

BNNY Business

A Watertown Daily Times/
Malone Telegram production

Daily updates: NNY360.com Oct. 2025

■ Former newspaper editor, Tom Graser joins SLC Chamber staff.

PAGE 3

■ Potsdam Chamber celebrates several businesses.

PAGE 4

■ Chimera Integration joins SLC Chamber leadership circle.

PAGE 10

■ Clayton booming for 50th ACBS Boat Show at the Antique Boat Museum

PAGE 9

Learn more inside

Mining returns to St. Lawrence County



Employees from the Titan Mining Corporation pose for a photo with state Sen. Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Rep. EliseM. Stefanik during a tour of the facilities. Jonathon Wheeler/Watertown Daily Times

Titan to begin mining graphite in Gouverneur

By JONATHAN WHEELER
jwheeler@wdt.net

The first natural flake graphite project in the United States in almost 70 years was commissioned on Sept. 12 in Gouverneur.

The United States depends entirely on imported natural graphite with 42% of the supply coming from China. Currently the federal Department of Energy and the Department of Defense have designated graphite as a critical mineral

for batteries, semiconductors, and defense systems.

Connor Messler, exploration manager with the Titan Mining Corp., was the one who along with his team found the graphite in the St. Lawrence County mine.

Messler said back in 2022, while drilling for zinc, he and his team “intercepted some graphite mineraliza-



See MINING 6

Professional Connection Page 7



WE KNOW MORTGAGES

WWW.WATERTOWNSAVINGSBANK.COM

(315) 788-7100



Whether you're
building, buying,
or refinancing...

We give you the
local advantage.

*Come in and talk
with us today or
apply online!*

Your Bank For Good.



FDIC FDIC-Insured - Backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government

© 2025 Watertown Savings Bank. 111 Clinton Street, Watertown, NY 13601

Potsdam's Save A Lot announces closing

POTSDAM — Potsdam's Save A Lot grocery store will be closing.

In an announcement on Facebook, Owner Jeffrey L. Proulx said the Potsdam location, 200 Market St., would close over the next 30-45 days.

"I am announcing the closure of our Potsdam store with a profound sense of loss, bringing to a close 26 years of devoted service to this community. Throughout our tenure, we have been privileged to contribute thousands of dollars in donations, while being

fortunate enough to work with an outstanding team and loyal customer base. I would like to convey my sincerest appreciation to our loyal customers and invite them to continue their patronage at our Canton store. We are committed to relocating our exceptional staff and appreciate any support during this challenging time," Proulx stated.

Save A Lot will have remaining store locations in Ogdensburg, Canton and Gouverneur in St. Lawrence County.

County Chamber of Commerce welcomes new community relations manager

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce has hired veteran journalist Tom Graser as its new Community and Membership Relations Manager.

Graser, formerly the St. Lawrence and Franklin County Editor for Northern New York Newspapers, began his new role on Monday.

"The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce is absolutely thrilled to have Tom Graser on our staff," said Ben Dixon, the Chamber's Executive Director. "Tom brings to the team extensive experience in communications and a deep understanding of our region and its communities. I know Tom to be passionate about, and dedicated to, our communities, and he will be a tremendous contributor to the engagement and support of our members and the business leaders of the county."

In his new role, Graser will be responsible for communications, social media and membership relations and will serve as the Canton community coordinator. He will work to strengthen relationships with local member businesses and organizations by coordinating and communicating events, programs, and business development opportunities in the Canton area.



Tom Graser

Graser, who has been a member of the Chamber's Board of Directors since 2020, expressed his commitment to the region.

"I have been a small-town, community-oriented newspaper editor for most of my career," Graser said. "I have been dedicated to improving every community in which I have lived."

Graser and his family moved to Canton from Marion, Ohio, in 2013. He also served on the steering committee of Ogdensburg Relay for Life for several years.

Graser can be reached at 315-386-4000 ext. 5, mail-to:tom@slcchamber.org, or at the Chamber's Visitor Center at 101 Main Street in Canton.

9 - MONTH CD SPECIAL

3.82%

*APY

MINIMUM BALANCE OF \$1,000



stlawrfcu.com
315.393.3530

St. Lawrence

Federal Credit Union

Where people are worth more than money.

*APY - Annual Percentage Yield. 3.82%. APY is valid on the special 9-month Share Certificate for deposits to St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union. Minimum balance is \$1,000. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on your account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. This is a limited time offer and may be canceled at any time. Other items and conditions may apply. Federally insured by the NCUA.

Potsdam Chamber Board Welcomes Three New Members

The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors is pleased to announce the approval of three new members, each contributing something unique to the region's economy and culture: North Country Winds, Potsdam Aquatics, and the Roxy Theater. We are proud to welcome these businesses and encourage residents to shop local, attend local events, and support these organizations that help our community.

North Country Winds, located at 41 May Road in Potsdam, is owned and operated by Miles DeCastro. Since 2016, DeCastro has served musicians across the North Country and beyond as a trusted clarinet specialist, offering expert repairs and fine instruments from leading brands including Backun, Buffet, and D'Addario. Free parking is available, and visitors can also take the Bear Shuttle to the Save a Lot stop. For more information, please visit



Potsdam Aquatics offers freshwater fish, tanks, and supplies located at 1122 State Highway 11B, Potsdam.

northcountrywinds.com.

