leadership, volunteerism, and community involvement. Jamie reflects these values through her impressive career accomplishments, strong presence in the community, and passionate commitment to making a meaningful difference.



Jamie Roberts

Position and employer:
SPOA/E Coordinator of Lewis County and Adult Health Home Care Manager at THRIVE Wellness & Recovery

Hometown: Lowville, NY

Family: I have been married to Morgan Roberts for almost 9 years, and we have three daughters named Zayia (9), Aniah (5), and Kaiah (4) who keep us on our toes and are very active in extracurricular activities.

Community involvement:

- Chair of Lewis County System of Care (SOC)
- Chair of Lewis County Mental Health Walk Committee
- Member of Families Together in the North Country
- Financial officer at Lowville Free Library
- Auxiliary Member for New Bremen Fire Department
- Past First Lady at Lowville Elks Lodge 1605
- Recipient of What's Great in Our State System of Care Award
- Recipient of Lowville Elks Distinguished Citizenship Award 2023-2024
- Member of Lowville Academy PTO
- Dance Mom, Softball Mom, T-ball Mom, Karate Mom, Soccer Mom
- Participant of Lewis County Leadership Academy 2017-2018

Education:

High School Graduate of Beaver River Central School District 2006

Associate of Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood from Jefferson Community College 2011

Bachelor Degree in Community and Human Services with concentration and Child and Families Studies, SUNY Empire State College 2013

North Country Care Coordination Certificate Jefferson Community College January 2017

What advice do you have for other young profession-



Jamie Roberts. Contributed.

als in NNY?

Advice that I often give is to always question things and challenges barriers. Additionally, I advise to be open to the opinions of those that we assist. My final advice is it does not matter how you get knocked down; it is what you do after that counts!

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life?

I strive to empower individuals who experienced difficulty to live to their fullest potential even if that requires assistance along the way. I inspired to be a model to my children of advocacy, altruistic intentions, and good moral behaviors for a future of tomorrow.

Who is your mentor, and why?

I grew up being inspired by the dedication, hard work, and altruism of my parents, Timothy and Yvonne Albertson. They continue to inspire and support me to this day!

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark?

Lewis County has provided an area in which align in my values of family-oriented community to live and work doing what fulfills my purpose.

Meghan Harney



Position and employer:
Director, Lowville Free Library

Hometown: Lowville

Family:

Sean and Cindy Harney, Lowville, NY

Community involvement:

Board of Directors, Lewis County Head Start

Steering Committee, Bridges Out of Poverty Lewis County

Co-Coordinator, Bridges Learning Collaborative

Various Committees, North Country Library System

Education:

Current, Master of Information and Library Science, University at Buffalo



Meghan Harney. Contributed.

2013, Bachelor of English Writing and Communication, SUNY Potsdam

2010, Associate of Liberal Arts, SUNY Jefferson

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY?

Find spaces where you can learn, whether through work, volunteering, net-

working, or building friendships—where the other people in the room have more and different experience than you do.

Notice what is special about the North Country, especially the things that you specifically value, and lean into them.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life?

I love people. When I was interning during and after college, I had a couple jobs that were in line with what I anticipated doing, and while I enjoyed a lot about them, I was primarily working alone and didn't have any forward-facing interactions with people. I'm grate-

ful that I identified quickly that I wanted something different, and followed the path that led me to libraries, where my education, skills, and interests are combined with that vital part—people. Connecting with people inspired me then, and continues to do so now.

Who is your mentor, and why?

This is a hard question to answer—I've had many influential people in my life, as well as some influential peer groups. I love that another member of the 2018 Lewis County Leadership Academy cohort is also a recipient this year, Jamie Roberts. My Leadership Academy class and its timing were really in-

fluential in my growth professionally.

It's also beautiful living and working in the community that my parents have invested in for decades. They have hugely impacted how I approach life here.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark?

For me, it hasn't been one big decision to be here, it's been many small decisions, one after another, to make the North Country my home. I tend to think that's how my influence plays out as well—one small decision, one interaction, one connection, one after another. I believe those small things add up.

