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Owner Troy Parker stands inside his newly renovated brewery, Second Place Beer Co. Jonathon Wheeler/NNY Business

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Clayton community mourns visionary business captain

By **CHRIS BROCK**
cbrock@wdt.net

CLAYTON —
In his high school and college days as a life-guard, and later as an adult when he became a licensed boat captain, David L. Kay had a knack for expertly reading the currents for maximum benefit.

In 2006, Kay, gifted at birth the appropriate middle name of Lawrence, saw something was missing in the tourist boat industry of the Thousand Islands: smaller and nimbler vessels that could get up close to the region's islands. At the time, he spent six months each year away from the north country piloting a 152-foot cruise ship with 70 passengers and 30 crew members. But the 1973 graduate of Thousand Islands High School, described as a "gentle giant," realized bigger was not always better.

So 18 years ago, with a 12-by 40-foot catamaran-style pontoon vessel drawing only



Capt. David L. Kay

18 inches of water, he founded Clayton Island Tours, getting its nearly 50 passengers close to islands that are off limits to larger vessels.

"I cruise in a lot of beautiful places," Kay told the Times when he launched the business. "But the St. Lawrence has its own natural beauty. There's plenty of water and it's well charted. In the summer, I don't think there's anything better than the St. Lawrence."

Workers at Clayton Island Tours, along with an abundance of others, are mourn-



David L. Kay, left, launches his new boat, 'Miss Clayton,' into the St. Lawrence River in 2006. Assisting him is Kenneth M. Brabant. Watertown Daily Times

ing the passing of Kay, who died Aug. 15 at the age of 69 following a short battle with cancer.

"Dave's passing is a loss to all of the St. Lawrence River and the entire tourism econ-

omy up here," said Corey C. Fram, director of the Thousands Islands International Tourism Council.

A memorable quality that Kay had, Fram said, was that he was unafraid in trying

new things.

"I'm going to miss him and I think our region is going to miss having an operator like Dave who wasn't

See CAPTAIN T21

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Clarkson receives \$465K National Science Foundation Award

POTSDAM — Clarkson University Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Masudul Imtiaz and Visiting Research Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Silvana Andreescu have been awarded \$464,923 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Division of Engineering Education and Centers. This funding will support the establishment of a new Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program titled Undergraduate Research in Sensor Development (Design, Manufacture, Analysis) and Implementation Pipeline (SDIP).

Sensors are increasingly used in everyday life, and the industry is experiencing significant growth and adoption by both public and private sectors. The Clarkson REU-SDIP will prepare students for careers in this rapidly growing industry. From 2025 to 2027, the program will host ten



Masudul Imtiaz and Silvana Andreescu

undergraduates each summer for a 10-week research experience, with a particular focus on students from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

"This program will enhance students' ability to solve real-world problems and develop into independent researchers through cross-disciplinary training in sensing technologies," said Imtiaz. "It will also improve students'

interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills through professional coaching and diverse presentation formats."

Participants will engage in cutting-edge research and professional development activities in advanced sensing technologies, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to address critical global challenges in fields such as public health, environmental

monitoring, space exploration, defense, photonics, and electronics.

Students will be immersed in all aspects of sensor-related research, including conceptualization, experimental design, testing, data analysis, and dissemination of results. They will gain hands-on experience in sensor design, development, mathematical modeling, manufacturing, and deployment.

Each participant will tackle open-ended research problems, enhancing their technical and critical-thinking skills essential for creating and characterizing sensing systems. Furthermore, students will interact with industry professionals, engage in development activities, attend seminars, and participate in field trips to prepare them for successful, long-term careers in STEM.

"We are thrilled to launch this program and play a pivotal role in developing the next generation of professionals who will drive innovation and address the growing demands of the industry," Andreescu said. "By immersing students in the latest advancements and hands-on experiences in sensing technology, we aim to facilitate clear pathways into STEM careers, with a special focus on sensing systems and engineering technologies."

"We would like to thank the Sponsored Research Services (SRS) for their assistance in proposal submission, the faculty who contributed research descriptions or volunteered as mentors, our industry collaborators, Alan Christian for serving as the project evaluator, Trish Lowney for her invaluable feedback on the proposal, and Clarkson Center directors for their support letters," Imtiaz and Andreescu said in expressing their gratitude.

FuzeHub has \$375,000 for business growth

By JONATHAN WHEELER

jwheeler@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — A non-profit, FuzeHub, has announced they have received two grants that will help its abilities in engaging and supporting underserved manufacturing and technology entrepreneurs across New York State.

The nonprofit secured about \$375,000 in total from the two grants for its Equity in Manufacturing Innovation program and its Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

The EIM program will give entrepreneurial training and services to 30 innovators in the Central New York, Southern Tier, and north country.

FuzeHub called Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles E. "Chuck" Schumer "instrumental in securing federal funding" for the company's efforts to help underserved entrepreneurs all over New York.

"New York's manufacturing sector is vital to our state's economy and shared prosperity, but far too often, entrepreneurs in underserved communities struggle to access the support they need to participate in the innovation economy," Senator Gillibrand said in the news release. "FuzeHub is a statewide leader in catalyzing economic development and supporting entrepreneurs as they seek to grow their manufacturing businesses. I am proud to have secured this federal investment to support FuzeHub's Equity in Manufacturing Innovation program to better support underserved entrepreneurs across New York."

Schumer said he "was proud" to secure the funding as investing in entrepreneurs means "supporting new jobs, reviving our main streets, and strengthening

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Maureen Aiken Appointed to the JCC Board of Trustees

By PAMELA DIXON

Jefferson Community College

The Jefferson County Board of Legislators has appointed Maureen Aiken, Dexter, to a seven-year term on the Jefferson Community College (JCC) Board of Trustees, effective August 5, 2024. Aiken, an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher at the Watertown City School District (WCSD), brings over two decades of teaching experience to the Board. Aiken's appointment fills the expired term of Pamela S. Beyor-Murtha.

Aiken's teaching career began in 2000 as a 2nd grade teacher at Guardino Elementary School in Clayton. She joined the Watertown City School District (WCSD) in 2001, where she has taught 9th and 10th grade English summer school, 5th grade, and since 2005, has served as a junior high ESOL teacher. Beyond her classroom responsibilities, Aiken administers the New York State Identification Test for English Language Learners (NYSITELL) and the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT), liaises with families, and collaborates with classroom teachers to tailor and diversify lesson plans.

Aiken serves as the building representative for the WCSD Crisis Response Committee, delivering essential information and resources to families in cri-



Maureen Aiken Appointed to the JCC Board of Trustees. JCC Photo.

ses. Over the course of four years, she has held the office of secretary, then vice president, and then president of the Crescent Yacht Club: Junior Division. In 2014, she founded the non-profit organization A Book in Every Hand, dedicated to promoting literacy by ensuring that every first-grade student in WCSD received their own book.

She holds an associate degree from Jefferson, a Bachelor's degree from Le Moyne College, and a Master of Science in Education from SUNY Potsdam.

Aiken's first board meeting was September 4, 2024. photo

The Jefferson County Board of Legislators has appointed Maureen Aiken, Dexter, to a seven-year term on the Jefferson Community College (JCC) Board of Trustees, effective August 5, 2024. Aiken's appointment fills the expired term of Pamela S. Beyor-Murtha.

JCC Recognized for Excellence in Nonpartisan Student Voter Engagement

By PAMELA J. DIXON

Jefferson Community College

Jefferson Community College (JCC) was recognized on September 10, 2024 by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN) for its nonpartisan democratic engagement efforts that fostered high levels of student voter engagement in the 2022 midterm elections. JCC received the 2022 New York State Campus Voting Challenge award for Most Improved Voting Rate among community colleges, reflecting its commitment to making nonpartisan democratic engagement a defining feature of campus life.