Potsdam Aquatics, at 1122 State Highway 11B, is locally owned by a first responder and firefighter. This hometown aquarium shop features live freshwater fish, aquariums, supplies, and décor, with saltwater tanks coming soon. Potsdam Aquatics is open seven days a week to help hobbyists create vibrant aquatic environ-

ments.

The Roxy Theater, at 20 Main Street, continues its tradition as a community landmark for entertainment. Operated by J.S. Cinemas, the Roxy brings first-run movies and special events to downtown Potsdam. Current showtimes can be found at jscinemas.com.

North Country Winds joins Potsdam Chamber

Welcome North Country Winds, a new business and the newest member of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce. Owner Miles DeCastro specializes in clarinet repair and can be found at 41 May Road in Potsdam. Contact: northcountrywinds37@gmail.com.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & One-Year Celebration for Gab's Hair Studio

POTSDAM — The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce is proud to celebrate Gab's Hair Studio with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and One-Year Anniversary Celebration on Monday, September 22, 2024, at 12 p.m. The event will take place at 47 State Highway 345, Potsdam, NY.

Owner, Gabrielle Thomas, opened the studio in 2024 and has spent the past year growing a loyal client base through inclusive, personalized, and professional hair services for men, women & children. The Chamber is thrilled to honor this milestone with an official ribbon cutting and community celebration.

Chamber members, local businesses, organizations, and community members are warmly invited to attend. Guests will enjoy light refreshments, giveaways,



Gabrielle Thomas.

and the opportunity to meet Gabrielle and explore her welcoming and creative salon space.

Gab's Hair Studio offers a wide range of hair services, including coloring, highlights, trims, styling, treatments, and more. Gabrielle's mission is to help every client feel confident, comfortable, and celebrated.

Potsdam firm honored



Left to right: Jackie Miller, Ed Mucenski, Barbara Marten.

Pinto, Mucenski, Hooper, VanHouse & Co. CPAs, P.C., located at 42 Market Street in Potsdam, receives a Milestone Award from the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce and a Certificate of Recognition from Senator Stec in celebration of 60 years serving

the North Country.

Founded in 1965, the locally owned firm, located at 42 Market Street in downtown Potsdam, has built its reputation on reliable, personalized accounting services and a strong commitment to community.



JOIN US FOR POTSDAM'S FRIGHT NIGHT

The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce will host their

2025 Fright Night Thursday, Oct. 23 from 5-8 p.m.

On Market Street in Potsdam. Get ready for a night of Spook-tacular Fun!

For more information go to www.potsdamchamber.com



POTSDAM CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
— Supporting Business Building Community —

F.X. Caprara buys Wally's dealership in Watertown

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

WATERTOWN — F.X. Caprara Car Companies have acquired the Wally's Mitsubishi dealership on Route 11 in the town of Watertown.

Charlie Caprara, who owns the dealerships with his brother Billy, said the deal was closed on Aug. 29.

Wally's approached the Capraras a few months ago to sell the Mitsubishi dealership, the ninth in the Caprara family, he said.

With the acquisition, his five children and Billy's two children will take over to run the seven car dealerships and two Harley-Davidson dealerships, making a third generation company that started 51 years ago.

"We're excited that it's the third generation," he said.

The two brothers' father Francis X. Caprara, who died

in 2014 at the age of 80, started the company in 1974.

F.X. Caprara is keeping the same staff that worked at Wally's, including general manager Ryan Cleary, who has worked there for about 15 years and started when the dealership was owned Billy Fuccillo. The dealership employs more than 20 employees.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The new F.X. Caprara Mitsubishi, at 18822 U.S. Route 11 in Watertown, will offer new Mitsubishi vehicle sales, service, and parts, as well offering the diverse line up of pre-owned vehicles that the F.X. Caprara dealerships are known for, according to the news release.

"We wouldn't have 51 years of success if it weren't for our relationship with our customers," Caprara said.

Recently, F.X. Caprara ac-

quired a Harley-Davidson dealership in Binghamton. The family also operates a Harley-Davidson dealership in Adams Center.

In addition to that acquisition, F.X. Caprara Mitsubishi is the newest of the Caprara family-owned dealerships along with F.X. Caprara Honda of Watertown, F.X. Caprara Kia of Watertown, F.X. Caprara Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Alexandria Bay, F.X. Caprara Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Canton, F.X. Caprara Ford of Ogdensburg and F.X. Caprara Car Companies of Phoenix.

Capraro said he doesn't know why Wally's decided to sell the Mitsubishi dealership.

It was just three years ago that Wally's entered the north country market when it purchased the Mitsubishi dealership and Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep and Ford deal-



F.X. Caprara has purchased the Wally Mitsubishi dealership on outer Washington Street. Jonathon Wheeler/Watertown Daily Times

erships in Adams. Wally's still operates the Chrysler dealership in Adams with two sales people. The Ford dealership has since closed.

When he bought the Fuccillo dealerships, owner Wally Darwash appeared in an advertising campaign yelling, "I want you to

woohoo" and the company was known as "New York's Newest Car Shopping Destination."

In upstate New York, Wally's continues to operate a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealership in Amsterdam, a Ford dealership in Seneca Falls and Nissan in Albany.

Block

the flu like

a spam email.

Scan and schedule

Schedule your clinic at www.kinneydrugs.com/pharmacy/vaccinations/flu-clinics-sign-up

Mining

From T1

tion.”

Tests came back for the graphite “at a grade that was encouraging.”

“These things can take quite a long time,” he said.

After more drilling on the minesite and looking for more sources in the area, Messler said the best occurrences that was found was on the mine.