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Griffin

From T11

activism isn't something special or praise-worthy, it's what we are expected to do as humans. It's what makes us human. If we don't speak up for what we believe in, then do we really believe in it?

I also want to mention Jeremiah Papineau. He and I have worked together professionally in many roles. He was my editor when I was with the Watertown Daily Times, then as he took on new roles with the Volunteer Transportation Center and the Cream Cheese Festival, we worked together on promoting those organizations through the news. When I lost my job, he was a voice of reason when I need-

ed guidance. He has the busiest schedule in the North Country, but he always makes time for others. He wears many hats in this community, and watching him balance so many roles with enthusiasm and efficiency inspired me to also expand my involvement. He has a huge heart, and I am very grateful to have a mentor like him.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark?

Like many other young people growing up in the North Country, I used to have the growing pains and cabin fever that come along with small town living. I was so sure that I would move south or to a big city instead, to exchange blizzards and cows for sun and skyscrapers. Then, life came at me fast and the opportunity to

NNY Business

work at 7News fell into my lap right upon college graduation. I told myself I would stay for one or two years and then move on, but telling the stories of my neighbors, my home, my history... it changed my perspective. The North Country isn't something to run from, it is something to be proud of. Every day I learned something new about the people, places, and history that make the North Country so special – blizzards, cows and all. The sense of community here is something you can't find elsewhere. I feel safe here, with low crime and smiling neighbors. I feel free here, with wide open fields and fresh air. I feel optimism here, with so much potential for making the area flourish. I'm proud to live here.

That sentiment was solidified in November of last year when

life came at me fast once again. Just as quickly as my position with 7News fell into my lap, it fell away when layoffs eliminated my job. I was faced with the abrupt decision to either move away and continue working in news for another city, or stay here and find a new purpose. The decision came easily as I was surrounded by the support of the community. With a generous welcome from Samaritan and Zoo New York, I realized that I could still promote the North Country, just in a new way: spreading the good word of Samaritan's healthcare and Zoo New York's conservation and recreation. The support system that helped me find this new path is the perfect example of why I was meant to stay. Circumstances may change, but the North Country is a constant

pillar of people who look out for one another.

Note:

I am incredibly honored to receive this recognition, but I have to say I feel as though there are so many more people in this community that are more deserving of it. I know this because I have worked with them, I have shared their stories, and I have benefited from their efforts and impact. However, with my work being more public-facing than the work of others, I feel as though my accomplishments are simply more visible, not more impactful. I am humbled by the honor, and I want to recognize the many, many people who are more deserving than I.

Shoemaker

From T5

with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management and minors in Business and Non-Profit Management

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? There are more opportunities and connections to be made in NNY than I expected when I moved here. Making an effort to remember people and interactions has helped me to feel more integrated into the community has opened many doors.

What inspires you to do

what you do in your profession and personal life? I have always enjoyed a technical and fast-paced work environment, working around people, and having a diverse work load where every day may look a little different, however, it is the opportunity to provide positive change in other's lives that makes that work fulfilling.

Who is your mentor, and why?

My mentors are my mom, Linda, and mother-in-law, Laura. These women have demonstrated an unfailing love for family, finding meaningful and fulfilling work,

and love for the simple joys like the outdoors, gardening,

and cooking that make daily life full. Their experience and example give me encouragement and direction.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark?

The military led my family to this area but it is the community and outdoor opportunities that have caused us to find ways to stay. They YMCA staff and community, friends made through the military, and a church community have made it possible for my family to thrive here. Our love of the outdoors and access to NNY's beautiful rivers, lakes, and public lands has been a welcome bonus.

Bullis

From T5

sonal interests were shaped by that passion. On the personal side I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, working (landscaping and carpentry) and going to our hunting camp in the Adirondacks. This hunting camp is leased from a larger timberland ownership and is where I was first exposed to timber harvesting and forestry. Research of this career field very much peaked my interests and lead me to pursue an education and career in for-

estry where 80% of my time is spent outside.

