

BNNY Business

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Daily updates: NNY360.com August 2026

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White's Flowers marks 75 years in same Canton location



Current owner Ed Palmer, left, poses with previous owner of White's Flowers Brenda snow among an array of arrangements at the shop. White's Flowers is marking its 75th Anniversary in August. Contributed.

CANTON — When White's Flowers celebrates its 75th anniversary during the first week of August, the milestone will

honor not just a building, but three-quarters of a century of small-town heart.

Remarkably, the local land-

mark has maintained its enduring presence in the community under the stewardship of just three owners since its founding. It is a rare story of business longevity, defined by smooth successions, neighborly handovers, and an unwavering philosophy of personal service.

The physical storefront itself reflects this layered history. Looking around the cozy space, long-time owner Brenda Snow

smiles at how decades of renovations have integrated with the shop's humble beginnings.

"The original hasn't been touched," she said. "It's just been covered up... so it's all still here."

The building's origin story is filled with Canton lore.

The original building, a square cement block structure,

See FLOWERT13



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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, light-brown cardboard house model. The house has several square cutouts for windows. Below the house, a stack of US dollar bills is visible. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green grass and a bright sun in the upper left corner.

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French cafe opens in historic Chaumont building



Colorful cupcakes in a display case at Cafe Kate. Owner Kate Gallagher bakes all of the desserts at the French cafe.

By CRAIG FOX

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CHAUMONT — There's only one place in the world that you can sip and enjoy a cup of Golden Crescent Sunrise French roast coffee

That's at Cafe Kate, a new eatery that opened in a renovated building at Route 12E and Mill Street in the village of Chaumont.

Owner Kate Gallagher worked with Lake and River Roasters in Cape Vincent to come up with that special blend served "exclusively" at the French cafe. Its name is derived from the community's stunning crescent sunrise views, she said.

"We tasted and tasted until we came up with the delicious blend," she said. "Of course, it's a French roast."

The French cafe offers breakfast sandwiches, soups, salads, lunches and lots of different kinds of desserts. All of it made at the cafe in the historic building that went through an extensive renovation before Cafe Kate opened two weeks ago. Brandy's Barbershop occupies the other storefront.

Gallagher has 25 years experience in the local culinary world, which includes working in local restaurants and 14 years as a culinary instructor at Jefferson Community College. She'll continue to operate Desserts by Design/The Cottage Bakery at the isthmus at Point Peninsula.

While she was talking about the cafe on a recent afternoon, a buzzing sound



Owner Kate Gallagher recently opened a French cafe in a newly renovated historic building in the village of Chaumont. Craig Fox/Watertown Daily Times

went off to alert her that croutons she was baking were ready. She got up from the table to take care of them. Meanwhile, an aroma of bacon and sausage filled the cafe while her daughter, Rachel Gallagher-Slate, made a soup for the next day. They do prep work after the cafe closes at 2 p.m. for the following day's menu. In addition, Gallagher spends her mornings getting the brunt of her baking for her desserts finished in a commercial bakery above her garage at home.

"I'm a workaholic," she explained.

Four years ago, local businessman Reg Schweitzer approached her about opening a cafe in the historic blacksmith shop that still had a dirt floor. Schweitzer had not yet acquired the build-

ing when he came to her with the offer, Gallagher remembered.

But that gave her four years to plan and put together her recipes for the cafe and what it would look like inside, explaining that she wanted to find the right decor.

"I want it to be homey and comfy," Gallagher said. "I want it to be for customers to sit and talk and converse and enjoy their meals."

She ordered black tufted wingback chairs, where customers can just relax. The owners of Wise Guys, the neighboring Italian restaurant, approached her about buying some similar chairs, she said.

That's how the Chaumont community comes together to help each other, she said. Gallagher will continue to

make homemade desserts for her friends' restaurant.

It was also important to find her own niche and "not to interfere" with the other restaurants that already existed in the community, she said.

Gallagher, who has French blood, mentioned Chaumont's historic connection to France. Founder James LeRay de Chaumont was the original landowner in the early 1800s and named the village after his hometown. So a French cafe was a natural addition to the community's restaurant landscape.

Family also plays a crucial part in the business. Gallagher-Slate, a former hospice nurse for 25 years, now works full time at the cafe. Gallagher's son, Ethan, covers lunches. The three are

Watertown's first pot shop opens

By **CRAIG FOX**

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WATERTOWN — Local disc jockey Johnny Spezzano conveyed the sentiments of many of the customers who attended a ribbon cutting for Cannabis Depot II in Northland Plaza on July 16.

"Finally, prohibition is over," Spezzano joked about the cumbersome process that the state requires before it grants a license for a retail marijuana dispensary.

It took owner Kim Parker just about a year to open the dispensary in 4,000 square feet of storefront space in the plaza, the first within city limits. The dispensary had a soft opening last month.

She also owns the Cannabis Depot dispensary in Pamela, which became the first one to open in Jefferson County.

When she first applied for a state license for the first dispensary a few years ago, the cannabis industry was dominated by males. But times have changed.

The state prioritized minority entrepreneurs, aiming to award 50% of all cannabis licenses to minority- and women-owned dispensaries.

Well, Parker said Thursday, the state accomplished that goal. It now stands at 52%, she said proudly.

She takes pride that Cannabis Depot II offers safe products to its customers.

A variety of marijuana products, with such names as Bodega Boyz, Rolling Green, Off Hours and Dime, are prominently exhibited in display cases throughout the store. All of its products come from state-licensed growers in New York.

However, a local product was absent from its inventory. Chessworth Farm is the only local marijuana grower in Jefferson County. Parker would like to do business with the veteran-owned farm, she said.

"I'd like to offer her products here," she said.

At Thursday's ribbon-cutting ceremony, more than 50 people showed up to the event that had a bit of a party atmosphere with the DJ playing songs from the 4-20

culture, green, gold and silver balloons decorating the storefront, samples of non-cannabis-infused High Peaks Root Beer floats and other refreshments.

Kaylee Millward, executive director of the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce, thanked Parker for investing in Watertown and creating jobs. Greg Stickel, an organizer with Watertown First, said he knows that she gives back to the community.

