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Daily updates: NNY360.com December 2024

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Max R. Johnson, general manager of Northern Lights Dispensary, at 51 Main St. in Canton, sits in front of a display case of cannabis accessories in the new dispensary. The store opened Nov. 14. Tom Graser/Watertown Daily Times

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St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Celebrates Local Business Excellence at Annual Dinner



Great Northern Printing

By BEN DIXON

St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Dinner on Wednesday, October 23rd, at The Stables at Windy Point, celebrating the remarkable achievements of local businesses and organizations. The event brought together community members for an evening of networking, recognition, and inspiration.

The Chamber recognized three outstanding businesses for exceptional contributions to the community:

Hosmer's Marina received the Customer Service Excellence award, which was established to recognize a chamber business that has been extraordinary in their delivery of products and services to their customers.

The Local Producer of the

Year award honored Curran Renewable Energy as a chamber business that has developed their capacity for creating and selling a product that is locally sourced and value-added, raising awareness and pride for local products.

Summit SHRED LAB was recognized with the Business of the Year award for being a business that has contributed to the growth of the St. Lawrence County economy and that brings pride to the business community.

"It was wonderful to recognize Summit SHRED LAB, Hosmer's Marina, and Curran Renewable Energy as three examples of businesses contributing to the business climate, quality of life, and vitality of our county," said Ben Dixon, Chamber Executive Director, "A common theme



St. Lawrence Nurseries



Fred Hanss

with these awardees – and all the businesses that were at the dinner – is a clear commitment to the communities they are part of."

The evening began with a cocktail hour featuring a string duo, networking, and auctions, followed by a buffet dinner provided by Big Spoon Kitchen and desserts from Sugar Valley Bakery. Chamber President Lenore VanderZee provided opening remarks before Dixon shared a 'State of the Chamber.'

Dixon reflected on the past year as one of evolution pursuant to the mergers of the STLC, Ogdensburg, Canton, and Massena Chambers, staffing changes, and im-



Cindy Goliber

provements to membership benefits. Top Ten highlights from the year included expanded marketing and promotion reach, networking events, leadership development programs, support to nonprofits, tradeshow and events, several new tourism initiatives, and promotion of the Total Eclipse.

The Chamber's dinner event wrapped up with silent and live auctions led by Dawn Merz, with generous auction item donations from several Chamber member businesses.

The event was supported by STLC Chamber Leadership

Circle Members and event sponsors, including AmeriCU and The Stables at Windy Point as the Red Carpet Sponsors, Northern Credit Union as Awards Sponsor, and CST Group Inc. as Entertainment Sponsor.

The Chamber would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all members, sponsors, and participants who made this year's Annual Dinner possible. Their partnership is essential to supporting the local business community and fostering a thriving community.

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Downtown business group elects new leader

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

As part of efforts to go back to its roots, a bunch of new faces have joined the Watertown Downtown Business Association in recent months.

The DBA's board has recruited about 10 new board members. Nick Gervera, a board member for the past seven years, was elected as its new president during the DBA's annual meeting two weeks ago.

"Right now, we're just trying to get to know each other," he said Friday.

Gervera is the son of downtown businesswoman Lori Gervera, who owns the downtown Gervera Team Keller Williams realty office at 114 Court St., where he's employed as a real estate agent. The office has been there for about five years, so he knows downtown, he said.

At the Oct. 24 meeting, Jill VanHoesen was reelected vice president, with Mark Piche, of Carthage Savings Bank, as the group's treasurer and Deborah Wilson, from the small business center, as the secretary.



Gervera

The DBA will go back to concentrating on helping downtown businesses, he stressed.

The nonprofit organization that promotes the city's central business district will refocus its efforts on attracting people and businesses into downtown.

In recent years, the DBA promoted art organizations and events, including a fall festival that celebrated local arts in Watertown at Veterans Memorial Riverwalk, where they also began a massive mural gallery

along a retaining wall.

To see what its stakeholders wanted to see downtown, the group's board of directors met with city officials, business owners, representatives of the Watertown Local Development Corp. and Advantage Watertown, a group of community and business leaders who meet monthly to discuss city issues.

Representatives of many of organizations have recently joined the DBA, he said.

The group is continuing to look for other board members. Former board president Joseph Wessner is no longer with the organization.

Monthly meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Keller Williams real estate office.

To get more people downtown, the organization plans to hold family events. The new look DBA will make its debut by getting involved in the city's downtown holiday parade giving out free hot chocolate to parade-goers. A family day at the Watertown Family YMCA in March is also in the works.

Golf simulator opening in Target plaza



Net Par, an indoor golfing simulating center, is set to go in this building next to Verizon in the Target plaza in the town of Watertown. Jonathon Wheeler/Watertown Daily Times

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

WATERTOWN — A longtime vacant storefront in Target plaza soon will be transformed into an indoor place where golfers can go to improve their game all year round.

COR Development Company recently announced that Net Par — one of the nation's leading indoor golf simulating centers — will open in Watertown Towne Center on Route 3 in the town

See GOLF T5



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JCC Supports Troops: 48 Care Packages Donated to USO for Soldiers



By JEFFERSON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

At its annual Professional Development Day (PDD) held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Jefferson Community College (JCC) faculty and staff prepared 48 care packages to donate to the United Service Organizations (USO) of Fort Drum. The USO's mission is to boost morale and well-being among military service members by offering support that helps maintain their connections to loved ones and their sense of home and belonging,

no matter where they deploy.

Christopher Paige, Center Operations Manager, USO Fort Drum, stated: "The generosity Jefferson Community College has shown to the USO, combined with the time and effort from faculty and staff in assembling care packages, will have a profound impact on the morale of Fort Drum Soldiers getting ready to deploy. JCC truly emphasizes the 'community' in community college with this donation, fur-

See JCCT8

Jefferson Community College Featured Honors Program Student

By PAMELA DIXON

Jefferson Community College

Kirsten Pratt, Watertown, is the featured Jefferson Community College (JCC) Honors Program student for the month of November 2024. Pratt is a psychology major at Jefferson. For one of her honors program options, she explored the psychology underlying criminal behavior.

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 inter-disciplinary course open only to program par-



Kirsten Pratt, Watertown, is the featured Jefferson Community College (JCC) Honors Program student for the month of November 2024

my perceived limits. I'm determined to excel in my chosen field, and achievements like making the President's List and being in the Honors Program will help me stay on that path. It's a privilege to earn the title of 'Honors Student' through hard work, and I'm excited to embrace the opportunities it brings."

Successful program participants earn a prestigious 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.

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

ticipants. 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.

"Over the past few years, I've been on a journey of rediscovering my identity, and academic success has become an important part of that process," says Kirsten Pratt, JCC featured Honors Program student. "Joining the Honors Program felt like a natural next step—a way to challenge myself and grow beyond

Golf

From T4

of Watertown, occupying 8,000 square feet of space next to the Verizon Wireless store.

It will be the Net Par's first location in the north country. With its slogan "The Golf Season Just Got Longer," the Omaha, Nebraska, company is set to open in summer 2025.

Michael Vavonese, COR's director of leasing, said he's thrilled to bring Net Par to Watertown.

"Their unique offering aligns strategically with our goal of enhancing the shopping and entertainment experiences for our community," he said.

The storefront has been empty since COR built the sprawling retail center nearly 20 years ago.

With six other locations in the

country, the new Watertown golf center will feature the latest in golf technology, instruction options, and flexible packages for individuals and groups.

Net Par utilizes state-of-the-art technology Trackman simulators that allow players to practice and play on virtual replicas of some of the world's top golf courses, according to a COR Development press release.