Who is your mentor, and why? I am fortunate to have two mentors, Jack Santamour and Rick Denial. Both have been tremendously influential in guiding and molding my professional and personal development (probably more than they know) since I have started at LandVest. Without their guidance and example, I would not be the person, both professional and personally, that I am today

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? One of the primary reasons I stayed in the North

Country is it's where my family is, although some would say it's because of camp. I wanted to be able to see them on a regular basis and was fortunate to find a forestry job that allowed me to stay local. A very close secondary reason is the diverse natural beauty that can be found in the North Country. A one-hour drive can transport you to a completely different community, from the various mountain towns in the Adirondacks, to the Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Costs, and the Great Lakes there is so much variety!

Counties see rise in sales tax receipts

Times staff report

WATERTOWN — Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties each saw double-digit percent growth in local government sales tax collections in March compared to the same month a year ago, while Lewis County also experienced a modest increase.

St. Lawrence County's receipts were up 16.9% in March over March 2024 collections, while Jefferson County's were up 11.3% over the period and Lewis County's rose 3.4%, according to preliminary data released Thursday by the state Comptroller's office.

The amounts are based on estimates of what each municipality is due, according to the comptroller's office. In the third month of each calendar-year quarter, these distributions are adjusted upward or downward, so that the quarter as a whole reflects reported sales by vendors.

For St. Lawrence County, the 16.9% rise in collections in March over March 2024 represents a \$1.09 million increase in revenue for the month. In March 2024, the county experienced \$6.45 million in receipts, which grew to \$7.54 this past March.

Jefferson County's collections rose by \$900,000 year-over-year, from \$7.91 million in March 2024 to \$8.81 in March 2025. Lewis County's went up \$60,000, to \$1.9 million from the \$1.84 million realized a year ago.

The city of Ogdensburg's collections rose 12.8% between March 2024 and March 2025, from \$140,000 a year ago to \$160,000, an increase of \$20,000.

For the first quarter of 2025, St. Lawrence County has seen collections rise 8.5% over the same three-month period a year ago, from \$18.33 million in 2024 to \$19.89 million so far this year, an increase of \$1.56 million.

Jefferson County's receipts rose \$1.03 million, or 4.5%, during the first three months of 2025, from \$22.48 million during the first quarter of 2024 to \$23.51 million this year. Lewis County's first-quarter collections rose 9.4%, from \$4.19 million in 2024 to \$4.58 million this year, an increase of \$400,000.

Ogdensburg's collections for the quarter rose \$20,000, or 4.1%, from \$480,000 a year ago to \$500,000 this year.

Jefferson Community College Featured Honors Program Student

By **PAMELA DIXON**
Jefferson Community College

Marra Young, Philadelphia, is the featured Jefferson Community College (JCC) Honors Program student for the month of May 2025. Young is an early childhood education major at Jefferson. For one of her Honors Program options, she completed a creative writing piece inspired by a class reading.

The Jefferson Community College Honors Program offers students with exceptional academic skills the opportunity to receive enriched instruction within their current program of study. For the Honors Program, students select three courses within their curriculum and enhance them as Honors Options. The option is based on a project agreed to by the student and a faculty member willing to work closely with the student to provide a unique and rewarding experience. Students also take the Honors Seminar; a unique interdisciplinary course open only to program participants. The seminar examines a single theme each semester and features guest speakers from a variety of disciplines and often includes some sort of field experience.

Successful program participants earn a prestigious



Mara Young. Contributed.

Honors Graduate designation on their academic transcript for each Honors Option course. Students demonstrating excellent academic achievement in high school or who have completed 12 credit hours of college coursework are invited to apply for admission to the Honors Program.

“I participate in the honors program to show my children that they are capable of anything they set their minds to,” says Marra Young, JCC featured Honors Program student.

For more information, visit www.sunyjefferson.edu or contact Honors Program coordinator, Dr. Joshua Canale, at jcanale@sunyjefferson.edu.