ALL IN empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement. JCC is one of more than 500 campuses to be selected for recognition determined by the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) data from Tufts University. The study concluded that colleges and universities had the second-highest voter turnout among students in a midterm election since NSLVE began measuring this data.

JCC President Dr. Daniel J. Dupee, II, states, "We are deeply honored to receive the award for New York Campus Voting Challenge Most Improved Voting Rate. This recognition highlights Jefferson Community College's unwavering commitment to fostering a vibrant, nonpartisan



democratic environment. Our efforts to engage students in the democratic process are a testament to our belief in the power of every voice and the importance of civic participation. Thank you to The All In Democracy Challenge for your support in helping us meet our mission to Educate, Inspire, and Empower our students."

"The ALL IN Awards were created to celebrate nonpartisan democratic engagement and the outstanding campus voter registration and turnout rates achieved by our ALL IN campuses. Ahead of the 2024 elections, ALL IN campuses are ready to build on the momentum from 2022 to ensure their communities are ready to make an even bigger impact

this fall," said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, Executive Director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. "ALL IN is proud to celebrate and honor top-performing campuses, like Jefferson Community College, who demonstrate that nonpartisan student voter engagement is possible and effective."

More than 1,060 institutions enrolling more than 10 million students participating in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, which supports colleges and universities in achieving excellence in nonpartisan student voter engagement. Campuses can join ALL IN here.



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FedEx honors Watertown employee who spotted house fire for lifesaving actions

By CHRIS BROCK

cbrock@wdt.net

WATERTOWN —

FedEx Corporation has honored a worker at its Fisher Road Ship Center location for helping save an individual's life during a house fire.

Ashley M. Dunakin, Carthage, received the Purple Promise Award from FedEx, which recognizes team members who go above and beyond for the company's customers, communities and each other.

Dunakin was on her way to work in the early morning hours of Dec. 11, 2022 when she saw flames on a Rutland house roof at 26711 State Route 126.

"I was driving by and in the corner of my eye I had looked over and could see the top corner of the building had a flame through it, but I wasn't sure," she said.

She turned her vehicle around at a nearby church parking lot — the Christian Life Center at 25785 Route 126.

Upon returning to the location, she confirmed that it was a fire. She then pulled over and called 911.

"The address was not visible on the mailbox so I had to go through the

mail," she said.

She also noticed there was a vehicle was in the driveway of the burning home. "I gave them the license plate number so they could call the person directly and wake him up," Dunakin said.

That call was made and Dunakin also knocked on the door of the residence.

"When he came outside, I asked him if he had any other family members or pets in the house," she said. "He said it was just him."

FedEx says that had it not been for Dunakin's intervention, the man may have remained asleep in the house.

The fire was a serious one, resulting in two firefighters being taken to Samaritan Medical Center after the floor of the home collapsed. They were treated and released.

When Rutland Volunteer Fire Department Chief William E. Kalin III arrived on scene, he found a working fire in the attic above a second-floor room with all occupants out of the structure, and requested mutual aid from the city of Watertown. Several other departments also responded.

At around 5 a.m., the second floor of the fire



Following her discovery of a fire in December of 2022, FedEx recently honored Ashley M. Dunakin with its Purple Promise Award. Congratulating her is Richard Smith, FedEx president and chief executive officer, airline and international. Photo courtesy of FedEx

room partially collapsed while officials were working on the second floor, which resulted in a may-

day call to help the crew years and is currently an involved.

Dunakin has worked for FedEx for about three operations administrator.

FuzeHub

From T4

American competitiveness."

"With this support from the federal government, FuzeHub will help entrepreneurs from underserved communities across New York turn their visions into realities and boost New York's manufacturing sector," said Senator Schumer in the news release. "This is a win-win. It's a win for New York's economy as we support business growth and a

win for bringing manufacturing back to America to onshore our supply chains here at home. Together, we are increasing American competitiveness and growth and re-establishing New York as a manufacturing leader for the United States and the world."

Executive Director for FuzeHub, Elena Garuc said the grants from the federal government will allow for them to expand its reach.

"FuzeHub has assisted thousands of manufacturing and tech firms over the 10 years since we first launched, and now we'll have added backing to en-

sure that every manufacturer knows how to access New York State's robust innovation resources," she said in the news release. "We will keep building our capacity to provide intensive, wrap-around support to innovators who have historically faced barriers to accessing these vital resources. We're grateful to Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senator Gillibrand for helping us secure the funding necessary to fuel this important work."

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1000 Islands Charity Poker run raises \$250K for Make-A-Wish

Times staff report

CLAYTON — The 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run held here in mid-July resulted in more than a quarter of a million dollars raised for Make-A-Wish of Central New York.

The annual event, which has been held since 2017 and took place this year July 17 to July 19, donated \$252,000 to the organization that creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses across 15 counties. The donation is the largest ever from a single event for the Central New York chapter.

"We are deeply grateful to the 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run for this incredibly generous donation," Diane E. Kuppermann, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Central New York, said in a statement. "A gift of this magnitude will make a profound impact on the lives of children and their families, allowing us to grant more wishes and create lasting, positive experiences that go beyond illness and medical treatment."

Since its inception, Make-A-Wish Central New York has granted nearly 2,500 wishes, creating moments of happi-



Front row, from left: Dave Montroy, Montroy Development, 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run committee member; Renee Lalonde, Five Star Tool Company, committee treasurer; Alex Buduson, Clayton Chamber of Commerce, committee secretary; Diane Kuppermann, Make-A-Wish Central New York president and CEO; Abigail McNeal Harris, Make-A-Wish Central New York director of operations and development. Back row: Bobby Cantwell, Ovia Insurance Agencies/Jefferson County legislator, committee president; Ken Lalonde, Five Star Tool Company, committee member; Jeff Morgan, Matthews Auto Group, committee member; Courtney Rutherford, 4-Green Power Systems LLC, committee vice president. Provided photo

ness and hope for children battling critical illnesses, according to the organization. Each wish is a unique and

deeply personal experience, from meeting a favorite celebrity to traveling to a dream destination.

The organization said that with the support of the 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run, many more children will soon

see their heartfelt wishes come true.

"Wishes are more than just a nice thing to do; they are a part of the healing journey for children," Kuppermann said. "This generous donation will help us continue to meet the growing needs of our community and inspire even more people to join our cause."

Since 2018, the 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run has donated \$668,000 to the organization. The partnership between Make-A-Wish Central New York and the 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run has grown over the years, with both organizations committed to enhancing the lives of children in need, the organization said.

"Our team works hard all year to be able to put on this great event to raise money for such a phenomenal organization, but our work pales in comparison to what these kids go through every day," said Bobby Cantwell, president of the Poker Run committee and a Jefferson County legislator. "Being able to give them hope for better days by granting their wishes, is the best 'thank you' we ever could receive."

Next year's Poker Run will take place July 17 to 19.

Thousand Islands Arts Center finds a new executive director

By CHRIS BROCK

cbrock@wdt.net

CLAYTON — Eight months into her role as interim executive director of the Thousand Islands Arts Center, Sarah Riddoch has had the "interim" title dropped as of Sept. 1.

The new executive direc-

tor replaces Kathleen M. Ferguson, who resigned last December. In February, Riddoch was named interim executive director.

Robin Lucas, chairperson of the executive director search committee and TIAC trustee, said in a news release, "Sarah's knowledge,

positive and practical thinking, local connections, enthusiasm, and commitment to the future of the Arts Center is just perfect. I look forward to supporting and continuing to work with her."

"We are fortunate to have such an enthusiastic and forward-thinking leader on

our team," Jan Hampton, TIAC board chairperson added.