The Net Par center also will feature comfortable seating and other amenities, such as a fully stocked bar, and technology for golfers of all skill levels.

In addition to hourly play options, visitors can also enjoy golf leagues, lessons, games for all ages and event packages.

Earlier this year, DICK'S Sporting Goods and T.J. Maxx opened new stores in the retail plaza, moving from other locations in Watertown.

Net Par will join Petco, Michaels, Ulta, Old Navy, GameStop and other retailers in Watertown Towne Center.

But the Panera Bread restaurant is no longer planning to move from its current location into a standalone building just a short distance away in the former TGI Fridays building.

Looking for potential tenants, a for-lease sign has been placed in front of the building.



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Hope for huge solar plant in Watertown appears gone

AFTER TWO YEARS OF DELAYS, JCIDA SAYS 'LAND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT' WITH CONVALT ENERGY HAS EXPIRED

Times staff report

WATERTOWN — Once billed as the largest economic development project in Jefferson County's history, Convalt Energy's plans to build a mammoth solar manufacturing plant came to an end Nov. 7.

After two years of delays, the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency on Thursday announced that its "Land Development Agreement" with the company has expired, halting the prospect of a 300,000-square-foot plant near the Watertown International Airport.

Convalt was unable to proceed with the plant before the LDA expired on Nov. 1, JCIDA officials said. The company also was required to complete a permitting process and other aspects of the project before the deadline, they said.

"From our prospective, time ran out," JCIDA chairman Robert E. Aliasso Jr. said after coming out of a 35-minute executive session about the situation Thursday morning.

Convalt president Hari Achuthan could not be reached for comment.

Saying it was an amicable ending, JCIDA officials said Convalt might still be interested in developing a smaller facility in Jefferson County in the future, Aliasso said. While it would not employ as many workers, that potential plant would be involved in some aspect of the solar panel manufacturing process, he said.

"We'd welcome him back to Jefferson County," he said.

With Thursday's announcement, JCIDA officials



The Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency announced at its meeting Thursday that its Land Development Agreement with Convalt Energy has expired, likely ending prospects for a mammoth solar panel manufacturing site near Watertown International Airport. Craig Fox/Watertown Daily Times

cials would not confirm that Achuthan is looking to proceed with the sprawling manufacturing plant at another site.

However, they believe that Achuthan no longer plans to construct a new facility but hopes to now transform an existing structure for the manufacturing plant. That strategy would fit in better with what Convalt wants to do, they said.

Plans were announced in February 2021 for Convalt, then a New York City-based renewable energy company, to invest \$650 million in an 88-acre project on Route 12F in the town of Hounsfield that would manufacture solar panels, initially creating hundreds of jobs and projected to employ thousands

over time.

A sister company, DigiCollect, would also build a facility in the airport industrial park.

Various dates were announced since then for the start of construction, but no activity ever took place on the site beyond land clearing.

Achuthan has said that a glut of solar products into the U.S. from China has caused deep cuts in product prices, harming the feasibility of the large project. He also indicated that it was taking more time to obtain financing for the project.

Watertown Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce said she wasn't surprised about the announcement.

"It's disappointing news,"

she said. "I know there were delays in the project. It's disappointing for the amount of jobs it was going to create for the region."

JCIDA officials said they and Convalt "are working closely to satisfy any obligations remaining" after the expiration of the land agreement.

The company hasn't started paying on the principle for the \$1,050,000 loan due on Nov. 1, but Marshall Weir, the JCIDA's chief executive officer, said Convalt has agreed to repay the loan to the agency.

During a meeting in early October, JCIDA officials indicated that Convalt was two months behind on paying interest only payments of \$2,625 on the more than

\$1 million loan. Weir said Thursday that the company is now current on its obligations.

The company also still owes an unspecified amount of money to two local contractors, Slocum Development, Fulton, and Barrett Paving Material, Watertown, for clearing the airport site two years ago and making it completely flat in preparation for the construction that will now not be done, JCIDA officials said.

Other water and sewer infrastructure improvements planned by JCIDA at the airport business will continue even in Convalt's absence, the JCIDA said. With the board not extending the agreement on Thursday, the JCIDA can begin marketing the airport site to other prospective companies, Weir said.

Convalt still has an unknown number of local employees, Weir said.

The company also still owns at least three properties in Jefferson County, a former Black Clawson building at 511 Pearl St., most recently a metal scrap business; a three-story vacant building on Factory Street that it purchased in April for \$100,000; the Sourwine Farm in Redwood that it planned to develop into a 20-megawatt solar project that would provide power to homes in Jefferson County.

Two years ago, the company announced that the government of Thailand agreed to be an investor in the company. A contingent of officials from the country visited Watertown to tour the airport site and visited the company's greenhouse/solar project in Redwood.

Canton Corning plant to get \$32M in CHIPS funds

By ALEX GAULT

agault@wdt.net

The Corning plant in Canton is about to receive \$32 million from the federal CHIPS and Science Act to expand its specialized glassmaking production line that makes critical components for semiconductors and computer chips.

Sen. Charles E. Schumer lauded the award as a major investment in the north country and New York and another victory for the CHIPS Act, which the senator shepherded to passage in 2022.

"I am proud to announce \$32 million from my bipartisan CHIPS & Science Law will go to the always innovative and cutting-edge Corning Incorporated in Canton, N.Y., to boost their highly specialized glass critical to the semiconductor supply chain," Schumer said in a statement. "This award will create hundreds of new, good paying jobs, supporting our local unions and growing manufacturing right here in the north country."

Corning plans to put \$315 million of its own money into the project. During construction, the company will invest \$300,000 per year in the St. Lawrence County child care training program, with a goal of making it easier for more people to work at the plant by building up child care resources in the region.

Schumer said the expanded Canton plant will add 130 full-time manufacturing jobs, many of which will be unionized. Construction is expected to employ 175 people.

The plant currently employs about 380 people.

Once the expansion is finished, the Canton facility will be able to produce more of its high purity fused silica and ultra low expansion glass products, which are integral to the ultraviolet lithograph machines used by chip manufacturers.

"The specialized glass made right here in Canton is used in some of the most advanced machinery in the world —while making microchips we need for technology we use every day, from our phones to our computers and cars," Schumer said. "Today Uncle Sam is giving its stamp of approval saying the north country is ready to build America's future, creating jobs, supercharging the economy and

strengthening our national security."

When the law passed in 2022, Schumer toured the Corning plant and delivered remarks outside the building.

"Corning is central to this. We couldn't make chips without the glass components that are made right here in Canton," he said. "There is a huge demand for the product here. And now that we are growing chips here in America, everyone is going to need the specialized glasses that are coming out of this Canton plant."

The whole point of the CHIPS and Science Law was to bring the production of critical computer components back to the U.S. after decades of overseas production, and New York has been a major beneficiary of the federal money made available for private companies.

Besides the Micron superfacility planned in the Syracuse area, which got \$6.1 billion in federal support, CHIPS money has also gone to another Corning plant in Western New York, GlobalFoundries and Edwards Vacuum in the Albany area and Wolfsped in the Mohawk Valley.

The glass from the Canton plant will be used in the Micron, Wolfsped and GlobalFoundries chip production facilities.

The money is provided to these companies by the U.S. Department of Commerce with a "memorandum of terms," which establishes how and when the money will be used.

The future of the CHIPS and Science Law is uncertain with the sweeping Republican victories in the race for the presidency and control of the U.S. Senate. Last week, Speaker of the House James "Mike" Johnson, R-La. made a campaign stop in Syracuse and told student reporter and CirtusTV political anchor Luke Radel that he expects to try to repeal the CHIPS Act if he maintains control of the House.

