

Summer Fun 2025

‘Under Stars and Stripes’ ONNY kicks off 38th season at Thompson Park

By **CHRIS BROCK**

cbrock@wdt.net

The Orchestra of Northern New York will begin and end its 38th season on patriotic notes.

In between there will be a program of music inspired by the passion, joy and sadness of a pair of star-crossed lovers and the orchestra’s traditional holiday concerts.

ONNY Music Director Michael J. Colburn is in his second season of conducting the orchestra and selecting its concert lineup.

“As with my first season, each program will be filled with music sure to appeal to experienced classical music fans as well as newcomers, and as always, I’ll offer a bit of commentary to help inform your listening experience,” Colburn said in a news release.

He added that he invites patrons to chat with him following concerts. “I’d love to hear what you thought of your ONNY concert experience. Our goal is to bring our music to as many people in the north country as possible, so if you enjoy our concerts, please help us spread the word about the Orchestra of Northern New York.”

The schedule:

“Under the Stars — and Stripes”

8 p.m., July 2 at Watertown’s Thompson Park

7:30 p.m., July 3 at SUNY Potsdam’s Hosmer Hall.

The orchestra will celebrate the 249th birthday of our country with a program of patriotic and popular music, ranging from John Philip Sousa and the fanfares of John Williams to the Broadway sounds of the musical “Chicago,” which turns 50 this year. It all begins with “Overture to a Pops Concert” by Henry Mancini.

The Thompson Park concert is free to attend. Tickets for the Potsdam concert are \$30 for adults, \$27 for senior citizens and members of the military and \$5 for teens ages 13-17. There are also special family ticket bundles available. Those concert costs also apply to the following concerts.

“Star Crossed”

7:30 p.m., Oct. 4 at SUNY Potsdam’s



People gather for the Orchestra of Northern New York concert and fireworks in July of 2023 at Thompson Park in Watertown.

Watertown Daily Times

Hosmer Hall

3 p.m. Oct. 5 at Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown

William Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet” inspired composers ranging from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky to Leonard Bernstein. In Georges Bizet’s “Carmen,” which is celebrating its 150th birthday this year, although the circumstances preventing a relationship between Carmen and Don José are quite different than Romeo and Juliet’s or Tony and Maria’s, it is no less tragic or moving.

Tickets for both concerts are \$30 for adults, \$27 for senior citizens and members of the military and \$5 for teens ages 13-17. There are also special family ticket bundles available.

“Home for the Holidays”

7:30 p.m., Dec. 13 at SUNY Potsdam’s Hosmer Hall

3 p.m., Dec. 14 at the First Presbyterian Church, Watertown

Classical favorites by Tchaikovsky, Bizet and Rimsky-Korsakov, legendary favorites like “White Christmas” and holiday music from around the world

will be featured.

“Summon the Heroes”

7:30 p.m., April 25 at SUNY Potsdam’s Hosmer Hall

3 p.m., April 26 at Trinity Episcopal Church, Watertown

ONNY will get an early start on celebrating our nation’s 250th birthday with this program of music by American composers such as Sousa, Aaron Copland and Howard Hanson.

■ ■ ■

ONNY offers season subscriptions, which provide a 15% discount over single ticket prices. Sales for Potsdam subscriptions end July 1 and sales for Watertown subscriptions end Oct. 3. The Potsdam subscription is \$102 for adults, \$92 for senior citizens and members of the military, \$34 for college students and \$17 for teenagers. For the Watertown series, the cost is \$77 for adults, \$69 for senior citizens and members of the military, \$26 for college students and \$13 for teenagers.

For more info and to order tickets, go to onny.org/



ONNY Music Director Michael J. Colburn. Courtesy ONNY

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The 14th Fourth of July Castorland Tractor Parade will start at noon from the Castorland Volunteer Fire Department, 5187 State Route 410, Castorland. Prior to the parade there will be a meet and greet at the fire station. All farm tractors are welcome especially antiques. The parade concludes at Crossroads Tavern. Growing every year, the event started with only two tractors and last year attracted 120 with more than 1,000 people coming to watch. Event sponsors include White's Farm Supply, Burrville Power Equipment, Logan's Equipment Inc. and Crossroads Tavern. For more information contact Mark Birchenough at 315-681-3440 or Cliff Lehman at 315-771-7035.

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JULY 3, 2025 at 7:30 PM at HOSMER HALL, SUNY POTSDAM

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ONNY is supported in part by NYSCA, a state agency, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the NYS Legislature.

Music Education Fund recital to reflect scholarship's growth

By **CHRIS BROCK**

cbrock@wdt.net

WATERTOWN — The KAI Music Education Fund has awarded \$6,500 in scholarships since the first awards were given in 2022. The nonprofit is building a solid foundation, which is music to the ears of the former north country music teacher whose family created the scholarship in her honor.

Kathryn Amore Ingerson said that the fourth annual KAI Music Education Scholarship Fund Recital on July 13 will reflect the success of the scholarship while highlighting talented, young musicians.

"Now that we have four years of scholarship recipients in the program, we will have the opportunity to see and hear the changes and growth of each performer," she said.

Ingerson retired in June of 2022 from the Thousand Islands Central School District, where she reshaped the music department and consistently over a 26-year career and led it to statewide accolades. As she prepared for retirement, her family surprised her when they informed her that, behind the scenes, they had created the KAI Music Education Fund.

The July 13 recital is at 4 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 227 Sherman St. It will feature:

— 2022 scholarship recipients: Katelyn Nier (General Brown) and Duncan Van Schaick (Thousand Islands Central) — both recent SUNY Potsdam Crane School of Music graduates.

— 2023 recipient Evangeline Hopper (TI Central), a Onondaga Community College graduate who will transfer to Fredonia School of Music in the fall.

— 2024 recipient Alexandria Ives (TI Central and a student at Ithaca

School of Music.

2025 recipients: Luik Hopper (TI Central) and Grant Mullin (South Jefferson), who are both heading to Fredonia School of Music in the fall.

"This is an opportunity to showcase the musical talents and performances of our high school and college recipients for our community," Ingerson said. "It's also our major fundraiser of the year."

Kyle Ramey, organist and choir-master at Trinity Episcopal Church, will serve as accompanist for many of the performers.

"There will be quite a variety of music and performances by vocalists, instrumentalists and composers featuring their arrangements and original works," Ingerson said. "Some performers come from musical families and will have parents and siblings joining them on their portion of the program."

RECITAL IS KEY TO MISSION

After fundraising the first year, the KAI Music Education Fund was able to increase scholarship amounts as more money was raised. "That's one reason the recital and community attendance is so important," Ingerson said. "The other of course, is to celebrate our young, aspiring professionals and to have their musical skills on full display for all to enjoy."

Ingerson said that scholarship applications reached a record amount this year. "While it is our mission to support each student, there is a standard we wish to uphold in terms of musical proficiency. So the selection committee decided to offer two levels of scholarship: the full scholarship for \$1,000 and an honorable mention for \$500."

The selection committee is com-

See **RECITAL 13**



Luik Hopper, 2025 recipient of a KAI Music Education Fund scholarship. Submitted photo



Grant Mullin, 2025 recipient of a KAI Music Education Fund scholarship. Submitted photo

Recital

From T2

posed of Ingerson and three other music teachers and retirees. The application process is rigorous and involves an online application, a personal essay, two letters of recommendations from music teachers and two video auditions.

The complete list of KAI Music Education Fund recipients:

2022:

Katelyn (LaMarche) Nier, General Brown, \$500.

Duncan Van Schaick, Thousand

Islands, \$500.

2023:

Evangeline Hopper, TI \$1,000.

Victoria Huffman, Indian River,

\$1,000.

2024:

Alexandria Ives, TI \$1,000.

Jack Marra, Watertown, \$1,000.

2025

Luik Hopper, TI \$1,000.

Grant Mullin, South Jefferson, \$500 (Honorable Mention).

RECITAL, SCHOLARSHIP INFO

Admission to the recital is \$22. For tickets and more information, go to kaimusicfund.org. New to the annual recital this year, donated, themed baskets from local individuals and

businesses will be available for silent auction bids. They can be previewed on the KAI Music Education Fund

Facebook page. "This was initiated as another way to increase donations to our fund," Ingerson said.

Information on how to apply for the scholarship and how to donate to it can also be found on the site.

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Loren and L.J. Barrigar return to the Adams Community Concert Series on July 30. Courtesy of ACCS

Adams concert series offers music for all tastes

Times staff report

ADAMS — The Adams Community Concert Series presents its 10th season this summer.

Attendance has been consistent over the years on Wednesday evenings in July and August as the series has featured a variety of quality music free of charge to the public. This season is no exception, organizers say.

On the bill are Big Band tunes, Broadway songs, rock 'n roll, country-western guitar picking, barbershop chorus music and the stirring sounds of the 10th Mountain Division Army Band.

The concerts are on six consecutive Wednesday evenings from July 9 to Aug. 13 at the Adams Fire Department pavilion behind the fire hall on Main Street. All concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 with no intermission. Concert-goers should bring a lawn chair except for one show, scheduled for the Sixtown Meeting House, 27 East Church St., across from Mirabito convenience store in Adams. The meeting house is also the rain venue in the event of inclement weather.

The concerts are sponsored by South Jefferson area businesses and individuals, and donations from passing the hat at each show. The series features local talent which the north country has in abundance.

Arrhythmias bring a special brand of Big Band music. Formed by a group of Water-

town doctors, the Arrhythmias has entertained audiences since 1977. The ensemble brings a repertoire of swing music that transports audiences to earlier eras but which is also timeless and vibrant. The dance floor will be open on July 9.

Back by popular demand, on July 16, is tenor Jordan Davidson, accompanied on piano by Toni Grieco Zygadlo, his former music teacher at Indian River High School. This show will be at the Sixtown Meeting Hall where the duo performed a brilliant concert last year. The performance will feature numbers from the American Songbook, Broadway musicals and opera. A high-school music teacher himself, Davidson performs in operas, musical theater, concerts and recitals throughout the country.

Popular local musician Ben Wisner and the Full Circle band will share their style of rock and roll with the Adams audience on July 23. Wisner has played at many venues locally through the years and will be joined by Jay Barrett and Tim Robinson, for what promises to be a lively, entertaining show.