“We sort of lucked out in that regard where not only is it on the minesite, but it’s underneath ground that’s already disturbed by our tailings,” he said. “It became a really appealing target for exploration...It takes a few years to figure out what you’ve got and now we’re pushing forward full steam.”

Messler said he and his team are “pretty excited” to mine graphite in the north country.

“In mineral exploration, finding anything that ends up being mined is pretty rare, but finding something that carries this type of criticality and the importance to the

U.S., it’s exciting.”

Rita Adiani, president and chief executive officer of Titan Mining, described the graphite production as the first end-to-end natural flake graphite production in the United States in about 70 years.

“Graphite is a critical mineral,” she said.

The largest component of lithium-ion batteries is graphite, Adiani said. Those batteries are used in electric vehicles, energy storage systems, semiconductor optics, and more.

“It goes into some of the very critical industries where the United States is trying to onshore,” she said. “What I think this administration has realized very quickly, and all our federal partners have realized very quickly, it’s great to be able to onshore industries, but you need to onshore inputs as well, and that’s where we play a significant role.”

Adiani was at the head of the tour, along with Congresswoman Elise M. Stefanik. Adiani called Stefanik “instrumental” with some of the early federal interactions.

“What we’re very proud of... is we’re sort of leading

NNY Business



Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and Sen. Mark Walczyk listen to employees of Titan Mining Corporation during a tour of the facilities Friday.
Jonathon Wheeler/Watertown Daily Times

in really a space which has never been done before,” she said.

A mining project typically takes around a decade to become operational. However, after the 2022 discovery, the

St. Lawrence County mine is already beginning first production this year.

“I think we’re doing this at light speed, and we’re doing this thanks to the infrastructure and the workforce that

we have,” Adiani said.

Adiani said an issue she conveyed to Stefanik was that since products like graphite haven’t traditionally been mined in the United States,

See MINING T8

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Helps keep more money in your pocket!

- ✓ Go to any dentist you want
- ✓ Helps pay for over 400 procedures
- ✓ No deductible, no annual maximum on cash benefits

“Absolutely love”

“I absolutely love my dental insurance. My dental office files the claims, leaving me with very little balance to pay.”

Dorothy P., TN

Call for a **FREE** Information Kit!

1-855-606-4737

Dental50Plus.health/Watertown

Get your Info Kit
SCAN NOW!



Here's the information
you requested on Dental insurance

FIRS

YOUR LOCAL PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

Contact Angel
315-661-2457
or 315-782-0400
email: aspencer@wdt.net

LANDSCAPING/SNOW REMOVAL

BLUESKYS LANDSCAPING & SNOW REMOVAL LCC

**FREE
ESTIMATES**

Spring clean up, Mulching, Fall clean up,
Lawn Maintenance, Mowing, Snow Removal

315-767-9552

Fully
Insured

TRACTORS & EQUIPMENT

JOYNER'S, INC.

AUTHORIZED KIOTI DEALER

KIOTI

2506 US RT. 11
MANNVILLE, NY

315-465-6661

SILVER DOLLARS

WANTED SILVER DOLLARS

— Collector Not Dealer —



Paying top dollar for silver dollars dated 1935 & before, more for better dates, cc's, mint state, and certified. Highest cash paid for all other silver or gold U.S. coins pre 1965.

Buying complete estate or personal coin or note collections. Paying the most cash for paper money 1861-1957. \$1 bills thru \$1000 bills, large notes, small notes, national notes silver, or gold certificates. To get the most for your money. CALL RANDY 315-952-4004

PLUMBING / HEATING / AIR

BARTLETT AND SONS

✓ PLUMBING ✓ HEATING ✓ A/C

315 232-3280

★ 24 EMERGENCY SERVICE ★

✓ PLUMBING ✓ HEATING ✓ AIR

58 N. Main Street, Adams • 315-232-3280

STANDBY GENERATORS

AUTOMATIC STANDBY GENERATORS

GENERAC

24/7

AUTOMATIC
POWER PROTECTION

Back-Up Power
For Your Home Or
Business

KIERNAN
CONTRACTORS, INC.
ELECTRICAL AND UTILITY CONTRACTORS

**315
348-4049**

ANTIQUES

Serving You Since 1974

Barry L. Haynes Co.

Antiques

Dealers • Actioneers • Appraisers



We Buy, Sell & Appraise
Antiques, Collections & Estates

P.O. Box 900, Mexico, N.Y. 13114

315-963-0922 • 315-963-3749

CLOCK REPAIR

TIC TOC CLOCK REPAIR

★ Alex MacKinnon ★



All Kinds of Spring
and Weight
Driven Clocks

Pickups and
Delivery Available

Phone:
315-778-1287

ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES

SHERMAN ELECTRIC

Residential & Commercial
Electrical Supplies

Distribution Equipment, Conduit,
Lighting Fixtures, Wiring Devices, etc.

GREAT PRICES!

417 S. Clinton St.
Carthage, NY

315-493-3050

Over 100 years of knowledge and experience!

Large crowd attends Business After Hours at JJ's on the River in Ogdensburg



Business After Hours attendees listen to Ogdensburg City Manager Fonda Chronis at JJ's on the River in Ogdensburg on Aug. 20.

By TOM GRASER

SLC Chamber

OGDENSBURG — The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce hosted a Business After Hours networking event on Wednesday, Aug. 20, that drew about 40 attendees to JJ's on the River.