But no one from the city showed up to welcome the new business. The City Council initially decided against marijuana dispensaries, saying that it wanted to see how the state's pot shops would go. Last year, council members reversed that decision, explaining that the businesses could generate revenues for city coffers.

With a customer service background, store assistant manager Dar Mesmer, 34, who earned a cannabis degree from Syracuse University, stressed she can help educate dispensary customers about pot and what kind of product is suited for them.

"Cannabis has been a part of my life and family for most of my life," she said.

Before she entered the marijuana world, Parker owned the Chaumont Country Market for five years, which relied heavily on the village's tourism market.

Parker had to make a choice — she could not own both businesses. So she sold the market. She said she has no regrets.

"It's steadier," she said.

Last year, the city received about five different proposals from companies wanting to open a retail marijuana dispensary. Parker's proposal and one from a Syracuse company that's opening a dispensary in the Stateway Plaza were approved. A sign in the storefront for that store says it's "Coming Soon."

The city's Planning Commission unanimously gave Parker a special-use permit to open the dispensary.

There are 12 employees.

State fines National Grid, others for poor customer service

Public Service Commission imposes combined \$50 million in penalties for five utilities

By **ALEX GAULT**

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ALBANY — The state Public Service Commission has hit five utility companies including National Grid and Liberty Utilities with millions of dollars in fines for failing to meet customer service standards they're held to by the state.

Other than National Grid, power companies NYSEG, RG&E, Central Hudson and Liberty Utilities failed to meet minimum performance standards in 2025, and were penalized with "negative revenue adjustments" that will be credited back to customers under subsequent pricing agreements struck between the companies and the PSC.

For National Grid, \$16.9 million in fines have been levied because the company failed its customer satisfaction surveys for residential, small and medium commercial and industrial customers, and failed to meet call answer rate targets.

For residential customers, 72% reported they were satisfied with National Grid, while it's required to have an 82% satisfaction rating. Only 69.9% of small and medium com-

mercial customers reported being satisfied, when the minimum allowed is 78%.

The company failed to meet call answer rate targets, hitting the minimum only 58.1% of the time and leaving thousands of customers on hold for longer than the PSC allows for.

The company also missed at least 883 scheduled customer appointments, resulting in more than \$26,000 in customer credits.

Liberty Utilities, which bought the St. Lawrence Gas company, is being fined \$38,744 for failing to meet its customer satisfaction survey targets.

"Utilities provide services which are vital to public health, welfare, and New York's economy," said PSC Chair Rory M. Christian. "By approving incentives and enforcing consequences for utilities to meet customer service performance targets, the Commission ensures utilities uphold customer experience as a priority by design."

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Roth Industries plans expansion in Watertown industrial park

By **CRAIG FOX**
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WATERTOWN — Roth Industries has proposed a nearly 12,000-square-foot expansion that will create about 10 jobs at its manufacturing plant in the City Center Industrial Park on South Bellew Avenue.

The company is seeking two area variances that will allow it to add 30,000 square feet to its asphalt exterior storage area and increase the parking lot to the front of the building and expand a shipping drive and a connection to Rail Drive.

“The area variance is being requested due to business expansion needs,” according to plans submitted to the city Planning Department.

The larger storage area and parking lot will exceed the allowable size for the site’s impervious surface. A use variance will allow the parking lot to be in front of the building.

Plans call for 7,220-square-foot and 4,060-square-foot additions, expanded asphalt storage areas, chain link fence, relocated light poles and larger infiltration basins.

“The proposed building additions will enable adding additional machinery and additional jobs, which in turn requires additional asphalt storage area and parking spaces,” according to the company.

The reconfiguration will make it easier to access the building’s shipping dock and prevent tractor-trailers from backing up on Rail Drive.

The company makes plastic highway barriers and septic tanks at the facility.

This will be the fifth expansion at the site since the nearly 75,000-square-foot facility in the City Center Industrial Park opened in 2007.

The most recent project



Roth Industries, 268 S. Bellew Ave., Watertown. Watertown Daily Times

will add between eight and 10 jobs. About 45 people currently work there.

About five years ago, Roth Industries completed a \$5.5 million expansion that increased production by about one-third at the facility. That

addition housed a third blow molding machine.

The company also operates a plant in Syracuse.

Roth Industries, a family-owned business established in Germany more than 65 years ago, has 1,100

employees and locations in more than 40 countries. Roth entered the North American market in 1997 and then moved to Watertown from Rhode Island about 20 years ago, partly because of its proximity to Canada.



Happy 250th anniversary, America!

As you and your loved ones celebrate this Fourth of July, may it be especially enjoyable and safe.

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26-WO-00035 (01/26)

Jefferson Launches Business Analytics Program to Meet Growing Demand for Data-Driven Careers



Right: Owner Kate Gallagher uses local businesses as much as she can in her new cafe. These loaves of bread came from Valley Peetza in Chaumont.



Owner Kate Gallagher wanted a certain look in her French cafe, so she searched high and low for decor.

Bakery

From T3

close.

"It gives us time, at some point, to be with each other during the day," Gallagher-Slate said, stressing that she "loves" her involvement with her mom's cafe.

Seven years ago, Gallagher lost her husband of 43 years, Bobby, after a sudden illness. It was during the flood-

ing of lake shore communities in 2019. He had become distraught by the damage caused to their retirement property in Three Mile Bay and fell ill quickly.

"He was my biggest supporter," she said.

A lot of the cafe can be attributed to his contributions when he was alive, she said.

Cafe Kate is open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, except for Sundays when it's closed for "Family Day."

WATERTOWN — Jefferson Community College (JCC) is pleased to announce the launch of a **Business Analytics** associate of science (A.S.) program designed to prepare students to collect, analyze, and interpret data to support business decision-making. This program combines foundational business knowledge with practical data analysis skills, equipping graduates for entry-level roles or transfer to a four-year institution.