Soper

From T21

without whom I would not be the professional I am today.

What has led you to remain in the North Coun-

try to make your mark? I love every part of the North Country. First, the people of the North Country are the best. The landscape is unmatched. From the St. Lawrence River to the Tug Hill region, it is a dream for an outdoorsman that enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and trails.

**CELEBRATE THE
250TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE U.S. ARMY!**

Northern New York has been intertwined with the US Army since its inception. From the battles in the War of 1812 in Sackets Harbor, Ogdensburg, and Plattsburgh to the home of soldiers at Madison Barracks, Camp Drum and Fort Drum and the National Guard Armory in Malone NNY, has grown with the US Army.

To commemorate the 250th Birthday of the US Army we are creating a special publication in our June 14, 2025 edition of the Watertown Daily Times and Malone Telegram. This publication will feature historical stories and news reports of the US Army unique to the North Country.

This publication will reach over 30,000 readers as well be available on NNY360 and MyMaloneTelegram for another 60,000 users to enjoy.

Be a part of this special commemorative publication!

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Amanda Drake



20 UNDER 40
NORTHERN NEW YORK'S
EMERGING LEADERS

Position and employer:
Owner - Rags and Rivers

Hometown: Port Leyden

Family: I live in Lyons Falls with my husband, Mike, and our two dogs. Originally from Port Leyden, a lot of my family was born and raised in Lewis County.

Community involvement:

For over four years, I've dedicated myself to supporting local organizations through fundraising apparel sales. My journey began in 2020 with a T-shirt fundraiser for South Lewis Central Schools' Backpack program, exceeding expectations by raising over \$3,000 to provide meals for children during COVID-19 school closures. This success spurred further initiatives, including numerous T-shirt sales benefiting the Lewis



Amanda Drake. Contributed.

County Humane Society, Autism Awareness, local individuals, various trail clubs, school PTOs, and sports teams.

Beyond fundraising, I've provided branding and merchandise creation services for a diverse range of small businesses and organizations. My

annual "12 Days of Christmas Giveaways" on Facebook highlights twelve local businesses I've collaborated with throughout the year, boosting their visibility and fostering community engagement. In 2023, I partnered with Naturally Lewis to conceptualize and launch "Art in the Park," a successful event showcasing local artistic talent. This initiative has thrived for two years, and this summer, Rags and Rivers will continue its operation as a volunteer-led endeavor.

Education: High School: South Lewis Central School

College: Bachelor's Degree in Illustration and Graphic Design from Rochester Institute of Technology with a minor in communications and public relations

What advice do you have

for other young professionals in NNY? Returning to your hometown to start a career can seem terrifying in such a rural area, but the strong sense of community and family connections are worth it. Hard work and dedication are essential for success in any setting. Sharpen your communication skills; they are invaluable in building relationships and advancing your career, especially in such a digital era. Embrace the challenges, persevere through setbacks, and never give up on your goals.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? Passion and the never-ending desire to learn fuel my professional success. Starting an entrepreneurial journey has allowed me to intertwine my personal life with my pro-

fessional life and maintain a balance that is needed in any career!

Who is your mentor, and why? My late Grandpa Brown and my Dad. Generations of out-of-the-box thinkers and path-carvers instilled in me an unwavering entrepreneurial spirit. It's present in many family members, the creative drive to lead a life of passion. Forever grateful to have that mindset.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? The North Country brought me closer to family—birthday parties, camping trips, and Friday night dinners. The journey home wasn't easy, but finding my ideal career made it worthwhile. Family and career fulfillment: a perfect blend.

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Congratulations to Amanda Drake

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Dylan Soper



Position and employer: Deputy County Administrator, Jefferson County

Hometown: Gouverneur, NY

Family: Brianna (Wife) | Mia (Daughter) | Owen (Son)

Community involvement: Just getting involved with community initiatives, currently sit on Alternatives to Incarceration Committee and Traffic Safety Board.