The event featured Ogdensburg City Manager Fonda Chronis as the keynote speaker. Chronis, who recently completed his first year on the job, addressed the city's fiscal challenges. "We can't cut our way out of this," he said, emphasizing the need to focus on building the city's tax base. Chronis cited a \$3.5 million state grant to rehabilitate waterfront property as a recent success.

"The motivating vision and goals for the community shared by City Manager Fonda Chronis provided such important context and positivity," said Ben Dixon, Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce.

The event, held at Hosmer's Marina, was hosted by Bill Hosmer, who spoke about his family's efforts to redevelop the area along

the Oswegatchie River. Hosmer highlighted the marina, which includes a Customs check-in station, a restaurant, a bait shop, coffee and ice cream shop and kayak rentals, and noted a planned brewery in the works.

Guests also included Randy North, President of the South Dundas Chamber of Commerce, and Kevin Spencer, Chair of the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce, both from Ontario. They spoke about the importance of cross-border relations. North commented on the ease of crossing the border, saying that media stories about it were "overblown."

Joshua LaFave, Director of Graduate Business Programs at Clarkson University, also spoke about the upcoming St. Lawrence County Leadership Institute, which is set to begin its nine-month program on Sept. 10.

Dixon praised the event for fostering connections and resource sharing among local leaders and non-profits. "This gathering was invaluable, and we appreciate all who joined us," he said.

Mining

From T6

there isn't a Western price point for it. She said there is pricing, but it's based off of China, where there are lower labor and energy costs.

"What China can sell it for, we can't," she said.

Adiani said she would like policy initiatives that will help companies set a Western price floor, which they have been in contact with Stefanik on. She said that Stefanik was receptive to the idea.

Elected officials from the state and federal level were on hand Friday to take a tour of Titan Mining's Kilbourne Graphite Project, including state Sen. Mark Walczyk, Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush, and Stefanik.

"We have watched the growth from a zinc mine into this discovery of graphite," Stefanik said. "I couldn't be more excited to be here today. This is a very big district, we have a lot of interesting opportunities at all times, but I'm very very excit-

ed about the opportunity in years to come."

Walczyk said this provides "awesome opportunities for jobs in St. Lawrence County."

"The bigger mission of harvesting more of the material that we need to keep the United States of America's economy pumping, very exciting for anybody and we should have a tremendous amount of pride in the north country that this is here, the graphite mine of the United States of America is not just in New York, but is in St. Lawrence County and right here in the north country," he said.

"The entire process here is really cool," Walczyk said.

Blankenbush said the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency along with the Development Authority of the North Country provided a \$2 million financial package to help the mines develop graphite.

"St. Lawrence County can be proud that they are on the way to be the first U.S. supplier of graphite in the US in over 70 years. I am thrilled to say this critical access mineral project is in my 117th

Assembly District," Blankenbush said.

Messler said, politics aside, it's "encouraging" to see government officials interested in what they do.

"I think it makes everyone on the team here feel good with what we're doing," he said.

The company is in the demonstration phase, which involves collecting enough material to process in order to see how the processed graphite works in the existing graphite market.

"So we are technically, and we will be in the next few months, producing a graphite concentrate, which will make us the first operation in the United States in I believe 70 years, to do so," Messler said.

Officials are also looking at the permitting process for the graphite pit for mining. At the same time, employees will be trying to define how much graphite they have in the mine and how much it is worth.

It will be a couple of years before they will be able to mine graphite.

Pediatric Expansion

At our Ogdensburg Health Center!

Medical Check-Ups

Vaccinations

Care Coordination

WIC Referrals



Community Health Center
of the North Country

102 Ford Street | 315.713.9350



Sunny Patel, MD
Pediatrician

Antique and Classic Boat Society's vintage show in Clayton for first time

By **CHRIS BROCK**

cbrock@wdt.net

CLAYTON — In its 50-year history, the Antique and Classic Boat Society, which has 52 chapters in the U.S., Canada and Europe, has never hosted one of its Vintage Boat Shows in this river village, where it is based.

The ACBS did host its annual show in Alexandria Bay in 2019 at an event that attracted nearly 600 participants and a menagerie of vessels, but never in Clayton, where the society is headquartered at 422 James St.

“With the 50th anniversary, we said we wanted to ‘Bring it home to headquarters,’ and partner with the Antique Boat Museum,” ACBS Executive Director Lora Nadolski Hanson said.

Last year’s show was held along Gull Lake in Lake Shore, Minnesota. The location of the annual show has ranged from Idaho to Ontario, Canada.

The local Thousand Islands chapter of the ACBS contains members from the U.S. and Canada. The chapter hosts several events throughout



This photo from 2021 at the local chapter gathering shows a craft near the Thousand Islands International Bridge. Local chapters of the Antique and Classic Boat Society hold annual gatherings. There are 52 chapters. The Thousand Islands chapter usually meets in Alexandria Bay. TIACBS/Facebook

the year, with the highlight its vintage “User” Boat Show in July, usually in Alexandria Bay.

New York is the birthplace of the ACBS. It grew from a

1974 organized show on the Lake George village docks led by local wooden boat owners, who decided to organize a year later.

“Technically, boat-show-wise, this is our 23rd international boat show,” Nadolski Hanson said. “But we’re celebrating the 50th anniversary of ACBS.”

‘A TASTE OF THE WATERWAY’

ACBS members from the U.S., Canada and Europe began trickling in on Monday for six days of vintage boat show events.