Johnson later backpedaled on that, saying in a statement that he had misheard the question, asked directly to him from a distance of less than two feet, and said he does not plan to repeal the CHIPS Act.

Congressman Brandon Williams, R-Syracuse, said at the time that he would be fighting to keep the CHIPS Act in effect, but Williams lost his bid for reelection Tuesday and it is not clear that a Democrat representing the region would be able to stop a repeal.

Conservatives in Washington have criticized the childcare and union job requirements in the bill — the same requirements that are getting Corning to provide \$300,000 per year for

childcare training, and Johnson said he may attempt to amend the law instead to remove those "costly regulations and Green New Deal requirements."



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Phoebus Lazaridis (on left), Center Operations Specialist, USO Fort Drum, and Daniel J. Dupee, II, College President

JCC

From T5

ther strengthening the bond between the college, the USO, and the Fort Drum community. Thank you, JCC!”

After a morning of activities and relay games at PDD, Jefferson employees worked as a cohesive team organizing donated items, assembling and filling boxes, and preparing them for shipment, all in a shared effort to support troops stationed overseas.

Launched in 2019, the college’s PDD was developed to provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to grow and learn, while interacting and networking with each other. The Center for Professional Excellence (CPE) at JCC organizes the event and develops the agenda for the day including the theme, presentations from faculty and staff as well as external organizations, and the

community activity. The CPE team ensures a wide range of topics for all employees, from personal development and life balance to learning new ways to respond to change, manage time, as well as continued conversations about equity, inclusion, and pedagogy.

President Daniel J. Dupee, II, remarked on the event, stating: “We are thrilled to come together as a campus community for our professional development day, not only to strengthen our skills but also to give back to those who serve our country. Supporting the USO, which provides critical assistance to our military service members and their families, aligns perfectly with Jefferson Community College’s commitment to community and service. It’s an honor to contribute to such a meaningful cause while fostering a spirit of unity and growth within our own campus.”

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Northern Lights Dispensary opens in Canton



Max R. Johnson, general manager of Northern Lights Dispensary, at 51 Main St. in Canton, sits in front of a display case of cannabis accessories in the new dispensary. The store opened Nov. 14. Tom Graser/Watertown Daily Times

By TOM GRASER

tgraser@wdt.net

CANTON— On Nov. 8, Max R. Johnson, the general manager of Northern Lights Dispensary, was busy onboarding new employees as the store's opening loomed.

Johnson said Northern Lights, owned by Peter Cullen, will open Nov. 14 with a full array of cannabis products.

He will be training about 13 people to run the operation, including several budtenders

who will help customers select products that are properly suited to them.

"Northern Lights started as the vision of Cathy Cullen (Peter Cullen's wife), who had a long and difficult battle with cancer and found relief in cannabis products," Johnson said. "It was her wish to share that with the world and provide a source of therapeutic relief for the community so they can share the same benefits she experienced."

Cathy Cullen lost her battle with cancer two months before the store was scheduled to be open, Johnson said.

"Our priority here," Johnson said, "besides being a profitable business, is to be a positive influence on the community and to connect people with the products that can make their lives better and carry on the legacy of Cathy because so many people have such fond memories of her."

Customers entering the



store will be met by a receptionist in a lobby area where IDs are checked before entering the sales floor. Once inside, a customer can either build a cart of their purchases on a kiosk or consult with a trained budtender who will help them select products. While there will be displays in the store, all the products will be stored in a vault and brought to the customer after the purchase is completed.

Johnson said the dispensary will have flower, joints, vapes, edibles, topicals and drinks available, as well as accessories such as pipes and bongs.

Johnson, an Indiana native, spent eight years managing dispensaries in Colorado be-

fore coming to Canton about a month ago.

Johnson said his goal is to make sure the store is in compliance with all New York state regulations and to go beyond the minimum to be sure the store is ready should regulations become more strict in the future.

All the cannabis products come from 10 New York state suppliers, but he hopes to sign up more soon.

The dispensary will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday.

Potsdam Chamber of Commerce Approves New Chamber Members Petals and Pecks and The Third Wheel Pottery Studio

POTSDAM, NY - The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce recently approved the membership applications of two new members, Petals and Pecks and The Third Wheel Pottery Studio.

Petals and Pecks is a new business located outside Potsdam at 1339 County Route 34. The small farm

stand offers fresh and dried flowers, eggs and honey. For the holiday season they will have handmade winter and Christmas wreaths. Petals and Pecks can be contacted for specialty arrangements and flowers for various occasions.

The Third Wheel Pottery Studio opened in 2019 and

has recently relocated to 22 Depot St. Suite 15, Potsdam. The studio is a community ceramics studio offering classes, workshops, and open studio time for hand builders and wheel throwers. They offer their space for team building activities, birthday parties, and clubs to have an enjoyable group

art experience. The studio sells ceramic supplies, clay, and provides kiln firing services.

The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce promotes local businesses and aims to facilitate opportunities for our member businesses to receive and give quality referrals. For more informa-

tion about Chamber membership, email the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce at director@potsdamchamber.com or call 315-274-9000. The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce is located at 6 Market St, Potsdam, NY 13676. Office hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Carthage business awards presented



The 2024 Business Person of the Year Award went to Jason Christman, third from left, who is pictured with, from left, his nominator Faith Parks, chamber director Deborah Atkins and chamber president Tina Lanier, far right. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

By ELAINE M. AVALLONE
eavallone@lowville.com

CARTHAGE — It was a full house as nearly 170 people gathered at Papermaker's Pub At Zero Dock Street for the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards Dinner on Oct. 29

Robert Sligar, chamber treasurer and emcee for the evening, said the chamber holds events to drive traffic into the community and make the Carthage area a community of choice.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to the chamber's annual sponsors, which provide the funds to provide events such as Winterfest, the July fireworks and the Decem-

ber holiday parade and fireworks.

Chamber president Tina Lanier introduced the new chamber director, Deborah Atkins.

The evening's main event, the presentation of business awards, was held after dinner.

Chamber board member Robert Kulkinca presented the New Member Spotlight award to Paegan Thatcher, owner of The Morning Ritual.

"She enjoys doing things for the people around her and this has given her a platform to be able to give back," the presenter said.

The Non-Profit of the Year Award, presented by chamber board member Kelly Shanah-



The Simons-Baker family was presented with the Business of the Year award at the annual Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Dinner. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

an, went to Encompass Recreation.

Founded by Kylie Schell in 2022, the organization aims to provide recreational opportunities for youth with higher support needs.

"Encompass Recreation's mission is to provide recreational opportunities to youth where differences are celebrated, strengths are accentuated and there is a place for everyone on every team," Shanahan said.

Schell noted they were

deeply grateful to accept the award, especially since last year the young organization was recognized with the New Member Spotlight.

"We are forever grateful that we live in a community and time that embraces our mission, vision and values," the Encompass founder said. "We believe that all youth, especially those with higher support needs, should experience the joy, confidence and connection that our events provide."

Sligar presented the Small

Business of the Year Award to Church Street Diner.

Celebrating its 25th year in business, the diner was opened in 1999 by Dawn Lelakowski who expressed thanks to her staff, community, food suppliers and family and friends "that have become family."

The Community Impact Award went to the villages of Carthage and West Carthage for coming through for area

See CARTHAGE T15

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Malone chamber celebrates its members, the community



The Malone Chamber of Commerce held its annual awards dinner over the weekend at the Malone Golf Club, and pictured is some of the crowd that gathered for the event. Provided photo



The Citizen of the Year was Bruce Burditt, airport manager. Provided photo



The Organization of the Year was North Country Community College. Provided photo

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The Malone Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner and awards meeting on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Malone Golf Club. This is a very important event in Malone because awards are given to community-based businesses, organizations, and citizens for their exemplary contribution to the Malone area.

