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Professional Connection
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A Watertown Daily Times/
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Daily updates: NNY360.com Feb. 2026

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Breaking ground

MICRON PITCHES DIRT TO OFFICIALLY CELEBRATE CLAY PLANT CONSTRUCTION



Micron Technology breaks ground on a \$100 billion computer chipmaking complex in Clay on Friday. Pictured from left are: Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Sen. Charles Schumer, Gov. Kathy Hochul, Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra and U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. N. Scott Trimble/syracuse.com

By GLENN COIN

Syracuse.com

At the edge of a 1,400-acre tract of swamp, forest and former farmland just north of Syracuse, Micron Technology and public officials across the political spectrum broke ground Jan. 16 on what's being called the largest private develop-

ment in New York state history.

For Micron, riding a wave of record profits and bolstered by \$25 billion in taxpayer subsidies, it marked the first ceremonial step to building its largest memory chip plant.

The groundbreaking comes more than three years after Micron announced it had

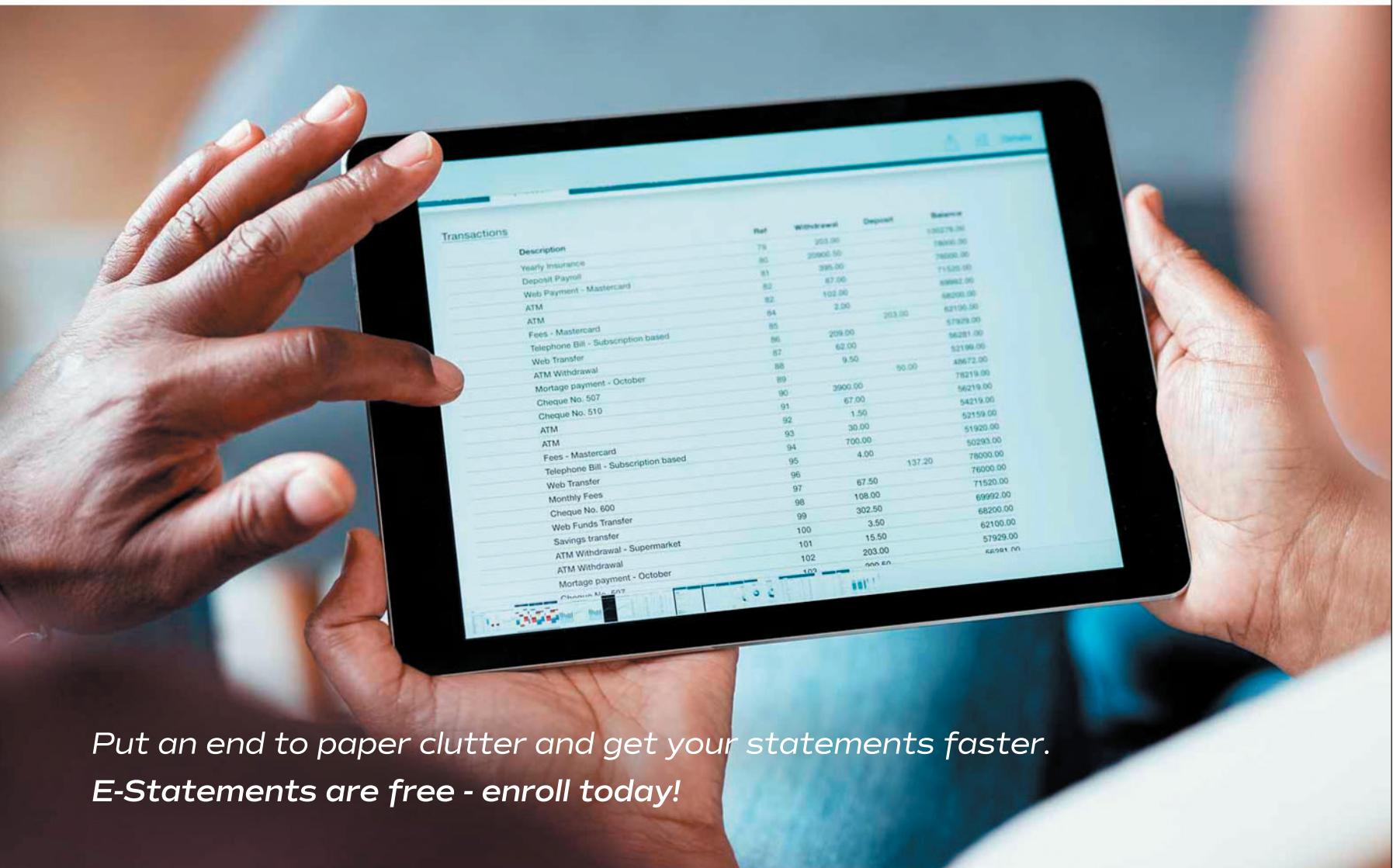
See MICRON T5



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Bowers promotes Lyndi Hill to partner

Lyndi Hill, CPA, MBA has been promoted from Manager to Partner at Bowers in Watertown, New York. Lyndi is a North Country native, born and raised in Cape Vincent, where she currently resides with her husband and two children.

Lyndi obtained her Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and Corporate Finance at St. John Fisher University and her Master of Business Administration with concentration in Public Accounting at the State University of New York at Oswego.

Lyndi started her public accounting career at Poulsen & Podvin, CPA in September 2011 as a Staff Accountant under Laurie Podvin, which merged with Bowers in January 2014. Lyndi has been in public accounting for 14 years and a part of the Bowers Watertown office for 12 years.

In 2022, Lyndi was named in NNY Business Magazine as one of Northern New York's Emerging Leaders "20 Under 40". Lyndi steps into her new role with a strong commitment to supporting the Firm's culture, growth, and client relationships. She is especially passionate about investing in people and helping the next generation of professionals grow.

"I look forward to contributing to the Firm's contin-



Lyndi Hill. Contributed.

ued success and serving as a trusted adviser to our Northern New York community," she said. "Partnership carries a responsibility to mentor, develop, and advocate for the next generation of professionals."

She approaches this role with deep appreciation for the trust placed in her and a dedication to leading with integrity, strengthening relationships, and fostering an environment where people feel supported and valued.

Laurie Podvin, CPA, Partner-in-Charge of Watertown Office and member of Bowers Executive Committee, said "Her longstanding dedication, outstanding client service, and unwavering support for developing our team have made a meaningful and lasting impact. She brings strong leadership, strategic insight, and a genuine passion for helping others succeed—all of which have contributed greatly to our firm's

growth. This promotion is a well-earned recognition of her hard work and commitment." Congratulations to Lyndi Hill on the promotion to Partner.

About Bowers

Bowers is a nationally recognized accounting and advisory firm with offices in Syracuse, Rochester, and Watertown, New York. For over 40 years, we have provided a full spectrum of services—including audit and assurance, tax, business valuation, forensic accounting, financial planning, and client accounting advisory services (CAAS)—to privately held and closely held businesses across a wide range of industries.

As a proud member of the AICPA's G400, a consistent recipient of the CNY Best Places to Work award for over seven years, and recognized as a Top 300 Firm nationally, Bowers is distinguished by its integrity, deep industry expertise, and innovative approach to problem-solving. Our personalized, client-first approach is matched by our commitment to professional development and delivering strategic insights that help our clients grow and thrive in a complex financial landscape. For more information about Bowers and our services, visit www.bcp_llc.com

Stewart's Shops acquiring Dexter Market

By CRAIG FOX
cfox@wdt.net

DEXTER — One of the oldest businesses in this village soon will change hands.

Stewart's Shops is purchasing the Dexter Market & Bay Spirits, a family-run business since 1961.

Chuck Marshall, real estate representative for the Ballston Spa chain of convenience stores, said the East Kirby Street store will close before going through "modifications" and reopening this summer.

Stewart's has been working on acquiring the Dexter Market for a while, he said.

"We've been knocking on the door for years," Marshall said.