“The first half of the week is dedicated to our members, over 500, coming in,” Nadolski Hanson said. “That’s over a tenth of our membership. They have bonded over

the years with members and friends across the country, across the world, who they haven’t seen in a while. When they come to the international shows as part of Vintage

Boat Week, we like to give them a taste of the waterway that they are visiting.”

See **SHOW T11**



Skol, a 1939 Fitzgerald & Lee runabout with triple cockpit, won best in show at the 2019 Antique and Classic Boat Society’s annual international boat show held in Alexandria Bay. The ACBS annual gathering returns to the Thousand Islands next week, to Clayton, during a week of events co-hosted by the Antique Boat Museum. Watertown Daily Times



There will be a week of events for Antique and Classic Boat Society members next week, but the public aspect happens Friday and Saturday at the Antique Boat Museum, 750 Mary St., Clayton. ACBS

517 Riverside Drive, Clayton NY 13624 | 315-686-3771

1000islands-clayton.com

Chimera Integration Joins St. Lawrence County Chamber Leadership Circle



From left, Ryan O'Donnell, Justin Stearns, Casey White and Kip White of Chimera Integration on the cover of SDM magazine after Chimera Integrations was named Systems Integrator of the year in 2024.

By **TOM GRASER**
SLC Chamber

CANTON — Chimera Integration, a leading security systems provider, has joined the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Circle, reinforcing its commitment to the local business community and regional economic development.

Founded over a decade ago by Casey White in Syracuse, Chimera Integration has grown from a small start-up to the largest security integrator in New York State. The company now spans multiple locations across the state, including a significant presence in Potsdam, and employs over 60 professionals. In 2024, Chimera was recognized as the number one security integration company in North America, a testament to its innovative approach and exceptional service.

Chimera specializes in customizable security solu-

tions for diverse clients, ranging from small businesses to large organizations like Kinney Drugs, Clarkson University, and Alcoa. Their comprehensive services include advanced security systems, nurse call systems, fire alarms, door access controls, and cutting-edge technologies like facial recognition and weapon detection.

Chimera fits well in St. Lawrence County, Sales Engineer Rob Lafaver said, because Chimera is a family-owned business that puts family first and business second.

"St. Lawrence County is a large county, but it's a very close-knit community," Lafaver said. "A lot of business around here is word of mouth. If you treat your next-door neighbor great, they tell their next-door neighbor, and it just continues."

By joining the Leadership Circle, Chimera demonstrates its dedication to sup-

porting local economic development. The Leadership Circle provides members with unique opportunities to invest directly in the region's business ecosystem, promoting job creation and community prosperity.

Chamber Executive Director Ben Dixon highlighted the significance of Chimera's involvement: "We are thrilled to have Chimera Integrations as a platinum member of the Chamber's Leadership Circle. This rapidly growing company provides important and exceptional services to other businesses in the region, and we are already collaborating with them on everything from business connections

to workforce development. Chimera's participation in the Leadership Circle demonstrates their inherent commitment to giving back to the community and promoting the region's business success. Members of the Leadership Circle, like Chimera, are critical partners in supporting our work to make St. Lawrence County a great place to live, invest, work, play and raise a family."

Leadership Circle membership offers Chimera enhanced business visibility, priority sponsorship opportunities, and recognition for its community investment. The company will gain increased networking opportunities and a platform to

showcase its innovative security solutions while supporting the Chamber's mission to make St. Lawrence County an attractive place to live, work, and do business.

Lafaver said every employee for Chimera in St. Lawrence County was born and raised in St. Lawrence County. Lafaver is a native of Canton.

For Chimera, joining the Leadership Circle is more than a business decision—it's a commitment to the community that has supported its growth. As a family-centered business with deep local roots, they see this membership as an opportunity to contribute to the region's continued success.

Shop & Save
with Member Exclusive Benefits Plus®

Travel Savings & Cash Back

Dining & Entertainment Savings

Ultimate ID® Theft Protection Program

and more!

BENEFITS Plus+

SEACOMM

Federally Insured by **NCUA**

(800) 764-0566 | seacomm.org

*To enroll in Benefits Plus® a monthly fee will be charged to your share draft account. Details of Benefits Plus® coverage and cost can be located at seacomm.org/benefitsplus.html.

Show

From T9

The show runs Monday through Saturday Sept. 20. Its first three days includes cruises for members: a “shake-down” cruise on Monday; an upriver cruise on Tuesday, followed by a downriver trip on Wednesday. “Captains affiliated with the Antique Boat Museum will lead the tours, so that the boaters from afar know where to go and how to weave through the islands,” Nadolski Hanson said. Members are planning side trips, such as to Boldt Castle. The ACBS chapter roundtable is Thursday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, followed by the ACBS International annual board meeting beginning at

10:30 at the hotel.

A KEY PARTNERSHIP

The ACBS is celebrating its milestone year in conjunction with the Antique Boat Museum. Nadolski Hanson began her career with the museum as curator of education in 2005. She became executive director in November 2021, replacing the retiring Dan Gyoerkoe. Immediately prior to her ACBS post, she was executive director of the Frederic Remington Art Museum in Ogdensburg. The Antique and Classic Boat Society and the Antique Boat Museum are separate entities, but with similar roots. ABM hosted its first boat show in 1965. The roots of ABM involve a small group of people who were determined to preserve the nautical and cultural heritage of the St. Lawrence River and



Boats in the Antique and Classic Boat Society’s International Boat Show are docked on Sept. 19, 2019, at the Upper James Street Dock in Alexandria Bay. Watertown Daily Times

established the Thousand Islands Museum in Clayton. Within the museum, a group concerned with preserving

See SHOW T12

GREATER WATERTOWN - NORTH COUNTRY

GWNC

CHAMBER

Your local business connection.