The awards given are as follows:

-Business of the Year. This is given to a chamber member business who has exemplified outstanding business acumen and service to the community. This year's award was given

to the Home Zone, and the business is one of many furniture stores in Malone, but the owner, Juan Rivera, is a go-getter extraordinaire. He has purchased several other buildings in Malone and is working hard to expand the Malone business community to make Malone the commercial hub it once was. Juan has so many ideas and does what many don't, he acts on them.

-The Legacy Business of the Year goes to a business who has remained in Malone and area for over 50 years. There are busi-

See MALONE T13



Let's Support Local! This holiday season join the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce in pledging to

Shop at local stores ★ Dine in at local restaurants ★
Get take out from local eateries ★ Recommend local stores to friends & family ★
Share business content on social media ★ Purchase local gift cards ★
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Together, we can strengthen our community and support local businesses.

Learn more about Potsdam businesses at
www.potsdamchamber.com

Malone

From T12

nesses in Malone that have been here over 100 years and some of which remain in the same family. Ellis Automotive began in Fort Covington and is now in Malone augmenting the local economy and providing jobs and excellent service. It offers a variety of choices for the community. We are thrilled that this business has opened an additional business, Mobile 1 Lube Express, supporting the expansion of our commercial corridor. A strong supporter of the Malone community, our Legacy Business of the Year, Ellis Automotive, is owned by the Ellis family.

-New Business of the Year was presented to the Café Nouveau, owned by Nikki Charbonneau. The new business award nominee received six nominations. Amazing. It offers a new dining experience focusing on breakfast and lunch. It has a unique atmosphere and offers products from a local bakery, thus supporting another business. It fills an empty building making it a focal point of a Main Street block.

-Organization of the Year. Malone's success is driven in large part by volunteerism. When one sees flowers, benches, and decorations on Main Street, they are sure to have gotten there by the work of one of our volunteer organizations. This organization has long provided another



The winner of Business of the Year was The Home Zone. Provided photo



The New Business of the Year was Cafe Nouveau. Provided photo

needed ingredient to success in development and expansion of a community, education. By providing a local venue, North Country Community College,

Malone Tulloch campus provides a path for our students' success in higher education. Being able to get a degree here, more of our kids stay in Malone to



The Legacy Business of the Year was Ellis Automotive. Provided photo

take local jobs. This makes many parents and grandparents happy! Continually offering more courses, degrees, and certificates, NC-CC provides opportunities that weren't always here.

-Citizen of the Year award is given to fine citizens who have contributed much to the community. Residents see these heroes every day and this award gives them public recognition for the good deeds they do. It is coveted. The chamber believes that expanding our infrastructure is a big part of successfully expanding our local economy. Our Citizen of the Year, Bruce Burditt, has worked

very hard to bring notice to a very important piece of infrastructure in the Town of Malone, the Malone DuFort Airport. Bruce works hard to maintain the airport, advance its facilities, and advertise its existence. Without him and the Town of Malone, the Fly-In, one of the major events of the year, would not take place.

The Malone Chamber Board receives nominations every year and it is a very difficult decision as to who gets what. It is not taken lightly. There are so many deserving citizens and that's what makes Malone a great community to live in.

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Carthage

From T11

children by organizing lunches for the summer recreation programs in the Twin Villages.

Kristy O'Shaughnessy, Carthage village clerk/treasurer, explained that when the villages were informed by Community Action Planning Council that they were changing how they administered their program and no longer providing meals to summer recreation programs, the villages took action. Along with West Carthage clerk/treasurer Tiffany M. Queary, local businesses, individuals and organizations as well as the two villages stepped up to feed the children. Queary gave special recognition to West Carthage deputy clerk-treasurer Megan Brotherton who saw to the day-to-day delivery of the meals.

Former chamber board member Teri Ellis presented the Business of the Year Award to Simon's Farm and Home Center.

Ellis gave an overview of the history of the store. Ray Simon



The Community Impact Award went to the village of Carthage and West Carthage for aiding in feeding the children at summer recreation. Pictured from left are Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce director Deborah Atkins, Carthage clerk-treasurer Kristy O'Shaughnessy, West Carthage clerk-treasurer Tiffany Queary, West Carthage deputy clerk-treasurer Megan Brotherton and chamber president Tina Lanier. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

took ownership of the Carthage Agway in 1982.

The presenter noted that whatever your needs — small animal feed, bedding plants, stove pellets, window glass cut — you go to Simon's. After a devastating fire in 2023, the family rebuilt the business and continues providing for the community as a third generation carries on the tradition.

The climax of the evening was the presentation of the Business Person of the Year.

Nominator Faith Parks presented the award to Jason Christman, the owner of Christman Fuel Service Inc., who along with his wife, Samantha, and his father Scott began the company 21 years ago.

After its humble beginnings



The Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award went to Church Street Diner. Chamber treasurer Robert Sligar, left, presented the award to diner owner Dawn Lelakowski, along with chamber director Deborah Atkins and chamber president Tina Lanier. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

in the Christman home with one truck, Christman Fuel Service now employs more than 25 employees and maintains as many as 30 fuel vehicles at any given time serving Jefferson and Lewis counties.

In addition, Christman gives back to the community by coaching and financially supporting Little League and Pop Warner. Following the untimely death of their youngest son, the Christmans established the Tyler R. Christman Foundation, which fur-

ther contributes to area youth sports and provides scholarships for graduating Carthage seniors.

In accepting the honor, Christman thanked his father, grandfather Ross Christman, and his wife. He also recognized a deceased businessman.

"It is truly humbling for me to be chosen for this award," he said, thanking the selection committee. He went on

See CARTHAGE T22



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Preregistration open for Save the River winter conference



Times staff report

CLAYTON — Save the River has opened preregistration for its 36th Annual Winter Environmental Conference.

The event is 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel. As one of Save The River's biggest events of the year, the conference brings together scientists, local leaders and river residents to discuss environmental issues impacting the St. Lawrence River.

Highlighted speakers:

John Farrell of the Thousand Islands Biological Station, who will discuss the status of northern pike and muskellunge.

John Peach, Executive Director of Save The River and Jake Tibbles, Executive

Director of the Thousand Islands Land Trust, will discuss updates on the fight to Save Blind Bay.

Denise Silfee, Director of Education and Communications of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, will discuss loon protection efforts in Northern New York.

Kate Cleary, Assistant Professor of Environment and Sustainability at SUNY Potsdam, will discuss road ecology and wildlife passability.

More speakers are scheduled, with that info released later this year.

Online preregistration closes at noon on Jan. 24. To preregister, go to wdt.me/WinterSTRconf.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STR/ANDREW KANE

NNY Business

POTSDAM INSURANCE AGENCY CELEBRATES 95 YEARS



From left to right: Amanda Terrance, Ashley Kalman-Smith, Tanya LaShombe, and Caryn Harrington.

Looking to be more centrally located and a part of the Potsdam community, Northern Insuring Agency opened an office location in Potsdam in 2018. Originally founded in 1930, they are looking forward to reaching their 95th year of business. Their agency is the largest

locally owned independent insurance agency covering the Northern New York Region.

With a focus on community including sponsoring local golf tournaments, participating in local food drives, supporting local non-profits and participating in Rotary,

Northern Insuring Agency looks forward to bringing in another year making it about the customers and community.