Four sisters have owned the store since their father, Cullen Countryman, died in 2020. Two of the sisters have run the business, but they live outside of the area, said Molly Russell, a Stewart's Shop franchise representative who has been working on the deal.

About 10 years ago, Countryman tore down the original store on the property and replaced it with a larger structure, adding fuel and opening a liquor store and laundromat. Stewart's plans to lease the liquor store and laundromat to the same tenant.

The Dexter Market will contin-

ue to stay open until the deal is finalized in about six weeks, Russell said. Earlier this month, the liquor store began a closing sale.

For decades, the popular market has offered grocery items, a deli counter, weekend specials of pizza and chicken wings, and lunch specials.

Over the last several years, Stewart's Shops has expanded its market in the north country, demolishing older stores and replacing them with larger ones, and opening in new locations.

Last year, Stewart's Shops acquired Sliders Food Mart stores in Clayton, Harrisville, Croghan and Lowville. The Harrisville Slider's was closed.

This past summer, the company began work on a new Stewart's Shops that will replace an existing store at the Coffeen and North Masseystreet site.

Marshall said the chain plans to further grow in the north country.

However, the landscape has dwindled for locally-owned markets in small communities, with two others closing their doors in recent months. Both going through a series of owners before closing, Sackets Harbor's only market shuttered just a few weeks ago, while Henderson lost its store last summer.

Watertown police investigating reports of bank scam calls

Times staff report

WATERTOWN — City police have recently taken complaints from people being defrauded by subjects pretending to be employees of Northern Credit Union.

In a news release, police said that perpetrators are "spoofing" the phone number of Northern Credit Union, making it appear that the credit union is calling the victim, in order to send text messages asking them to confirm transactions.

After they respond to the message, a follow-up message appears advising the victim that a representative would be contacting them, police found.

They then receive a call from a number disguised as Northern Credit Union, and the perpetrator will ask for personal information, including the username on their account.

The perpetrators then send an authorization text message to the victim's phone and try to get the code from the user, which would allow them access to the victim's account and finances before they initiate a transaction to steal money, police said.

Watertown Savings Bank sent out a similar alert on Jan. 8, alleging that fraudulent calls were being made. They said to hang up and call the bank directly at 315-788-7100.



The essential guide to Micron's chip project:

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Timeline, hiring, construction and costs

By GLENN COIN

Syracuse.com

SYRACUSE — Micron Technology broke ground Jan. 16 on a massive semiconductor factory complex that could alter the economic landscape of Central New York.

If Micron does what it has promised, it will lead to 20 years of nearly continuous construction on what officials call the largest private development in New York state history.

Micron says it could spend \$100 billion on up to four factories in the town of Clay. That could boost the local economy and bring unprecedented growth — and unprecedented traffic and noise — to Syracuse's northern suburbs.

The project has already seen several delays. The latest pushes back the opening of the first two factories by two to three years. The first is now projected to open in 2030.

The numbers remain staggering: When the complex is fully operational in 2045, Micron says, it would employ 9,000 people — nearly as many as Upstate Medical University, now the region's biggest employer.

Up to 40,000 spinoff jobs could be created, from semiconductor supply chains to hotels to schools. More than 4,000 construction workers would be on site at peak construction periods, so many that Micron plans to have them park at the airport and be shuttled to the work site.

That assumes Micron will build four fabrication plants, or fabs. The company now has government funding and approvals to build two of those plants.

The groundbreaking culminates a vision that began 30 years ago, when Onondaga County started buying land near Route 31 and Caughdey Road for a future business

park.

Three county executives continued to acquire land over the years, often through the threat of eminent domain. The pace accelerated in 2021 and 2022, when Micron became a reality.

Now begins a construction job that could take two decades to complete and sprawl across an area of former farms and swamps three times larger than the New York State Fairgrounds. Micron says it will import nine million cubic yards of gravel and fill — enough to fill the JMA Wireless Dome to the roof four times — to level the low-lying site. The complex at the corner of Route 31 and Caughdey Road would have as many parking spaces as Destiny USA.

For each of the four fabs, Micron would use more steel than the Golden Gate Bridge and more concrete than the Pentagon.

That's just the Micron campus. Onondaga County will spend \$1.4 billion or more on an industrial wastewater plant for Micron. It's the most expensive project the county has ever undertaken, and County Executive Ryan McMahon says Micron will pay for it all.

There's no guarantee Micron will build all four fabs. The company can tap into \$25 billion in taxpayer subsidies to build the first two fabs, but there's no public money yet for the other two.

Based on Micron's projections and the extensive environmental review, here's what we can expect in the coming years.

CONSTRUCTION

Site prep: Micron has hired Gilbane Co., one of the country's largest construction firms, to ready the site for construction at an estimated cost of \$1 billion.

See MICRON T6

Micron

From T1

chosen Central New York for its biggest expansion ever in the United States. Nearly all of the company's chips are made in Asia.

Central New York's legendary winters didn't disappoint: Wind chills dipped to about 10 degrees Friday morning and the ground was covered with at least half a foot of fresh lake effect snow blown in from Lake Ontario, where Micron will draw its water.

"That is a perfect day," Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra said of the fresh snow and sun that broke through before the ceremony began. He thanked the Democratic and Republican officials in the audience who both recruited Micron to Upstate New York and helped pass the federal legislation that paved the way for on-shoring more computer chipmaking in the nation.

"It shows that when it comes to restoring American manufacturing," he said, "we are clearly one team."

Micron says it plans to build four chipmaking factories in Clay by 2041 to churn out billions of tiny computer chips used in cars, cell phones, appliances and, increasingly, data centers and artificial intelligence.

"The site will soon hum with activity," Mehrotra said. "It will become a thriving technology hub, generating tens of thousands of jobs here, transforming the region."

Shortly before noon, Mehrotra joined with Gov. Kathy Hochul, Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and County Executive Ryan McMahon for the ceremonial dirt-tossing with silver shovels.

They did it four times for the cameras, then an excavator behind them dumped a load of dirt into a dump truck with a Micron icon on its side. It was 12 degrees. Schumer wore a Buffalo Bills hat and an orange Syracuse tie.

Before the outdoor festivi-

ties, Lutnick, whose department will oversee the disbursal of about \$20 billion in taxpayer subsidies to Micron over the next decade or so, took the stage and injected politics into a heated tent set up on the former farmland in northern Onondaga County.

"It is great to be in Central New York," Lutnick said, "which, of course, you all know, is the heart of Trump country." The applause afterward was tepid.

"It's a historic day today," Lutnick continued. "Because this fab, mega fab, is going to be the largest investment in the history, the largest single investment in the history of the great state of New York. So imagine that being right here, rebuilding and growing in the heart of Syracuse. That's fantastic."

Schumer, a Democrat and the Senate's former majority leader, thanked McMahon, a Republican, for his partnership in working to get Micron to move to the Syracuse area.

"I want to give him some thanks, because he really helped prepare this site," said Schumer, who ushered through the CHIPS and Science Act in 2022 that gave Micron the impetus to build factories in the United States.

"We will look back generations," Schumer added. "This was a turning point for Central New York, for Upstate New York, and for the United States of America ... because what's happening here is going to give the United States the lead in semiconductor manufacturing for generations."

Hochul, who went to Syracuse University in the 1970s, noted how at that time manufacturing was fleeing cities in Upstate New York. As she took the microphone, she quipped that this was really Hochul country. The applause was louder than for the secretary's jab.

Micron's arrival and its promise of a resurgence of manufacturing in Central New York, Hochul continued, is a dream come true.

"I could not be prouder," Hochul said. "This is the day we rise up New York."

The \$52 billion, bipartisan CHIPS Act was designed to bring back to the U.S. the



Micron CEO Sanjay Mehrotra, center, awaits the groundbreaking of the massive computer chipmaking complex in Clay on Friday Jan. 16. Glenn Coin/syracuse.com

manufacture of computer chips essential to modern life and national security. Micron was one of the big winners, securing a grant of more than \$6 billion to build factories in New York and at its headquarters in Idaho.