315-778-4400

www.watertownny.com

105 Court Street, Suite B Watertown, NY 13061



Plan for your financial future

An RBC WealthPlan analysis gives you an abundance of information about your current and future financial possibilities. Your RBC Wealth Management financial advisor will use this information to help develop wealth plans designed to achieve your goals.

Call today for a complimentary consultation.

Cyril Mouaikel, AWM, MBA
Managing Director – Branch Director

William Tremont
Managing Director – Financial Advisor

Donald Musnicki, AIF®, AWM
First Vice President – Financial Advisor

Patrick Signor, CDFA®, CFP®, MBA
First Vice President – Financial Advisor

Christine Cisco, CFP®, CPFA™
First Vice President – Branch Director

Anthony Surber
First Vice President – Financial Advisor

John Nuber, CFA®
Associate Vice President – Financial Advisor

Charlie Mouaikel
Financial Advisor

The Watertown branch of RBC Wealth Management
19485 U.S. Route 11 | Watertown, NY 13601 | (315) 788-4200

us.rbcwm.com/watertown



Wealth Management

Investment and insurance products: • Not insured by the FDIC or any other federal government agency • Not a deposit of, or guaranteed by, the bank or an affiliate of the bank • May lose value

Show

From T11

the area's rich boating heritage formed the Antique Boat Auxiliary and organized a show of antique boats in 1965. The group developed into the Antique Boat Museum, a nonprofit organization that has evolved into a highly esteemed national establishment.

"As it was getting going, there was a bunch of other people across the country and in Canada who were also starting to say, 'We also recognize that these antique and classic boats are going by the wayside,'" Nadolski Hanson said.

Boats made from fiberglass

gained significant momentum in the 1950s and '60s.

"The wood boats weren't as in vogue and they were going to the scrap pile," Nadolski Hanson explained. "But there were enthusiasts who said, 'We want to save these, share them with the public and preserve them.' That's where the ACBS, on the heels of that momentum, started to say, 'We need to have an organized body and to get shows and clubs started, all over.'"

The partnership the ACBS has with the Antique Boat Museum is very important, Nadolski Hanson said.

"We kind of grew together," she said. "Some of our very early planning happened at the Antique Boat Museum show, where our founders would get together and meet. Our first office consisted of one person, renting office

space in the ABM. We grew with the museum. As they needed more space, and the ACBS needed more space, we bought the house two doors down from the boat museum. Our office has been here in Clayton for over 30 years."

Meanwhile, Nadolski Hanson is an honorary trustee of the Antique Boat Museum, and she said that Rebecca Hopfinger, executive director of the ABM, has served as director at large for the ACBS.

"We have shared board members throughout the years," Nadolski Hanson said. "Our local chapters have similar relationships with other maritime museums in their backyards. And, a lot of our members also volunteer at their local maritime museum, and we see that here in the Thousand Islands as well."

Hopfinger said the facility

is "thrilled" to be the venue for ACBS's 50th anniversary annual meeting and boat show celebration.

"The synergies between the organizations are mighty, and collaborating closely for Vintage Week is a meaningful experience for everyone," she said.

For the museum, the timing of the show coincides with the final stages of construction of its new boat shop facility. ACBS's closing reception Saturday, from 5 to 7 p.m., will serve as the unofficial opening of ABM's new boat shop, with a special ribbon-cutting and naming announcement.

"The museum is planning a formal dedication event in the spring of 2026, when the shop is fully operational and when everyone involved, from donors to designers, will be recognized," Hopfinger said.

A VARIETY OF BOATS

Boats registered for the ACBS Vintage Boat Show range from a canoe or two to a hydroplane and large cruisers.

"Similar to here locally, all the different boats in the Antique Boat Museum are examples of what our members and our owners might have at home," Nadolski Hanson said. "It could be canoes, small craft, antique sailboats, runabouts, utility boats and racers. Those racers are very unique boats on their own."

Friday and Saturday will be the public parts of the show, with the ACBS International Boat Show at the Antique Boat Museum, 750 Mary St.

"The museum will be open to the public on Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., both days, free of charge," Nadolski Hanson said. "They can come in and see the over 130 (ACBS) boats on display at the docks. We'll be expanded out onto the Clayton village dock on the end of Mary Street and wrapping around the harbor of the Antique Boat Museum, and filling all those docks."

Village streets will be alive next week with boats being towed in for the show, from as far away as Texas and California, Nadolski Hanson said.

"And every place in between," she added. "With this being our 50th anniversary, we have members coming from our France chapter and our Northern European chapter. They aren't bringing boats, but they are coming to partake in the festivities and to see the Thousand Islands."