The new program reflects the rapidly expanding need across industries for professionals who can collect, interpret, and apply data to solve real-world business challenges. Students in the Business Analytics A.S. program will gain a strong academic foundation in business principles, mathematics, and data analysis while building skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication. Students who begin their education at Jefferson can complete general education requirements and foundational business coursework at a significantly lower cost before transferring to a four-year institution to complete a bachelor's degree.

"The ability to understand and use data effectively has become essential in nearly every industry," said Dr. Daniel J. Dupee II, President. "This program equips students with the analytical and business knowledge needed to make informed decisions and succeed in today's evolving workforce, while also providing a seamless pathway to continue their

education."

The **four-semester program** combines coursework in business, economics, mathematics, statistics, and general education. Students will study foundational topics such as accounting, management, and marketing while developing quantitative and analytical skills that are increasingly valued in fields such as finance, healthcare, marketing, operations, and government.

Graduates of the program will be well prepared to transfer to four-year institutions within SUNY and beyond, pursuing bachelor's degrees in business analytics, business administration, data analytics, or related disciplines. The curriculum is designed to align with transfer pathways that support continued academic advancement and career mobility.

In addition to preparing students for transfer, the Business Analytics A.S. program equips students with exposure to analytical thinking and data interpretation skills that are applicable to entry-level roles in business environments where data-driven decision-making is essential.

Jefferson graduates of the Business Analytics program are prepared to pursue the **Microsoft Power BI Data Analyst Associate certification**, a widely recognized entry-level credential in business analytics, enhancing their competitiveness in the job market. Through the program, students develop the skills to use Microsoft Power BI to connect

data from multiple sources, clean and organize information, create interactive visualizations and reports, and uncover insights that support data-driven decision-making. These in-demand skills help organizations improve efficiency, identify trends, and make informed business decisions.

"The launch of our Business Analytics degree reflects our commitment to staying ahead of industry trends while responding directly to regional workforce needs," said Donna Stevenson, Associate Vice President of STEM, Health Professions, and Business. "Students will learn how organizations use data to improve performance, identify trends, and make more effective decisions. As businesses increasingly rely on data to drive innovation and growth, this program prepares our students to lead with analytical skills and contribute meaningfully to the future of our local and state economy."

The Business Analytics A.S. program is available beginning fall 2026, with flexible scheduling options to support both full-time and part-time students. Prospective students may register for fall classes now. Classes begin August 24, 2026. For more information or to apply, visit www.sunyjefferson.edu or contact Enrollment Services at (315) 786-2437.

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SUNY Canton students place fourth in national competition

CANTON — A group of SUNY Canton students took fourth place in the recent Forging Industry Educational and Research Foundation (FIERF) annual competition, judged by celebrities Ben Abbot and David Baker from the History Channel show "Forged in Fire."

Students were tasked with creating an American felling axe and submitting it to the Forging Foundation for testing. SUNY Canton was one of 22 collegiate teams to submit an entry, and approximately 170 students participated overall.

"We all like the SUNY axe," Abbot said as the judges announced the top five finalists in a FIERF YouTube video. "It's got a nice weight to it and enough fall that I could get a good balance."

The college's team consisted of three of the most active members of the 13-member Forging Club, including Nathan St. Louis, an Electrical Engineering Technology major from Plattsburgh, Mitch Timmerman, a Mechanical Engineering Technology major from La Fargeville, and Matthew Gattus, a Cybersecurity major from Jeffersonville.

St. Louis, who serves as club president, described the team's journey to enter in the national competition. The project began with St. Louis and Gattus working with area blacksmith James Tiernan at his home forge in Madrid. The duo first created a set of custom drifts to punch a hole in the axe head for the wooden handle.

Shortly after the club acquired high-grade steel for their competition axe, St. Louis suffered a shoulder injury that limited his involvement, leaving much of the forging work to Gattus. The rough-forged axe was then brought back to campus, where Timmerman helped grind and mount the head.

"Initially, we were aiming for the stars, but as the deadline got closer, we real-

ized we just needed to get an axe in," St. Louis said. "I was kind of surprised that we got fourth, especially with all of the heavy-hitting schools that were involved in the competition."

Other participating colleges include Carnegie Mellon University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Florida.

Both St. Louis and Timmerman had some prior experience with metalworking in different capacities, and both are members of the college's American Society of Civil Engineers Steel Bridge Team. Gattus said he had never done anything like this before, and that he appreciated the experience of conceptualizing something and then bringing it a life in metal. "I was learning while doing it," he said. "It's not like I was sitting in a class and then taking notes and then being thrown into it."

SUNY Canton's Forging Club took shape following a \$5,000 grant from FIERF in 2025, which members used to purchase an induction forge. The grant stipulated that the club must produce a working axe and enter it for judging. The club also received funding from the SUNY Canton College Foundation, Inc.

The Forging Club is guided by Mechanical Engineering Technology Instructional Support Associate Neil Haney, who has an extensive background in several forms of metalworking. The team also received guidance and technical support from North Country Smiths Kirk Perry and Tim Tiernan. All of the professionals who assisted with the project are members of the Adirondack Forge of the New York State Designer Blacksmiths.

Potsdam Town Board considering its own data center moratorium

By **ANDY GARDNER**

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POTSDAM — The town board is considering a moratorium on local data center development.

During a recent town board meeting on July 14, Councilor Pat Brady talked about new information he recently learned about how the proliferation of data centers is going to strain the power grid.

He said the New York Independent System Operator, which controls the statewide power grid, hosted the webinar and kept it free of politics.

He said fossil fuel plants elsewhere in the state are being aged out, and new plants built to replace them can't handle the same load.

"Fossil fuels generators are over 50 years old and ... are coming offline because they can't get parts anymore," he said. "New generation power is not meeting the loss of power coming from these aging plants."

Brady said extreme hot and cold weather are taxing the grid to keep up with cooling and heating needs.

"There's a lot of concern about the grid being able to handle these new data centers," he said, suggesting the board may need to consider a local moratorium while they learn more.

He's drawn up a draft resolution and passed it to the town attorney for review. He wants to put it on the agenda for their August meeting. It would require a public hearing before the local lawmakers vote on it.