Construction of the first of two fabs in Boise is well underway, with production expected to start next year. Micron announced this year in a new deal with the Trump administration that it would build a second factory in Boise that would open before any of the New York factories.

Late last year, Micron announced that the Clay fabrication plants, or fabs, would be delayed by two to three years. The first is now set to start production in 2030; the second, in 2033.

The moment is about more than today, McMahon said. It's about helping Micron continue to grow as a memory chip leader, he said. And it's about making sure Central New Yorkers share in the expected largess.

"This is truly about the American worker and opportunity," McMahon said. "But the reality is, this is about the national security of this country first and foremost. And by this investment here today,

America will lead the world in AI dominance, and that means the world will literally be a safer and better place."

Micron says it will spend more than \$51 billion to build two fabrication plants, or fabs, by 2033. Taxpayer subsidies from federal, state and local governments would cover about half of those costs.

The company says it could spend another \$50 billion to build a third and fourth fab by 2041, although there is no public money allotted for those.

Micron's project here underwent a two-year, 20,000-page environmental review that was wrapped up in November. Since then, Micron has obtained the wide variety of necessary construction approvals from the federal, state and local governments.

If Micron keeps its promises, the impact on Central New York would be enormous.

Micron says it would employ 9,000 people — nearly as many as Upstate Medical University, now the region's biggest employer.

Up to 40,000 spinoff jobs could be created, from those in semiconductor supply chains to hotels to schools. Construction would require more than 4,000 workers

during peak construction periods.

The groundbreaking comes as Micron, founded in the basement of a dentist's office in Boise in 1978, is soaring on the demand for artificial intelligence chips. Micron has recently posted record sales and profits, and even bailed out of the consumer market to preserve its production for bigger profits in AI. Investors have noticed: Micron's stock price has tripled in the past year.

Site preparation in Clay is expected to start within days. The first task for Micron's initial contractor, Gilbane Co., is to start clearing 445 acres of forest. Gilbane will have to hurry: All tree-cutting must halt between March 31 and Nov. 1 because two species of endangered bats use the site to raise their young during the warmer months.

This year, Micron will need to haul in about 2 million yards of gravel-like fill to level and stabilize the site, which contains about 200 acres of wetlands. That will be done mostly by truck, with more than 500 trucks going in and out of the site every day on two-lane roads.

See MICRON T6

Micron

From T4

The first job for Gilbane Co. and its subcontractors will be to start clearing 445 acres of forest. Micron's environmental report said that could take four months, but Gilbane will have to hurry. All tree-cutting must halt on March 31 and can't resume until Nov. 1 because two species of endangered bats use the site to raise their young during the warmer months.

Once the trees are down, Micron will need to haul in about 2 million yards of gravel-like fill to level and stabilize the site, which contains about 200 acres of wetlands. That will be done mostly by truck, with more than 500 trucks going in and out of the site every day on two-lane roads.

Up to 4,000 construction workers could be on site at peak periods.

Factories:

Work on the first fab, at the northwestern edge of the site, would begin late this year or early in 2027. Fabs would be built in succession; as each is

done, it will be outfitted with equipment and start producing chips.

Here's the projected schedule for each complete fab:

- 2030 first fab
- 2033 second fab
- 2038 third fab
- 2041 fourth fab
- 2045 peak production

RAIL SPUR

Construction also begins soon on a rail spur just across Caughdenoy Road from the main campus. When that's finished, which is projected to be in late summer, Micron will import the stone aggregate by rail to keep trucks off the road. The fill will be transported across Caughdenoy by a conveyor belt system 18 feet above the road.

Trains will come in and out of the rail spur from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week for 20 years, according to Micron's plans.

TRAFFIC

New exits: The traffic from Micron and all the other newly created jobs would overwhelm current roads. That's why the state is planning to tackle three areas:

Create a new exit on Inter-

state 81 in Cicero

Redesign the already troublesome intersection of I-81 and Route 31

Build a new exit on I-481, just east of the CSX rail line.

Widening: Routes 31 and 11 would be widened to four or six lanes.

JOBSPUR

Construction: Between 2,000 and 4,000 construction workers are expected to be on the site through 2030, according to the final environmental report on the project released in November. The numbers will fluctuate after that, with just a handful of workers at periods between construction of fabs and up to 4,000 during a few peak years in the 2030s.

Operations: A year ago, Micron said it had hired about two dozen people for the Clay project and would ramp up hiring in 2025. That hasn't happened yet, given that the opening of the first two fabs have been delayed by two to three years. Just one job is listed on Micron's careers website for Clay, and that's a remote position.

Before the delays were announced, Micron said it

would hire 36 people for the Clay project this year, nearly all of them engineers earning \$100,000. Hiring for fab operations begins in earnest in 2028 and 2029, when more than 500 engineers and 200 technicians and support staff would be hired.

Within a decade, Micron says it will have 4,500 employees in Clay.

UTILITIES

Electricity: Micron will use more electricity than the states of New Hampshire and Vermont combined, and it needs that power 24/7. That's why National Grid plans to expand the substation across Caughdenoy Road and lay eight underground ultra-high-voltage lines — two per fab, for redundancy — under the road.

That work is expected to start in late 2027 and be done in 2033. National Grid says Micron will pay "the substantial majority" of the cost.

Water: Micron projects it would use up to 48 million gallons a day of fresh water if all four fabs are built. That's more than the entire Onondaga County Water Authority

system uses today to serve its 350,000 customers.

OCWA would spend an estimated \$550 million to meet Micron's needs. The agency plans to upgrade local water lines in Clay starting this year and eventually lay a 26-mile-long water line from Lake Ontario.

Industrial wastewater: Micron would discharge 40 million gallons a day of industrial wastewater into a wastewater plant to be built by the county.

The county would spend \$1.4 billion to \$2.6 billion on the plant, according to recent estimates from engineering consultants. It would be the largest single project the county has ever undertaken. County officials say Micron will pay for the plant through user fees.

Construction of the plant would start late this year and be completed in late 2032.

Sewage: The Oak Orchard plant is undergoing a \$549 million upgrade, mostly to serve the potential growth of homes and businesses in the Clay area but also to handle Micron's wastewater.

See MICRON T7

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Jefferson Continues to Rank Among Military Times' Best for Vets Colleges

By Jefferson Community College

Jefferson Community College (JCC) continues to be recognized in the *Military Times*' Best for Vets Colleges rankings. First earning the distinction in 2017, Jefferson is one of nine public colleges recognized in New York State and one of 357 schools nationwide in 2025. This marks an increase from 304 institutions in 2024, the largest field in the program's history.

Each year, *Military Times* surveys colleges and universities nationwide to evaluate their veteran-focused programs. These survey responses, along with public data sourced from the Department of Education and Department of Veterans Affairs, undergo a rigorous analysis by the *Military Times* data team to produce a trusted, unbiased ranking.

Jon Simkins, Executive Editor of *Military Times* and Sightline Media Group, says, "For 15 years, Best for Vets has helped transitioning service members find schools that not only welcome veterans but actively invest in their success. The record-breaking participation this year shows that higher education leaders are listening and working to create environments where veterans can thrive academically and personally."

Daniel J. Dupee, II, President, says, "Being recognized again as a *Military Times* Best for Vets college



The new Jefferson Community College logo, unveiled on Thursday. Photo courtesy of Jefferson Community College

underscores our strong partnership with Fort Drum and Jefferson's long-standing commitment to serving military-affiliated students. Veterans and service members bring valuable experience and perspective to our campus, and we are intentional about providing the academic flexibility, support services, and community partnerships they need to achieve their educational and career goals."