Riddoch is a real estate professional, having been in the industry for about two decades. She also worked as editor of the Thousand Islands Sun for eight years. She has worked in market-

ing, business promotion and with the Clayton Local Development Corporation. She has also served on the local district's school board and is a trustee and secretary of the Thousand Islands Screen and Dramatic Arts organiza-

See DIRECTOR T22



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1 "Medicare & You," Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2024. 2 "Aging changes in teeth and gums", medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. 3 American Dental Association, Health Policy Institute, 2020 Survey of Dental Fees, Copyright 2020, American Dental Association.

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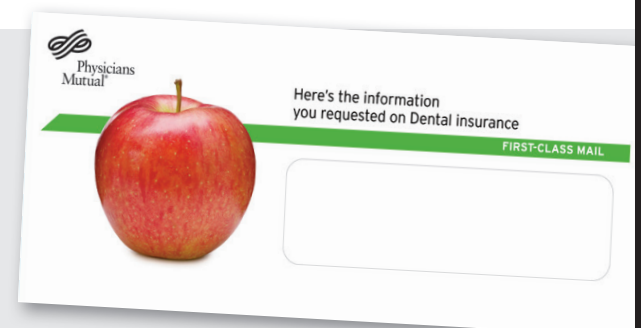
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6247-0324

Watertown chamber 'building' on momentum through the years

By **CHRIS BROCK**

cbrock@wdt.net

WATERTOWN—

A century ago, the Watertown Chamber of Commerce, now known as the Greater-Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce, celebrated a moving milestone.

With great fanfare and with a Watertown Daily Times multi-page special section documenting it, the Chamber moved into a new building on the south side of Public Square at the corner of Franklin Street. It replaced the Taggart building, a four-story brick block that was destroyed by fire in July of 1919. The cost of the new building was about \$250,000 – about \$4.5 million in today's dollars. Other tenants included a jewelry store, a shoe store and a drug store.

The building's first floor now includes Holy Smokes Bourbon and BBQ, 32 Public Square.

The building of the structure was fostered more than a century ago by members of the Watertown Chamber of Commerce, and especially businessman Frank A. Empsall, (1867-1929) so that the organization might have permanent quarter "and the city another modern business block to replace the one which burned," the Times reported on Aug. 30, 1924.

The Watertown Manufacturers' Association, the forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, was organized in 1875. In March of 1903, the Watertown Business Association was established and 10 days later, its name was changed to Chamber of Commerce.



The original building where the Watertown Chamber of Commerce found its first home opened 100 years ago this month. Chris Brock/Watertown Daily Times

The Greater-Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce has had a handful of homes over the years. For years it had been in cramped quarters at 46 Public Square.

The Chamber began actively searching for a new home in 1984, when it became apparent the current offices, leased from the YWCA, no longer meet the organization's needs.

In 1988, the Greater Watertown Chamber of Commerce purchased a building at 230 Franklin St. for \$145,000.

In 2003, the Chamber

moved out its Franklin Street building to Coffeen Street across from the Jefferson Community College campus.

In 2014, the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce became the first tenant at a Faichney Drive building vacated by Guilfoyle Ambulance Service, Inc., known as the Bruce M. Wright Conference Center.

In 2016, the Chamber moved out of the conference center and back to its former location at 1241 Coffeen Street. The Chamber was unable to sell the site and returned there in order to save money.

Last November, the Greater-Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce officially cut the ribbon on its new building in downtown Watertown. The Chamber is now at 105 Court St., Suite B, in the Top of the Square Plaza, with the chamber leasing the storefront from local developer Jake Johnson.

"It's our 120th birthday this year, so it just makes sense that we move back to home," Chamber President and CEO Kayla Jamieson told the Times at the ribbon cutting. "It really means a lot to our members. They have responded tenfold being here. It is amazing the response that we have gotten."

The chamber's original building, which replaced the Taggart building, is now known as the Commerce Building, owned by Jacob S. "Jake" Johnson. The building was designed by Watertown architect David D. Keiff.



An ad that ran in December of 1923 in the Watertown Daily Times help in building the chamber's home.

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Jernabi Coffeehouse gets a Facelift

Potsdam Chamber of Commerce

With assistance from Fred Hanss, Director, Potsdam Planning and Development Office and funding from the Potsdam Village Downtown Revitalization Initiative and the current business owner, Stephanie Russo, Jernabi Coffeehouse storefront has been upgraded.

In 2020, downtown Potsdam was selected as a winner of the \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) award in the North County region. The DRI award was to advance Potsdam's preservation efforts, prominence in the arts, streetscape and waterfront improvements, and support for traditional and new technology businesses to create a mixed-use downtown where nature and culture coexist.

Last month the project



Then

took off with exterior work completed by Northern Tier Contracting of Gouverneur and Northeastern Sign Corporation of South Colton. The project has elevated Jernabi's

visual appeal and creates a more welcoming entrance for residents and visitors to match its comfortable and inclusive atmosphere on the inside. Jernabi is known



Now

for its high quality espresso beverages and serves locally roasted coffees from St. Lawrence Valley Roasters.

This year Jernabi Coffeehouse celebrates 16 years of

the Jernabi name, including 3 years as woman owned. Jernabi Coffeehouse is a proud Potsdam Chamber of Commerce business located at 11 Maple St, Potsdam, NY.

IT'S A YEAR FOR THE AIRPORT DINER



Photo of attendees at the event. Left to right: Nick Page, Judy Page, Kelly Chezum, Suzie Wajda, Brian and Sonyo Page, Bud Mason, Steve Deon, Barbara Page-Mason, Tia Bush, Steph Blevins, Cheryl Williams, Ashley Moody, John and son Rhett Blevins, Kim Snyder, Keith Connors, owners Rachael Williams-Carter and Derek Carter, Ashley Peggs, Sarah Sachs, Allison Carney, Berbie White, Larry Page and Norm White.

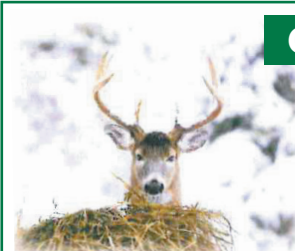
POTSDAM - On September 6, The Airport Diner, located at 219 SH 11B Potsdam, NY, held a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce to celebrate their one year anniversary. "As we celebrate the one year anniversary of The Airport Diner, our hearts are filled with immense gratitude for everyone who has contributed to our journey," said the Carters. "Here's to many more years of delicious meals, warm memories, and shared moments at The Airport Diner."

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Taken at Deer Valley Trails

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Blevins Motors Inc. of Potsdam Celebrating 55 Years



Left to right, Margaret Haggard, County Legislator; Allison Carney, Potsdam Chamber Board President; Melanie Flack, Potsdam Chamber Executive Director; Marty Miller, Potsdam Town Supervisor; Alexandra Jacobs Wilke, Potsdam Mayor, Rand and Cindy Pistrutto; Katie Klassen, Raise the Bar; Helen Sullivan, Casella; Stephanie Blevins, Owner; Rachel Williams-Carter, the Airport Diner; John Blevins, Owner; Barb Blevins, Debbie Blevins, Leland Blevins, Michele Blevins, Cody Blevins., Mary Jo Richards, Joanne McClusky, Constituent Liaison Congresswoman Elise Stefanik; Duane Blevins, Mr. & Mrs. Perry, Brooke Reed, Tammy Beaudin, Vincent and Sandy Ashley.

Potsdam Chamber of Commerce

Blevins Motors Inc of Potsdam recently celebrated their 55th anniversary. Over the years, Blevins Motors has made a commitment to provide excellent service which has allowed them to establish unique relationships with their loyal customers, the main reason they have been able to continue over the years.