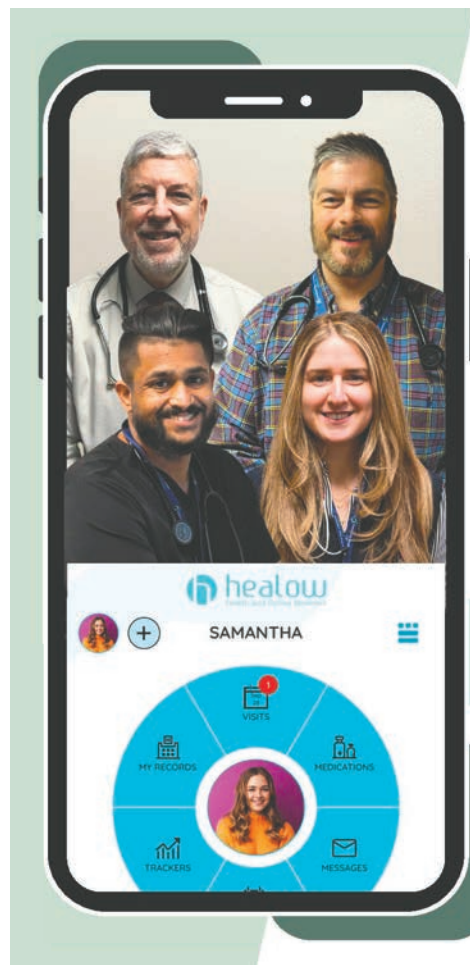
Brady's comments came the same day that Gov. Kathleen C. Hochul enacted first data center moratorium in the nation with an executive order.

Sharing details in a press release and a briefing hosted by her office, Hochul's order will require the state's regulatory agencies to pause new permit approvals for data center projects that plan to use more than 50 megawatts of power at any one time.

According to her office, the pause will last one year while state agencies pull together a comprehensive regulatory framework for data center projects.

Hochul will also order the state Public Service Commission to conduct a generic environmental review of the impact that data centers already in operation have had on energy, land and water use.

In Massena, a proposed large-scale data center has drawn local grassroots opposition from residents around the area.



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Cherry on top: Malone gelato shop celebrates grand opening

By ALEXANDER VIOLO

aviolo@mttelegram.com

MALONE — La Crème, a new gelato shop in the village, held its grand opening Thursday afternoon on West Main Street.

Brooke Lyn, the general manager of the new store and the abutting Cafe Nouveau, said the gelato shop first opened to the public in early June, starting with a soft opening.

“Just like we did with the cafe, you open but maybe it’s not one-hundred percent. You just are kind of still adding little things as you go,” Lyn told the Telegram.

Monique Charbonneau, founder of both businesses, said the cafe first opened on Memorial Day weekend in 2024, adding after the cafe opened they started to come up with ideas on how to utilize the neighboring space if it became available.

“We had always had ideas for the space next store,” Charbonneau said, “She (Lyn) came up with gelato

one day.”

According to Lyn, she initially wanted to offer affogato, an Italian coffee-based dessert, in the cafe.

“Gelato has to be kept at a little bit of a warmer temperature and it sort of started this logistical thing,” Lyn said, “I wanted to do affogato but if we buy gelato then we can’t really serve it properly. So that was kind of this old idea that when we started talking about next door it resurfaced.”

Lyn described gelato as similar to ice cream but with a denser texture and more flavor.

“I would describe it as the best part of your ice cream when it gets to the bottom, and it’s really dense and rich. That’s similar to gelato,” she explained, “There’s less air in gelato so it’s a really dense product. That’s what gives it a really rich flavor whereas ice cream has more air, gelato is also lower in fat. The biggest difference is there’s almost no air in it. It makes it

really flavorful and rich.”

Charbonneau said she liked the idea of gelato because it was something that would appeal to all ages, especially the youngest and oldest residents of the area.

“We appeal to young people. They are here with their computers, which was the initial thought when we opened the cafe. Then everybody wanted to have breakfast, and then it evolved to getting a liquor license. Then it we add a happy hour, it was grown ups,” Charbonneau said, “We never appealed to the children and the grandparents.”

Lyn said her favorite part of adding the gelato shop has been seeing all the families that come in.

“I would say that has been the most fun part, all of the kids who say they want their bedroom to look like this,” she said, “I think too we never really fully had a dessert menu at the cafe. That was also in our thinking we were kind of adding a dessert



La Crème, on West Main Street, held its grand opening on Thursday, July 16. The gelato shop is open every day from noon to 8 p.m. Alexander Violo/Malone Telegram

course that we didn’t previously have.”

Prior to opening in June, Lyn said she took a course on opening a gelato shop in Ronkonkoma on Long Island.

“It was all about how to make gelato and really all of it,” she said, adding she looked at other gelato shops to get ideas before work started on the store in Malone, “When I took that class I learned a lot about the flow that you want. You don’t want to bottleneck people, and you want the gelato to be visible.”

Since opening the new store, Charbonneau said the feedback has been positive.

“People love it and they are excited to have something different,” Lyn said.

According to Lyn, in addition to gelato the shop offers macarons and Julie’s cheesecakes from Sugarloaf.

Charbonneau said as they pick up ideas, they are open to adding more dessert options to the shop.

Cafe Nouveau is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday through Wednesday, while Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the cafe is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The gelato shop is open every day from noon to 8 p.m.

Lyn said the cafe has started to do a happy hour from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

According to Lyn, she thinks the gelato shop will be open on a seasonal basis, but she hasn’t decided that yet.

“My thinking is that people will always be able to get gelato in the cafe,” she said, “We might not staff over there and have hours during the winter but gelato will still be available in the cafe. That’s one of the reasons we opened the doorway between the two, it made logistic sense for being able to serve the gelato in the cafe and for the staff to be able to use that kitchen.”

Charbonneau said it has been nice to see the cafe grow over the past two years and she is exciting to add another business to the space.

“It’s not dissimilar from what I hoped we could do,” she said, “It was just sort of what evolved, we had no idea the kickoff would be so well received for the gelato.”

During Thursday’s ribbon cutting, Mary Scharf, president of the Malone Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the new business to the village.