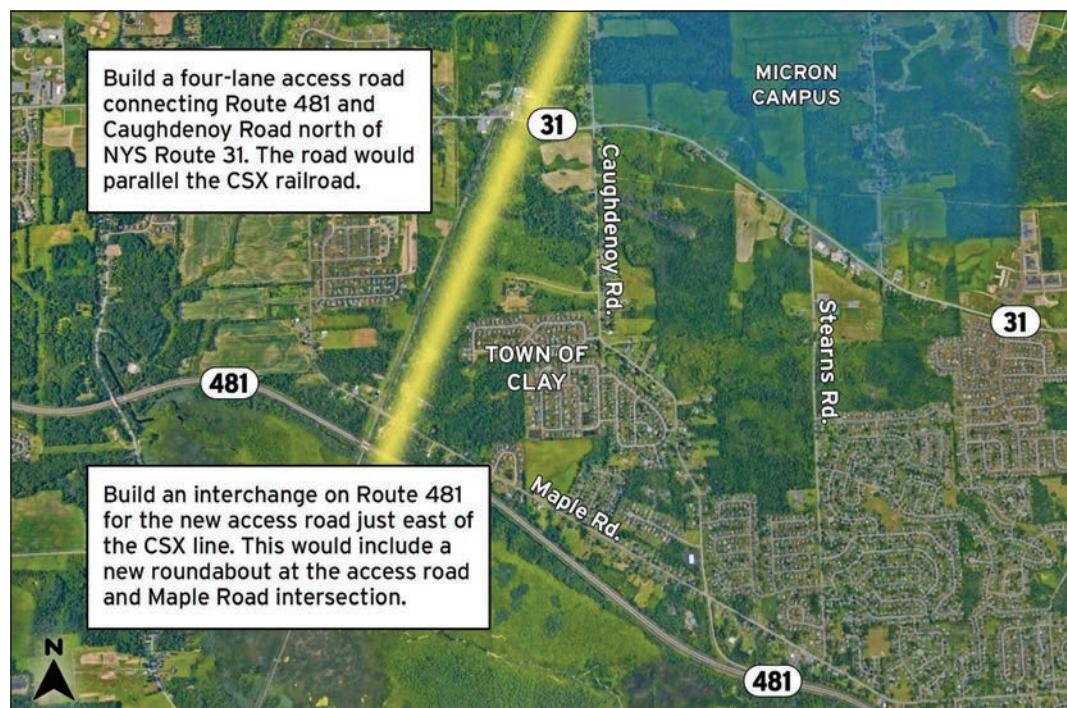
Joanna Brislan, Director of Military Enrollment and Workforce Solutions, says, "At Jefferson, we work closely with veterans and service members to ensure their transition into college is seamless and their path forward is clear. From personalized enrollment sup-

port to career-focused academic pathways, our goal is to remove barriers and help military-connected students turn their experience into meaningful credentials and careers."

Military Times' Best for Vets: Colleges rankings highlight institutions that demonstrate strong outcomes, support services, and policies designed to meet the needs of veterans, service members, and their families. The rankings are widely used by military-affiliated students as a resource when comparing colleges and universities nationwide. The full Best for Vets: Colleges 2025 ranking is online at <https://bestforvets.militarytimes.com/rankings/colleges/y2025/>.

About *Military Times*

The Military Times digital platforms and magazines are the trusted source for independent news and information for service members and their families. The military community relies on *Air Force Times*, *Army Times*, *Marine Corps Times*, and *Navy Times* for reporting on everything that matters in their lives, including pay, benefits, finance, education, health care, recreational resources, retirement, promotions, product reviews, and entertainment. *Military Times* is published by Sightline Media Group. To learn more, visit militarytimes.com.



Micron Technology is proposing that transportation agencies make major changes to highways in Clay and Cicero, including adding a new exit on Route 481 and running a four-lane access road from there to the Micron campus north of Route 31. Tribune News Service

Micron

From T6

TIMELINE

Here's a brief recap of the major milestones ahead. All of

these are subject to change.

January 2026: Tree-clearing and site preparation begins on the main campus and rail spur.

Summer 2026: Rail spur opens and work crews start pouring concrete for fab 1

foundation.

2027: The county starts work on the industrial wastewater plant that will be designed to remove the toxic chemicals widely used in chipmaking.

2028: Construction work



This National Grid substation on Caughdenoy Road in Clay will be expanded to accommodate the ravenous electrical needs of Micron Technology's chipmaking plant. Rick Moriarty/syracuse.com

starts on fab 2 and on an employees' child care center just up Caughdenoy Road. Hiring ramps up. OCWA starts work on the second line from Lake Ontario.

2029: County completes work on the first phase of the industrial wastewater plant.

2030: Fab 1 begins operations and construction begins on fab 2, both late in the year.

2033: Fab 2 begins operations.

2035: Construction begins on Fab 3. Micron reaches the 4,500-employee threshold, half of what the company says it will ultimately employ.

2037: Third fab opens.

2039: Construction begins on the fourth and final fab.

2041: Final fab is completed.

2045: The complex reaches full production.

Martin's Pretzels, entering 91st year, gets boost

By ALEX GAULT

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CANTON — Martin's Handmade Pretzels brought the Pennsylvania Dutch pretzel tradition to the north country more than 35 years ago, and with help from a small office of people helping build up local businesses, the bakery is continuing that into a new era.

Martin's Pretzels started more than 90 years ago during the Great Depression by a Pennsylvania Dutchman — German immigrants not unlike the Amish and Mennonites who live in Northern New York. The Martin family bought the business in the 1970s, moving it to Theresa, just outside Watertown in Jefferson County in 1991.

The company moved north one more time, with its fourth-generation owner Josiah Martin now running the company from Moira, Franklin County.

Martin's Pretzels has become something of a staple for many New Yorkers. The business has a fanbase in New York

City thanks to a former partnership with another company there, and Martin's products can be found in all manner of local stores across the north country, the Hudson Valley and the rest of upstate New York.

Josiah Martin decided to purchase the company from his family in 2019, when he was 18 years old. As he planned out the purchase of his grandfather's bakery and family farm store chain, he started talking with the North Country Small Business Development Center at SUNY Canton.

"When I first met Josiah, he was just 19, and he was a real go-getter," said Jennifer McCluskey, business adviser at the SBDC, a program partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration administered by the State University of New York.

McCluskey and the North Country SBDC, which is available to help small businesses from Watertown to Plattsburgh and through the Adirondacks with planning and expansion efforts, helped the younger

Martin buy the business and stabilize what was at the time a complex, not entirely profitable plan.

"I was 18 years old, and the business was failing," Martin said. "We were losing money, and the product was not good."

He said the company was relying on its popularity in New York City, but was losing market share to higher-quality competitors. Pretzel snacks have grown in popularity over the years, and Martin's has a number of competitors across the middle states.

He said that the North Country SBDC helped guide him through the most complex parts of acquiring and adjusting the business.

"Jennifer, and the Canton SBDC, they became like my Chat GPT of business planning," he said, likening the group to the popular and ever-evolving generative artificial intelligence platform run by OpenAI. "They were an all-in-one resource, where they could help answer questions, think through ideas, come up



Above: From left, Jennifer McCluskey, business adviser at the North Country Small Business Development Center; Zvi Szafran, president of SUNY Canton; Josiah Martin, owner of Martin's Handmade Pretzels; and Sonya Smith, director of the New York State SBDC. Provided photo

with solutions, gain access to resources and financing."

Soon after Josiah bought into the business, the pretzel bakery was leveled by a fire. In December 2020, the pretzel bakery and country store on County Route 6 in Moira was a total loss, the Malone Telegram reported.

The company had to rebuild, and with the help of Franklin County and the SBDC at SUNY Canton, they did. Now, the bakery and the general store chain are secured and running at full steam.

Martin said the partnership runs even deeper than that. Through the long business struggles of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said the center helped him apply for the Paycheck Protection Program which offered no-interest loans that were generally turned into grants that didn't need to be paid back. The company received nearly \$28,000 in forgivable PPP loans.

The SBDC also helped Martin buy out his family's stake in the business, and has provided long-term business planning support. The group helped him buy out the New York City-based partner while maintaining a presence in the city. Martin said he hasn't relied on the SBDC as heavily now that his vision for the business is moving along, but the center is still there to help.