Blevins Motors in Potsdam was established by Leland & Rita Blevins in 1969. It was first located on Route 11 coming into Potsdam for a brief time then to its current

building on Route 56. Leland acquired his first floor plan (to purchase new cars) for \$50,000 from St. Lawrence National Bank, known as Community Bank.

All four of Leland & Rita's boys worked for the dealership and in 1979, Paul & Duane purchased the business from Leland. The Chrysler franchise was purchased in 1983 from Ed Close, and Jeep was added in 1996. David & Lynn own dealerships in Ogdensburg & Gouverneur. John is the current owner of Blevins Motors, purchased from his father Paul & Uncle Duane in 2007.

John owns both dealerships in Potsdam & Massena, and well as two RV stores, where they sell & rent RVs and boats. In 55 years, the Blevins family has seen lots of changes in the car business, such as the introduction of air bags, introduction of the minivan and the introduction of electric vehicles. Blevins continues to look forward to adapting to changes in the industry to best serve their customers.

For 55 years, Blevins Motors Inc has been serving Potsdam, Massena, Canton, Ogdensburg, Franklin County and surrounding areas with quality Jeep, RAM,

Dodge and Chrysler vehicles. With their focus on the people, including their experienced sales and staff team, customers leave the dealership 100% satisfied with excellent customer service and friendly salespeople.

The dealership features the latest manufacturer offers and incentives on all new Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram vehicles. They carry a variety of pre owned vehicles, that come equipped with the exclusive Blevins Promise- which consists of a lifetime powertrain warranty, lifetime NY State inspections and lifetime oil changes, for

as long as you own the vehicle. They offer financing services so you can get into the new Jeep, RAM, Dodge, Chrysler or pre-owned car you want without a problem.

Blevins Motors Inc has a full service Body Repair Shop and RV and boat sales. Their latest service offers seasonal rentals for RV and boats. Visit their website for more details at: www.blevinsmotors.net, www.blevinsrvandboat.com.

Blevins Motors Inc is a proud Potsdam Chamber of Commerce business located at 6691 State Highway 56, Potsdam, New York.



Congratulations
Blevins Motors Inc of Potsdam for
Celebrating 55 Years in Business

For more information
contact the Potsdam Chamber
of Commerce at
director@potsdamchamber.com



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If it's time for Hospice, my doctor will talk with me about it.

FACT:

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The Who, What, and WHERE of Hospice

By KATHY ARENDT
Hospice of Jefferson County

Hospice of Jefferson County provides expert, compassionate care and services to individuals and their loved ones experiencing life-limiting illness and loss.

The who, what, when, where, and how of hospice care is not common knowledge for most people until they find themselves or a loved one in need of our services. Over the next year, we hope to shed some light on frequently asked questions we receive about Hospice care.

Below we explore where you or a family member can receive hospice care and information regarding the Hospice Medicare Benefit.

Hospice services can be delivered anywhere a patient calls home, including private residences, Hospice inpatient facilities, or skilled nursing facilities, such as nursing homes. When a patient receives Hospice services in a facility there is a separate cost for room and board. The cost of room and board is not covered under the Hospice Medicare Benefit. It can possibly be covered by private insurance or paid by the patient/patient's support system. It is essential to know that if the patient is in a skilled nursing facility and meets the Medicare criteria for skilled nursing services, Medicare skilled nursing benefits may cover room and board. It is also important to mention that Medicare recognizes Hospice and Skilled Nursing Benefits as separate entities, and one does not provide the services of the other.

The Hospice Team, focuses on and specializes in end-of-life care, provides expert interdisciplinary collaboration in pain and symptom management, while providing emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual support. The Hospice Team also provides bereavement support to the patient and family. Ask About Hospice today.

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For the love of beer, Watertown native opens Second Place Beer Co. in Lowville

By JONATHON WHEELER

jwheeler@wdt.net

LOWVILLE —

Troy Parker found his love for craft beer while working at Bottle Caps in Watertown, where he helped grow their business as a manager.

"I love dissecting beer and like what malts in there, what hops in there," he said. "I love crafting beer. I'll never get bored of it."

Parker loved it so much that he opened his own brewery in Lowville.

Named Second Place Beer Co., the brewery will offer their own beer alongside beer from other breweries since Parker has his farming license.

For those looking for something a little sweeter, they will offer some cocktails and wine. Food trucks will be there on the weekend. Live music will also be able to be heard.

"(We're) pretty much what a brewery should be," he said. "Just a place to go to have a couple."

Parker has experience in this field as he also helped start up Garland City Beer Works in Watertown.

Currently, the business is undergoing a soft opening with a grand opening scheduled for Sept. 21. The business' hours are Friday and Saturday 4-9 p.m. and Sundays 12-4 p.m. They hope to eventually open on Thursday.

Parker says Fridays and Saturdays have "exceeded (his) expectations."

It takes a village to start up a business, and luckily



Owner Troy Parker pours a beer inside the newly renovated brewery, Second Place Beer Co. Jonathon Wheeler/NNY Business

for Parker he has that with his family helping him out to get the business up and running, including his mother, Sally.

"We've got a lot of volunteers," Sally said.

Parker currently works for Hood full time in LaFargeville, which helps him as they use the same equipment he does at the brewery.

Currently, Parker employs just one person, a bartender. Eventually he

would like to expand that number to four.

Parker said the most challenging part has been getting his liquor license from the state as it has taken him almost a year just to get a temporary license. He says they are in the final stages to get his permanent license.

On the flip side, the most rewarding part is just seeing the project become a reality.

"I love serving my beer

across the bar and seeing someone try it," he said.

Parker and his family did the remodel and completely gutted the place.

"We built everything in here ourselves," he said.

Sally says the most rewarding part for her has been the community who has supported them. People will walk to the brewery with their dogs, she said.

"All the neighbors around Lowville - it's just

amazing," she said. "It's just the best atmosphere ever."

The building did not take any damage from the flooding in Lowville as they are on a hill. Parker said they are in a lease-to-own agreement.

Both Troy and Sally mentioned possibly expanding into other areas, but said they are taking everything one step at a time.



LEWIS COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

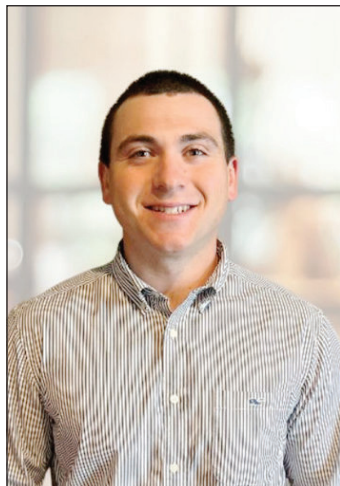
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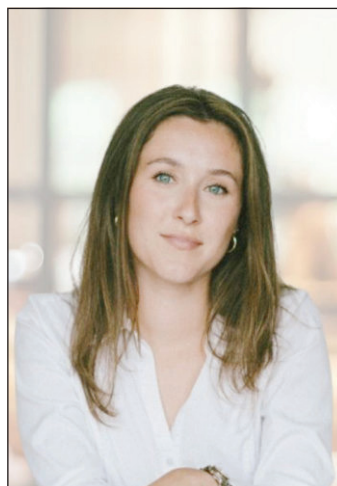
Bowers CPAs & Advisors Recognizes Excellence with Watertown Promotions



Ridge Hagar. Contributed



Nic Clement. Contributed.



Cheyenne Purvis. Contributed.



Theresa Soules. Contributed.



Karley Mason. Contributed.

By Jessica Foley

Bowers CPAs & Advisors is delighted to announce this year's promotions out of our Watertown Office.