Next are Loren and L.J. Barrigar. The father-son guitar duo from Central New York play a variety of country, blues, rock and popular music. Loren has performed throughout the world with other virtuoso guitarists

See ADAMS T16

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Z-fest celebrates the heritage of Amish Mennonites

JULY 5 EVENT: Demonstrations, exhibits, singing, children's activities

CROGHAN — The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Association (AMHA) is hosting the 33rd Zwanzigstein (twenty stones) Fest of "...strangers and pilgrims on the earth." He brews 11:13b from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, July 5 — rain or shine — at the Mennonite Heritage Farm. The farm is located at 8778 Erie Canal Road, one half mile north of Kirschnerville, east of Croghan. Admission is on a donation basis.

The book "Strangers and Pilgrims — History of Lewis County Mennonites" by past historian Arlene Yousey will be available in the gift shop at a discounted price.

The purpose of Z Fest is to preserve, celebrate and accurately portray the religious and cultural heritage of the Amish Mennonites in Lewis County. Since 1991, the Heritage Farm has provided the site for visitors to learn about the Anabaptist faith legacy and rural life of years past through stories, exhibits, tours, singing, some outdoor activities with children and some demonstrations.

The pavilion will be a welcome addition to the site for the fest with a focus on the farm's place in the history of the Anabaptist churches in Lewis County and the resources it holds. The dedication of the pavilion will occur about 11:45 a.m. followed by serving the noon meal.

To remember our Anabaptist history of 500 years (1525-2025), there will be a local panel discussion on the "Evolution of Amish Mennonite Congregations in Northern New York" at 10:30 a.m. Two Yousey families who immigrated to Northern New York in the early 1840s will be recognized this year at the Z Fest and throughout the season. At about 1:30 p.m., there will be a panel interview with Yousey family members. One can also take advantage of the hiking and nature trail.

A chicken barbecue meal, hot dogs with sauerkraut, ice cream and pie, and baked

goods will be available.

Other Saturday Fests are being planned for the season from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. which will include more demonstrations, tours, food, on the following dates:

Fiber Arts Fest on July 26 — Demonstrations of weaving, spinning, knitting, crochet, embroidery, quilting, comforter tying, will be occurring. Two workshops are planned — in the morning on dyeing yarn with Kool-Aid and after-

noon demonstrating making a sock on the circular sock machine.

Children's Fest on Aug. 16 — Come learn about "Summer's Bounty" that will feature activities specifically geared for children at any age and those young at heart. Visitors will pick up a passport upon entry and receive a stamp for each activity they complete as they explore the farm.

See Z-FEST T16



Joyce Birk spinning yarn in a 2022 photo. Photo provided by Heritage Farm

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Summer Fun Calendar of Events

June 28

Hogansburg

Akwesasne Farmers Market: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturdays, through Oct. 11,** 580 Route 37.

Alexandria Bay

Magic at the Museum: With Joe Maxwell, 7 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Cornwall Brothers Store Museum, 36 Market St. Cost: \$50.

Cape Vincent

Concerts on the Green: Cape Vincent Arts Council, concerts held 4 to 5:30 p.m. various **Saturdays,** Cape Vincent Village Green, Broadway Street. Bring lawn chair or blanket; free, donations accepted. Information: www.capevincentartscouncil.org.

June 28: Morris & The Hepcats, rockabilly/blues/oldies

July 5: Skip Starr & The Renditions (50s and 60s rock-n-roll)

July 19: Simba Marimba, Zimbabwean marimba music

Aug. 2: Foolish Pride, blues/rock/jam

Aug. 9: Let's Cool One, jazz

Aug. 16: Ron Spencer Band, blues

Educator Talk: Immigration on the Erie Canal, by Derrick Pratt, 10 a.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Cape Vincent Library, 157 N. Real St.

Summer Art Classes: With Cape Vincent Arts Council, for adults, held at various locations. Cost: \$45 to \$80. Information: www.capevincentartscouncil.org. Reg-

istration: cvac@capevincentartscouncil.org.

Saturday, June 28: Felted landscapes, 9 a.m. to noon; and plant imprinting on fabric, 1 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, June 29: Fiber fantasy, 9 a.m. to noon

Saturday, July 19: Beginner acrylic, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 12: Watercolor, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Carthage

51st annual Saint James Fair: Noon to 9 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** St. James Catholic Church, 327 W. Street Road.

Clayton

1000 Islands River Pride: Held **Wednesday, June 26, through Sunday, June 29,** at various locations in Clayton. Information, full schedule: www.1000islandsriverpride.com.

2025 ARRL Field Day: Ham radio operators from Thousand Island Repeater Club, from 2 p.m. **Saturday, June 28, through mid-day Sunday, June 29,** Clayton Recreation Park Pavilion, Graves Street. Information: Mr. Covey, kcdtircub@gmail.com or 315-639-4604.

Drag Queen and King Showtunes: Sing Along, 9:30 p.m. **Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29,** Bodega 524, 524 Riverside Drive. Featuring "Femmcee": Barnum Like The Circus, Amber Skyy, Miss Viola, and Stella Progress.

Kristin Key, comedian: With special guest Carlile Family Band, 7:30 to 9 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Clayton Opera House, 405

Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$25; center, \$30; premium, \$35. Information, tickets: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

Summer Arts Kick-off: 3 to 6 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Thousand Island Arts Center, 314 John St. Live music, sidewalk chalk competition, pottery, shopping, raffles, crafts, food trucks.

Harrisville

Harrisville Farmers Market: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturdays, through Sept. 27,** Scenic View, State Street.

Hogansburg

Akwesasne Farmers Market: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturdays, through Oct. 11,** 580 Route 37.

Long Lake

Amateur Radio "Field Day": With Bear Bait Radio Club, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Saturday, June 28;** and 9 a.m. to noon **Sunday, June 29,** Mt. Sabbatis Picnic Pavilion, 46 Pavilion Road. Information: <http://www.arrl.org>.

Lowville

Lowville Farmers Market: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturdays, through Oct. 11,** Lewis County Fairgrounds, 5485 Bostwick St.

"Share the Wealth/Give-away" event: Rain or shine, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Lowville United Methodist Church, 7618 N. State St.

Malone

"Nature: All Things Beautiful": Pastel exhibit of works by Sarah Budd, on display **through Saturday, July 5,** Downtown Artist Cellar, 410 E. Main St. Information: www.downtownartistcellar.com.

downtownartistcellar.com.

Massena

Community-wide garage sales: St. Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, held **Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29,** throughout Massena. To be included on map: laura@slcchamber.org.

Philadelphia

Summer kick off celebration: Dark **Saturday, June 28,** American Legion, 58 Main St. Food, beverages, music, fireworks. Information: 315-642-3334.

Rensselaer Falls

Wildlife Monitoring: Drones: With Dan French, ICNC board member, 10 a.m. to noon **Saturday, June 28,** Indian Creek Nature Center, 770 County Road 14.

Sackets Harbor

"The American Revolution Experience": Exhibit, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Union Hotel, 348 W. Main St. Sponsored by Sackets Harbor State Historic Battlefield.

"Reflections of the Past": Photography exhibit of works by Daniel Kantak, on display **Saturday, June 28,** Hill Street Red Barn.

Saranac Lake

"The Lion's": 2 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Pendragon Theatre, 15 Brandy Brook Ave. Information, tickets: www.pendragontheatre.org/thelion.

"Looking: Around Town": Photographs by Burndette Parks, on display **through Tuesday, July 1,** Adirondack Artists Guild, 52 Main St. Information: www.adirondackartistsguild.com.

Pride Brunch: Hosted by Victoria Bohmore, seating 1, 10 a.m., show, 11 a.m.; and seating 2, 1:30 p.m., show 2, 2:30 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** The Belvedere Restaurant, 102 Bloomingdale Ave. Featuring Tammie Dickensheets, Michelle Leigh Sterling, Christian Gaye and Katie D. Lite. Cost: \$55; includes bottomless mimosas and brunch buffet.

Turin

Goonfest 2025: 10 a.m. to noon **through Sunday, June 29,** Snow Ridge Ski Resort, 4173 West Road. Camping, music, skateboarding, workshops. Cost: \$55.20. Information, tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/goonfest-2025-tickets-1325535916609>.

Waddington

"Jonquills & Daffodils Watercolor Painting": Led by Corrina Boyer, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** The Gallery at Lake Saint Lawrence Arts, 14 Main St. Cost: \$55. Registration required: www.lakesaintlawrencearts.com. lakesaintlawrencearts@gmail.com, 315-705-1241, or 315-705-5198.

Watertown

107th Mt. Carmel Fest: Grounds open, 1 to 10 p.m. **Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29,** St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 850 Arsenal St. Live entertainment, Bingo, religious procession, fireworks. Cash only; free admission and parking; rides, games and raffles.

Book character Bingo: All ages, 10 a.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Information:

www.flowerlibrary.org.

Hungerford Family art exhibition: On display during open hours **through Tuesday, Aug. 8,** Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Information: Suzie Renzi-Falge, library director, 315-785-7701 or srenzi-falge@ncls.org.

Watertown Saturday Farmers Market: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturdays,** JB Wise Plaza. Information: www.saturdayfarmersmarket.com.

Yard/craft sale: 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Saturday, June 28,** Town of Watertown Fire Department, 22825 County Route 67. To benefit department auxiliary.

June 29

Clayton

Flea market: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Sundays, through Sept. 28,** Coyote Moon Vineyards, 17371 E. Line Road. Food, garage sales, collectibles; no booth fee (set up at 7 a.m.); free admission.

Constable

"Coming Home: An Afternoon of Song": Adirondack Community Chorus, 1 p.m. **Sunday, June 29,** Constable Hall, 5909 John St. Free; donations accepted for Constable Hall.

Hammond

Yellow Barn Concert Series: "Celebration of the Harp of Saint Joseph's," with Janet Witman, harpist, 5 p.m. **Sunday, June 29,** Iva Smith Memorial Gallery, 627 Route 37. Cost: \$10 suggested donation.

Norwood

Norwood Village Green Concert Series: Held 7 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) **Thursdays and Sundays, through Aug. 14,** Norwood Village Green, 3 Bicknell St. Information, full schedule: www.nvgcs.org.