"We have a solid relationship," Martin said.

In August, Martin's Handmade Pretzels received the 2025 Phoenix Award from the New York State Small Business Development Center. Martin's was selected from more than 20,000 SBDC clients across the state served in 2024.

"The Phoenix Award is given to a business owner who has faced overwhelming challenges or disaster, and not only recovered, but comes back stronger, like the mythical Phoenix rising from the ashes," New York State SBDC Director Sonya Smith said in a statement. "It is my honor to present the 2025 Phoenix Award to a business that proves nothing, not even a devastating fire, can stop a determined entrepreneur."

Martin said more business owners should turn to these programs, and the help that the SBDC offers.

"Every problem we face as a business owner is something that someone else has been through, it's been faced by a previous owner or thought through by someone else," he said. "Getting access to the SBDC's knowledge, their resources, it's a tremendous support. I highly encourage other businesses, other small businesses, to reach out to their local SBDC for support."

See PRETZELS T15

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OBPA chief retiring in April

By Andy Gardner

agardner@wdt.net

OGDENSBURG — The Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority is seeking a new executive director following Steven J. Lawrence's announcement that he will retire this spring.

His career spans decades and included overseeing significant infrastructure work, pandemic-related shutdowns and ongoing financial hurdles.

"My final day will be April 10," he said during OBPA Board of Directors meeting. "Between now and then, my focus will be on ensuring a smooth and orderly transition continued across all of our projects and operations."

"I want to thank the board for all the support over years I've been here, 25 years. I very much like working here. I have a few regrets as far as not being able to get where I wanted to with my aspirations," he told the board. "We all know the problems we face. Some I felt we handled very well and others are ongoing and hopefully people in the future can take care of those."

Board members said they were happy for Lawrence and applauded his work with the authority.

"Mixed feelings, but happy for you. Congratulations. We appreciate all you've done," board member Jennifer Quirke-Pickman said.

"It's going to be a huge loss and we're going to miss you. It's hard to imagine this place without you. You are an institution here," board member Megan Whitton said.

"I think you know, Steve, that since you've been executive director, we've been through a lot. I couldn't have been happier you agreed to be executive director," board chair Vernon D. "Sam" Burns said. "You've certainly done a lot to help out the authority, took us out of a place that was difficult. Things are easier to work with now. I just want to thank you for everything."

Lawrence gave credit to the board members and management.

"Nobody gets to where I got alone," he said. "All of you in this



Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Executive Director Steven J. Lawrence stands in the baggage claim area at Ogdensburg International Airport in 2022. He recently announced he will retire in April. Watertown Daily Times

room at one point or another helped me get to where I am now and I do appreciate it."

Lawrence joined the authority in 2001 as director of operations. He was named interim executive director in January 2020 and officially appointed to the role in March 2021.

Throughout his career, Lawrence guided the authority through a wide range of challenges, overseeing areas that include economic development, St. Lawrence River shipping, airport operations and rail services.

One of the most significant challenges during his tenure occurred when the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge was closed to all non-essential traffic from March 2020 through November 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That led to substantial revenue losses and traffic volumes have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Additional strain followed in 2025, when tariffs imposed by President Donald J. Trump further impacted the authority's relationship with Canadian partners.

The authority lost more than \$1 million in bridge toll revenue last year, compared to 2019,

which they use as a benchmark for the last normal year of traffic and revenue.

While leading the authority, Lawrence oversaw several major initiatives, including a large dredging project on the St. Lawrence River and efforts to secure funding for a child care facility that remains under development.

The authority also completed airport renovations and a major expansion, which added a cafe and an entertainment and conference space. The improvements now allow travelers to fly directly to Washington, D.C., and North Carolina, with connections soon available to Florida and New Orleans.

The executive director acts as the authority's chief executive and administrative officer, responsible for strategic planning, day-to-day operations, and long-term financial health across all OBPA operations. That includes the Ogdensburg-Prescott International Bridge, the Port of Ogdensburg, Ogdensburg International Airport, Commerce Park Campus properties, and the authority's short-line railroad.

Duties include supervising staff and capital projects, man-

aging state and federally funded infrastructure programs, overseeing budgets and financial planning, and serving as the main point of contact with agencies such as the state Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, and other state and federal partners. The executive director also represents the authority in public, media, and intergovernmental forums.

Candidates must hold a bachelor's degree in a related field and have at least 10 years of progressively responsible leadership experience, ideally in transportation, infrastructure, or public-sector management. Required qualifications include experience with major capital projects, grant administration, and regulatory compliance, while familiarity with cross-border operations and public authority governance is preferred.

The position offers a salary ranging from \$110,000 to \$125,000, along with a competitive benefits package.

Cover letters and resumes must be submitted to the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority by Jan. 20.

OGS adds new flights

Times staff report

OGDENSBURG — Ogdensburg International Airport is planning to expand southern travel options for the 2026 season.

Breeze Airways will start offering connecting flights from Raleigh-Durham airport to Orlando, Fort Myers and Tampa in Florida, in addition to New Orleans.

Starting Feb. 6, nonstop service to Orlando International Airport will return, with fares starting at \$74 one way.

With the addition of new same-day connections, OGS will now offer service to Orlando five days a week, while also opening the door to popular Gulf Coast and Louisiana destinations.

The seasonal nonstop service will operate every Monday and Friday through April 27, 2026, providing a three-hour flight to the Sunshine State. From Orlando, flights will depart at 2:06 p.m. and land in Ogdensburg at 5:14 p.m. From Ogdensburg, flights will depart at 5:54 p.m. and arrive in Orlando at 9:31 p.m.

In addition to the Monday/Friday nonstops, travelers can use the airline's "Breeze-Through" service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. This allows passengers to fly to Orlando with a brief stop at Raleigh-Durham International Airport without ever having to leave the plane..

Destination options expand beyond Orlando starting on May 2. Ogdensburg travelers can now reach three additional major destinations via same-day connections through Raleigh-Durham to Tampa, Fort Myers and New Orleans. The two Florida destinations will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. New Orleans will be available on Tuesdays.

Tickets are available now at flybreeze.com or through the Breeze Airways app.

Truck parts store R.R. Charlebois opens in Malone

By ALEXANDER VIOLI

aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — A heavy duty truck parts store opened here just after the first of the year.

R.R. Charlebois, Inc., is open in Malone, on West Main Street across from Wellington Street, at a building that formerly housed Advance Auto Parts before they relocated to a new spot in the village in 2021.

Ron Charlebois, president of R.R. Charlebois, Inc., said the company has parts, sales and service locations in New Hampshire, Vermont and Plattsburgh, and the new Malone location will be fo-



A Charlebois location selling heavy duty truck parts will be opening in the village of Malone, on West Main Street, on Friday, Jan. 2. Alexander Violo/Malone Telegram

cused on truck parts.

"Malone will strictly be a parts sales facility," Charlebois said, adding municipalities

or companies that purchases trucks from Charlebois will be able to purchase replacement parts at the new store.

"We have many customers in the area who purchase trucks from us and we are looking to service their needs parts wise," he said, adding the company has sold vehicles to several municipalities in upstate New York, "Much like if you buy a car, you expect to go someplace and get service for it. Most of our truck customers have their own mechanics but they don't have access to parts. Without parts it is difficult for them to repair the trucks and if we want to keep their business we have to be proactive."

Charlebois said the building on West Main Street fits the

company's needs.

"It was the right size, the right location, it just suited our needs perfectly," he said, adding the space has been vacant for a few years, "It has been vacant for a little over three years and before we opened up we wanted to make it look a little better. Basically what we have done is improve the cosmetics."

Charlebois said the company opened in 1988 and the store in Malone will be their second location in New York and their fourth location overall.

Flanagan demo contractor selected

By ALEXANDER VIOLI

aviolo@mtelegram.com

MALONE — Trustees voted in favor of a resolution that authorizes the village's mayor to sign a contract with Gorick Construction Co., Inc., for the Hotel Flanagan demolition project.