“On behalf of the chamber of commerce I would like to welcome another new business to downtown Malone, we are so excited about expanding downtown,” Scharf said.

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North Country Savings Bank is showing support for the Canton Free Library with a \$2,500 donation to help continue its mission of providing educational resources, lifelong learning opportunities, and a welcoming space for our community. Pictured on the right is AVP & Compliance Officer Stacey Kenny presenting the check to Canton Free Library Director Emily Owen Hastings. NCSB/Facebook



St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union recently donated to the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club for the Dave Shea Scholarship. Pictured from left: Commerce Park Branch Manager Drew Lowry, Ogdensburg Boys & Girls Club CEO Meg McNarmara, and SLFCU President & CEO Amber Taylor. SLFCU/Facebook



St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union recently donated to the Fort La Presentation Association in support of the "Skirmish on the Oswegatchie" reenactment that took place July 18-19. Pictured from left: Teller Andrew Ashley; Fort La Presentation Association President Barbara O'Keefe; Dallas Robinson with Fort La Presentation Association; and USR Aidan Demers. SLFCU/Facebook

Potsdam Chamber of Commerce Announces 6th Annual Golf Tournament

POTSDAM, NY – The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce invites golfers, businesses, and community members to participate in the 6th Annual 4 Person Scramble Golf Tournament on Friday, Aug. 28, at the Potsdam Town & Country Club, 6194 SH 56, Potsdam, NY.

The annual tournament is one of the Chamber's signature fundraising events, bringing together local businesses, organizations, and community members for an evening of golf, networking, and friendly competition. Proceeds support the Chamber's mission to serve, support, and promote businesses and organizations throughout the Potsdam area.

Registration will take

place from 4 to 5 p.m., followed by a 5 p.m. shotgun start. Dinner, awards, and prize presentations will follow the tournament.

The registration fee is \$60 per golfer and includes nine holes of golf, cart, dinner, a swag bag, and entry into prize competitions. Awards will include Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Closest to the Line, and additional contests throughout the evening.

Space is limited to just 16 teams, and early registration is encouraged.

Businesses also have several opportunities to support the event through sponsorships and donations. Partnership Sponsors, Tournament Sponsors, Hole Sponsors, raffle prize

donors, and swag bag contributors will receive recognition through event signage and promotional materials.

"The Golf Tournament is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow business professionals while supporting the work of the Potsdam Chamber," said Melanie Flack, Executive Director of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce. "We look forward to another fun and successful evening on the course."

Registration and sponsorship information is available at www.potsdamchamber.com. For additional information, contact the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce at director@potsdamchamber.com or (315) 274-9000.

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People magazine follows story of rescued lion cubs at Zoo New York

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

WATERTOWN — The story of two mountain lion cubs joining Zoo New York after getting rescued from the wild has hit national news.

People magazine has picked up the story of Clover and Rain, two orphaned mountain lion cubs that recently joined the zoo in Thompson Park after they were rescued by zoos on the west coast.

The Watertown Daily Times told about their rescue in a story on July 7.

The national story follows the two orphaned cubs as they begin a new chapter together at their permanent home in Watertown, according to Zoo New York officials. It also highlights the extraordinary collaboration among wildlife agencies, veterinary professionals and accredited zoos that helped bring them safely to Zoo New York.

“For a community zoo in Northern New York, this national recognition is an espe-



Clover, a mountain lion cub rescued by the Oakland Zoo in California, now calls Zoo New York home. Provided photo

cially meaningful moment. Clover and Rain’s story is not only one of resilience, but also a powerful example of the important role zoos can play in wildlife rescue, professional animal care and public education,” according to a statement

from the zoo on Thursday. Interim Zoo Director Mark D. Irwin received an email from the national publication on Wednesday that they were retelling Clover and Rain’s story. People is using video from the zoo’s Facebook page

showing the two cubs.

“We’re thrilled,” Irwin said. Watch here for the People magazine story:

<https://people.com/2-orphaned-mountain-lion-cubs-find-home-at-new-york-zoo-12019829>

Both mountain lion cubs are beginning a new chapter in Watertown, where they will receive specialized care, enrichment and a permanent home at the zoo.

Clover arrived from the Oakland Zoo in California, where she received lifesaving care as an orphaned mountain lion in El Dorado County. She was found severely underweight, dehydrated, weak and in critical condition. Thanks to the veterinary and animal care teams in Oakland, she received treatment for dehydration, a tick infestation and life-saving blood transfusions from mountain lions at the zoo.

Clover is the 32nd mountain lion rescued by the Oakland Zoo.

Rain also arrived at Zoo New York after a difficult beginning. She was found in Washington state beside her deceased mother, and because of her young age, she was unable to survive on her own. Like Clover, Rain was determined to be non-releasable and in need of a permanent home where she could receive expert care.

They are expected to move into the Bob Johnson Mountain Lion Habitat, where they will join the zoo’s senior mountain lion, Ninja, resides.

Zoo New York is sharing updates on their progress, including details about when they will be exhibited to guests, through the zoo’s website and social media sites..

The community is invited to follow their stories through photos and videos on the zoo’s social media pages as they continue to grow and settle in, get to know each other and adjust to their new home.

The zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Poker Run not deterred by smoky, wet weather



Right: Friday night included a stereo competition among the participants in the 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run. Here a participant DJs on a boat with turntables.

By JONATHAN WHEELER

jwheeler@wdt.net

CLAYTON — While booms of thunder and heavy rain delayed the start of the 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run Saturday morning, the dark, smoky and wet weather did not deter hundreds of people from running the river from Clayton to Ogdensburg in support of Make-A-Wish.

From Thursday to Saturday night, Clayton was awash with faraway visitors whose high-performance boats were on display.

“Little damper on Saturday, but we got out there,” Bobby Cantwell, president of the poker run committee, said Monday.

Weather forced about a 45-minute delay Saturday, which resulted in the boaters not being able to stop in Cape Vincent, but all other stops continued.

Cantwell estimates about 25 boats took part in the entire run.

Officials are still counting the money raised for Make-A-Wish of Central New York, River Hos-

pital, local fire departments, EMS agencies and chambers of commerce.