Sunday, June 29: Las Guaracheras

Sunday, July 6: The All Star Big Band

Sunday, July 13: Shavon Lloyd

Thursday, July 17: Whiskey Room

Sunday, July 20: Kate Prascher

Thursday, July 24: Norwoodstock, 6 p.m.

Sunday, July 27: The Old Time Fiddle Show

Thursday, July 31: Brindlestiff Family Circus

Sunday, Aug. 3: Laura Belefaro and the Folk and Contemporary Music of Spain

Thursday, Aug. 7: Brass Firemen

Thursday, Aug. 14: New Horizons Swing Band

Ogdensburg

Summer open horse shows: With St. Lawrence Valley Horsemen's Association (SLVHA), 9 a.m. **Sundays, June 29, July 13 and 20, and Aug. 24,** Linden Road. Admission Aug. 24: \$5 donation to Frederic Remington Art Museum

Sackets Harbor

Concerts on the Waterfront: Hosted by Sackets Harbor Historical Society, 3 to 5 p.m. **Sundays, June 29 to Aug. 31,** Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site, 504 W. Main St. Free.

See CALENDAR T7

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Calendar

From T6

June 29: The Sacchi Band, big band era
July 6: Organ Fairchild, “old school fun fusion”
July 13: Genticorum, traditional French-Canadian folk
July 20: Atlas, 1980s
July 27: The Odd Fellows, jazz
Aug. 3: Creole Stomp, creole
Aug. 10: Ruby Shooz, 1950s and 1960s
Aug. 17: Annie and Hot Cayenne, zydeco
Aug. 24: 10th Mountain Division Band
Aug. 31: Maria Desantis Orchestra, big band

June 30

Chaumont

Summer reading kick-off: 2 to 5 p.m. **Monday, June 30**, Depauville Free Library, 32333 Caroline St. Free; bring swim suits.

Potsdam

Dungeons and Dragons: For those 12 and older, 5 p.m. **Mondays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St. Registration required: mpamell@potsdamlibrary.org.
Knit and crochet circle: 6:30 p.m. **Mondays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St.

Watertown

Basicsign language: 12:30 to 1 p.m. **Monday, June 30**, Watertown Senior Citizens, 167 Polk St. Information: 315-221-4021.
Exercise: 11 a.m. to noon **Monday, June 30**, Watertown Senior Citizens, 167 Polk St. Information: 315-221-4021.
Popcorn and movie: “Hidden Figures” (PG), 1 to 3 p.m. **Monday, June 30**, Watertown Senior Citizens, 167 Polk St. Information: 315-221-4021.

July 1

Cape Vincent

Cape Street Market: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Tuesdays, through Oct. 21**, Cape Street. Information: capevincentschamber@gmail.com.
Erie Canal travelling museum exhibit: On display, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Tuesday, July 1, through Saturday, July 26**, Cape Vincent Library, 157 N. Real St.

Chaumont

Teens and tweens writing workshop: Hosted by Misty Yarnall, Rochester writer and teaching artist, 6 to 7 p.m. **Tuesday, July 1**, Lyme Free Library, 12165 Route 12E. Free. Information, registration: 315-649-5454.

Fort Covington

Rabies vaccination clinic: For cats, dogs, and ferrets, 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Tuesday, July 1**, Fort Covington Fire and Rescue Department, 2454 Chateaugay St. Free; donations of \$5 welcome. Information: 518-481-1710.

Lake Placid

?by Soles of Duende: Flamenco, tap, and Kathak, 7:30 p.m. **Tuesday, July 1**, Lake Placid Center for Arts, 17 Algonquin Drive.

Cost: \$27; advance, \$22; 12 and younger, \$7. Followed by Q&A and demonstration with artists.

Lyons Falls

Lyons Falls Farmers Market: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Tuesdays, through Oct. 28**, Riverside Park, 6904 Laura St.

Ogdensburg

Music and Movement: For those 18 months to 4 years, 11 a.m. **Tuesdays**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free; jump and wiggle to music, instruments and sensory play.

Potsdam

Drop-in chess: 3 to 7 p.m. **first and third Tuesdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St. Free.
Story time: 11 a.m. **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St. Free.

Black River

Pre-K Storytime: 10 to 11 a.m. **first Wednesday of month through Sept. 3**, Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, 101 Public Works Drive. Story, craft, and snacks.

Cape Vincent

Summer Reading Program for K-5: Light Throughout the Day: 10 a.m. **Wednesday, July 2**, Cape Vincent Community Library, 157 N. Real St. Make a crystal sun catcher craft and a sunset silhouette watercolor picture.

Carthage

Brunch: 9 a.m. to noon **Wednesdays**, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7227, 668 W. End Ave. Cost: By donation. Health checks and takeouts available.
“Memory Lane Classic Car, Truck, Motorcycle show”: Hosted by American Legion Bassett-Baxter Post 789, 5 to 8 p.m. **Wednesdays, through August**, Caskinette Ford, 36788 Route 26. Food, music, door prizes, raffle; benefits the post scholarship fund.

Clayton

Pure Prairie League: 7:30 to 9 p.m. **Wednesday, July 2**, Clayton Opera House, 405 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$55; center, \$60; premium, \$65. Information, tickets: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

Hammond

Hammond Farmers’ and Artisans’ Market: 3 to 6 p.m. **Wednesdays, through Sept. 10**, Gipp’s Pavilion, 14 Main St.

Madrid

Madrid Dam Music Series: Held 6 p.m. **Wednesdays, June 18 to Aug. 6**, Madrid Municipal Park, 1835 Route 345. Free; donations accepted.
July 2: Dad Bods
July 9: Ben Lacy and Josh Barkley: An evening of the Blues
July 16: Whiskey Room
July 23: Beartracks
July 30: Potsdam Community Band (held at Madrid Power and Equipment Museum Equine Building)
Aug. 6: Double Axel

Malone

Malone Farmers Market: Noon to 4:30 p.m. **Wednesdays, through Oct. 8**, Malone-Dufort Airport, 27 Airport Road.

Summer Fun

Ogdensburg

Art classes: For those 4 and older, 5 p.m. **Wednesday, July 2**; and 2 p.m. **Fridays, July 11, 18, and 25**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free.
July 2: Air dry clay
July 11: Turtle craft
July 18: Sun paper
July 25: Watercolor painting

Owls Head

Licensed Bingo Wednesdays: Doors open, 5 p.m.; game begins, 6:30 p.m. **Wednesdays**, Owls Head Mountain View Community Center, 1977 County Route 27. Early-bird progressive.

Watertown

July Fourth Fireworks: Double Barrel Blues Band, 5 p.m.; Orchestra of Northern New York, 8 p.m.; fireworks, follow **Wednesday, July 2**, Thompson Park. Free.
Toddler storytime and crafts: For those 3 to 5, 10:30 a.m. **Wednesdays**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free.
Watertown Farm and Craft Market: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Wednesdays, through Oct. 1**, Washington Street, front of Dulles State Office Building. Information: www.watertownfarmandcraft.com.

July 3

Boonville

Boonville Farmers Market: Noon to 5 p.m. **Thursdays, through Oct. 2**, Erwin Park, 13309 Park Drive.

Carthage

Sounds of Summer Concert Series: Held **Thursdays, July 3 to Aug. 28**, Carthage Gazebo, unless otherwise noted. Information: 315-493-3590.
July 3: Velvet Moon July 10: Tough Luck
July 17: Nelson Brothers, Farmers Market Pavilion
July 24: Another Round
July 31: Fritz Polka Band, Farmers Market Pavilion
Aug. 7: Gridlock, Natural Bridge Fire Hall
Aug. 14: Double Barrel Blues Band
Aug. 21: The Arrhythmias, Farmers Market Pavilion
Aug. 28: 10th Mountain Division Band, Farmers Market Pavilion
Soup Thursdays: Noon until gone **Thursdays**, VFW Post 7227, 668 W. End Ave. Cost: \$3.

Clayton

Clayton Farmers Market: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Thursdays, through Oct. 16**, Village Park Circle, 425 Mary St.
Clayton’s fireworks: 9:30 p.m. **Thursday, July 3**, Frink Park.

Lowville

Lewis County General Hospital Farmers Market: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Thursdays, through Oct. 9**, Lewis County General Hospital, 7785 N. State St.

Massena

Massena Concert Series: 6 p.m. **Thursdays, through Sept. 4**, Springs Park, 434 S. Main St. Free.
July 3: Gypsy Road Band
July 10: Station 45
July 17: Tracer James
July 24: New Horizons Bands

July 31: Plan B
Aug. 7: Atom Ghost
Aug. 14: Foolish Pride
Aug. 21: Merryweather
Aug. 28: Divided Roads
Sept. 4: Goddard Girls/Open Mic

Norwood

Live music: DJ by Wendy Crump, 6 to 9 p.m. **Thursday, July 3**; and Charlie Robinson, 3 to 5 p.m. **Friday, July 4**, Norwood American Legion, 10 Maple St. Free admission.

Ogdensburg

Story Time: For those 2 to 5, 11 a.m. **Thursdays**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free; stories, activities and crafts.

Potsdam

French conversation circle: 6:30 p.m. **Thursdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St. Free.
Homeschool poetry and music: 1 p.m. **Thursdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St. Free.
Hooks and Needles Textile Guild: Calling fiber friends, 6 p.m. **every other Thursday**, Creative Spirit Community Arts Center, 6 Raymond St. All ages and skill levels welcome; children should be accompanied by adult; freewill donations accepted.
Purl Jam: Noon **Thursdays**, Potsdam Public Library, 2 Park St. Free.

Saranac Lake

Pinochle night: 6:30 p.m. **Thursdays**, Saranac Village at Will Rogers, 78 Will Rogers Drive. Free. Coaching available for beginners, light refreshments provided. Information: 518-891-7117 or Adrien Vlach, avlach@saranacvillage.com.
Saranac Lake ArtWorks ArtMarket: 3 to 7 p.m. **Thursday, July 3**, Berkeley Green. Information: Sydney Schmidt, admin@saranaclakeartworks.org.
Weekly social bridge: Organized rotational game, arrive, 12:45 p.m.; games start, 1 p.m. **Thursdays**, Saranac Village at Will Rogers, 78 Will Rogers Drive. Cost: \$1; light refreshments provided. Information: 518-891-7117 or Adrien Vlach, avlach@saranacvillage.com.