These talented individuals have demonstrated exceptional dedication, outstanding performance, and a commitment to our firm's values. Their hard work and achievements have contributed significantly to our success, and we are proud to recognize their accomplishments.

Please join us in congratulating the following individuals on their well-deserved promotions:

Ridge Hagar has been promoted to Audit Senior Accountant. Ridge of LaFargeville NY has been promoted from Staff Accountant to Senior Audit Accountant. Ridge has

been a valued member of the Bowers team for a year. He has a B.S. in Accounting and B.A. in Sport Management from Messiah University. His dedication and expertise have been key to achieving this promotion. In this role, Ridge will take on greater responsibilities in the audit process, including planning and executing audits, preparing financial statements, ensuring compliance with industry standards, and continuing to train and develop junior staff. Ridge's thoroughness and commitment to quality will continue to be a tremendous asset to our audit team.

Nic Clement has been promoted to Audit Senior Accountant. Nic resides in Watertown, NY as has been an employee at Bowers for the past three years.

He has his Bachelor's Degree in Finance/Accounting from SUNY Oswego. As a Senior Audit Accountant, Nic will assume expanded duties, including strategizing and conducting audits, preparing financial statements, ensuring adherence to industry regulations, and mentoring junior team members. Nic's meticulous approach and dedication to excellence will remain invaluable to our audit team.

Theresa Soules has been promoted to Tax Senior Accountant. Theresa, of Lorraine, NY has earned a promotion from Staff Accountant to Senior Tax Accountant. Theresa has been a valued member of our team for almost four years and has a Master of Science in Accounting from Siena College. Her strong foundation in tax rules, regula-

tions, and accounting principles has greatly benefited our clients. Theresa's commitment to client service and technical knowledge is commendable. In her new role, she will continue to ensure our clients receive outstanding tax and accounting services.

Cheyenne Purvis has been promoted to Tax Senior Accountant. Cheyenne, out of Spencerport, NY has earned a promotion from Staff Accountant to Senior Tax Accountant. She has been a valued member of our team for two and a half years and has her Bachelors in funeral service administration and associates in accounting. Her deep expertise in tax rules, regulations, and accounting principles has been a tremendous asset to our clients. Cheyenne's

dedication to client service and her technical acumen are truly impressive. In her new role, she will keep delivering exceptional tax and accounting services to our clients.

Karley Mason, out of Cape Vincent, NY, has been promoted to Client Accounting and Advisory Staff Accountant. Karley has been with Bowers for three years and graduated from SUNY Potsdam with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In her new role, Karley will support the CAAS team with various accounting and financial tasks, including bookkeeping, financial statement preparation, and payroll processing. Her enthusiasm and commitment to providing exceptional service will continue to be a great asset to our clients.

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ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTIONS

Program to help retired soldiers enter workforce gets \$4 million

By JONATHON WHEELER

jwheeler@wdt.net

FORT DRUM — The Development Authority of the North Country, or DANC, was awarded almost \$4 million to create a workforce pipeline for transitioning Fort Drum soldiers and spouses, as announced on Tuesday by Empire State Development.

This is part of the \$10 million Next Move NY initiative to enhance workforce opportunities for transitioning soldiers and their families.

“Through Next Move NY, the North Country is collaborating on a regional strategy to address workforce training and business employment needs. The Development Authority will build the workforce development framework to engage with military veterans and their families to generate new economic opportunities,” Empire State Development

President, Chief Executive Officer, and Commissioner Hope Knight said in a news release.

DANC Executive Director Carl E. Farone, Jr. thanked the North Country Regional Economic Council and the New York State for the award. This is the first award from the \$10 million Next Move NY Initiative and as part of the initiative, DANC will use REDC’s regional plan in order to increase a trained workforce.

“We look forward to collaborating with partner organizations across the region to implement key aspects of Next Move NY that will help connect talented Fort Drum soldiers transitioning out of the military and their spouses to meaningful employment in northern New York. Through a multi-pronged approach and without duplicating existing programs, we intend to stream-

line access to job opportunities for those soldiers and their spouses, which will be an economic win for the entire North Country,” Farone said in a news release.

Co-chairs of REDC James McKenna and Kathryn Morris called the award “a crucial step forward in addressing the region’s workforce challenges by supporting the needs of our Fort Drum veterans who are entering civilian life.”

DANC will be responsible to establish the administrative framework in order to implement the plan, including career readiness; job and apprenticeship matching program; establishing a Veterans Employment Ambassador Program; providing a job matching portal; and creating a soldier recruitment and training incentive program for employers.

With a shortage of workers in the north country,

Empire State Development says around 3,600 soldiers in the north country move from active duty service to civilian life with around 1,000 spouses. The Next Move NY will have the opportunity to recruit over 46,000 transitioning soldiers and their spouses over the next decade.

“Tapping into this pipeline with a focused effort can address workforce shortages and change the North Country and New York State,” the news release reads.

In the news release state Assemblymembers Kenneth D. Blankenbush, R-Black River, and Scott A. Gray, R-Watertown, both said the funding is vital to the north country’s success.

“Business is a crucial part of the 117th Assembly District. ESD’s mission is to promote and support this in New York State making it something I support,” Blan-

kenbush said in the news release.

“This critical funding will support the development of a workforce pipeline for transitioning Fort Drum soldiers and their spouses, addressing our region’s workforce development shortages. It also holds significant potential for staffing opportunities with Micron. I extend my sincere gratitude to Governor Hochul for her leadership and commitment to tackling our workforce challenges. This investment is a vital step towards strengthening our community and ensuring economic growth in the North Country,” Gray said in the release.

The award will fund the program for five years. During those five years, DANC is to explore more revenue resources to finance more programming.

Naturally Lewis, Inc. Welcomes Three New Board Members to Economic Development Organization

Naturally Lewis

LEWIS COUNTY, NY - Naturally Lewis, Inc. is welcoming three new members to its Board of Directors: Jessica Dunn, Michael Jackson, and Harley Snyder. After a competitive application and interviewing process, these candidates showed an exemplary commitment to championing the growth of a community where people want to live, work, build business, and play - the mission of Naturally Lewis, Inc.

“Naturally Lewis, Inc. is focused on creating a board of strong community leaders with diverse backgrounds and skills. We also make a conscious effort to ensure our board members live and work in different areas



throughout Lewis County. It is exciting to see the interest expressed by our community members to participate in our work and join our board” says Eric Virkler, Chairperson of the Naturally Lewis,

Inc. Board of Directors.

Jessica Dunn, a Senior Budget Analyst for the US Army Corps of Engineers, has chosen to call Lewis County home after her retirement from service with the US Ar-

my. While in the US Army, Jessica served as a Finance Officer, making her way to the highest level at the Department of Defense; Jessica has remarkable experience working with taxpayer funds, and strategic insight to effectively contribute to the board’s decision-making processes.

Michael Jackson has worked as the General Manager of Viking Cives in Harrisville for the last 10 years, equipping him with a unique perspective on the manufacturing industry in our community. Additionally, Michael is a Lewis County Leadership Academy alumnus, an experience that enhanced his vast leadership skills and provided an im-

mersive experience into the diverse landscape of Lewis County.

Harley Snyder currently works as the UP! Coalition Coordinator and operates a small hobby farm in Copenhagen. Harley has a strong passion for local agriculture and community involvement; she also serves on the Lewis County Cornell Cooperative Extension Board of Directors and sits on their 4-H Program Committee.