Cantwell said the Make-A-Wish rides on Friday were “fantastic.”

“It fills your heart, makes you feel good about what you’re doing, and it makes the whole thing worthwhile,” he said.

Hundreds of volunteers helped make the event possible. Cantwell expressed gratitude for all of the volunteers and his team.

“Absolutely amazing the number of people that want to be involved in this, are involved in this, and absolutely will be in the future, they said,” Cantwell said.

Cantwell said there were thousands of people in Clayton over the weekend and he had people tell him that there were more people there than there were for the Fourth of July fireworks.

There was a “mishap” where a boat was speeding under a bridge in Alexandria Bay, Cantwell said.



A jet turbine-powered boat owned by XInsurance that was a highlight of the poker run is the first boat to take off toward Alexandria Bay as other boaters watched. Photos by Alec Johnson/Watertown Daily Times



After heavy rain passed, the clouds parted enough for the 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run to begin a little after 11 a.m. Here, one of the first boats takes off from a staging area in Clayton on the first leg to Alexandria Bay. Alec Johnson/Watertown Daily Times

“They took full ownership of it,” he said. “They owned it.”

Cantwell said that the local police did a good job.

“I don’t want them to get a black eye over this and neither do the gentlemen that did it,” he

said.

Cantwell said that he told the boaters involved that they were done with the poker run and not allowed to come back.

“Unfortunate all the way around,” he said.

Details from police were not available.

Officials have already started working on next year’s poker run and will have a wrap-up meeting next week before a safety wrap-up meeting.



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Enid Moore - Owner 226 James St., Clayton, NY

Flowers

From T1

was constructed by Mary Sin-

gleton "Sigie" Barr's parents and her grandfather Azel Perry.

Her parents, Mary and Dennis Conley "Connie" Barr, intended to open a restaurant in the structure. They never had a

NNY Business

restaurant in that building, but went on to run Barr's Restaurant, also known as Connie's, down the street at 6 Miner, between the feed store and the gas station.

Sigie, who has been a fixture at White's Flowers for the last decade or so, said her mother claimed she was making the cement bricks for the building while pregnant with Sigie.

Frank White bought the building in 1950 and lived in the back with his wife, Beulah, while they built the business into a Canton mainstay on Miner Street, then a bustling commercial thoroughfare.

Jump 34 years into the future, and Brenda and Mike Snow are out-of-town visitors looking at a "For Sale" sign in a window. It was the summer of 1984; the couple was visiting friends in Canton from their hometown of Lowville, where Mike worked at the Kraft plant.

A casual drive down the street changed the trajectory of their lives.

"We were visiting. They lived down the street, and we drove by and saw the for sale sign in the window, so we just dropped in," Snow recalled. As fate would have it, the friend they were staying with worked in the law office handling the property's pre-sale.

After meeting with Frank White, Snow proved her industry experience on the spot by putting together a few floral arrangements.

Impressed by her skill and work ethic, Frank agreed to the sale and the Snows decided to go "all in" and buy the business.

They moved to Canton, dove into the daily grind together, and successfully ran the shop for over four decades. Under their stewardship, the business grew tenfold. While corporate or metropolitan flower shops operate on strict bottom lines, Snow's philosophy always centered on deep community connection.

"Unlike a metropolitan shop, we are very personal here," Snow said, estimating that she intimately knows about half of the people who walk through the door. "It's a big family-type business."

The door is always open somehow... If somebody needs something on a Sunday, we find somebody to do it. It's not like a bank—you don't close the door."

Staying relevant for over forty years meant constantly adapting—whether shifting away from South American imports during the pandemic to embrace local pop-up growers and

an Amish farm, or adjusting to how a generation of social media-focused college students interact.

When it finally came time for the Snows to step back, the transition of ownership remained entirely within the neighborhood family. Ed Palmer and his wife Kathy Palmer, who have lived across the street from the Canton landmark since 1997, spent decades running a busy subcontracting flooring business.

When the heavy physical demands of the flooring trade began to take their toll, a transition to the flower shop—where he had already spent years helping the Snows with deliveries and peak holiday rushes—felt like a natural evolution.

"It just got to the point where it went, 'it's time for a change' and here we are," Palmer said. Palmer worked at the shop full-time for a year before officially purchasing the business, and this August will mark his second anniversary as its owner.

He is now the third steward in the shop's 75-year run, carrying forward the same community-first torch. While he acknowledges the pressure to secure his staff's livelihoods, Palmer credits his "exceptional" team of 14 to 15 employees for keeping the business running smoothly.

"I've got my staff... they know what they're doing," Palmer said, describing the operation as a well-oiled machine that can run seamlessly even in his absence. "It would be a lot more pressure if I didn't have that."

Though Snow is gradually stepping back to spend more time with her grandkids in the Saratoga area, she still walks through the doors to help Palmer and the staff, proving that a dedicated florist never truly leaves the business behind.

"It's kind of like being a farmer—you do it because you loved it," Snow said. "I don't see myself ever being totally out of it in some way."

For Palmer, the goal is to protect that legacy while keeping an eye on the future. While he has no immediate plans to alter the physical footprint of the Canton building, he is actively exploring opening a summer satellite store in Alexandria Bay to offset slower warm-weather months.



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More than 100 classic vehicles displayed at 22nd Annual Car-B-Que



Classic vehicles fill Fort La Présentation during the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce's 22nd Annual Car-B-Que on June 27. The annual event brought together more than 100 vehicles and participants from throughout the region, including Canada, to celebrate automotive history in a scenic riverfront setting. Chamber photo

OGDENSBURG — More than 100 classic vehicles rolled into Fort La Présentation on June 27 as the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce celebrated a successful 22nd Annual Car-B-Que, drawing car enthusiasts, families and visitors from across the North Country and Canada.

Organized by Chamber Assistant Director Laura Pearson, the annual event featured a classic car show, live music, food vendors, children's activities, a Touch-A-Truck hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Ogdensburg, raffles and a variety of local vendors.