Education: BA, Political Science, SUNY Potsdam

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? Never stop learning and working to improve. Whether in your subject matter expertise, leadership skills, new innovations, or just on yourself. This does not just have to be formally though advanced certification and degrees. Access to training, information and resources has never been more readily available. Use it to your advantage and lead.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life?



Dylan Soper. Contributed

Family and the process of improving every day.

Who is your mentor, and why? I have more mentors than I can count, from my parents to the many great supervisors and current and former colleagues I have had along the way. I would not be where I am without all of them. Certainly, my father, who taught me the value of hard work, and professionally, St. Lawrence County Administrator Ruth Doyle,

See SOPERT19

JRECK Subs Partners with Samaritan for Children's Miracle Network Fundraiser

Watertown, NY - JRECK Subs is proud to announce a special fundraising event in partnership with Samaritan Medical Center to support Children's Miracle Network (CMN) of Northern New York. On Saturday, May 31, JRECK Subs will donate 20% of the day's sales to benefit CMN and help provide life-changing care to children and families in the community.

All donations made to Children's Miracle Network of NNY stay local to support child-centered areas at Samaritan Medical Center and to assist families in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties when their child is facing a health crisis.

To make the day even more special, the event will feature a live DJ performance by local favorite Tunes, creating a fun and energetic atmosphere for guests. The DJ will be on-site to provide music, engage with customers, and help promote the fundraiser throughout the day.

"We're excited to support such an important cause," said Harley English, Washington St JRECK Subs Store Manager. "Children's Miracle Network does incredible work for families in our area, and we're honored to do our part in giving back."

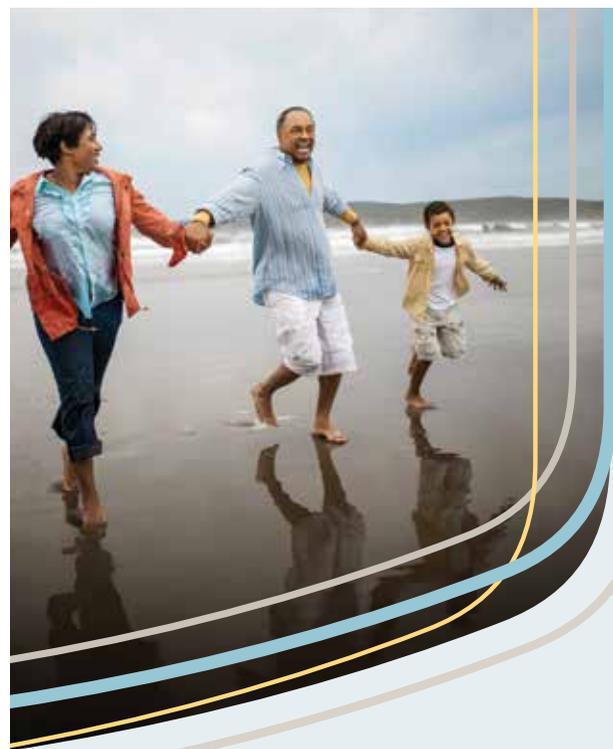
EVENT DETAILS:

- **Date:** Saturday, May 31, 2025
- **Location:** 1248 Washington St, Watertown, NY 13601
- **Donation:** 20% of all sales will benefit Children's Miracle Network

Customers are encouraged to stop by or order online and support a great cause. Get on the bus!



Children's
Miracle Network



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20 UNDER 40
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Greg may be incredibly hard on himself and not always see the impact he's making, but we do. He is an amazing father, a dedicated business owner, and a selfless member of our community.

He pours his heart into everything he does, from working tirelessly to support our family to going above and beyond for every client. He treats every home inspection like it's for his own family, making sure clients fully understand the home they're purchasing and how to care for it safely.

But Greg's leadership doesn't stop with his business. He's constantly giving back, volunteering his time to support local events, lending a hand to improve our community, showing up for fellow small businesses, and quietly donating to families in need and local fundraisers whenever he sees an opportunity to help.

He leads not by seeking attention, but by showing up with integrity, generosity, and heart. That's what makes him a true emerging leader and an incredible human.