For more information on Naturally Lewis, Inc. and economic development in Lewis County, NY, please visit naturallylewis.com and follow @naturallylewis on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

CLEANING OUT

BY THE NUMBERS: NNY HOME SALES

JEFFERSON-LEWIS BOARD OF REALTORS

August 2024

Homes sold: 136
Median Price: \$215,000

July 2024

Homes sold: 115
Median Price: \$230,000

August 2023

Homes sold: 154
Median Price: \$197,250



ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF REALTORS

August 2024

Homes sold: 84
Median Price: \$160,000

July 2024

Homes sold: 87
Median Price: \$161,800

August 2023

Homes sold: 100
Median Price: \$129,250



It may time for a fall cleaning. NNY Business file photo.

By LANCE EVANS

As the days get cooler and the yard work dwindles, it may be time to look around your house and garage and clear out unwanted items. If you are like me, you have things in the house that you don't use anymore, but there is some left and you "might have a use for it down the road." I have lots of little things like that in my house. What sorts of things are they and what can you do with them?

Some things are easy. If you have expired food or spices, it is better to throw them away. If it is unexpired canned or jarred foods, but not something you like, donate it to a local food pantry and let someone else enjoy it.

Other items you might have are books and movies. After reading a book or viewing a movie, ask yourself if it is a "keeper" or not. The "nots" can be donated to a local library for a book sale, a thrift store, senior center, or sold to a used bookstore. Moving them on will let someone else enjoy them. Keep in mind that books may get moldy when kept in storage in the basement, garage, or attic over a long time. If this happens, they should be discarded.

Puzzles, toys, and games are other items that tend to stay on shelves for a long

time. If you have not played a game in a while, you may want to think about donating it to a thrift store, senior center, or other appropriate place. Puzzles, in good shape, can also be donated or sold. If the game or puzzle is incomplete or the toy is damaged, you may want to discard it.

Similarly, clothing and shoes that no longer fit or you don't love and use, can be donated to thrift or consignment shops. Some non-profits and colleges have clothes give away programs to help people who are looking for jobs to have more professional clothing. Please make sure the clothing is still useable and not stained, dirty, or falling apart. Keep in mind that some of the places will also take sheets and blankets that are in good shape too. Another place to contact are animal shelters who might take old blankets, pillows, and towels.

Looking in your bathroom cabinets may yield more items to discard. You can clear out unused or expired cosmetics, skin care products, and medications. Many local drugstores have programs to take back unneeded prescriptions and medications. Check with your local pharmacy to see what their give back policy is. For other items, look at the package and follow the instructions

on discarding the items.

With the proliferation of electronic devices, you may find charging cords you no longer need. If you don't know what the cord goes to, you may want to toss it also. Similarly, broken devices and appliances should be discarded also. Some electronics can be recycled at office supply stores or cell phone dealers. Contact your county's recycling center to find out how to get rid of old appliances.

Household chemicals are another item that are often found under sinks, in basements, and in garages among other places. In the tri-County region, the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) holds free collection days in the spring and fall. According to an article in the September 3 Watertown Daily Times, county residents can bring items such as

leftover solvents, pesticides, pool chemicals, oil-based and latex paints, and aerosol cans that still have product in them. In addition, unwanted prescription and over the counter medications can also be brought to these. A complete list of materials that will or will not be accepted can be found at <https://www.northcountryrecycles.org/HouseholdHazardousWaste>.

St. Lawrence County residents can bring their items on Saturday, September 28 to the St. Lawrence County Human Services Building at 80 Route 310 in Canton from 8 AM - 1 PM. On October 5 from 8 AM - noon, Jefferson County residents can take their items to the Jefferson County Highway Garage at 21897 County Route 190 in Watertown. The Lewis County event was held on September 14.

Another option for dis-

carding oil-based and latex paint is through a non-profit organization called Paint-Care. Several area paint retailers accept the leftover paint for recycling. You can go to www.paintcare.org for details and locations.

While you might think all of the above is a lot of work to tackle, focusing on one area at a time will make the job easier. Anything you do will help to clear out space and reduce the items you need to go through.

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.

SeaComm program provides new scoreboard for Massena Arena

By **BOB BECKSTEAD**

bbeckstead@wdt.net

MASSENA — A scoreboard that was previously used at Clarkson University's Cheel Arena and was later installed at the Massena Arena in 1994 is no more.

"We procured it from Cheel in 1994. How long did they have it?" Recreation Director Michael P. McCabe said.

Now, hanging high above the arena floor is a new scoreboard, thanks to funding from SeaComm's Community Outreach Program.

McCabe said they were having issues with the previous scoreboard. He had told village trustees during a budget workshop in April that obtaining a new one, with an estimated price tag of \$45,000, was on their wish list.

"It has some significant age," he told trustees.

McCabe said his hope was that they could raise the money from an outside source before the start of the new hockey season in October.

His wish came true, and the new Nevco scoreboard will be lit up when hockey players begin hitting the ice again next month.

"Hockey is a legacy sport in Massena, spanning generations of youth. Our support for the new scoreboard at the Massena Arena extends

our ongoing commitment to youth hockey, from Mites and Bantams to high school varsity. We are so proud to be a part of this fundamental sport," SeaComm President and CEO Scott A. Wilson said this week as he and other SeaComm representatives visited the arena to see the new scoreboard.

That means the days of some bulbs not lighting up are over. Like some strings of lights on Christmas trees, one non-working bulb led to others also not displaying. That was an issue, McCabe said.

"There were times when a seven looked like a four. When a single light went out and we would replace it, you kind of had to replace the whole line of them, and it didn't guarantee that it changed anything. So, if you're over in the scorer's box, you might have to look around the corner (of the scoreboard) to see how much time was left. It's kind of hard for a scorekeeper to be writing times down when you don't know what it is," he said.

Unlike the previous scoreboard, the new one is wireless, with a backup capability. A new control box looks similar to the previous one, so McCabe said it shouldn't be too much of an adjustment for the scorekeeper.

"It's very similar. There's just more buttons. I think if



With the new Massena Arena scoreboard are SeaComm Marketing Specialist Cameo Torres, SeaComm Vice President of Marketing and Communications Tammy Harrigan, SeaComm President and CEO Scott A. Wilson, Massena Joint Recreation Commission Chair David MacLennan, Massena Recreation Director Michael P. McCabe, SeaComm Member Business Loan Officer Christina Smutz, and SeaComm Vice President of Retail Operations Rick Maloney. Bob Beckstead/Watertown Daily Times

you look at it, it's cleaner" in terms of design and layout, he said.

And it's a welcome addition to the Massena Arena, according to Massena Joint Recreation Commission Chairman David MacLennan.

"The Joint Recreation Com-

mission would like to thank SeaComm, their Community Outreach Program and CEO Scott Wilson for this generous donation," he said. "For much of the year, the arena is a busy hub of activity with high school and minor hockey, figure skating, lacrosse, broom-

ball, adult hockey, and a number of other events utilizing the facility. It's essential to have a functional scoreboard. Again, special thanks to SeaComm for their continued support to our community."

St. Lawrence Chamber of Commerce and Gouverneur Chamber Invite You to STLCL Business After Hours

St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

Gouverneur, NY – The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce and the Gouverneur Chamber of Commerce are excited to invite business leaders to an engaging Business After Hours networking event at the Gouverneur Community Center. This event will take place on Tuesday, September 24th, from 5:00 pm to

7:00 pm at the Gouverneur Community Center located at 4673 State Highway 58, Gouverneur, NY 13642.

Join us for a casual evening of networking with businesses from across the North Country, complemented by light appetizers. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, learn more about the

St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, and discover the vibrant Gouverneur community. Whether you are a current Chamber member, a partner, or a non-member with a business interest, this event offers a valuable chance to expand your network and grow within our county-wide business community.

Register NOW at VisitSTLC.

com/business-after-hours members who register by Friday, September 20th, can attend for FREE!