The timing of the ACBS gathering coincides with the final stages of construction of the Antique Boat Museum's new boat shop facility. The closing reception will serve as its unofficial opening. Photo courtesy of ABM



THE 1000 ISLANDS
Cruet
CLAYTON, NY
GOURMET
OLIVE OILS & VINEGARS

**Come visit our tasting room
for a unique & fun experience.**

~ Follow us on Facebook ~

www.thecruet.com
thecruet@gmail.com • 315-767-1064

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

Red Barn Meats celebrates expansion



To celebrate the completion of its expansion, the community was invited to a ribbon cutting and open house Aug. 16 at Red Barn Meats, 9095 Briot Road, Croghan, owned by Jordan and Rachel Brandt. The event also included tastings and tours, a local vendor fair and a farmer meet-and-greet. Photo provided by Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce

New nutrition shop opens



Featuring energizing power teas and protein packed shakes, Treat Yourself Nutrition, owned by Jessica Baker, held a ribbon cutting Aug. 27 to officially open the shop at 320 State St., Carthage. Photo courtesy of Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce

Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Advisors 2025



NICO MORGIA
CFP®
NEXT-GEN WEALTH ADVISORS
2022, 2023, 2024



PJ BANAZEK
CPA®, CFP®
BEST-IN-STATE
2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024



151 Mullin Street
Watertown, NY 13601
315.222.7148 | morgiawm.com

Hightower Advisors, LLC is an SEC registered investment adviser. Registration as an investment advisor does not imply a certain level of skill or training. Securities are offered through Hightower Securities, LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC.

Foothills cafe hosts grand opening

By ALEXANDER VIOLO

aviolo@malone-telegram.com

MALONE — A restaurant on Wheeler Avenue held a grand opening event, welcoming the public to the mom and pop style cafe, on Saturday Sept. 13.

Foothills Cafe, in the village, first opened in June but work to transform the space into a restaurant started in March, according to Ted Perrin, who owns the building housing the cafe and the adjoining Foothills Lodge.

The grand opening event on included a full cafe menu, craft vendors, live music by Steve Perry and a bake sale, St. Hilaire said.

"It's mom and pop diner food," St. Hilaire said, describing the menu as full of home cooking and comfort food, adding the cafe offers free delivery.

St. Hilaire said they will have multiple specials throughout the week.

"Our double dog is a dog filleted open with another hot dog inside of it, you eat that you ain't going to go home hungry," St. Hilaire said.

According to St. Hilaire, the cafe also has smoked wings, homemade soups and a variety of desserts, including homemade pies.

St. Hilaire said Sunday has proved to be the cafe's busiest day of the week with the breakfast buffet popular on weekends.

According to Perrin, the diner style seemed to be a good fit for the new cafe.

"Jeff has been doing food forever and that seemed to be the best fit for where we live," Perrin said, adding that the cafe adds flair to diner staples.

St. Hilaire pointed to the cafe's lobster rolls as an example of something unique that he wanted to do at the cafe.

"A lot of people don't go to Maine so we brought it to them," he said.

Both Perrin and St. Hilaire graduated from Brushton-Moira Central in 1991.

"We're just a couple guys who went to school together, got back together after years and said let's open a cafe," St. Hilaire said.

St. Hilaire said the restaurant is permitted for 50 and there are currently 45 chairs in the cafe, adding the plan is to add a patio to the

front so the restaurant can have outdoor seating in the future.

"It's been a lot of fun we have met a lot of nice people," he said.

Foothills Cafe is open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., seven days a week, and can be reached at 518-319-5039.

Foothills Lodge

Perrin said, when he purchased the building that is now the cafe and lodge in January, he intended to add a restaurant to complement the neighboring hotel but wasn't sure what form it would take.

The building formerly housed a working retreat center, which opened in 2022 before closing, but was originally a schoolhouse, according to Perrin.

"I started to work on it right away, in January 2025, outfitting all the bedrooms in the lodge, there's 17 rooms," he said, adding guests started staying at the lodge in March.

Perrin, who worked in real estate in Georgia and Florida for more than 30 years before returning to the North Country, said the property on Wheeler Avenue has a historical component coupled with good in-place infrastructure that got his attention.

"Being in a historical neighborhood and a 30s red-brick schoolhouse has got great energy," he said, adding the lodge was built in 1930 and the space housing the cafe is a fieldstone building constructed in 1891.

Perrin said the lodge has three floors but only two are actively used, and the hotel is geared to accommodate tourists and people visiting the area to see friends and family.

"Tourism and I would say another thing we are trying to chase is local people and their friends and family who are coming to visit them," he said.

Perrin said he is looking forward to ski season and hopes skiers will consider staying at the lodge this winter.

"I'm curious to see because this will be our first ski season, at the front end of it, if younger skiers will come for that," he said.

Perrin said modern aspects of the rooms are contrasted with some retro style.



From left, Jeff St. Hilaire and Ted Perrin pose for a photo by the sign to Foothills Cafe, in Malone.

Alexander Violo/Malone Telegram

"One of the things that I like is it's automated, you get an email with a code to your door that starts

and expires based on your booking, on the door it's a smartlock," he said, "You don't have to talk

to anybody in the lobby, you just come in and go in and out, it's all secure and safe."

Relax In Ultimate Comfort



TEMPUR-PEDIC

STEARNS & FOSTER

Sealy

Bassett
HOME FURNISHINGS

L A Z B O Y

FREE DELIVERY & SETUP • NO INTEREST FINANCING

Flemings
FINE FURNITURE

HOURS:
TUES-FRI 10AM-5PM,
SAT 10AM-3PM
424 EAST MAIN STREET,
MALONE • 518-483-0114

St. Lawrence Chamber of Commerce welcomed six new members in August



Claire House is a former rectory turned Bed and Breakfast that has been featured on the Ghost Hunters TV show. Photo provided

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce continues to grow with the addition of six new members in August.

“New members drive our growth, and our new members will find benefits with the Chamber that will help them grow,” St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ben Dixon said. “We are thrilled to have these six unique and remarkable entities join us as partners in enhancing the North Country’s vitality.”