We love you so much, Greg. We're beyond proud of you!
Amanda & the kids

Gregory Stickel

Position and employer: Owner/Inspector - First Class Home Inspection

Hometown: Watertown, NY
Family: Wife and 3 kids

Community involvement: Board Member - DBA, Watertown First and Downtown Block Party Committee

Education: High school diploma

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY? Find what you love about your community, and then discover how you can contribute to it. Whether it's through volunteering, supporting local businesses, or getting involved in local initiatives, your passion can drive meaningful impact. When you invest in your community, you're also investing in yourself.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life? My family and friends inspire me every day—they're my biggest

support system. I also genuinely love helping new community members find their homes. It's incredibly rewarding to welcome people into the community and help them feel like they belong.

Who is your mentor, and why? My wife is my greatest mentor. She helped me realize that if you want to see change in your community, you have to be the one to lead it. Her perspective and encouragement constantly push me to take action and make a difference.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark? The North Country is home—it's where my roots are, where my family and friends live, and where I see the most potential for impact. I've stayed because I believe in this community and want to be part of its growth. There's something special about contributing to the place that raised you

Cape Vincent marina sold with plans for upgrades

By **CRAIG FOX**
cfox@wdt.net

CAPE VINCENT — A local company is investing several million dollars to purchase and complete major improvements to the marina along the St. Lawrence River in the village of Cape Vincent.

Seaway Shipyard, which runs a similar marina business in Clayton, purchased the 4.4-acre property and has already started work on what will be a multi-million dollar project.

The company purchased the marina, a series of storage buildings and a separate vacant lot for \$1.225 million from Terra Nautics Corp, according to the Jefferson County Real Property department. The deal closed on May 1.

Seaway Shipyard provides a variety of marina services, including marine and seawall construction, dredging, dock building, travel lift, demolition, marine

transportation, barge rental and other services.

Owner Jennifer Van Reenen, who owns the company with her husband Jakob, said a Canadian company operates a similar business.

"We want to do that on the U.S. side," she said.

Seaway Shipyard hopes to grow the local economy, promote water-dependent uses, update infrastructure and equipment, and establish the company as a valued asset on the St. Lawrence Seaway, according to the company's website.

The company will offer services to private boaters and commercial vessels.

The project will include installing a new floating and stationary dock system at the marina.

Plans also call for repairing and improving all buildings and seawalls on the property, installing a new travel lift, restrooms and self-service fuel station.

White's Farm Supply, Inc. welcomes Trevor Van Auken to the team

White's Farm Supply, Inc. is excited to welcome Trevor Van Auken as the new Manager of Sales for our Lawn & Turf Outdoor Power Equipment Division, overseeing operations across all six locations.

Trevor grew up and continues to reside in the East Syracuse area. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the equipment in-

dustry, including time as Branch Manager for a major commercial dealership in Syracuse. He later served as a Territory Sales & Service Manager for a nationwide distributor covering New York State, and as a Territory Sales Manager for a global manufacturer supporting the New England region — all within the outdoor power equipment channel.

In addition to his professional career, Trevor has dedicated the past 16 years as a Volunteer Firefighter and currently serves as a Deputy Fire Chief. Outside of work, he and his wife Ashley enjoy spending time at camp and boating in the Thousand Islands.

Trevor is looking forward to bringing his knowledge and experience to the White's Farm Supply

team, helping to strengthen our sales department and improve service processes to better support our customers.

You can reach Trevor at (680) 435-4292 or by email at trevor.vanauken@whitesfarmsupply.com.

Please join us in giving Trevor a warm welcome to the WFS family!



Trevor Van Auken

The Finishing Line opens in Potsdam



From left, Karen Bradshaw, Sarah Sirsat, Rae Hitchman, David Moulton, Tim Welp, Allison Carney, David and Pat Lennox, Sean Lennox, Brendon and Rosie Lennox, Emily Lennox, Jo Margaret Goy, and Kim Reardon celebrate the grand opening of The Finishing Line in Potsdam, NY.