Northern Insuring Agency is a proud member of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce located at 69 Market Street Potsdam.

Clarkson launches semiconductor seminar course with industry executives

POTSDAM — Clarkson University is partnering with semiconductor industry executives to launch a new one-credit seminar course, Introduction to Semiconductors, during the Spring 2025 Semester. The class will engage learners through weekly guest speakers on current trends such

as AI, hyperscalers, advanced manufacturing, geo-political considerations, and the impact that semiconductors are having on diverse industries, including computing, consumer electronics, automotive, and aerospace.

"There's never been a better time to be in semiconductor

technology. Innovation is the lifeblood of our industry, and semiconductor devices are now the essential element in solving some of the world's most pressing challenges," said AMD CTO and Executive Vice President

See CLARKSON T23

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Clayton arena is 'blank canvass' for Irish festival



A multipurpose room overlooking the rink is a highlight of renovations completed in 2021 at the Cerow Recreation Park Arena in Clayton. Watertown Daily Times

By CHRIS BROCK
cbrock@wdt.net

CLAYTON — The North Country Goes Green Irish Festival has gone up and left the Dulles State Office Building, but the co-chairman of the annual event said patrons should not fret about its new location.

David S. Missert said his team is “absolutely” looking forward to hosting the 37th annual event at Cerow Recreation Park Arena on March 14 and 15.

“We are going to do everything that we’ve always done, just in a different location,” Missert said. “It’s kind of a blank canvass for us — one big open facility where we can do what we need to do, and it’ll be good.”

In 2021, a \$3.9 million renovation project was completed at Cerow Arena. The U.S. Department of Agriculture provided a low-interest loan in the amount of \$2.73 million and the town of Clayton received \$1.1 million in grant funding. The arena, built in 1974, saw more than



3,000 square feet renovated to add concession space, a new Zamboni room and improved accessibility.

Missert said the annual Donegal Beard Contest held in conjunction with the festival will continue in 2025.

The annual Watertown Family YMCA Shamrock Run has also been held in conjunction with the festival but independent of it. Registration for the run and packet pickup has traditionally been at the SOB. Last year, the 35th annual Shamrock Run attracted a record 808 participants.

Shawna Cutuli, Chief Executive Officer of the Watertown Family YMCA said on Nov. 1 that it’s too early to tell if the Shamrock Run will be moved. Cutuli said that a YMCA committee will meet sometime after the Watertown Family YMCA’s 41st annual Turkey Day run set for

Thanksgiving Day to discuss the issue.

THE “DULLES’ ADDITION

In 1987, “Dulles” was added to the name of the SOB to commemorate “the exceptional achievements” of John Foster Dulles, Allen Welsh Dulles and Eleanor Lansing Dulles. The three Dulleses have roots in Watertown. Eleanor Dulles was a political economist and career diplomat, serving for many years as director of German affairs for the State Department. John Foster Dulles was President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s secretary of state from 1953 to 1959. Allen Welsh Dulles was director of the Central Intelligence Agency from 1953 to 1961.

Allen (1893-1969) and Eleanor (1895-1996) were born in Watertown. John (1888-1959) was a native of Washington, D.C., but having spent the first 16 years of his life in Watertown, regarded Watertown as his real home.

Save the River director announces resignation

By CHRIS BROCK
cbrock@wdt.net

CLAYTON — John M. “Thumper” Peach announced his resignation Friday as executive director of Save The River Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper.

His last day on the job will be Dec. 31.

Peach first joined Save The River as a member of its board of directors in 2000. He became board president in 2004 and continued to serve as treasurer and on the executive committee until 2018, when he accepted the position of executive director.

During his five-year tenure, Peach made substantial contributions to Save The River and its mission. He expanded the shoal marking program by recruiting more volunteers, initiated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) testing, oversaw the removal of thousands of pounds of trash through Trash Free River and mobilized a new base of life-long river stewards.

In 2021 when U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced plans to build a new facility in a sensitive wetland, Peach was instrumental in bringing together a coalition to save Blind Bay.

“John has been an invaluable

asset to Save The River,” STR Board President Rick Gregware said in a news release. “He tirelessly advocated for the river and his visionary leadership is an inspiration. We are grateful for his unwavering dedication

to our mission.”

The advocacy nonprofit’s board of directors appointed Peach to serve as executive director in August of 2018 after he served as interim director for about two months. He joined the group as a

member around the time of its inception in 1978.

Shortly after he was appointed executive director, Peach told the Times: “I am as passionate about the river as anybody you’ll ever meet. Been here almost my entire life. Many generations before me have been here — Sandy Pond, Lake Ontario. Raised our children here and now raising our grandchildren here. I know the river’s got some major issues and I wanted to continue to contribute.”

No decision has been made regarding a search for a possible replacement for Peach, according to a STR spokesperson.

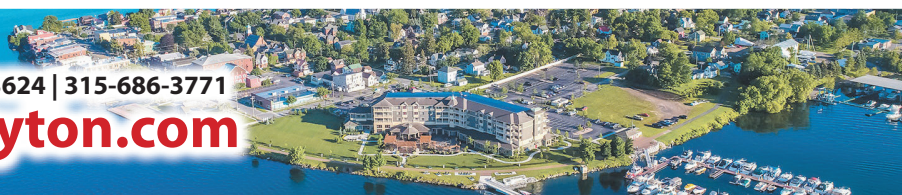


John Peach announced his resignation on Friday as executive director of Save the River, effective Dec. 31. / Photo courtesy STR



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Big Tupper ski area sells at auction for \$650,000

By ALEXANDER VIOLO

aviolo@mtelegram.com

TUPPER LAKE — A long defunct Adirondack ski area was among four properties sold at auction Nov. 7 at the Franklin County Courthouse in Malone.

The Big Tupper ski area was sold to an online bidder who bought a total of three properties in the town of Tupper Lake during Thursday's auction.

The bidder, Yehoshua Parnes, of Emerge Investment Management LLC, purchased the ski area, a 445.58-acre lot at 483 Big Tupper Road and listed at a full market value of \$2,269,000 for a total of \$650,000.

The starting bid on the ski area was \$468,873.71.

According to County Manager Donna J. Kissane, the minimum bids for each property was the total taxes currently owed on them.

Parnes also purchased 1715 State Route 30 for \$170,000, a property listed with a full market value of \$656,000 and a starting bid of \$148,987.30.

Parnes' third purchase was a residential vacant lot, Cranberry Pond, for \$45,000, a property with a full market value of \$78,857 and a starting bid of \$15,912.93.

According to Franklin County Treasurer Fran Perry, the full market value is the value of the property established by the town's assessor.

"They establish the assessed value and they come up with what they consider a full market value," Perry said. "It's done at the time of assessment that may not change that might have been when it was brand new being operated as a ski mountain, the town assessor would set that."

Kissane said turnout for Thursday's auction is around what the county expected to see.

"I think that we thought that maybe Big Tupper might have gone for a little



The base lodge at the Tupper Lake Ski Area in southern Franklin County, as seen following a community effort to restore the structure. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram



The view from one of the trails at the Tupper Lake Ski Area, located in southern Franklin County, as seen in the winter of 2014, when the mountain was open to skiers and snowboarders. Richard Rosentreter/Malone Telegram

bit higher, in particular, but we are really pleased that we are recouping all of the delinquent tax money," Kissane said.

Nedd Sparks, R – Tupper Lake, said the community in Tupper Lake has been looking for some action on the

ski area to be taken in recent years.

"They just wanted to see something move forward on it, it has been sitting so long with nothing going on," Sparks said.

An additional property auctioned off by Franklin

County, Thursday, a parcel off of State Route 30, was sold to an online bidder, Anna Klimek of Monroe, N.C., for \$50,000.