The new businesses on the Chamber’s roster include The Claire House, a Haunted Bed & Breakfast in Ogdensburg; Seaway Smokehouse and Catering in Lisbon; Red Barn Pottery in Brushton; the SUNY ESF Ranger School in Wanakena; Signal Stream Inc. in Ogdensburg; and Willow View Property in Canton.

The Claire House Haunted



SUNY ESF Ranger School. Photo provided.

Bed & Breakfast, 709 Franklin St., Ogdensburg, offers a chance to step back in time. The historic bed and breakfast was famously featured on the Ghost Hunters TV show. Guests enjoy the charm of a beautifully preserved Victorian home, cozy accommodations, and a touch of the unexplained. Whether guests come for the history, the hospitality, or the haunted happenings, The Claire House offers a one-of-a-kind stay that blends comfort with curiosity.

At Seaway Smokehouse and Catering, 11421 State Route 37, Lisbon, the approach is simple: exceptional food, generous portions, great people, and attention to detail. Now in its 18th year, the Seaway Smokehouse and Catering offers an in-house restaurant menu serving southern BBQ, a robust char-grill menu, and elevated classics that will please all palates. When it



Some of the results of a recent raku firing at Nathan Cox’s Red Barn Pottery studio in Brushton. Photo provided

comes to events, the Seaway Smokehouse and Catering is more than just a caterer. From the moment they reach out, everything is customized to the customer’s needs. No menu is too gourmet, no request is too much, and no detail goes unaddressed. In addition, as of the Summer 2025, the catering bus known as “Phineas” is now food-truck certified and ready to serve up some of the “good stuff” at any event. The Seaway Smokehouse and Catering has the experience and customer-oriented eye to serve St. Lawrence County for many more years to come.

Red Barn Pottery is a small pottery studio located in a red barn in Brushton. The Red Barn Pottery Co. features a variety of handcrafted pottery made by Nathan Cox, including hand-thrown pots, slab-built platters, and decorative work. Cox can be reached at Nathan@RedBarnPotteryCo.com.

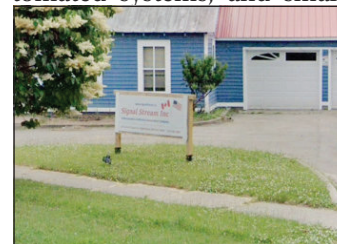
Tucked away on the east branch of the Oswegatchie River in Wanakena, the **SUNY-ESF Ranger School** offers more than a degree — it provides a hands-on education in the heart of the Adirondacks. Established in 1912, the school is affiliated with the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Students



Phineas, a food-truck certified school bus, is ready to serve up some of the Seaway Smokehouse’s “good stuff” at any event. Photo provided

can earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in forestry, land surveying, or natural resources management. What sets the Ranger School apart is its immersive approach. Students get their hands dirty, working alongside faculty in the school’s 2,800-acre campus. They tackle real-world projects, from monitoring the growth of centuries-old tree stands to studying forests recovering from devastating storms. To learn more, you can contact the school at 315-470-6500.

Signal Stream Inc. is a wireless automation company that was established in Kanata, Ont., in 2001 and recently opened a branch in Ogdensburg. Signal Stream provides solutions for businesses. They specialize in creating embedded systems firmware and user interfaces (GUIs). In simpler terms, they help businesses with the “brains” of their electronic devices — things like sensors, automated systems, and smart



Signal Stream Inc., at 413-415-417 Canton St., Ogdensburg,



Willow View Property offers a tranquil setting with enough room for 10 on the outskirts of Canton. Photo provided

equipment. There is more information on Signal Stream at signalstream.ca.

Willow View Property is a 10-guest, 4-bedroom Airbnb on the Irish Settlement Road in Canton.

Step back in time, this lovingly preserved 1880s farmhouse offers a blend of rustic charm and modern comfort. Once part of a working dairy farm, the historic home is nestled in a quiet, rural setting among mature trees. The property provides a peaceful retreat for guests, featuring a porch for relaxing, open skies for stargazing, and an escape from road noise. Find the property’s Airbnb listing at tinyurl.com/3jfbbh7e.

Becoming a member of the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce provides a wide range of benefits designed to help your business grow. Members receive increased exposure through a customizable profile on the Chamber’s website, social media highlights, and direct referrals. The Chamber also offers numerous networking opportunities, from Business After Hours events to the Annual Dinner, and advocates on behalf of the business community with local and state officials. Members can also take advantage of exclusive discounts on events and advertising, along with access to professional development resources and personalized support from Chamber staff.

For more information:
www.VisitSTLC.com
1-877-228-7810



Life Undiscovered
ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

The Leading Source for Grant Expertise

GRANT WRITING



LOBBYING



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



We are proud to have secured over \$100 million in grant funding for local projects throughout the North Country.

Rely on us as a trusted partner who will help you realize your funding objectives and navigate the grant writing process from beginning to end. We also assist with access to key officials and decision makers in order to best position your project for success.

We specialize in grant writing, project and funding assessment, economic development consulting, business advancement strategies, incentive negotiations and grant administration.



STRATEGIC
DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

Contact Leann West or Diane Wladis

6312 Fly Rd., East Syracuse, NY 13057 | 215 Washington St., Suite 107, Watertown, NY 13601
info@strategicdevelopmentspecialists.com | strategicdevelopmentspecialists.com
315.251.1314