POTSDAM, NY — The Finishing Line (TFLNY), a custom framing studio founded by Sean and David Lennox, celebrated its official grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce on April 27.

Located at 22 Depot Street, Suite 31 in the Market Square Mall, TFLNY specializes in custom framing services, offering expert craftsmanship and personalized design solutions. For information, visit tflny.com or call (315) 274-0029.

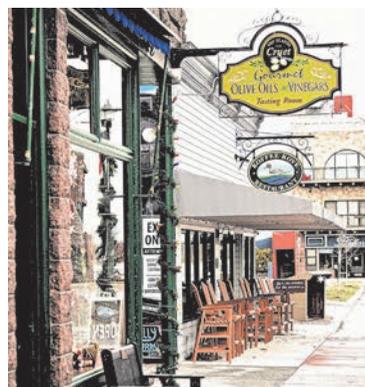
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CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT "BOBBY" KILLMER, SHRM-CP



**Employee Relations Specialist
 North Star Health Alliance**



2025 | 20 Under 40 Award Nominee

Congratulations to Robert "Bobby" Killmer and the 2025 NNY Business 20 Under 40 Honorees!

We're proud to celebrate Bobby for being recognized among Northern New York's most driven and dedicated young professionals. This year's honorees are making a real impact across industries and communities throughout the region.

Position and employer:
 Employee Relations Specialist,
 North Star Health Alliance

Hometown: Clayton, NY

Family: Spouse - Justin Mann

Community involvement:
 ■ President of the North Country Human Resources Association

■ Sponsors and Vendors Director of New York State SHRM

■ Work United Advisory Group Member

■ Participant, fundraiser, and team captain in multiple charitable walks and events.

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Foreign Languages, Specialized in French, and History from Elmira College. Master of Arts in Political Science, Specialized in International Security and Diplomacy from Tel Aviv University, Israel.

What advice do you have for other young professionals in NNY?

My advice to young professionals is to remain open minded and adaptable. Life rarely unfolds exactly as planned, and some of the most rewarding opportunities arise from unexpected changes or setbacks. Embrace these changes with curiosity, and you might be pleasantly surprised by the new paths they lead you down. Also, actively cultivate your network. Building genuine relationships with others in the area offers invaluable opportunities for learning, growth, and broadening your perspective beyond your immediate field.

What inspires you to do what you do in your profession and personal life?

A big part of what inspires me is to try to make a positive impact on my surroundings. In a professional and personal sense, it often means helping build resources, education, and connections for others to realize their potential and giving my time to help others with what is affecting them. There are so many opportunities to help others in our community, and that is why I am passionate about North Star Health Alliance's mission about keeping health care local.

Who is your mentor, and why?

One of my mentors is Carol Urbanowicz, who was the first person to formally encourage me to start a field in Human Resources, which sparked a career path that I would become incredibly passionate about. Seeing the way she was able to connect with people so authentically and easily made me realize how much of a positive impact HR can have on a business.

Another one of my mentors would be Ned Hirt. Ned has been incredibly influential in helping me build connections and expand the scope of my professional career, and my volunteer work. Teaching me the art of the direct ask, Ned has also helped shape my approach to supporting the organizations I support. These techniques have helped me raise funds for charitable events and cultivate leadership in local organizations, which in turn further help support our community.

What has led you to remain in the North Country to make your mark?

Referencing the advice I would give, the path that led me back to the North Country was unexpected, but opened my eyes to the opportunities right in our area. Growing up in the area, people would often complain about what they disliked in the North Country, but just as I practice in my professional life, I want to focus on solutions for the future, as opposed to dwelling on the problems. This has driven me to be an active member of the community, to participate in local events, and support the region in a way that encourages people that there are opportunities available to them here. With my career in Human Resources, I have been a strong advocate for programs that connect people with employment opportunities that allow them to grow and succeed, as well as programs that assist business into connecting with untapped talent in a way that helps both the candidate and the business.