Watertown

4-H Lego Engineering Club: For those 5 to 7, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. **Thursdays**, starting April 3, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County, 203 N. Hamilton St. Free. Information: Dylan Lundy, 315-788-8450, ext. 235, or del223@cornell.edu.
Baby storytime: For those 2 and younger, 10:30 a.m. **Thursdays**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free.

July 4

Alexandria Bay

Alexandria Bay Farmers Market: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Fridays, through Sept. 26**, Swan Bay, 43615 Route 12. Information: www.swanbayresort.com.
Fourth of July Fireworks: 9 p.m. **Friday, July 4**, over Boldt Castle.

Carthage

Carthage Farmers Market: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Fridays, through Oct. 10**, Pavilion, Riverside Drive.

Chaumont

Jam sessions: 10 a.m. **Saturdays**, Lyme Heritage Center, 1848 Depot St. Informa-

tion: 315-649-5452.

Fort Covington

Independence Day celebrations: Parade, noon **Friday, July 4**, ending at American Legion-Salmon River Post 1418, 111 Dundee Road. Live music, vehicles, marching bands, food and prizes. Information: 518-483-3772.

Malone

Concert in the Park: Concerts held, 6 to 8 p.m. **Fridays, July 4, 11, 18, and 25**, Arsenal Green Park, 7 Church Place. Information: www.malonechamberofcommerce.com.
July 4: Country Zasch
July 11: Jonathan Foster
July 18: Last Call
July 25: MnM Entertainment

Old Forge

Forge Festival of Art and Craft: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Friday, July 4**, View Arts Center, 3273 Route 28.

Sackets Harbor

Flutes on the Fourth: With Silver Tones Flute Choir, 7 to 10 p.m. **Friday, July 4**, Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site, 504 E. Main St. Flutists of all skill levels welcome; firework, 9:30 p.m.

Saranac Lake

Weekly bridge tournament: Bridge club, ACBL sanction Duplicate Bridge tournament, arrive, 12:45 p.m.; games start, 1 p.m. **Fridays**, Saranac Village at Will Rogers, 78 Will Rogers Drive. Cost: \$2; light refreshments provided. Information: 518-891-7117 or Adrien Vlach, avlach@saranacvillage.com.

Watertown

Teen open gaming: For those 12 to 17, 4 to 5 p.m. **Fridays**, Flower Memorial Library, 229 Washington St. Free.

July 5

Cape Vincent

Concerts on the Green: Sponsored by Cape Vincent Art Council, 4 to 5:30 p.m. **Saturdays, July 5 and 19, and Aug. 2, 9, and 16**, Village Green, Broadway Street. Free. Information: www.capevincentschamberofcommerce.org.
July 5: Skipp Starr and The Renditions (50s and 60s rock and roll)
July 19: Simba Marimba (Zimbabwean marimba)
Aug. 2: Foolish Pride (blues/rock/jam)
Aug. 9: Blue Note (jazz/Latin/pop)
Aug. 16: Ron Spencer Band (blues)

Croghan

Zwanigstein Fest 2025: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Saturday, July 5**, Mennonite Heritage Farm, 8778 Erie Canal Road. Displays, food, music, panel interview, hymn singing, demonstrations. Admission: By donation.

Fort Covington

Dance: With North Country Men, 7 p.m. **Saturday, July 5**, Fort Covington American Legion, 117 Dundee Road. No cover charge; sponsored by Explore the Adirondacks.

Sackets Harbor

Mike Bova: Comedy fundraiser, 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Saturday, July 5**, American Le-



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Movie producer moving her film fest to Watertown

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

WATERTOWN — The founder of a film festival is moving the event to Watertown for its fifth anniversary.

Michelle L. Dibernardo calls her Creators Film Fest a “celebration of vision, voice and the unseen.” The Cicero resident has a love for movies and is also executive director and president of the Syracuse International Film Festival. The 22nd annual festival is Oct. 17-19.

For the past four years, Dibernardo’s Creators Film Fest has been virtual. On Saturday, Aug. 30 it will be held at HarmoniNY Performing Arts Community at The Strand, 136 Franklin St. On that day, beginning at 10:30 a.m. when doors open, to the 6:30 p.m. awards ceremony, Dibernardo has gathered “a dynamic lineup of films that reflect the spirit of fearless storytelling, community impact, and cinematic innovation.”

Dibernardo has brought her own dynamic to the Watertown moviemaking scene. The founder of Dibernardo Productions specializes in principal and background casting, location scouting in upstate New York and a range

of production services. She has co-produced a handful of horror-themed films with several scenes shot in Watertown. One of her favorite spots has been an abandoned factory — the former GLV Black Clawson Co. paper research center at 591 W. Main St. In 2022, some scenes for “Brain Hunter: New Breed” film, co-directed by Robert Resto and who also wrote the script, were shot at the building. The film is a sequel to 2013’s “Brain Hunter.” The newer film’s tag line: “A new breed of Brain Hunter has emerged to hunt humans for their brains in New York City.”

Dibernardo heard about the West Main Street building from Watertown resident Ed Abbate, who has been working as a movie extra since 2004. Two years ago, Dibernardo filmed scenes for her film, “EXscaped” at the building. She also wrote the film and played its main character, Veronica Gavin. The movie was co-directed by Kailee Stevenson. The sequel to “EXscaped,” also filmed in 2023, also had scenes filmed at the West Main Street building. That film, “Unraveled: The Prelude

See **MOVIE T9**



Michelle L. Dibernardo, owner of Dibernardo Productions, acts on set in an abandoned building at 591 W. Main St., Watertown, for her film, “EXscaped” in 2023. She played the main character. Dibernardo, who is bringing her Creators Film Fest to Watertown, has a vision of turning the building into a movie studio. WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

Movie

From T8

to EXscaped' was written and produced by Dibernardo.

In September, Dibernardo will film scenes for her new movie, "Those Who Believe," at the Watertown site. The film's synopsis: "In a remote wilderness, a fame-hungry podcaster, a vengeful hunter, a skeptical scientist, and a fearless photographer set out to prove Bigfoot is real. But their documentary spirals into a brutal fight for survival when the myth turns out to be a far more intelligent and deadly reality." Other scenes for the film will be shot at Dibernardo's home in Cicero, the woods in Altmar and the Adirondacks.

FOCUS ON WATERTOWN

Dibernardo said moving the Creators Film Fest to Watertown is part of a larger vision.

"I've always had a passion for enriching the Watertown and Alexandria Bay region with film, television and the arts," she said. "Over the past few years, I've filmed three feature films in Watertown, all showcasing Ray Worcester's historic building, which we are

now working to transform into a movie studio and soundstage. Our vision is to build out a creative hub here, a place where local talent can thrive and filmmakers from across the region can collaborate."

Once a "true film community" is established in Northern New York, Dibernardo sees further potential. "If all goes well, I'd love to one day serve as Watertown's film commissioner, attracting productions to the area and putting this incredible region on the cinematic map."

Dibernardo has been acting and modeling since she was 12 years old. She currently holds a New York state teaching license for acting/modeling. She is represented by multiple agents across the United States and has played background in several television shows, such as "Blacklist," "Blue Bloods," "Hostages," "Smash" and "Unforgettable."

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

The fifth Creators Film Fest will feature a mix of high school films, short narratives, documentaries, horror, and a feature-length centerpiece, the French film "On My Way," directed by Thierry Obadia, inspired by true events. It's a heartfelt journey of self-dis-

covery, family and redemption, following Doudou Ngumbu, a young man abandoned in childhood, as he

seeks his late father's legacy.

"For five years, the Creators Film Festival has been a launchpad for fresh talent and

honest voices," said Dibernardo. "This year's films highlight the resilience of youth, the

See MOVIE T15

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4th of July Parade to Honor all our Veterans:

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Saturday, July 5th:

Live music with North Country Band • 7-11pm.

American Legion | 111 Dundee Road



Call 518-483-3772, 518-358-2396 or
518-358-4847 for more information.

Malone Chamber Concert in the Park Series

Malone — The Malone Chamber of Commerce is proud to present the 2025 Concert in the Park Series to be held on the Malone Lion's Memorial Bandstand at Arsenal Green, at 497 East Main Street, Malone. Concerts will be held every Friday night beginning on July 4th and are FREE to the public. Concerts run from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and feature local and

regional musicians. Community members are encouraged to bring their own chairs and enjoy the music. Concerts are family friendly, and you may even want to get up and dance. There will be a food concession available for a fun supper.

July 4th will feature Zach Scharf, Zach's Honkey Tonk Night, who will be performing popular country tunes with a backup up by M-n-M Entertainment, owned by our own, talented Merrill McKee. From Greenville, South Carolina, Zach takes professional voice lessons and enjoys singing a variety of popular, county songs. His backup is not new to Malone, Merrill McKee, himself an accomplished entertainer, will share the stage and provide the music.

July 11th features Jonathan Foster, an accomplished musician, will entertain with Irish and folks tunes that will thrill the audience. New to the North Country, you'll just love his music.

July 18th. A very popular rock band, requested back by ma-

ny fans, "Last Call," features members: Dean LaVine, Pete Sprague and Jack LaBrake, all accomplished musicians. They have been playing in the area for a long time with many talented band mates. The band plays all types of music including classic rock, country, popular music, and dance music. If anything makes you sway to the music, it will be Last Call.

July 25th brings you M n M Entertainment. Merrill McKee, longtime Malone entertainer, brings you all kinds of music. He is new as a solo artist to the Concerts in the Park line up, but he has entertained many an event in Malone and has helped Zach Scharf with backup. What a great act to end the summer series.

Malone's Chamber of Commerce continues to work to energize Malone by organizing events for residents to enjoy and to welcome visitors to the area. Sponsors make this happen and include: Community Health Center of the North Country, Alice Hyde Medical

See CHAMBER T13

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Concerts In The Park!

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July 4th - Zach's Honky Tonk
July 11th - Jonathan Foster
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Good Ole 4th of July at the Owls Head Mountain View Community Center -- bigger and better than ever!