Vehicle owners competed for dozens of specialty awards, including Best of Show, People's Choice and category honors recognizing a wide range of classic and specialty vehicles.

"Car-B-Que was tremendous! It was so rewarding to bring hundreds of car enthusiasts to Fort de la Presentation and the City of Ogdensburg from places as far away as South Carolina to southwestern Ontario," said Pearson. "So. Many. Classic cars. All in a beautiful and historic setting!"

The event attracted participants from throughout the region, including longtime attendee Len Jarvis of Winchester,

Ontario, who praised both the event and its setting.

"I've been attending Car-B-Que for years, and thanks to people like you and your team, I get to sit beside my vehicle, chat with the many U.S. friends I've made, and admire an incredible lineup of beautiful cars," Jarvis wrote in a message to Chamber staff following the event.

Jarvis also commended Fort La Présentation as an ideal venue, citing its spacious grounds, scenic riverfront setting and welcoming atmosphere for participants, vendors and spectators alike. He added that he appreciated the Chamber's recognition of Canadian participants and the friendships the event has fostered over the years.

The Chamber thanked the many businesses and organizations whose sponsorships helped make the event possible, including corporate sponsors WellNow Urgent Care and Ogdensburg Family Practice, along with dozens of trophy sponsors and participating vendors.

Trophies and sponsors were: Best 50's Car by Carlisle Law Firm, P.C.; Best 60's Car by Bradley's Service Station; Best Under 25 by McLearn's Hearing Aids; Best Muscle Car by Bertrand's Construction; Best Mopar by

Blevins Brothers; Best Orphan Car by Truax Insurance Agency; Best Sports Car by Regan's Automotive; Best Classic by P&T Car and Pet Wash, LLC; Best Street Rod by Phillip's Diner; Best Foreign by Truax Insurance Agency; Best Paint by DeFelsko; Best GM by Bill Rapp Chevrolet; Best Ford by Kimro's Medicine Place; Best Model A Ford by Carrothers & Clough Law Firm; Best Special Interest by North Country Savings Bank; Best Rat Rod by Wilder Forsythe Insurance; Most Unique by Strader-Feris International; Oldest Car by Jones Insurance Agency; Club Participation by Ed-Med Federal Credit Union; Ladies Choice by Jones Insurance Agency; People's Choice by Latham's Auto; Best Truck in Memory of Wayne Izzo by Howland Pump; Best Corvette in Memory of Wayne Izzo by The Cutting Edge Salon; In Memory of Don Morley by UD Trophies; Best of Show by St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union; Best Mopar in Memory of Wayne Izzo by Jones Insurance Agency; Longest Distance by Blue Heron Realty (cash prize); and Hard Luck by Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper and VanHouse, CPA (cash prize).

Buffalo printing plant closing

By Matt Glynn

The Buffalo News (TNS)

Employees of BNP Empowered Print were notified July 9 that the commercial printer is closing, according to a union representative.

The company, founded in 1980 as Buffalo Newspress, operates from a facility on Broadway. The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades represents more than 30 workers at the facility, said Wesley Schlossin, the union's business representative for members at the company.

The total size of the impacted workforce was not available. BNP Empowered Print officials and a lawyer representing the company did not return messages to comment.

BNP Empowered Print's core business is producing retail and grocery fliers for customers including Tops Markets and Valu Home Centers. BNP Empowered Print also prints materials for The Buffalo News, but not its newspaper.

BNP Empowered Print filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in February 2025. Printing companies have faced challenges to their business in the digital age, with reduced production of printed materials such as newspapers and circulars. Some other small printers in the region have also gone by the wayside.

In an interview last year, BNP Empowered Print officials said the Trump administration's tariffs had added to the financial pressure. They said the business was facing higher costs for imported ink, because the pigments it needed were sourced from countries such as China and India, which were being subjected to higher tariffs.

The most recent monthly operating report filed with the bankruptcy court, covering the period through the end of April, said the company had assets of \$3.6 million and liabilities of nearly \$8 million, and 85 employees as of that date.

By the end of April, the company was down to just over \$55,000 in cash — a drop of nearly \$100,000 from the beginning of April, according to recent court documents.

The company had accrued more than \$1.8 million in debt in the 14 months since the bankruptcy filing and had nearly \$6.2 million in debt from before the filing, court documents showed.

Tops Markets said BNP Empowered Print had informed the supermarket chain that the printer "will be winding down operations."

"Since they filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in February 2025, we have taken several collaborative steps to help, such as extending flexibility, adapting our partnership and accelerating payments," Tops said. "As a longtime Tops vendor, we appreciate the efforts of the company's leadership and workforce to serve their clients all the way through their final days of operation."

Tops said it is hiring for warehouse, logistics and store jobs, and has offered to coordinate a job fair for impacted employees of BNP Empowered Print. The supermarket chain has also identified a new vendor for its weekly advertisements and does not anticipate any disruptions with printing it.

Sean Jacobsen, the president and publisher of The Buffalo News, said BNP Empowered Print officials had recently notified the newspaper that the commercial printer was in dire financial condition.

"We were told that they had less than two weeks to stay open, that they needed additional funds and additional monies to keep the doors open," Jacobsen said.

The Buffalo News switched to a new vendor to in order to continue printing The Hamburg Sun, Bargains and Western New York Values without interruption, he said.

"We've been very solid partners with them," Jacobsen said, referring to BNP Empowered Print. "We've continued to pay our bills and stay on top of things and we've been very supportive of BNP through this process."

"Ultimately, we had to make a decision to do what's best for The Buffalo News going forward."

New vintage-style poster collection celebrates the beauty of St. Lawrence County



Vintage-style poster series featuring the St. Lawrence Seaway "Life Along the River", the River Valley "Small Town Charm", and the Adirondack Foothills "North Country Heights." Provided photo

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County tourism office has released a new collection of illustrated posters and coordinating merchandise celebrating the landscapes, communities, and outdoor experiences that define St. Lawrence County.

Designed by local artist Catherine LaPointe-Vollmer of Lionheart Graphics, the collection features three original illustrations representing the county's distinct tourism regions: the St. Lawrence Seaway, River Valley, and Adirondack Foothills. Each piece showcases recognizable landmarks, recreation, wildlife, and local character through a timeless, vintage-inspired travel poster style.