Village trustees discussed the standard form of agreement for services with Gorick, a demolition contractor out of Broome County, and the upcoming project to remove the derelict building at the junction of East Main and Elm streets.

Mayor Andrea M. Dumas said the project is expected to start in the spring, when weather conditions permit, adding she hopes to see some equipment on-site in March.

"At the end of the day we are very excited, I can't wait until they start mobilizing and Gorick's up here a little bit more and that's coming with the weather changing and getting nice out," Dumas said, "Things are going to start moving. We are holding their feet to the fire. It will be done in 2026. We are moving in the right direction."

The existing building at 417 East Main Street, in the village of Malone, consists

of approximately 68,000 square feet with six stories above grade and a basement, according to village documents, which state the Flanagan's demolition will require permitting from the state's Department of Transportation for work zone traffic control on both U.S. Route 11 and State Route 30.

"The amount of years this building has been sitting there and the issues we have had it's the topic of conversation so everything is on the straight and narrow," Dumas said.

Lee Rivers, a village trustee who joined the board last year, thanked other trustees for their work on the project over the past couple years.

"It is amazing that this is finally happening," Rivers said.

Brian Lamondie, the village's code enforcement officer, said the contractor, Gorick, specializes in the demolition of large buildings.

"They removed the IBM (in Endicott) which is a massive building, much larger than the Flanagan and it's also an asbestos ridden building," Lamondie said, "Air monitoring will be surrounding

the entirety of it, the state's Department of Labor oversees that."

According to Lamondie, fines for improper asbestos disposal start at \$10,000.

"They don't want to mess around with that and they are all certified to do it," Lamondie said.

Trustee C. Archie McKee asked if it would be worth

having representatives from Gorick give a presentation to the village board on the step-by-step process on how the

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JCC survey: Cost of living, child care access among top issues

By JONATHON WHEELER

jwheeler@wdt.net

Jefferson Community College has released the results of its annual survey of the community, and for the first time in the college's history, the expanded survey includes the entire state.

Between Oct. 21 and 25, the Center for Community Studies collected data from 2,109 adult residents in the four-county region — Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence and Oswego counties — via a virtual remote call center.

An additional 1,511 surveys were done online through random email invitations and 882 were completed through random text message push-to-web invitations, while 93 "intercept surveys" were done on Fort Drum.

For the first time ever, another mixed-mode sampling method of contact took place, with the college doing a statewide study of a total of 1,117 people between Nov. 5 and 8. Joel Lalone, research director for the Center for Communities Studies, said they won't be doing the statewide assessment every year but that it's worth it every so often.

Across the board in the four-county region, people believe the cost of living and inflation are among the biggest issues facing north country residents.

In Jefferson County, 13.4% of those surveyed said the cost of living was the top concern, the second highest behind government/politics. In the other three counties, inflation and the cost of living was the highest concern. In Lewis County, 18.9% said that inflation was the single largest issue facing residents; in Oswego County that number was 20.4%; while in St. Lawrence County the number was 15.4%.

The study found that north country residents seem to be more disappointed and unhappy with attributes of their local communities than in the past.

"Residents express a much larger frustration with quality-of-life in the North Country than in the past," the study findings read.

Locally, residents are more satisfied with the en-

vironment: 66.6% of residents surveyed in Jefferson County said the environment's quality is "excellent" or "good." In Lewis County, that number is 82.9%, and in St. Lawrence County the number is 68.8%. Statewide, the data from the college shows that 52% of those surveyed responded that the quality of the environment is "excellent or good" compared to 69% across the four-county region.

North country residents are not satisfied with the availability of child care in the region as at least 31% of those surveyed rated child care as "poor" in the four counties.

Only 10% of those surveyed in the four-county region responded that the availability of child care is "excellent" or "good."

Lalone said that out of the 10 regions in the state, north country residents answered that they were the most dissatisfied with the availability of child care.

"New York City residents, they're equally as dissatisfied with housing as we are up here. But they're nowhere near as dissatisfied with availability of child care," he said. "That's why we're excited that we did (the survey) statewide."

The survey also states that while north country residents tend to vote for Republicans, voters also agree with many social attributes that are typically associated with Democrats. For example, 65% of north country residents responded that they believe choosing an abortion is a woman's right and that society should protect that right, similar to the 72% seen across the state.

By a 2-1 ratio, those surveyed in the north country agreed with the statement that "systemic racism and social injustice are major problems in our country that need to be addressed."

About 30.9% of those surveyed in Jefferson County said the country is headed in the right direction, and 50.7% said the country is going in the wrong direction. In Lewis County, 40.1% of those surveyed said the country is going in the right direction, while 48.7% said the country is headed in the wrong di-

rection. In St. Lawrence County, 28.8% of those surveyed said the country is going in the right direction, and 61.7% said things are going in the wrong direction.

Overall, the area is also not happy with the direction of the state, as 17.1% of those surveyed in Jefferson County said things are going in the right direction, compared to 63.4% saying things are headed in the wrong direction. In Lewis County, 10.9% of those surveyed said that things are going in the right direction, while 80.9% said things are going in the wrong direction. In St. Lawrence County, 16.3% of those surveyed said the state is going in the right direction, while 67.8% said the state is heading in the wrong direction.

Across the region, those surveyed felt positively about the quality of the environment in the four-county region; public outdoor recreational opportunities; quality of K-12 education; access to higher education; and the overall quality of life in the area.

Those surveyed felt more negative about the cost of energy; real estate taxes; availability of good jobs; the availability of child care; the availability of housing; the overall state of the local economy; and the availability of care for the elderly.

In an area where President Donald J. Trump overwhelmingly won the 2024 presidential election, north country residents were split on the administration's immigration policies. When given the statement, "Recent government actions to detain and deport undocumented immigrants in our communities, regardless of whether or not they have committed crimes, is an important positive action taken by our government," 43% of those in the north country said they agree and 42% said they disagree. Statewide, about 37% of those surveyed said they agree.

To view the entire study, visit wdt.me/2026JCCSurvey.

All DMV offices to close for statewide technology upgrade

Times staff report

Department of Motor Vehicles offices across New York will undergo a large-scale system upgrade next month that will require all offices to be closed.

According to a press release from St. Lawrence County Clerk Sandra W. Santamoor, in February the state DMV is implementing the initial phase of a multi-year project to replace and modernize its aging technology systems. To bring the first part of the new system online, the state is ceasing all DMV operations, including online transactions and phone systems on Friday, Feb. 13.

"Due to this, our Canton, Gouverneur, Ogdensburg and Massena DMV Offices will be closed on Friday February 13, 2026. The offices will remain closed Monday February 16th, which is the Presidents Day holiday, and Tuesday February 17th

with a planned reopening on Wednesday, February 18th provided we receive the go-ahead from State DMV leadership," the press release reads.

DMV offices in Jefferson and Lewis counties, and elsewhere in the state, will also be closed starting Feb. 13 and are set to reopen Feb. 18.

During this time, the state DMV will migrate about 30 million records to the new system and complete the transition to bring the first phase of the upgrade online. Again, no DMV transactions will be able to be completed during this period, including through the state DMV website, and DMV offices will not be answering phones, states the release.

The state DMV's timeline calls for offices to be operational and open for customer transactions beginning Wednesday, Feb. 18.

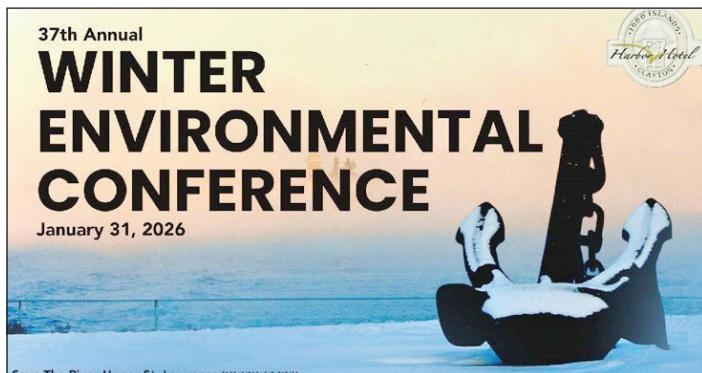
"We plan on opening our offices at 8 a.m. on

February 18th. Any changes to that will be posted on the county website, www.stlawco.gov. We ask for your patience during our transition," Santamoor said in the announcement.