This year's celebration of community traditions and Independence Day values will feature exhib-its and demon-strations, music, food trucks, and local crafts people proudly offering their goods. Accord-ing to Marcie Ryan, Owls Head Mountain View Community Center Program Director, "We want to recall the festivities of the Firemen's Field Days in Owls Head years ago and in-clude new, fun, family-friend-

ly experiences. These include a waterslide with a small tent where kids can change in and out of bathing suits, a "dunk tank," bake sale, and interactive games. We're especially pleased that several Owls Head Moun-tain View groups are working with us to make this a true com-munity event."

Good Ole 4th of July takes place 11:00am-4:00pm on Fri-

See OWLST13



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Friday, August 8, 2025
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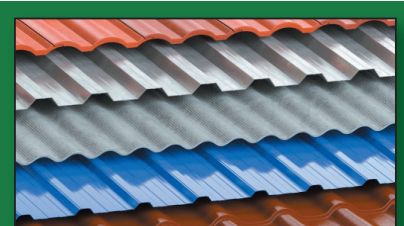
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Now open, a hidden jewel at the top of the hill on Harborview Road in Henderson is a complex of three museum buildings. The first is the Universalist Church. It is now a museum and the headquarters for the Henderson Historical Society. Built in 1839, it houses an eclectic collection of displays from the area of: Native artifacts, a collection dedicated to the Foster-Lansing-Dulles families, a children's corner, antique laces, Tyler Coverlets, and school memorabilia. It retains some

of the original furnishings of the church with its famous ten Horwood stained-glass figure windows and church records. For researchers by appointment the history & genealogy center has a wealth of records for: old town records, military records, census, gazetteers, maps, cemetery and family files, local history, photos and documents. Stepping outside is the 1820s era cabin transported from the shore of Ray's Bay and reconstructed in the historic maple grove. It delights

visitors with a glimpse of one-room frontier life home with its original and reconstructed furnishings. Further up the hill is the Peters-Stevens Boat Annex built in 1913 to house the collection of sixteen antique wooden boats. These were built by the fishing guides of Henderson Harbor for their charter services. Of particular interest is the 1880s Stevens' ice boat which transported supplies in winter to the area islands. The Henderson Historical Society at 12581 Harborview Road, (between NYS 178 & NYS Rte 3) in the hamlet of Henderson is open Mid-May to Mid October, Wednesdays: Noon to 3 PM and Saturdays: 9 AM to Noon. Open for researchers by appointment: hendersonny-historicalsociety@gmail.com.

It is free and open to the public and handicap accessible. Come be a part of history! 2025 Programs Free and open to the public Henderson Historical Society July-16, 2025-HHPA Tri-School Art Show through August 9th July 12-Tyler Coverlet Story/with textile weaver-R. Goody-10 AM July 26-Write Your Story-with Author Sheila Byrnes-10 AM August 9, 2025-Heritage Day & Juried Craft Show, food, authors, non-profits, Silent Auction, building tours, & entertainment 9 AM to 3 PM. Flag Ceremony 8:45 AM August 16-Pieces of History-10 AM presented by Al Dowker



Summer 2025 Chamber Series

MUSIC AMID THE PINES

The Dotys

Lake Clear Presbyterian Church

Thursday, July 10th @ 7pm



Marie-Élaine Gagnon

Childwold Presbyterian Church

Thursday, July 24th @ 7pm



Barb Heller & Liesl Doty

Wanakena Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, August 6th @ 7pm



Lake Clear Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, August 20th @ 7pm





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THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HOUSE OF HISTORY MUSEUM will offer tours all summer Tuesday through Saturday from 10-4pm. To schedule, call 518-483-2750 and leave a message. Please leave your contact information, so we can get back to you to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Franklin County Historical & Museum Society
31 Milwaukee Street, Malone NY | franklinhistory.org



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Owls

From T11

day July 4 at Patsy's Place, the Owls Head Mountain View Community Center, 1977 County Route 27. While admission is free, opportunities to support the Center and its programs include great prizes in the Lucky Numbers draw and the 50/50 raffle. Freewill donations are always appreciated.

President Earl Livernois, Jr., says "Good Ole 4th of July is one of many activities at The Heart of the Community this summer. Doors open for licensed Bingo at 5:00 every Wednesday, with games beginning at 6:30. In mid-July, Get Healthy North Country is offering a free 6-week program where participants will learn tips and techniques to help manage chronic health conditions. Families and groups are renting our ADA ac-

cessible Center for luncheons, meetings, and special events. Following our recent designation by the American Red Cross of Eastern New York as the emergency shelter for the Town of Bellmont in our community, we're working with them to plan and offer new programs."

Owls Head Mountain View Community Connection fosters a sense of place and enriches the quality of life of families, friends, and visitors. At our Community Center we plan, fund, and offer four-season programs and activities to increase community vitality, and provide opportunities for social connections, life-long-learning and healthy living in a safe, easily accessible location, close to home. For more information, please send an email to ohm-vcommunityconnection@gmail.com or go to www.ohm-vcommunityconnection.org or Facebook Friends of OHMV Community Connection.

Chamber

From T10

Center, Café Nouveau, Explore Adirondack Frontier, Hudson Headwaters, Citizen Advocates, Desimo Productions, Ellis Auto, One-Group, Seacomm Credit Union, Malone Ford, NCCC Kim Duffey, Business Department, Asept Pak, the Free Trader, Mountain Marketing Services, the Malone Golf Club, IBC, Casella, Kathy's Treasures, the Riverside, United Ag and Turf, U-First, the Wilder Homestead, and Wild Country Radio. Grant funding

is provided by Explore Adirondack Frontier. With this community's business support, it shows you how important the Concerts in the Park are. That's why we ask you to "shop local."

"Without their contributions, these concerts would not be possible. We appreciate their dedication to our community," said Mary Scharf, Executive Director of the Malone Chamber of Commerce. So, bring your chairs and enjoy the music.

More information can be found on the Malone Chamber of Commerce Facebook page or at www.malonechamberof-commerce.com or by contacting our office at (518) 483-3760.

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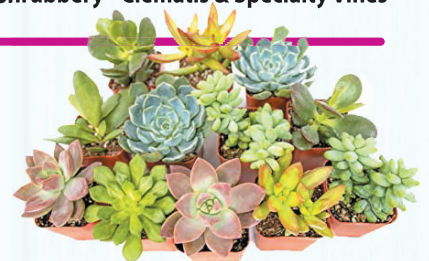


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Natural gas is great for space heating, water heating, drying clothes, and cooking. But what many people forget is natural gas can also be used for grilling.

Natural gas grills offer precise temperature control and rapid heating, making them ideal for backyard BBQ heroes, like Mark (and his trusty sidekick).

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Massena Signature Steak

- Pick your favorite cut of meat (how about a nice NY Strip?)
- Coat both sides of the steak with savory steakhouse seasoning
- Grill steak to desired temperature
- Apply multiple pats of butter and sprinkle with fresh rosemary and thyme.



Story walk in place



Representatives of the B. Elizabeth Strong Memorial Library in Turin has recently put up its annual story walk at Whetstone Gulf State Park. The story "Where is Bear?" is on the Nature Trail — formerly the Exercise Trail. Participants are asked to tag the library on Facebook after reading the book.

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Movie

From T9

complexity of justice, and the importance of independent storytelling in a rapidly changing world.”

Documentary highlights:

“Reformed,” directed by Christopher O’Conner, shares the raw accounts of three formerly incarcerated men who tell of their path from conviction to freedom.

“Breasts Not Required,” directed by Seth Thompson and Hannah Sullivan. Eight women speak candidly about mastectomy, reconstruction and the breast implant industry, challenging the norms of medical and beauty standards.

Short films of horror highlights:

“La Bonita” (“The Pretty”), directed by Miguel Córcoles. “At a mysterious cocktail bar, a waitress enforces justice with an ancient coin ritual.”

“The Days of Knights: Chapter 3,” directed by John P. Martinez. “A dark fantasy of ancient mercenaries, global conspiracies and the survival of humanity.”

Short films highlight:

“Sloppy Sunday,” directed by Christoff LeBlanc. “A gritty drama about a young woman breaking free from exploitation and planning her escape.”

High school films highlight:

“Second Chance,” directed by India Anne Mitchell. “A powerful documentary exploring the juvenile justice system through the eyes of a young filmmaker who turns a traumatic school experience into an act of advocacy and hope.”

PANELISTS SOUGHT

Dibernardo is seeking participants for a Creators Film Fest panel. If interested, contact her at Dibernardoproductionsllc@gmail.com. Vendors are also sought for the festival and those interested in setting up vending space can also contact her at that address. Setup begins at 9 a.m. and vendors must bring their own tables.

TICKETS

Tickets for the festival are available at \$23 general admission, free for students and \$44, VIP. To purchase tickets and for more festival info, go to creatorsfilmfest.com.



Producer Michelle Dibernardo tours a former factory at 591 W. Main St., Watertown, in February of 2022, where the film “Brainhunter – New Breed,” was partially shot. Dibernardo, who is bringing her Creators Film Fest to Watertown, has a vision of turning the building into a film studio. / Watertown Daily Times

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Adams

From T4

such as Tommy Emmanuel and Mark Mazengarb. L.J. has become a fabulous guitarist in his own right. The July 30 show will feature intricate acoustic guitar work from both players and some fine singing.

The Adams Concert Series will welcome the Northern Blend Chorus on Aug. 6. This a capella female barbershop group based in Watertown is affiliated with Harmony, Inc. Northern Blend won the International Chorus Competition in 2024 and is celebrating its 40th anniversary

this year. This is the first time the chorus has performed on the Adams stage.

Rounding out the summer in Adams will be the 10th Mountain Division Army Band. The band performs a range of music including marches, Broadway tunes, jazz standards, classical pieces and popular music.

The schedule:

July 9: Arrhythmias.

July 16: Jordan Davidson and Toni Grieco Zygadlo.

July 23: Ben Wisner and Full Circle.

July 30: Loren and L.J. Barri-gar.

Aug. 6: Northern Blend Cho-rus.

Aug. 13: 10th Mountain Divi-sion Band

Z-fest

From T5

Fall Fest on Oct. 4 — Enjoy a fall day at the farm for activities such as cider making, bread making, making sauer-kraut, food preservation and wagon rides in the woods.