BIG TUPPER

A summary judgment in Franklin County Court, on

Big Tupper, was requested by county officials earlier in the year.

According to Perry, the county hired an outside law firm, the Phillips Lytle law firm out of Rochester, to represent them in the legal proceedings, on the recommendation from the county's legal counsel.

In May, the Rochester firm filed a motion with the court requesting a summary judgment.

In July the county was awarded summary judgment of foreclosure by Franklin County Judge Craig Carriero.

"It allows the county to take title to the parcel and county policy is that we have to make it available for sale if we don't intend to keep it," Perry said.

A summary judgment is when a judge makes a decision on the case without sending it to a longer trial.

The property purchased by Klimek has a full market value of \$80,000 and bidding started at \$15,913.

HISTORY

According to Louis Simmons' "Mostly Spruce and Hemlock," a book focusing on Tupper Lake's history, Big Tupper has its roots in the 1940s with the cutting of trails on the north slope of Sugar Loaf Mountain, overlooking the Tupper Lake Country Club.

In the mid-1950s the town began studying the possibility of a more ambitious ski development, and initially the hope was for the state to financially support the project, similar to what was provided to Gore and Whiteface ski areas. When the state rejected the request, a referendum was held and local taxpayers voted to invest \$490,000 in the Big Tupper development.

The Big Tupper Ski Area opened in December 1960, and was officially dedicated on January 29, 1961 with

A HEALTHY REAL ESTATE BASE HELPS THE ECONOMY, COMMUNITIES

By **LANCE EVANS**
levans@nnymls.com

At the end of October, new Jefferson County Administrator Ryan Piche unveiled his first proposed budget. It calls for a lower tax rate for residents but increasing spending by 5.6%. The new tax rate of 5.85% per \$1,000 of assessed property value is 4.7% lower than the current rate. If the budget is approved as is, Mr. Piche projects that the County will collect \$64,445,933 in taxes or 1% more than this year. How is this possible?

As Mr. Piche correctly pointed out in the article in the November 1 Watertown Daily Times, in addition to strong sales tax numbers, Jefferson County real estate valuations have increased over the past five years. Mr. Piche was quoted as saying, "When you've got your real estate base growing and your sales receipts going up, that really is an opportunity for us to drive down the rate." Because of the increase in real estate values, the County will collect more money from taxpayers than last year even with the lower rate. In fact, he pointed out that the County's expenditures are rising slower than the real estate base and sales tax rate are growing.

Real estate is a significant driver of economic activity. In addition, it is the catalyst for other activities that increase economic growth and is a significant contributor to gross domestic product (GDP). The most direct impact comes from construction, property sales, and renovations. It should be noted that beyond commissions to agents and brokers, property sales includes people employed by mortgage lenders, home inspection companies, appraisers, and property surveyors and ab-



A for sale sign is displayed in the front lawn of 158 Thompson Blvd, Watertown, in March of 2020. NNY Business.

strators among others.

The impact of real estate sales are felt beyond the direct also. Multiple industries such as manufacturing and retail also benefit. When buying a home, consumers may need to buy items to personalize it like furniture and paint. An older home may also trigger additional consumer expenditures in areas like home improvement, furniture, appliances, and services.

In residential and commercial real estate, building a new building or renovating existing space, will generate direct employment in the construction industry as well as in job fields such as architecture and interior design. Indirectly these will spin off into sales of manufactured goods, fuel, equipment sales and rental, etc.

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) estimates that home sales in 2023 contributed a total of \$4.9 trillion, or 18% of GDP, nationally to the economy. This translates nationally to each home sale generating about \$125,000 beyond the price of the home.

Using the \$125,000 figure, NAR estimates that every home sale generates the equivalent of two jobs. This

is based on the average U.S. worker earning \$61,700. In our area, with over 2000 homes sold in 2023 in the tri-County area, this means over 4000 jobs were gener-

ated.

In addition to the above economic impacts, housing also affects quality of life. With a stronger connection to their communities, residents in owner-occupied homes are more likely to get involved in the activities in the community such as coaching youth sports, volunteering, voting, and engaging in other civic activities. In addition, homeowners are more likely to keep their homes and yards in better condition which increases the appearance and value of the neighborhood. Homeownership can also create better community stability with long-term residency leading to stronger neighborhoods, better social connections, and lower turnover. Research has also been done that suggests that children

raised in homes where their parents own the property may have better educational outcomes and increased social stability. A final benefit is wealth building since owning a home allows individuals to build equity over time which contributes to personal wealth and financial security.

All in all, a healthy real estate market is good for communities, the economy, and, as Mr. Piche points out, it can also help governments reduce the property tax rate.

LANCE M. EVANS is the Executive Officer of two local real estate trade associations, the Jefferson-Lewis Board of REALTORS® and the St. Lawrence County Board of REALTORS®. Contact him at levans@nnymls.com.

BY THE NUMBERS: NNY HOME SALES

JEFFERSON-LEWIS BOARD OF REALTORS

October 2024

Homes sold: 141
Median Price: \$206,000

September 2024

Homes sold: 131
Median Price: \$240,000

October 2023

Homes sold: 118
Median Price: \$198,950



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS

October 2024

Homes sold: 62
Median Price: \$165,000

September 2024

Homes sold: 69
Median Price: \$172,500

October 2023

Homes sold: 75
Median Price: \$140,000





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2024 HOLIDAY EVENTS IN CLAYTON

Saturday, November 30th – Small Business Saturday
Tuesday, November 26th - Clayton Community Band. Clayton Opera House, 7pm
Sunday, December 1st – Kids Christmas Party. The Boat Yard, 11am – 1pm
Thursday, December 5th – Tree Lighting Ceremony. Frink Park, 6pm
November 13th - December 20th - Annual Festival of Trees. Thousand Islands Museum. Wed, Thurs & Fridays, 10am-4pm
Thursday, December 5th - Thursday, December 26th
Annual Holiday Window Display & Storefront Decorating Contest. Check out the festive storefronts at participating Downtown Clayton businesses and vote for your favorite! Ballots available at the Clayton Chamber Office or On-line (www.1000islands-clayton.com/window-decorating-contest/)
Thursday, December 5th - Thursday, December 26th
Light up the Town: self-guided tour and contest of light decorations at homes and businesses throughout the Town & Village of Clayton, NY. (www.1000islands-clayton.com/lightupthetown/)
Friday, December 6th: "The Polar Express" Interactive Movie Experience. Clayton Opera House, 6:30pm.
Saturday, December 7th Events – "Christmas in Clayton"
Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale. Christ Episcopal Church, 9am – 2pm
Tiny Tim Emporium & Visit with Santa! Hawn Memorial Library, 10am – 1pm
The Elves Fair. TI Arts Center, 10am – 1pm
Annual Juried Craft Show. Clayton Municipal Building, 10am-4pm
St. Mary's Christmas Community Table, 10:30am – 1pm
Santa Central. Clayton Opera House, 2pm-5pm
Channelside Christmas Party. Channelside Restaurant, 4pm - close
Clayton Christmas Parade & Fireworks: "Sportin' the Holiday Spirit, May the Best Float Win" – Parade, presented by FX Caprara Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep in Alexandria Bay, at 6pm followed by Fireworks.
Saturday, December 10th – A Festival of Sacred Christmas Song. St. Mary's Church, 6:30pm
Saturday, December 14th – 10th Mountain Division Band - A North Country Carol. Clayton Opera House, 7pm
Thursday, December 19th – Business with A Twist. Thousand Islands Museum, 5pm-7pm
Friday, December 20th – Black Tie Winter Ball. DiPrinzio's Lounge, 7pm-Midnight

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Nancy D. Reyda appointed Chair of the Board of Trustees at Clarkson

POTSDAM — The Clarkson University Board of Trustees has announced that Nancy D. Reyda '81 has been appointed as the Chair, succeeding Thomas L. Kasouf '74 who had served in that role since 2019.