The state DMV has contracted software company FAST Enterprises LLC, which has implemented similar systems in more than 20 other states, to help the DMV modernize its technological platforms and service delivery in two major stages over the next two years.

The new technology will replace and consolidate a significant portion of the DMV's legacy technology, some more than 50 years old. The goal of this initiative is to make the DMV more secure, stable, and agile and to provide DMV customers with more efficient, secure, and convenient services, according to the press release.

Annual winter conference to highlight 'river at a crossroads'



Times staff report

CLAYTON — This year's Winter Environmental Conference hosted by Save the River will feature groundbreaking research on Great Lakes winter science, updates on local wildlife resilience, a critical look at modern spill response capabilities and more.

The 37th annual conference is 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, at 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel, 200 Riverside Drive, Clayton. Attendees are encouraged to register early at savetheriver.org.

"The river is at a crossroads, facing both new challenges and incredible stories of recovery," Bridget Wright, executive director of Save The River, said in a news release. "This conference is designed to bring our river community together to learn from the experts on the front line of protecting our home."

The conference will open with remarks from Clayton Mayor Nancy Hyde, followed by the annual State of the River address by Wright.

The morning sessions will feature:

- Michael Twiss (Algoma University, Ontario, Canada) will present findings from the report he spearheaded, "Great Lakes Winter Science," providing insight into our changing winters and the biological processes of the colder months.
- Stacy McNulty (SUNY ESF) will discuss the behavioral adaptations of local wildlife due to shifting weather patterns, with a specific focus on the resilience of beavers.
- A high-energy lightning round featuring Lee Willbanks, co-founder of Talking Rivers, an organization dedicated to giving the river a legal and cultural voice.
- Thomas Holsen (Clarkson University) will provide a crucial update on PFAS or "forever chemicals" and the latest remediation techniques being used to treat these emerging contaminants.

The afternoon sessions:

- Save the River's annual Friend of the River award presentation, honoring an individual who has gone above and beyond for the protection of the upper St. Lawrence River.
- Emilie DeRochie (River Institute) will provide a lightning round on the River Strategy, an effort to facilitate inclusive and equitable communication and collaboration along the St. Lawrence River.
- Matthew Norvililis (SUNY ESF) will share the inspiring story of the Lake Sturgeon's comeback, a testament to long-term conservation efforts.
- Presentation of the annual Dan Tack Muskelunge Catch & Release Tournament winner.

The conference will conclude with a special remembrance, 50 years later, of the NEPCO oil spill. This session will include a video produced by Emma Josephine French, followed by a presentation from state Department of Environmental Conservation spill response officials. This discussion will bridge the gap between past and present, showing how technology and updated protocols would handle a similar crisis today.



Ships were in for a cold night on the St. Lawrence Seaway near Cape Vincent Jan. 2 as ice had formed since they dropped anchor a week before. Alec Johnson/Watertown Daily Times

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Demo

From T11

demolition will go.

"They will be here at our meeting for an introduction," Dumas said. "It was a team effort, the village and county. If we didn't have the backing of the county we couldn't do this. We can't afford it, the taxpayers can't afford it but as we are trying to move our community forward with multiple avenues of concerns and issues, this has been one of the items that has been a topic for a long time."

In November 2025, trustees passed a resolution to award the bid for demolition of the Flanagan to Gorick Construction.

Gorick was the lowest bidder, earlier in November, when Franklin County legislators gathered to open bids for the planned demolition project, with the winning bid coming in at \$1,198,800.

A total of seven bids were opened at the county courthouse ranging in totals as high as \$1,958,757.

Aubertine and Currier, a Watertown-based engineering firm that the county is working with on the project, reviewed the bid packets to make sure they were complete before recommending Gorick's bid.

Brian Krueger, an architect with Aubertine and Currier, joined a previous trustee's meeting via teleconference and said the demolition is going to take place over multiple stages.

"The first is going to be the primary demolition stage and that's going to have the most impact on the traffic pattern," Krueger said. "When we do the stage one demolition it is going to reduce traffic to one lane each way on Route 11. Similarly it will be one lane each way on Route 30."

Krueger said this stage of the project is limited to a four-week time frame.

"After that four-week time frame there is a liquidated damages clause in the contract agreement in the

amount of \$10,000 per day," he said. "The intent on that is naturally we want to encourage the contractor to get through the process as quickly and safely as possible, and try and open as many lanes as possible as we move into phase two."

Krueger said Gorick anticipates demolishing the building in on itself and trying to reduce that four-week time frame to possibly a two-week time frame.

"Naturally it all depends on how long DOT takes to re-establish the signal trafficking pattern," he said.

According to Krueger, Gorick intends to utilize a high-reach excavator to tear down the Flanagan in on itself.

"They also included in their cost the rental for a crane that would be utilized for a protection mat," Krueger said. "It's basically just in place to hold up, what I've seen them use in the past, is a chain link fence style barrier between the neighboring building and the Flanagan in this case. Whenever they are demoing down they will pull that crane into position so that any debris that may falter from the planned demo would end up hitting that screen and being maintained on the Flanagan site."

Debris from the building will be hauled to the county landfill and tipping fees will be covered by the county, according to village documents.

"With this being an asbestos contained demolition we have a variance through the Department of Labor that allows for materials to be demolished and hauled away all as assumed hot material," Krueger said. "Because it is an unstable structure the Department of Labor allowed us to pursue that variance. In doing so the contractor will utilize their excavator. They are basically going to knock the building down into itself, into a pile more or less, and that will allow us to open up more lanes on Route 11 and Route 30."

Krueger said this stage of the project is limited to a four-week time frame.

According to Krueger, during demolition the contractor will be required to uti-

lize a misting machine.

"They are going to pump all this water onto the building as they're demolishing it to reduce any of the dust and debris that gets knocked up while they are doing this," he said, adding that is factor in the project's start date due to the potential for ice to form during this process.

Dump trucks hauling debris away from the work site is anticipated to take around six weeks, according to Gorick, adding this time frame could also be reduced depending on how quickly materials are hauled away.

"It sounds like they have looked at this in terms of timing efficiency, they understand this is going to be an impact for a village," Krueger said. "That's one of their things too, trying to reduce how many lanes are closed and how backed up everything is going to be. As soon as they can open up more lanes that will allow for traffic to flow better and for hauling the materials to be a little more efficient on their end also."

Dumas said after the building is removed the property will be sold.

According to Dumas, the county is covering the cost of the Flanagan's removal and the village of Malone will reimburse Franklin County through proceeds from the property's sale.

In May 2024, county legislators voted in favor of entering into an inter-municipal agreement with the village of Malone for a shared services plan to demolish the Flanagan.

The county's vote followed a vote by Malone's village trustees in April 2024 to move forward with engineering services for the derelict building's demolition, when trustees voted on a resolution to award the bid to Aubertine and Currier at a cost of \$94,875.

The village officially took over ownership of the Flanagan in November 2023.

The Flanagan was built in 1917 to replace a smaller structure built in 1857, and has sat vacant ever since a fire in 1997.

Canton Winterfest is coming soon



The Winterfest button signed by the artist. Provided photo

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce is putting the finishing touches on the 30th annual Canton Winterfest, running from Feb. 6 through Feb. 15. This town-wide festival celebrates the best of the North Country winter with 10 days of recreational activities, shopping discounts, and community programming.

Supported by lead sponsor Macfadden Dier Insurance, this year's milestone anniversary offers a diverse schedule that highlights the unique character of Canton.