The Adirondack Mennonite Heritage Farm is a historical farm, recognized by the National and State Registries of Historic Places, built by the Moser brothers who settled in Lewis County in 1834. To-day the farm is operated by

AMHA as a historical learning center dedicated to the pres-ervation of Mennonite faith and culture and the way of life of Lewis County farmers. For more information, visit www.mennoniteheritagefarm.com and Facebook or call 315-346-1122.

The Mennonite Heritage Farm is open for visitors on Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from July to October and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in July and August. Appointments may also be made through the end of October. You may call 315-346-1122 or e-mail info@men-noniteheritagefarm.com.

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Almanzo Wilder Homestead is Seeking Items for Upcoming Auction Fundraiser

The Almanzo Wilder Homestead, at 177 Stacy Road in Burke, NY, will be hosting a fundraising auction on Saturday, August 9 starting at 10:30 AM, as part of Heritage Day & Auction event. The auction is the first fundraising event of this kind that the Wilder Association has put on and will be part of that day's Heritage Day special event. Proceeds will help pay for repairs and upgrades that are needed immediately, in order to protect and preserve the buildings at the Homestead.

The association is reaching out to area businesses and the general public for donations of auctionable items. Items sought could include gift certificates, products, or services from local businesses.

Suggested items for donations from artisans, crafts persons, other non-profits, families, and individuals include gift baskets, event tickets, camping gear, fishing gear, musical instruments, tech, art supplies, children's play sets, signed memorabilia, craft and DIY kits, free lessons, classes, and memberships, and high-

end household goods, kitchen items, sports equipment, garden tools, etc.

The support of the local community can make a meaningful difference. According to board president, Carl Tillinghast, "Your generous donation says you support your community and want to help us achieve our goals. And in recognition of your support, we would be pleased to offer 2 free admission passes to the Wilder Homestead on Aug. 9 for our Heritage Day event. There is no charge to attend the auction on the day, but there are admission fees to the Wilder Homestead for the Heritage Day event, being offered at the Farm on that day".

Contact the Wilder Farm at 518-483-1207 or email farm@almanzowilderfarm.com for further details. The association can arrange a pickup or discuss any questions you may have.

The Almanzo Wilder Homestead, site of the book "Farmer Boy" by Laura Ingalls Wilder, is open to visitors Wednesday through Sunday. Details are at almanzowilderfarm.com.

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Calendar

From T7

gion, 209 Ambrose St.

July 6

Alexandria Bay

Summer Concert Series: Held 8 p.m. various dates, Bonnie Castle Resort, 31 Holland St. Information: www.bonniecastle.com.

Sunday, July 6: Beatlemania Now
Sunday, July 13: Fearless, the Taylor Swift Experience

Thursday, July 24: Hollywood Nights - The True Bob Seger Experience

Saturday, Aug. 9: Stevie Mac
Friday, Aug. 15: Double Vision - The Foreigner Experience

Thursday, Aug. 21: Hotel California: The Original Eagles Tribute

Sunday, Aug. 31: Journey from the Heart

Canton

Facing the Present with Heart: Facilitated by Jenna Joya Blondel, PhD, minister of walking prayer, 2 to 3 p.m. **first Sunday of the month**, Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, 3 1/2 E. Main St. Information: www.uucantonny.org or 315-386-2498.

Fort Covington

Pancake breakfast: 8 to 11 a.m. **first Sunday of the month**, Fort Covington Adult Center, 2526 Chateaugay St. Menu: Pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, home fries, sausage gravy on biscuit, strawberry sauce, and peaches. Cost: \$12; 5 to 12, \$5; 4 and younger, free.

Heuvelton

Dance: Elderly Brothers Band, 1 to 5 p.m. **Sunday, July 6;** and Small Town Ramblers Band, 1 to 5 p.m. **Sunday, July 20,** Amvets Post 1997, 107 State St. Cover charge: \$5.

Watertown

Jason R. Price Storytellers: For Charity Rooftop Showcase, 1 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, July 6,** rooftop, The Strand Theater, 136 Franklin St. Benefits Rocking Out Childhood Cancer (ROCC). Cost: \$15. Tickets: <https://ticketpeak.co/harmony/events>.

July 7

Morristown

2025 Concert Series: 6:30 p.m. various **Mondays and Saturdays, July 7 to Aug. 25,** Morristown Gateway Museum, Main Street. Rain location: Morristown Fire Department pavilion.

Monday, July 7: Annie in the Water
Monday, July 14: Margarita Mike and the Coconutz

Saturday, July 26: Double Axel
Monday, July 28: Sacci Big Band

Monday, Aug. 4: Another Fine Mess

Monday, Aug. 11: Small Town Dreamers

Monday, Aug. 18: Sirsy

Saturday, Aug. 23: Clusterfunk

Monday, Aug. 25: The Non-Commit-tals

Ogdensburg

Book walks: All ages, “Turtle Walk,” by Matt Phelan, all day **Monday, July 7, to Saturday, July 12;** and “Ellie,” by Mike Wu, all day **Monday, July 21, to Saturday, July 26,** Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free. Story and walk in park.

July 8

Black River

Book Club: 10 to 11 a.m. **second Tuesday of each month**, Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, 101 Public Works Drive. Will discuss book from previous month, talk about book for next month, and anything else that comes up.

Massena

Vacation Bible school: Rivers of Faith, 9 a.m. to noon **Tuesday, July 8, Wednesday, July 9, and Thursday, July 10;** and 10 a.m. to noon with picnic **Friday, July 11,** First United Methodist Church, 189 Main St. Information, registration: 315-769-8036.

Adams

Adams Community Concert Series: Held 6:30 p.m. **Wednesdays, July 9 to Aug. 13,** Adams Fire Department Pavilion, Main Street. Bring lawn chair; Sixtown Meeting House as rain location. Free.

July 9: Arrhythmias

Summer Fun

July 16: Jordan Davidson and Toni Grieco Zygadlo

July 23: Ben Wisner and Full Circle

July 30: Loren and LJ Barrigar

Aug. 6: Northern Blend Chorus

Aug. 13: 10th Mountain Division Band

Ogdensburg

STEAM Lab Day: Light: For those 7 and older, 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Wednesday, July 9;** and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Saturday, July 12,** Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free; lab experiments to earn degree in lightology.

Potsdam

Potsdam Summer Fest: 10 a.m. **Thursday, July 10, Friday, July 11, and Saturday, July 12,** Market Street, downtown Potsdam. Live music, entertainment, food, family-friendly activities, Ducky Pluck, vendors. Information: www.potsdam-chamber.com.

Watertown

Vacation Bible School 2025: For those 4 to 12, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. **Wednesday, July 9, through Saturday, July 12,** New Hope Baptist Church, 19983 Route 3. Stories, games, crafts, and music. Free.

West Leyden

“Wednesdays in West Leyden”: Held 6 to 8 p.m. **Wednesdays, July 9 and 23, and Aug. 13 and 27,** Town of Lewis Park, 4801 Mud Lake Road.

July 9: Fritz’ Polka Band

July 23: Clemens Tradition

Aug. 13: Cincinnati Creek

Aug. 27: Matt Chase

July 10

Potsdam

Potsdam Summer Fest: 10 a.m. **Thursday, July 10, Friday, July 11, and Saturday, July 12,** Market Street, downtown Potsdam. Live music, entertainment, food, family-friendly activities, Ducky Pluck, vendors. Information: www.potsdam-chamber.com.

July 11

Cape Vincent

French Festival: Held **Friday, July 11, Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13,**

downtown, Cape Vincent. Parade, live music, children’s activities, crafts, food, kidpreneur, fireworks. Information, full schedule: <https://capevincent.org/french-festival>.

Chateaugay

CCS Class of 1965 - 60th Reunion: Chateaugay Central School, 5 p.m. **Friday, July 11,** American Legion, 80 W. Main St. Cost: \$25 per person. Information: Pat O’Connor, 518-521-8033.

Clayton

The Syracuse Orchestra: 7:30 to 9 p.m. **Friday, July 11,** Clayton Opera House, 405 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$35; center, \$40; premium, \$45. Information, tickets: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

Gouverneur

10th annual St. Lawrence County Golf Tournament: To benefit Volunteer Transportation Center, shotgun start, 9 a.m. **Friday, July 11,** Emerald Greens Golf Course, 1485 Route 11. Cost: \$360 per team. Information, registration: foundation@volunteertransportation.org.

July 12

Alexandria Bay

24th annual 1000 Islands Charity Poker Run: To benefit Foundation for Community Betterment, 9 a.m. to noon **Saturday, July 12,** Alexandria Bay Village Beach and Pavilion. Rain or shine, prizes, food and beverage. Information: www.community-betterment.org/alexandriabay.

Blue Mountain Lake

Felted Meditation Stone Workshop: Meditation stone or pillow, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Saturday, July 12,** Adirondack Museum, 9097 Route 30.

Henderson

“The Story of the Tyler Coverlet”: With Mrs. R. Goody, weaving expert, 10 a.m. **Saturday, July 12,** Henderson Historical Society, 12581 County Route 72. Free; may bring own coverlet for appraisal.

Lake Placid

Martin Sexton: 8 p.m. **Saturday, July 12,** Lake Placid Center for the Arts, 17 Algonquin Drive. Cost: \$37; advance, \$27.

Ogdensburg

Walk and Talk Tour: History of Ogdensburg, led by Julia Madlin, city historian, and hosted by Ogdensburg History Museum, 10 a.m. **Saturday, July 12,** from Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Tour lasts approx. one and a half hours. Information: www.ogdensburghistorymuseum.com.

Potsdam

Canton-Potdam Hospital Guild golf tournament: Registration, 8 to 8:45 a.m.; shotgun start, 9 a.m. **Saturday, July 12,** Potsdam Town and Country Club, 6194 Route 56. Cost: \$90; per team, \$360; includes 18 holes with cart, luncheon, prizes, silent auction. Information: www.cphguild.org.

Rensselaer Falls

Dragonfly program: With Jan Trybula, ICNC board member, 10 a.m. to noon **Saturday, July 12,** Indian Creek Nature Center, 770 County Road 14. Rain date: July 13.