Reyda is a distinguished industry leader, having held senior roles in both the financial services and oil and gas sectors. She retired in August 2022 as Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of Global Operations and Technology for Bank of New York Mellon, where she was responsible for all business and operating aspects of the global operations and technology organization.

Reyda spent her early career at Chevron, where she served for over 20 years managing various downstream businesses and functions. She also led strategic enterprise initiatives, including Chevron's start-up company RMX and aspects of the ChevronTexaco downstream merger.

First elected to the Clarkson University Board of Trustees in October 2010, Reyda has served as Vice Chair and Secretary and on various committees, including the External Affairs, Executive, Audit, Development and Compensation Committees. In 2016, she received the Golden Knight Award for her outstanding engagement with Clarkson. Reyda is passionate about cancer research and



Nancy Reyda

is a Trustee on the American Association for Cancer Research Foundation Board. Reyda is also a board member of the Think Forward Foundation.

Reyda earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Clarkson University in 1981. As a student, she was President of Phalanx, Clarkson's highest Leadership honorary society, and a member of Tau Beta Phi Engineering Honor Society and Zeta Gamma Sigma Sorority. Originally from Irondequoit, New York, Reyda and her husband Steve — also from the Clarkson Class of 1981 — have two adult sons.

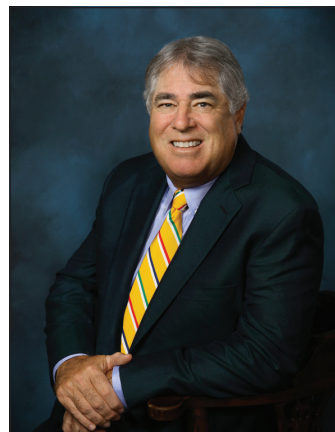
In retirement, they reside in Denver, Colorado, near their son, Stephen and his family, and in Alamo, California, near their son, Thomas and his family. Nancy and Steve enjoy family time with their four grandchildren, winemaking, golf and travel.

David F. Glenn '82 joins Clarkson Board of Trustees

POTSDAM — David F. Glenn '82, Retired Founder of Kaleida Systems Inc., was named to the Clarkson University Board of Trustees on Oct. 26. As a trustee, Glenn will serve on the Academic Mission Committee.

Glenn is the founder and retired chief executive officer of Kaleida Systems Inc., a private company that has developed an industry-leading software application for the non-medical, senior home care market. The software, eRSP (Resource Scheduling Pro), was the first in the industry to utilize the software as a service (SaaS) model.

Glenn's career has been primarily focused on soft-



David Glenn

ware development and project management. Glenn started with IBM as a programmer in Charlotte, where he was primarily in the banking industry. After IBM, Glenn successfully

turned around a distribution company through software automation before starting KSI.

eRSP is utilized at over 850 agencies that provide home care assistance to seniors. Agencies utilize eRSP to schedule employee home visits, log work hours, create invoices, organize payroll information and track care plans.

Glenn has been an active Alumni Admission Volunteer, supporter of Clarkson Golden Knights Athletics and received the Golden Knight Award, Clarkson's most prestigious alumni award, in 2022. Glenn resides in Matthews, North Carolina.

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Kylie Schell, left, founder of Encompass Recreation, accepted the Non Profit Award at the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce along with citations from state officials including one from Mark Walczyk's office presented by Bonnie Fikes, right. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

Carthage

From T15

to honor the late Gary Johnson who was a businessman in Carthage for more than 45 years and had given Christman his first real job and later became a customer of Christman Fuels.

"I always looked up to Gary and respected his work ethic,"

Christman said.

During the evening a 50/50 raffle was held with Michelle Davis winning, and the \$158 proceeds were donated to the Non-Profit of the Year — Encompass Recreation.

All of the honorees also received citations from the offices of Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush and Sen. Mark Walczyk. In addition, Christman received a certificate from the village of Carthage.

Casella Waste Systems Helps Provide Thanksgiving Dinner for 10 United Helpers Clients and their families



Casella Waste Systems Helps Provide Thanksgiving Dinner for 10 United Helpers Clients and their families. Contributed.

Thanks to a donation from Casella Waste Services of 10, \$25 gift cards to Save-A-Lot, 10 clients receiving services from United Helpers will receive a boost when it comes to providing Thanksgiving

dinner for their families. The gift certificates may be used to purchase a turkey or ham. Funds remaining on the gift certificates may be used to help provide sides for the meal. These certificates are

not valid for the purchase of alcohol. From left, accepting the gift is United Helpers Director of Facility Operations Rick Pirie and Casella Territory Sales Representative Helen Sullivan.

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John S. Mengucci appointed vice chair of Clarkson board of trustees

POTSDAM — Clarkson University's Board of Trustees has announced that John S. Mengucci '84 has been appointed as its Vice Chair.

Mengucci is the president and chief executive officer (of CACI International Inc., a global provider of expertise and technology to defense, intelligence, and federal civilian government customers. Under his leadership of the \$7.7 billion company and while achieving sustained operational and financial excellence, CACI's 24,000 talented and dynamic employees are ever vigilant in delivering distinctive expertise and differentiated technology to meet their customers' greatest challenges in national security.

Prior to his appointment as president and CEO, Mengucci held the positions of CACI's Chief Operating Officer, and president of U.S. Operations,



John Mengucci

with primary responsibility for the company's domestic, federal, state, and local markets.

Before joining CACI, Mengucci's career spanned three decades in roles of increasing

CRAFT FOOD & WINE HOLIDAY MARKET IS DEC. 7 & 8



POTSDAM, NY — The Craft, Food & Wine Holiday Market will be held on Saturday, December 7, and Sunday, December 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at SUNY Potsdam's Maxcy Hall, 5 Tupper Lake Drive.

"This is an annual event that the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce has put on for many years to bring together a one-stop local shopping experience," said STLC Chamber Tourism & Events Manager, Kathryn Puleo "We are in the heart of Small Business Season right now, and this market offers shoppers the perfect opportunity to spend their dollars locally and purchase one-of-a-kind gifts."

The market is fully packed this year with more than 120 booth sites featuring local and regional vendors selling everything from handmade soaps, quilts, woodwork, ceramics, and self-published books, to meats, baked goods, wines, and spirits. "It's quite an eclectic and unique group of north country producers," Puleo said.

"For us, this is an opportunity to encourage shopping local," Puleo said, "but also to provide a much-needed marketing and sales opportunity for small businesses that make handmade and value-added products, meaning all the vendors create their own goods. There are no resellers or direct sale vendors at this event."

Shoppers can now enjoy a full weekend experience, as this year's market will take place on Saturday and Sunday, a shift from previous years' Friday and Saturday format. "Our goal is to enhance community accessibility to the event and boost sales for our participating businesses," said Puleo. Shoppers are also encouraged to explore the local eateries in Downtown Potsdam, in addition to enjoying the offerings from Maxcy Hall's Concession Stand, which will be open throughout the market.