For non-members and members registering after September 20th, a \$5 registration fee applies. Payment can be made at the door via cash or check.

This event is proudly sponsored by Northern Credit Union. We also extend our gratitude to

our STLCL Chamber of Commerce Leadership Circle Platinum members (Alcoa, NBT Bank, St. Lawrence Health, St. Lawrence University, The Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence, and United Helpers) and Gold Members (Clarkson University, Northern Credit Union, SUNY Canton, and SUNY Potsdam) for their ongoing support.

For more information:
www.VisitSTLC.com
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Captain

From T3

comfortable just with the status quo," Fram said. "He was always trying to figure out how to grow and how to improve the experience for visitors."

For example, as his smaller-vessel tours took off, Kay thought of ways to expand options: creating a glass-bottom boat tour, a sunset cruise and more.

"One of Dave's greatest accomplishments was coming up with a concept he called, 'The Ultimate Tour,' which is a five-hour outing on the St. Lawrence River that includes a stop at the Rock Island Lighthouse and Boldt Castle," Fram said. "With lunch on the boat."

Fram recalled Kay coming to him with the idea. "The concern he had was, 'Would people want to be on the boat that long? Would they want to pay that \$58 price (now, from \$82) point?' Dave spent a lot of time researching that and talking to people, and when he ran it, there was hardly an empty seat and ended up most popular tour."

Kay had an unassuming nature, Fram said, but his ideas grabbed attention.

"That's what I take away from Dave," he said. "If he had an idea, he put a lot of research into it and wasn't afraid to try something outside of what we just accepted was the conventional wisdom of what worked and what could be successful. He came to the table with ideas, and frankly challenged the conventional wisdom."

Anthony P. Randazzo, operations manager at Coyote



Patrons view Calumet Island as their Clayton Island Tours boat passes it during a Coyote Moon Wine Cruise in 2014, the year the popular cruises were launched as a partnership. Watertown Daily Times

Moon Vineyards, said Kay was a great person to work with due to his vision and enthusiasm. A decade ago, Coyote Moon launched wine cruises featuring Clayton Island Tours vessels.

"He was constantly supporting and looking for ways to not only support his business, but work with and include other businesses to raise everybody's success," Randazzo said.

"He was definitely a believer and promoter of, 'We all have to rise up together.' He and his business were an integral part of taking Clayton, as a whole, to the next level. He always wanted to partnership and to work with people."

Randazzo said his two-hour wine cruises are testament to that partnership. Kay was able to bring his vessels right up to the back door of the Coyote Moon on the River store at 524 River-

side Drive. "People just walk out the back door and get on the boat," he said.

Meanwhile the partnership created synergy, Randazzo said. His wine customers would ask about cruises and vice versa.

"Dave was always a great supporter of the town and village," Randazzo said. "And he was just one hell of a nice guy. My dad (Phil) knew him a decade longer than I did. He was always an honest, fair man."

Randazzo said he often saw Kay helping people in and out of the American Legion in the village.

"He was just that guy," Randazzo said. "His lost is going to be felt in the community for sure. It's tragic how fast this all came on and how short life is."

Kay also owned and operated the Chateau Country Inn and Captain's Cottage in Clayton. He managed them

for decades with his wife, Virginia "Ginny" Kay. The couple married in 1973, and Ginny died in 2016.

COMMITMENT 'WILL CONTINUE'

Over the weekend, management of Clayton Island Tours posted on Facebook: "We have become the CIT family through the years working tremendously hard to help this business grow and thrive. The commitment to the business and our customers will continue to keep

Dave's dream alive — to share the beautiful 1000 Islands and St. Lawrence River with guests."

"Having multiple boat lines on each side of the border is needed," Fram said. "That's the number one experience that people from outside the region want to have when they come to the Thousand Islands — to get out on the water, see the islands, hear the stories, see the animals, flora and fauna and the mansions. We have enough market demand for multiple ways to do that."

Fram said that Kay would often call him or stop by his office and he'll miss those visits. "I've always enjoyed my visits with him because he was always looking ahead and thinking, 'What can we do differently? How can we make this work?'"

But he takes satisfaction in one of the things that Kay left in his wake

"For a lot of people around the world, when they think of the Thousand Islands, they are going to think of a Clayton Island Tour boat, and that's because of Dave Kay."



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Naturally Lewis, Inc. Awarded State Tourism Industry Association Tourism Excellency Award

By **NATURALLY LEWIS**

LEWIS COUNTY, NY – Naturally Lewis, Inc. has been awarded a New York State Tourism Industry Association Tourism Excellency Award for the 2024 Discover Tug Hill Visitor Guides. The award was

presented at the 2024 New York State Tourism Industry Association Tourism Excellence Summit at the Canfield Casino in Saratoga Springs, NY.

“We are humbled to accept this award and honored to have our unique, rural community acknowledged at this level” says Kristen Aucter, Director of Tourism at Naturally Lewis, Inc. “As we work to develop resident-centric tourism and champion the growth of our communities by focusing on our residents, we are excited to see what the future of tourism promotion looks like in Lewis County.”

The Discover Tug Hill Visitor Guides, illustrated by RG Design & Illustration (Beaver Falls, NY), are magazines sharing experiences and attractions across Lewis County, the Adirondacks-Tug Hill Region. Three editions of The Guide were developed to target the primary audiences for tourism promotion: families, weekenders, and adventure seekers.

weekenders, and adventure seekers.

“Over the past three years, Naturally Lewis, Inc. has worked towards becoming an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, serving all of Lewis County, to streamline business support services, economic development, and tourism development and promotion” says Brittany Davis, Executive Director of Naturally Lewis, Inc. “After meeting this goal of restructuring our organization, the honor of this NYSTIA Tourism Excellence Award is proof that our community and organization are on the right track for sustainable growth.”

The Discover Tug Hill Visitor Guides can be found online using this link. For more information on Naturally Lewis, Inc. and economic development in Lewis County, NY, please visit naturallylewis.com and follow @naturallylewis on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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Director

From T8

tion.

In June of 2023, it was announced that TIAC would construct a new facility, funded in part by its \$2 million share of New York State Council on the Arts Large Capital Improvement Grants for Arts and Culture. The grant required a 100% match, and that was made by an anonymous donor. It's a \$5.1 million project.

The building is scheduled to be constructed at 321 James St., where TIAC now operates the thrift and consignment store, Finder's Keepers and which Riddoch has managed.

“It's an exciting time for the arts center,” Riddoch said. “As our campus is expanding with a new facility being built on James Street, and so many events and exhibitions we're planning, it



Sarah Riddoch / Courtesy TIAC

makes me proud to be a part of this organization. I look forward to our evolution into being the cultural hub of the north country.”

The Thousand Islands Arts Center is open year-round, five days a week, and has a staff of five — four full time and one part time. Classes are offered year-round and exhibitions and events are open to the public.

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Malone firm featured in documentary

Feature film premiered at Chateaugay Town Hall Theater

By ALEXANDER VIOLO

aviolo@mtelegram.com

CHATEAUGAY — A local theater hosted a documentary premiere last Thursday featuring an area company that is at the forefront of IT security.

The Chateaugay Town Hall Theater hosted the “Cybercrime: Fallout” movie premiere Aug. 29, a documentary featuring CST Group Inc., a Malone-based technology management firm that works along the East Coast.

Lisa Brown, chief executive officer and founder of CST Group Inc., said the documentary, set to be released in the fall, features a total of 10 cyber-security experts.

Brown said the full-feature documentary has a tentative release date this fall on Amazon.

“We are hoping the release is in the fall,” Brown said.

Brown and her husband Shawn, CST’s co-owner and chief operating officer, were on hand for last week’s premiere in Chateaugay.