Watertown

29th annual Lavery Golf Tournament:

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, July 12,** Willowbrook Golf Course, 25075 Route 37. Four man, captain and crew; rain or shine. Cost: \$100 per golfer; includes meal at turn, dinner, and cart rental/golf. Followed by short memorial celebration for Lavery family.

July 13

Blue Mountain Lake

Adirondack Art Festival: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Sunday, July 13,** Adirondack Museum, 9097 Route 30. Included with admission.

Henderson

Student Art Show: In collaboration with Henderson Historical Society, and student artists from Belleville Henderson, Sackets Harbor, and South Jefferson Central Schools, 1 to 4 p.m. **Sunday, July 13,** On the Green, Whitney Road. Live music; free.

Watertown

Fourth annual Kai Music Education Scholarship Fund Recital: Featuring past scholarship recipients, 4 p.m. **Sunday, July 13,** Trinity Episcopal Church, 227 Sherman St. Cost: \$22. Information, tickets: www.kaimusicfund.org.

July 14

Malone

AARP Driver Safety course: For licensed NYS drivers of all ages, 8:30 a.m. to noon **Monday, July 21, and Tuesday, July 22,** Malone Adult Center, 14906 Route 30. Cost: \$30; AARP members, \$25 (cash or check at first class). Registration required by July 14: 518-483-6611.

July 15

Cape Vincent

Ed Pronto’s science table: 10 a.m. **Tuesdays, July 15 and 22,** Cape Vincent Library, 157 N. Real St.

Lake Placid

Impact Theater Camp: Weeklong theater day camp for those 10 to 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Monday, July 28, through Friday, Aug. 1,** North Country School, 4382 Cascade Road. Performances, 7 p.m. **Friday, Aug. 1.** Free. Applications due **Tuesday, July 15:** <https://grco.de/bftP6P>.

Lowville

Lewis County Fair: Held **Tuesday, July 15, through Saturday, July 19,** Lewis County Fairgrounds, 5485 Bostwick St. Information, tickets, full schedule: www.lewis-countyfair.org.

Watertown

Jefferson County Fair: Held **Tuesday, July 15, through Sunday, July 20,** Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, Coffeen Street. Information, tickets, full schedule: www.jeffcofair.org.

July 16

Canton

Christianity explored: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Wednesdays, July 16, 23 and 30,** Paige room, Canton Free Library, 8 Park St.

See CALENDAR T19

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Grammy winner Mark Prentice to be in good (vocal) company at opera house

By **CHRIS BROCK**

cbrock@wdt.net

CLAYTON — When Watertown native and Grammy award-winning producer and musician Mark Prentice came from his home in Nashville last year to work as music director of the “Rockin’ the North Country: The Bands, The Music, Our Story” concert, his wife fondly soaked up the experience.

“Being an outsider, when I came there just to be a spectator with Mark and to meet his friends and everything, what really hit my heart was how tight knit that community is,” Michelle Nicolo Prentice said.

Like Mark, Michelle is a world-class entertainer. However, Mark will say the talent of his wife of 29 years far exceeds his.

“I’ve worked with everybody, and she is one percent of the one percent,” Mark said. “She’s one of the great vocalists, entertainers and song stylists.”

But don’t just take his word for it.

In Michelle’s promotional material, among those who share accolades on the vocalist is Mike Reid, a Grammy winner who has written 12 number one hit singles and is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame: “I wish I could tell you what hearing Michelle sing means to me. It makes me glad that I’ve had anything to do with music.”

Mark, a 1971 graduate of Watertown High School, played in some iconic north country rock bands. He left the north country in 1976 to move west. He won a Grammy for producing the 1997 Warner Bros. release, “I Couldn’t Hear Nobody Pray” by the Fairfield Four, featuring guest performances by Elvis Costello and Garrison Keillor. In 2012-13, he was music director and bass player for “The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream” tour. Produced and directed by Steven Van Zandt, the show was a “bio-concert,” a hybrid of a rock concert

and a Broadway show. In Nashville, he’s a highly respected session musician, with a career spanning country, pop, rock, and R&B. Among other musicians with credits linked to him: Bruce Springsteen, John Fogerty, Olivia Newton-John, Earth, Wind & Fire, Vince Gill and Alison Krauss. His versatility behind the scenes and on stage also make him a sought-after talent.

Michelle is known for her stunning vocal range and emotional depth. She has been described as “a singer’s singer” who has “the voice of an angel.”

Michelle has recorded with Rod Stewart, Dennis DeYoung, Bebe Winans, Wynonna Judd and others. Her performance highlights include singing with the Sarajevo Symphony to mark the Dayton Peace Accords and recording “Somewhere” from “West Side Story” with Kenneth

See PRENTICE T20



Watertown native, Grammy winner, producer and Nashville-based bass session player Mark Prentice was music director of last year’s “Rockin’ the North Country: The Bands, The Music, Our Story” concert at the Clayton Opera House. On July 18, he will return to the opera house with his wife, Michelle, for a concert to benefit the North Country Music Project. SoundBetter

Calendar

From T18

Light supper provided. Information, reservations: Garrett, pastor@lisbonrpc.org or 785-341-1329. Hosted by Lisbon Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Clayton

The Martha Redbone Roots Project: 7:30 to 9 p.m. **Wednesday, July 16**, Clayton Opera House, 405 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$40; center, \$45; premium, \$50. Information, tickets: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

Ogdensburg

Library Lego time: For those 5 to 12, 5 p.m. **Wednesday, July 16**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free.

Save the River: 3:30 p.m. **Wednesdays, July 16 and 30** (teens); and 11 a.m. **Saturday, July 26**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free.

July 16: Water quality lab

July 26: What’s Under a Rock

July 30: Sun paper

July 17

Constable

Rabies vaccination clinic: For cats, dogs, and ferrets, 6 to 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, July 17**, Constable Volunteer Firemen, 1136 Route 122. Free; donations of \$5 welcome. Information: 518-481-1710.

Lowville

Puzzle competition - championship: Hosted by Lewis County Office for the Aging, check-in, 3:30 p.m.; competition, 3:45 to

5:45 p.m. **Thursday, July 17**, Leroy Nichols building, Lewis County Fairgrounds, 5485 Bostwick St. Information: 315-376-5313.

July 18

Clayton

57th annual decoy and wildlife art show: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. **Friday, July 18**; and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Saturday, July 19**, Cerow Arena, 615 E. Line Road. Information: www.timuseum.org.

An Evening with Mark and Michelle Prentice: 7:30 to 9 p.m. **Friday, July 18**, Clayton Opera House, 405 Riverside Drive. Cost: General admission, \$42; VIP, \$102. Information, tickets: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

Massena

SeaComm Golf Tournament: Shotgun tart, 9 a.m. **Friday, July 18**, Cedar View Golf Club, 462 Route 37C. Cost: \$320, four person scramble per team. Award reception to follow in clubhouse. Information: Sherry Thompson or Virginia Mossow, Massena.

Watertown

“Rock the City for Bill”: Annual event honoring William P. Plante, registration, 9 a.m.; shotgun start, 10 a.m.; concert doors open, 6 p.m.; dinner to follow **Friday, July 18**, Thompson Park Golf Course, Thompson Park. Cost: Golf, \$400 captain and crew; concert, \$65. Information, registration: Mackenzie Colello Thomas, 315-778-2340 or mackenziecolello@gmail.com.

July 19

Alexandria Bay

Night at the Museum: History comes alive, 7 to 9 p.m. **Saturday, July 19**, Cornwall Brothers Store Museum, 36 Market St. Cost: \$25; couple, \$40 (coupon code: Couples).

Cape Vincent

Ed Pronto’s fossil field trip: 9 a.m. **Saturday, July 19**, Cape Vincent Library, 157 N. Real St.

Carthage

Shootin’ Trap for Trips: 8 a.m. (no sign-ups after 1 p.m.) **Saturday, July 19**, Carthage Rod and Gun Club, 4500 Cold Springs Park Road. Compete as team or individual, raffles. To benefit Volunteer Transportation Center. Information: 315-303-2590 or www.volunteertransportationcenter.org.

Philadelphia

Chicken barbecue: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Saturdays, July 19 and Aug. 16**, Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 21 Main St. Takeout style, but with option to eat on lawn, weather permitting. Menu: Barbecue chicken, salad, baked beans, roll, and dessert. Cost: \$12; half chicken, \$6. Benefits church insurance.

Watertown

Volunteer work day: 9 a.m. to noon **Saturdays, July 19, Aug. 9, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, and Nov. 8**, Thompson Park.

July 20

Chaumont

The Underground Railroad: Presentation by Tom LaClair, former Town/Village of Clayton historian, 2 p.m. **Sunday, July 20**, Lyme Heritage Center, 1848 Depot St. In-

formation: 315-649-5452.

Three Mile Bay

Jason Price Memorial Fundraiser: Noon to 5 p.m. **Sunday, July 20**, 7828 Route 12E. All ages, free venue parking. Cost: \$20. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jason-price-memorial-fundraiser-tickets-1309302582269>.

July 21

Chaumont

Monday Music on the Lake: With Lyme Performing Arts Council, 6 p.m. **Mondays, July 21 and Aug. 18**, Chaumont Village Beach, Route 12E. Food and beverages available for purchase. Free; donations accepted.

July 2: Knotty Paddy
Aug. 18: Dog Hill Road

Clayton

Free community dinner: Takeouts, 4:30 p.m.; dine in, 5 p.m. **third Monday of the month**, River Community Church, 38844 Bartlett Point Road. Information, pre-orders: 315-775-6711.

Henderson

“Rumplestiltskin Unspun”: “REV” theater program for children, 1 to 2:30 p.m. **Monday, July 21**, On the Green, Whitney Road. Free.

July 22

Carthage

Rumplestiltskin: Unspun: Hosted by Sally Ploof Hunter Memorial Library, 6:30 p.m. **Tuesday, July 22**, Carthage High School, 36500 Route 26. Free.

July 23

Ogdensburg

ADK Raptors: All ages, 5 p.m. **Wednesday, July 23**, Ogdensburg Public Library, 312 Washington St. Free; learn about and meet hawks, owls, and other Adirondacks predatory birds.

July 24

Canton

Big Bubble Bonanza: Featuring Jeff Boyer, 3 to 4 p.m. **Thursday, July 24**, First Presbyterian Church, 17 Park St.