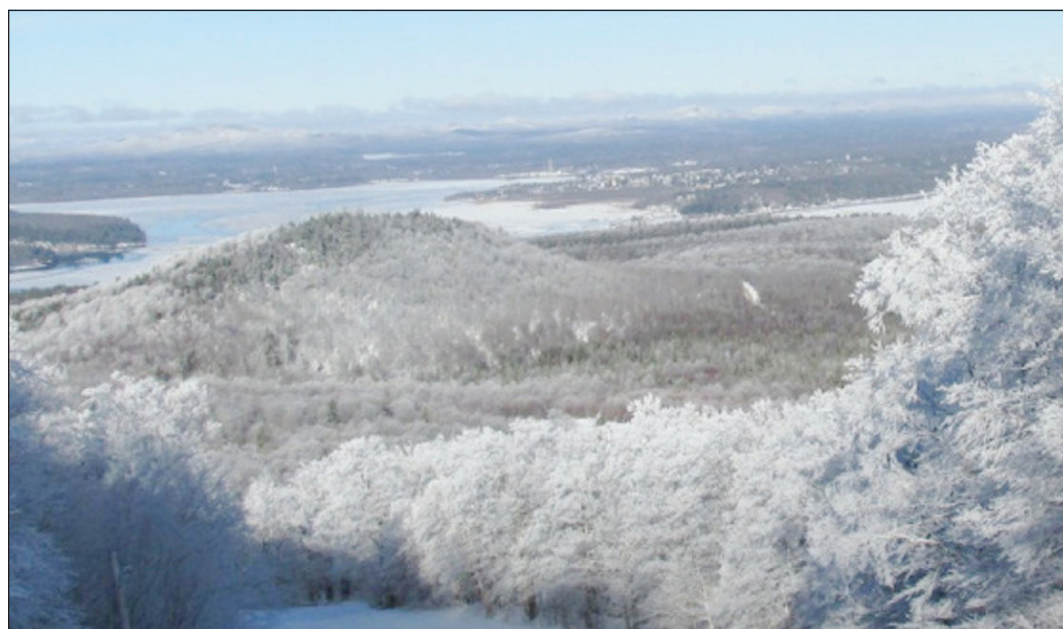
Admission to the market is \$5 cash. Ages 12 and younger get in free.

The last hour of admission, on Sunday, December 8th, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. will be free.

A complimentary shuttle will be available from parking lots surrounding Maxcy Hall at SUNY Potsdam.

The Chamber is actively seeking volunteers to help behind the scenes and is also seeking sponsors to help support event programming. To become a sponsor or to volunteer, call the STLC Chamber office at 315-386-4000!

For more information, see the events page on www.VisitSTLC.com, or contact the chamber at 315-386-4000.



The village of Tupper Lake can be viewed from the distance along one of the trails at the Tupper Lake Ski Area, located in southern Franklin County, as seen in the winter of 2014. Richard Rosentreter/file photo

Tupper

From T18

a parade including bands, floats and ceremonies at the new base lodge, according to the book.

The town of Altamont managed the ski area until 1987 when it was sold to local businessmen Peter Day and LeRoy Pickering, who kept it running until they closed it in 1999, after which, the ski area fell into disrepair.

The ski center parcel was most recently owned by Preserve Associates LLC, a limited liability company formed by Philadelphia attorney Michael Foxman when he purchased the Big Tupper tract from Day and Pickering in 2003. Following that purchase, the ski area was able to open for a couple of shortened seasons following a community effort in which volunteers restored the base lodge and ski lifts and manned the operational needs to make the slopes functional again.

The ski center was a centerpiece of an ambitious plan to build the 700-unit Adirondack Club and Resort development on lands on and surrounding Mount Morris. However, the project would face lengthy delays due to tie ups securing state agency permits and long legal battles with environmental groups and creditors.

The owners eventually ceased paying county taxes, which led to the auction.

Telegram editor Richard Rosentreter contributed to this report

Clarkson

From T16

Mark Papermaster. "The new seminar at Clarkson University will be a well-received initiative to help the next generation of engineers with the insights they need to successfully navigate the semiconductor industry."

Papermaster; Rene Haas '84, CEO of Arm; Sanjay Mehta, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Teradyne; and Sumit Sadana, Executive Vice President and Chief Business Officer of Mi-

cron are scheduled to be guest speakers.

Other guest speakers include Michael Campbell '79, Senior Vice President of Qualcomm; Drew DeLong, Global Lead of Geopolitical Dynamics at Kearney; Mark Dougherty '92, President and General Manager of Tokyo Electron America; Nakul Duggal, Group General Manager of Qualcomm; Christine Dunbar, Senior Vice President of Sales, IQE; Ken McAvey '97, M '08, Vice President and Fab 9 General Manager of GlobalFoundries; Christina Montgomery, Vice President, Chief Privacy

and Trust Officer, IBM; and Raja Tabet, Senior Vice President of Synopsys, Inc.

Offered through Clarkson's School of Engineering, the course will be open to graduate and upper-class undergraduates at Clarkson, including non-engineering majors. The course will be taught and moderated by Fram Akiki '86, President of Joun Technologies. Akiki has over 35 years of semiconductor industry experience, including executive assignments with IBM, Qualcomm, and Siemens.

For more information, contact Akiki at makiki@clarkson.edu.



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Vice Chair

From T22

responsibility, culminating as president of Lockheed Martin Corporation's Information Systems and Global Solutions, Civil Product Line. In that role, his organization served clients such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Department

of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other federal agencies.

Mengucci was elected to the Clarkson University Board of Trustees in October 2019. In addition to serving as Vice Chair, he is Chair of the Presidential Search Committee seeking the 19th president to lead the University since the institution's

NNY Business

founding in 1896. He is also a member of the Financial Affairs and People Priorities Committees.

Mengucci holds a bachelor of science degree in computer science from Clarkson University and a master's of business administration in organizational management from Syracuse University.

In October 2024, Mengucci was honored with the prestigious 2024 Technology Good

Scout Award by the Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council. This award recognizes and honors outstanding leaders in the technology industry from the greater Washington, D.C. area who exemplify the values of the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

Mengucci has appeared on the Executive Mosaic Wash100 list and Virginia Business Magazine's 500 Power List every year since 2020. He was named

one of WashingtonExec's Top 25 Execs to Watch in years 2020 and 2019, and was selected by Federal Computer Week to its 2018 Federal 100 (Fed100) list of visionary and transformative government and industry leaders. In the community, Mengucci serves on the boards of the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), the Spookstock Foundation, and the Professional Services Council (PSC).

Calendar of Events

**Did You grab your
Advent Calendars yet?**



THURS., NOVEMBER 21ST • 4-7PM

THANKSGIVING 90 PTS 4 TABLE

~ WINE, CHEESE & CHOCOLATE EVENT ~

SAT., NOVEMBER 23RD • 1-4PM

MAKER'S MARK FREE WOOD BLOCKING TOTE BAG W/TASTING

OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY • 9AM-1PM

TUES., NOVEMBER 26TH • 4-7PM

FULL THROTTLE CREAMS

~ COYOTE MOON TASTINGS ~

WED., NOVEMBER 27TH • 1-4PM

JOSH WINES & PROSECCO

BLACK FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH • 3-6PM

TITO'S ESPRESSO MARTINI TASTING

THURS., DECEMBER 5TH • 4-7PM

MAKER'S MARK DIPPING MACHINE EVENT

~ GET DIPPED GLASSES FOR CHRISTMAS ~

FRI., DECEMBER 6TH • 4-7PM

CRISTALINO TEQUILA

~ CALLIGRAPHY ENGRAVING ON BOTTLE EVENT~

SAT., DECEMBER 7TH • 12-3PM

JOHNNIE WALKER SCOTCH TASTING

~ W/ENGRAVING PERSONAL BAG FOR HOLIDAYS ~

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28TH AND 29TH**



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