Featured Highlights Include:
Cardboard Sled Races (Feb 7): Join Nature Up North at the SUNY Canton Sledding Hill for a high-energy morning of creative engineering. Participants are invited to build sleds using only cardboard, duct tape, recycled bags, paint, and glue to compete for the fastest times and "best in show" categories.

Wine & Spirits Tastings (Feb 6, 7, 13, 14): Riverside Liquor will host Wine Appreciation sessions throughout the festival, offering a sophisticated way to warm up and sample local and regional favorites.

Winter Memory Collection (Feb 14): The Canton Historian's Office invites the public to share their personal stories of winter in Canton—from historic snowstorms to memories of sledding and skating—ensuring the com-

munity's "winter heart" is preserved for future generations.

Support Local and Win

The 2026 Winterfest buttons, designed by local high school student Tessa Alguire, will soon be available for purchase (\$3 each or 2 for \$5) at several local businesses including Grasse River

Outfitters, Nature's Storehouse, the Best Western University Inn, Cellar 25b, Whites Flowers, GOAL, to name a few.

Purchasing a button not only grants the holder access to exclusive discounts throughout town—such as 20% off at Nature's Storehouse and 15% off food at the Best Western—but also serves as an entry into the Winterfest Raffle. Prizes currently include a grand prize overnight stay at the Best Western, gift certificates, and floral baskets.

Business Opportunities Still Available

The Chamber is still actively seeking additional sponsors, raffle prizes, and participating businesses. This is an exceptional opportunity for local organizations to showcase their services to the community.

"Winterfest is about celebrating everything that makes Canton a great place to live," said Tom Graser of the St. Lawrence County Chamber. "We are still welcoming new partners who want to offer discounts or donate prizes to make this 30th year our most successful yet."

Potsdam Chamber welcomes new members

The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce is pleased to welcome several new businesses to its growing membership, each contributing to the vibrancy and economic strength of the Potsdam community.

Harvest Moon Wellness is dedicated to improving the health and wellness of the community by caring for the whole person—mind, body, and spirit. Operating at 57 Market Street, the studio blends the ancient, transformative power of sound with a holistic healing approach to offer personalized treatments that help release pent-up energy, restore balance, relieve pain, and promote overall vitality. Services include infrared sauna sessions, sound baths, Reiki, and rapid transformational hypnotherapy. Learn more at <https://harvestmoon-wellness.co> or call (315) 323-3846.

Greedy Goblin Popcorn & Treats offers over 25 flavors of popcorn, a variety of fudge, Goblin Floss, and many other assorted confections. Customers are encouraged to try before they buy, making it a fun destination for after-dinner treats, birthday party favors, concessions, fundraisers, and gift baskets. Greedy Goblin Popcorn & Treats is located at 49 Market Street in Potsdam.

Niles Insurance Agency, based at 50 Market Street, is



Pictured is Harvest Moon Wellness, located at 57 Market Street, Potsdam. Provided photo

a family-owned insurance agency specializing in personalized care. Their mission is to ensure customers receive excellent service and competitive pricing while feeling supported and informed. Serving the Potsdam community and surrounding area, Niles Insurance Agency focuses on building trusted, long-term relationships with its clients. Learn more at <https://niles-agency.com> or call (315) 274-0200.

Northern Family Motel offers a warm, family-style stay for visitors to Potsdam and the North Country. Proudly serving guests since 1959, the motel provides a peaceful home-away-from-home, conveniently located

at 6775 NY-56. Just a short drive from Clarkson University and SUNY Potsdam, it is an ideal lodging option for parents, alumni, campus visitors, and travelers. Learn more or book a stay at <https://nfmotel.com>

3 Bears Bakery and Café is the only 100% gluten-free restaurant in the area, offering a delicious variety of meals and sweets. With a storefront at 51 Market Street, the café is proudly a welcoming space for all, celebrating diversity. To learn more, call (315) 261-8330 or follow them on Facebook.

The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce is proud to support these new members and encourages the community to shop local, support local, and explore the services these businesses provide. Many Chamber members accept Potsdam Chamber Gift Cards, making it even easier to support local businesses.

To learn more about the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce, including membership benefits, upcoming events, and opportunities to get involved, visit www.potsdamchamber.com, call (315) 274-9000, or stop by the Chamber office at 6 Market Street, Potsdam, Monday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Potsdam Chamber honors Hoof & Horn Butcher



Pictured left to right: Albert Hanson, President of the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; Becky Schwartz and Jon LeClair, owners of Hoof & Horn Butcher and Eatery, 32 Market Street, Potsdam.

The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce presented the 2025 Pride in Potsdam Community Award to Hoof & Horn Butcher and Eatery at its Holiday Mixer, recognizing owners Jon

LeClair and Becky Schwartz for their outstanding commitment to local food, community events, and continued support of the Potsdam community.

Pretzels

From T8

McCluskey said she and the team have helped with marketing plans, offered ideas to find the financing for Martin to buy out his business partners, and connected the company with federal and state grant programs.

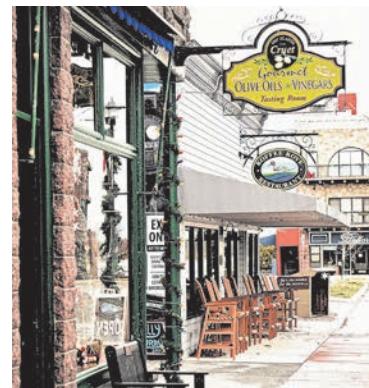
"Since he started with us years ago, Josiah just wanted to grow sustainably, he focuses on that," she said.

She stressed that SBDC assistance is always free, available to

any small business in New York through their closest regional SBDC on a SUNY campus.

Anyone who wants some help with their business plan can call their local SBDC and start the process.

"We work with people very early on, to people who have their whole business set up," McCluskey said. "Sometimes, people don't even know what kind of business they want to start, and we can help them with that process. Just give us a call, shoot us an email, and we have a team of advisers who can work with anyone."



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Stk#16448. Platinum Gray, Auto, 56,479 mi.

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Stk#16647. Crystal Black Silica, Auto, 150,563 mi.

\$14,999 plus tax, title & reg. extra



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Stk#16625. Raven, Auto, 75,941 mi.

\$12,999 plus tax, title & reg. extra



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Stk#16583. Delmonico Red Pearl, Auto, 45,619 mi.

\$29,698 plus tax, title & reg. extra



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Stk#16585. Pearl White TriCoat, Auto, 55,140 mi.

\$20,998 plus tax, title & reg. extra



2021 MERCEDES-BENZ E 350 4MATIC® 4DR SEDAN

Stk#16293. Black, Auto, 85,367 mi.

\$32,559 plus tax, title & reg. extra



2020 MAZDA CX-9 GRAND TOURING 4DR SUV

Stk#16662. Deep Crystal Blue, Auto, 70,707 mi.

\$21,998 plus tax, title & reg. extra



2022 LEXUS RX 350 4DR SUV

Stk#16409. Nebula Gray Pearl, 117,018 mi.

\$30,998 plus tax, title & reg. extra



Stk#16252. Modern Steel, Auto, 68,141 mi.

\$26,989 plus tax, title & reg. extra



2023 HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED 4DR SUV

Stk#16378. Abyss Black Pearl, Auto, 98,589 mi.

\$27,998 plus tax, title & reg. extra



2022 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED 4DR SUV

Stk#16623. Bright White Clear, Auto, 68,231 mi.

\$20,798 plus tax, title & reg. extra



2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 80TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 4DR SUV

Stk#16494. elvet Red Pearl, Auto, 77,758 mi.

\$25,498 plus tax, title & reg. extra



2020 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA 4DR SUV

Stk#16395. Bright White Clear, Auto, 129,704 mi.

\$26,999 plus tax, title & reg. extra



Stk#16516. Deep Chroma Blue, Auto, 52,416 mi.

\$28,998 plus tax, title & reg. extra



Stk#16621. Clear White, Auto, 72,935 mi.

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Stk#16665. Clear White, Auto, 145,922 mi.

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