The artwork is now available for purchase exclusively from the St. Lawrence County (STLC) Visitor Center in Canton as full-size posters, postcards, magnets, and stickers.

The collection was developed to offer visitors a meaningful souvenir while providing residents with artwork that celebrates the

place they call home.

"Travel posters have long inspired people to explore destinations and remember the places they've visited," said Tiffani Amo, Director of Tourism for St. Lawrence County. "We wanted to create something that captures the personality of St. Lawrence County while showcasing the incredible diversity of experiences found across our communities. Whether you're drawn to the river, the villages, or the Adirondack foothills, there's a piece that reflects that connection."

The launch is the first step in developing the Visitor Center's locally inspired merchandise collection, with future releases planned. It offers travelers another way to support North Country artists while commemorating their visit.

Located at 101 Main Street in Canton, the STLC Visitor Center welcomes guests each year seeking travel information, trip planning assistance, maps, guides, and recommendations for ex-

ploring the county. The new merchandise is available while supplies last and is expected to appeal to collectors, history enthusiasts, outdoor recreation lovers, and those with ties to the region.

The collection also makes an ideal gift for former residents, college alumni, seasonal visitors, and anyone looking to bring a piece of the North Country into their home or office.

Visitors are encouraged to stop by the STLC Visitor Center in Canton to view the collection in person while picking up complimentary travel resources, including the 2026 Visitor Guide, event information, and outdoor recreation maps to help plan their next St. Lawrence County adventure.

Limited artwork stock will also be made available for purchase at both satellite chamber offices in Massena and Ogdensburg with limited hours. Online sales are not currently available though Amo says it is an option that is slated to be implemented in the coming year.

Naturally Lewis begins search for next executive director

LEWIS COUNTY— Naturally Lewis Inc. has launched a search for its next executive director, seeking a leader to guide the county's economic development efforts and oversee the organization's strategic initiatives.

Applications for the full-time position will be accepted through Aug. 16 at NaturallyLewis.com. The successful candidate is expected to begin work Nov. 30 following a multi-stage interview process.

"The executive director will play a critical role in ensuring the long-term sustainability of Naturally Lewis while continuing the momentum our staff and boards have created," Mike Jackson, chairman of the Naturally Lewis Board of Directors, said in a statement.

Jackson said the board is looking for someone who understands the unique challenges and opportunities of rural economic development while maintaining the organization's partnerships throughout Lewis County.

"Naturally Lewis is a dynamic organization that integrates the activities of economic development and business community membership for all of Lewis County," Jackson said. "When looking for a new executive director, we seek an individual that will guide our current strategic plan and continue the momentum our staff and boards have created. This position will ensure the unique needs of rural economic development are understood and our important relationships and partnerships are maintained."

According to the recruitment packet, the executive director will oversee the organization's day-to-day operations while leading strategic planning, staff development, business attraction and retention efforts, tourism promotion, workforce develop-

ment initiatives and financial management.

The executive director also serves as the public face of Naturally Lewis, working with local, regional and state partners, the Lewis County Board of Legislators, the Lewis County Industrial Development Agency, the Lewis County Development Corporation and the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce.

The organization is seeking candidates with a bachelor's degree and at least three years of related experience in non-profit management, economic development, community development or a similar field. Desired qualifications include leadership experience, strategic planning, financial management, grant writing, fundraising, public speaking and staff supervision.

The position offers a starting salary between \$80,000 and \$100,000, depending on education and experience, along with a benefits package that includes paid time off, health insurance, retirement benefits, wellness stipend, mileage reimbursement and paid family leave.

The hiring process calls for applications to close Aug. 16, with initial interviews scheduled between Aug. 31 and Sept. 25. Final interviews are planned for Oct. 12-25 before a job offer is extended Nov. 6.

Naturally Lewis describes its mission as fostering economic growth by connecting businesses, partnerships and resources to strengthen communities throughout Lewis County. The organization focuses on business development, site development, tourism promotion and collaboration with local governments, businesses and community organizations.

More information and application materials are available at NaturallyLewis.com.

Flowers

From T13

"Hopefully, we're looking to improve upon what's already here," Palmer said. "It's already a successful business, and if we

can keep growing... hopefully we can be [here] another 75 years."

During the week of Aug. 3, White's will offer the following Anniversary Week Specials

Monday, Aug. 3rd - 10% off wreaths

Tuesday, Aug. 4th - 15% off stuffed animals

Wednesday, Aug. 5th 20% off ornaments and chimes

Thursday, Aug. 6th 25% off loose red roses

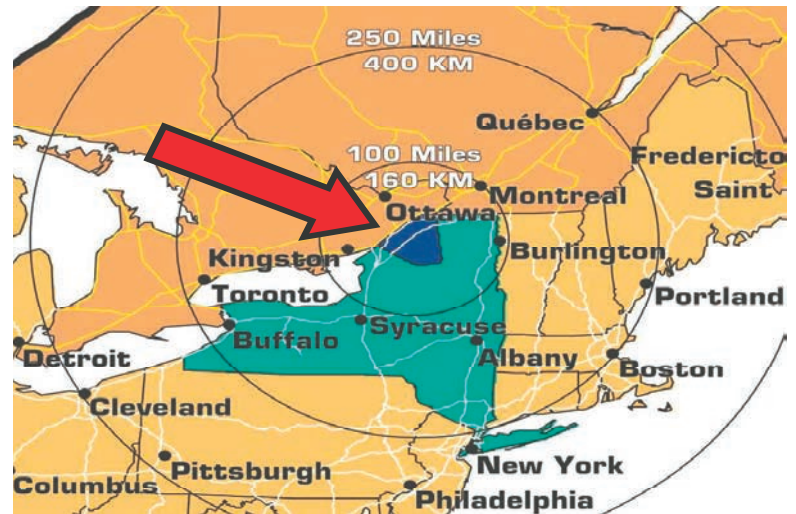
Friday, Aug. 7 - Carnations for the first 50 people

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