Clayton

Next Generation Leahy: 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, July 24**, Clayton Opera House, 403 Riverside Drive. Cost: Side, \$40; center, \$45; premium, \$50. Information, tickets: www.claytonoperahouse.com.

Henderson

Houde School of Acting classes: For those 6 to 11, held **Thursday, July 24**, Gill House, On the Green, Whitney Road. Limited seating, registration required: www.houdeschoolofacting.com.

July 25

Watertown

Downtown Block Party: 5 to 10 p.m. **Fridays, July 25 and Aug. 29**, Public Square, downtown Watertown. Live music, ice cream, food trucks, art, children’s activities, community corner.

Prentice

From T19

Schermerhorn and the Nashville Symphony. She's also featured on the National Endowment of the Arts' "Great American Voices" album, alongside Caruso and Leontyne Price. She's also a trained opera singer.

The couple, with Michelle on vocals and Mark accompanying on piano, often sell out shows where they perform. On Friday, July 18, they will perform at the Clayton Opera House. Part of that concert's proceeds will benefit the North Country Music Project, which has a mission that has expanded beyond last summer's concert, which was a tribute to the legacy of the north country's rock 'n roll. The NCMP is the brainchild

of Watertown expats Tom Walker Jr. and Larry Gordon. The concert, modeled after Kennedy Center Honors, was the kickoff to an oral history project.

'MUSIC IS THE CONNECTOR'

Mark said that the Rockin' the North Country concert, which sold out months in advance, exceeded well beyond its expectations.

"With such limited time to be on the ground with people, there were so many things that could have gone wrong, and none of it did. It was amazing."

The overall music project is also important to the Prentices, who spoke by phone earlier this month from their home in Nashville.

"They still have a lot to do," Mark said. They've done a ton of interviews that they need to transcribe, and they are making a permanent archive at the (Flower Memorial) library."

Mark said that for several years,

his north country friends had asked him to return to the area, so he was happy to be music director of the 2024 concert.

"Michelle was with me and she got a sense of the cool, iconic history of that opera house building," he said.

Michelle said the experience reminded her of "The Rascals: Once Upon a Dream" tour.

"I would sit in the audience and would watch people, and later I said to Mark, 'It was like little kids waiting for their favorite play or something.' It was the energy, the excitement, and that's what it was like in Clayton. The camaraderie really hit me. You don't see communities like that anymore, or at least I don't. It was special and I met so many great people."

When her husband suggested they do a show at the 121-year-old opera house, Michelle eagerly agreed. "First of all, I love the build-

ing. It's so beautiful and the energy in that building is amazing. I thought it would be fun to perform for the people there because I enjoyed everyone that I met, and we just had a great time."

Mark said that he was struck by another element of last summer's NCMP concert.

"Music is still really important to the larger group of folks like who were at that show last year." The audience also matched the demographics of the Prentices' live audiences: people in their 40s and up, Mark noted.

"The world comes at you fast," he said. "But music is the connector. That's one of the cool things every time I come back there: there's still a lot of support for live music and people are engaged."

Their July 18 concert is simply titled, "An Evening with Mark and Michelle Prentice."

"It's a love story," Mark said. "For me, having done all the things I've done, this is the thing I want to tour with and bring to people."

Their show is a blend of genres, from the Great American Songbook to tunes of the 1970s, with storytelling.

"What Mark is amazing at is putting a show together with story lines," Michelle said. "It's not scripted in the sense that we have specific lines that we say. But he takes you on a journey, and that's what we're doing, with music. It takes you on a ride where you are up, or you're crying or laughing. I've watched it time and time again. We know that it's hitting people in their hearts, which is our goal, because as far as I'm concerned, music is the connection to the divine, to God. It's universal and speaks to everybody."

Michelle is a native of Salt Lake City, Utah. She said she put her career on hold when she had two children with her first husband, born when she was the ages 18 and 20. She also has a son with Mark.

"I put my career kind of on the back burner. I still sang, but my focus was on my children. I knew that if I went for a career, they would suffer. You literally can't do both well. This is sort of my time now. I'm a grandma. We have our little granddaughter three days a week, which I just love beyond words. It's my time to have a career now, and I'm really happy to be performing for people again. It's my heart and my soul."

Michelle knew that at age 3 she wanted to be a singer. Her parents owned an Italian restaurant. Her dad loved music, and he booked bands that played on weekends. She saw a singer on stage and told her dad, "That's what I want to do!"

Mark said that their concert will allude to another aspect of his wife's career — Mama's Lullaby, which began as a collection of original lullabies designed specifically for mothers, not babies. The project now includes a series of EPs of lullabies, a website and a podcast. One of those podcasts featured multi-platinum artist, writer and mother Amy Grant.

The concert will have a variety of tunes, Michelle said, and she is certain of one thing: "People will leave with big smiles on their faces."

Mark agreed, and added, "I've got a lot of friends up there and people are familiar with Michelle through the internet, but at the concert, they don't have any idea what's about to hit them."

The Friday, July 18 concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45.50 for general admission. VIP tickets are also available for \$105.50. They can be reserved at claytonoperahouse.com. All tickets are reduced 25% through July 1, with that discount applied at checkout.

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Champion Old Home Day to continue

Staff report

CHAMPION — The Champion Grange No. 18 is at a crossroads according to member Brian Sech.

“With the passing of its longtime leader, the county grange has stepped in to see if the remaining members and any other residents around our town are interested in reorganizing and keeping this long time institution going,” Mr. Sech said in an online posting.

In a brief history of the Champion Grange, Mr. Sech said, “The roots of the Grange revolved around supporting farmers and the community. They advocated for agriculture, transportation, education, and many other community issues. The Champion Grange was organized in 1875. This is the longest running organization in our town. The building itself predates the grange organization. It was originally built as a church and dedicated Christmas Day 1813.”

The Champion Grange is known for organizing the annual Old Home Day held on July 4, complete with a parade, chicken barbecue and tour of the historic Hiram Hubbard homestead.

The organization held a reorganizational meeting May 11 which had a “great

turn out,” according to Melvin Phelps, Jefferson County Grange president/master.

“There were 22 community members and supporting Grangers in attendance,” he said.

Mr. Sech said that at the May meeting, it was decided to hold the July 4 Old Home Day, continuing with a chicken barbecue and parade.

At the June meeting it was decided to hold the barbecue at the fire hall instead of at its usual location of the Grange. Billed as the parade you can see coming and going — the parade will begin at 11 a.m. with line-up at the Champion Fire Station on Route 126, cross the highway, continue down Route 47, turn and return to the fire hall.

Along with the Hubbard house, Route 126, being open for the day, people can visit the Grange building, Route 47, to learn more about the Grange.

“Even if you’re not interested in joining but would like to volunteer to help out with fundraising and work inside and out around the building it’s greatly appreciated,” said Mr. Sech. “As some know they are in a reorganizational period right now. We’re going to try to promote it more.”



Eben James, wearing an Uncle Sam suit, accompanied by his brother Noah, carrying a sign stating the suit was made in 1964 by Helena Fitzgerald Waite, lead a past Champion Old Home Parade
Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

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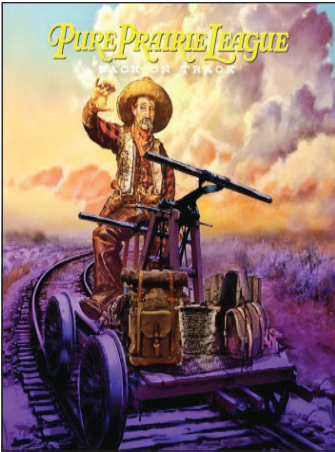
Pure Prairie League ‘Back on Track’ and headed for Clayton

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

CLAYTON — Pure Prairie League, which for five decades has brought mainstream success to the country rock and southern rock genres, continues to ride the revival wave with “Back on Track,” the group’s first studio album in nearly 20 years.

“Back on Track,” released in December, takes the classic PPL sound and gives it a fresh spin. That spin will be included when Pure Prairie League performs at the Clayton Opera House on Wednesday, July 2.

Today’s Pure Prairie League features founding member



“Back on Track” is the first Pure Prairie League studio album in nearly 20 years. New band members blend the band’s classic sound with a fresh perspective. Bill Brown

See **CLAYTON T23**



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Pure Prairie League from left: Scott Thompson, John David Call, Jared Camic, Randy Harper and Jeff Zona. Laura Schneider

Clayton

From T22

John David Call on pedal steel guitar; Scott Thompson on drums, percussion, and vocals; Randy Harper on keyboards and vocals; Jeffrey Zona on guitars and vocals and Jared Camic on bass and vocals. “Back on Track” also features special guests Jenifer Wrinkle on fiddle; Jeff (Birdman) Kirk on alto sax; Mat Britain on steel drums and percussion and Gary Burr, a PPL member in the mid-80s and late-90s, on vocals.

“Back on Track” began in early 2023 as an idea for an EP to showcase the three newest

members of PPL — Harper, Camic and Zona. But that quickly morphed into an entire band record, featuring a fresh new element while paying homage to the old. The album was produced by veteran PPL bassist and band leader Michael Reilly,

Also, for longtime PPL fans, the new record also brings a familiar visual treat.

“I called my old friend Bill Brown, who had done the illus-

trations for our last project in 2005, ‘All in Good Time,’” Reilly said in a news release. “Once again, Bill captured the spirit of our old cowpoke/mascot Sad Luke, while contemporizing the feel to reflect the band’s history, as well as the old-is-new approach to the music. The concept, the colors, the feel and the mood were everything we wanted.”

Throughout its 55-year exis-

tence, Pure Prairie League has built a legacy that survived the twists and turns of the music industry as well as the revolving door of members during its decades-long career.

“We’re hoping that our fans will be as pleased with the new record as we are proud of what we’ve done,” Reilly said. “I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the scores of people past and present that have contributed to the sound and the legacy of PPL.

In 1975 the band scored its biggest hit with the single “Amie.” Other hits include “Let Me Love You Tonight,” “Two Lane Highway,” “I’m Almost Ready” and “Still Right Here in My Heart.”

CONCERT INFO

Pure Prairie League performs at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 2 at Clayton Opera House, 403 Riverside Drive. Tickets are \$55, \$60 and \$65. They are available at Claytonoperahouse.com

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