“I’m one of the ten and they are giving us an opportunity to premiere it in our respective towns,” she said, “Shawn and I just attended one in Nashville, which was the very first one and there are revisions after every premiere. All 10 of us are executive producers so we get a say.”

Brown said the movie’s producer flew to the area from Los Angeles to work on the documentary.

“He was here for one day and we did all of the filming,” she said, “Most of it was done

on a green screen and he did that for all ten of us. He flew to each of our towns.”

At the end of last week’s movie premiere, Brown participated in a question and answer session for the audience to discuss cybercrime.

Brown said CST was honored to have the Chateaugay Theater be the first location for the documentary premiere and donated \$500 to them last week.

Chateaugay Town Supervisor Don Bilow and Heather Locklin, director of the Chateaugay Town Hall Theater, were present to accept the donation from CST.

Brown said the town of Chateaugay is a client of CST.

“The day that the producer came into town I had contacted Don (Bilow) because we really wanted to come here and do an in-person kind of thing for a separate project,” she said, “Don was kind of involved at the very beginning of all of this.”

Additionally, Brown said Chateaugay’s theater was the “perfect place” to screen last week’s premiere.

“This is really the only theater that is close to us and we thought this was the perfect place to do the premiere” she said, “We really wanted it to be a hometown event. We wanted it to be an event where I could get my friends and family, and the small businesses that we work with so they could use the information. The content of this movie is super important and I was hoping that would generate interest.”



Lisa Brown, CEO and founder of CST Group Inc., fourth from left, and Shawn Brown, CST Group’s co-owner and COO, third from right, pose for a photo prior to the premiere of “Cybercrime: Fallout,” a documentary featuring the Malone company, at the Chateaugay Town Hall Theater. Alexander Violo/Malone Telegram

Brown said the plan is to host a couple more showings in different areas moving forward.

“This is the first, this is us getting our feet wet with how this all works,” she said.

Brown said CST specializes in working with compliance driven industries to secure, protect and manage their technology throughout New York, in North and South Carolina, and in Florida.

According to Brown, she collaborated on a book that was released earlier in the year, “From Exposed to Secure,” on cybercrime and how to protect against it.

Brown said when she was invited to collaborate on “From Exposed to Secure,” she had no idea that would lead to an Amazon Documentary, adding cyber-criminals are getting more and more diffi-

cult to identify and cybercrime is at an all time high and it is estimated that cyber-attacks occur every 11 seconds.

“Breaches are happening every minute and it is unfortunate but this is the world we live in now,” she said.

Shawn Brown said though the book and the documentary were separate projects he believes the book’s success led to the company’s involvement with the upcoming documentary.

Brown said she is the only author from the book which features 26 cyber-security experts that is featured in the documentary.

“The book was specifically about making sure your small business is compliant. The book talked about the compliance aspect of making sure your business is secure,” she said, “This (movie) is about

the fallout of what happens if it isn’t. Ultimately we talk about what happens when a small business, especially someone who is an entrepreneur, if you don’t take cybercrime seriously. This is ultimately about the fallout of that.”

According to Brown, CST is on a mission to educate as many business owners and entrepreneurs as possible on the risk of a cyber-attacks, adding as an entrepreneur and business owner, she will do everything possible to remove as much risk as she can of someone attacking her company and gaining access to client information.

“Whether we like it or not, businesses must be aware of their risk, try to minimize that risk and educate everyone in their company,” she said.

A cyber-attack is just one click, one text, one email or one phone call away, according to Brown, who said the documentary, which will stream on Amazon, shares the fallout if businesses fail to protect their clients, customers, and patients’ information, adding it provides valuable information from a team of cyber-experts from around the U.S. that will educate and inform.

Brown said she started CST Group in 2000 and Shawn joined in 2004.

“Here we are 24 years later. When I started the company it was all about survival, making enough money to pay the bills that was the goal,” she said, “I never thought I would be a participant in a book or a movie.”

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Waddington Hosts Successful 2024 Humminbird Bassmaster Elite Series

St. Lawrence Chamber of Commerce

Waddington, NY – Last month, Waddington proudly hosted the 2024 Humminbird Bassmaster Elite Series, marking a thrilling conclusion to the season's final tournament on the picturesque St. Lawrence River. The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Village of Waddington, played a crucial role

in ensuring the event's success. The local community extended a warm welcome to the professional anglers and their families, contributing to the event's overall triumph.

The event was made possible through the support of numerous dedicated partners. Village of Waddington Mayor Mike Zegrobelny's leadership was instrumental in the success of the event. The

Waddington Fire Department, including Kevin Sharlow and his team, provided essential boat parking support each morning. Special recognition is also given to the Waddington Department of Public Works, with particular appreciation for Supervisor Chris Reagan, Nathan Byrd, and Caleb Carr, whose contributions were invaluable.

The U.S. and Canadian National Anthems were performed daily by Madrid-Waddington's Stardust Vocal Ensemble, led by Brianne Sterling, alongside Robert Castro, Amy Mayette, and Morgan Cole, adding a special touch to the tournament's opening and weigh-in festivities.

Local dignitaries, including Assemblyman Scott Gray, NYS

Senator Dan Stec, Deputy Mayor Benny Fairchild, and Superfan Arlene Stillwell, provided a warm reception for the guests during pre-weigh-in ceremonies. The hard work of volunteers—Gary Mealus, Christine LeBel, Ben Boyd, Baylie Skinner, Benny Fairchild, Amanda Hitterman, Craig and Jenn Chevalier, and Chris Puleo—was crucial in ensuring the event ran smoothly.

Arsenal's Seasonal Sips: FALL COCKTAILS



Spiced Apple Cider. Autumn's iconic beverage, apple cider, gets a cozy twist with the addition of aromatic spices. Whether it's cinnamon, cloves, or a hint of nutmeg, these spices infuse the cider with a warm, comforting flavor that evokes images of crackling fires and plaid blankets. For a grown-up version, add a splash of dark rum or bourbon to transform it into a spirited treat.

Pumpkin Spice Latte: A true autumn classic, the pumpkin spice latte, affectionately known as the PL, is a testament to the season's flavors. It's a rich and velvety blend of espresso, steamed milk, and the warm, earthy notes of pumpkin pie spice. Finished with a dollop of whipped cream and a dusting of cinnamon, it's like sipping on a slice of autumn.

Hot Toddy: When the weather starts to chill, nothing beats a hot toddy to warm your bones. This classic concoction combines whiskey or brandy with hot water, honey, and a squeeze of fresh lemon juice.

Maple Bourbon Smash: For those who prefer a cocktail with a bold, autumnal twist, the maple bourbon smash is a revelation. It's a harmonious fusion of bourbon, fresh lemon juice, and pure maple syrup, with a gamish of fresh thyme and a slice of charred orange.

Picture Caramel Apple Mule: For a cocktail with a touch of whimsy, try the caramel apple mule. It's a delightful blend of vodka, apple cider, and ginger beer, with a drizzle of caramel sauce for sweetness. Served in a copper mug with apple and lime slices.

Cranberry Cider Punch: For a festive and tangy twist, consider a cranberry cider punch. This delightful concoction combines cranberry juice, apple and a splash of orange liqueur for a burst of autumn flavor. Float fresh cranberries and orange slices in the punch bowl for an elegant of Cointre presentation.

Irish Coffee: When you need a pick-me-up with a touch of sophistication, Irish coffee is the answer. It's a classic blend of hot coffee, Irish whiskey, sugar, and a crown of whipped cream.

LET THE STAFF AT ARSENAL WINE & LIQUOR GUIDE YOU INTO FALL!

So, raise your glass to autumn, and may your days be filled with the rich and comforting tastes of the season. Cheers!



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