

PROGRESS



PROGRESS

FEBRUARY 2025



Inside these pages,
local businesses and
organizations spotlight
what they have to offer.

Municipal officials talk
about the economic
impacts for Lewis
County and the greater
Carthage area.

Read about the
highlights of economic
developments over the
past year.

A special supplement to this week's edition of the Journal & Republican Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Stony Creek Country Store carries a variety of products

Stony Creek Country Store is located in Deer River on State Route 26, about 21/2 miles south of Carthage. Our bulk foods part includes baking supplies, spices, soup mixes, pasta, candy and snacks, cereal, canning supplies and gift items. We bake our own bread, pies and cookies. At the deli, you can order subs and sandwiches, have party platters made or get cold cuts for making your own sandwiches. We take phone orders for quick pickup.

Spring opens our soft ice cream window and brings in flower and vegetable plants from local greenhouses. We carry garden seeds and mulch hay, too. In the summer, there are vegetables and fruit from local sources. Potato and macaroni salads and coleslaw are available then, too. Fall brings mums, apples from nearby orchards and apple cider.

Brown eggs and a lot of the pork products come from our own farm. We have some cuts of goat meat and goat feta and mozzarella cheeses from our own goats. We sell maple syrup from our own sugarbush. The applesauce and soups in the freezer are homemade here at the store.

Potpies and frozen meal options such as lasagna, sweet & sour chicken, and chicken broccoli stuffed shells make meal preparations much easier. Looking for gifts or handcrafts? Come in and check out our selection of knitted items, embroidered and crocheted things, and candles. We also carry a variety of essential oils and DoTerra products.”

Pure honey is available from local sources.

We do custom baking by order and can make some gluten- or sugar-free things. There are a variety of party platters to choose from such as snack trays, veggie trays, cheese and crackers, and regular meat and cheese trays. We can make rolls to go with the tray or make a sub or sandwich tray that’s ready to serve.

We support a lot of local businesses here. There is meat from Red Barn Meats, milk from Black River Valley Natural, coffee from Tug Hill Artisans, dry brine from Miller’s Meat

Market, and Croghan bologna from Croghan Meat Market. We also carry maple sugar products from Sollyjon’s Maple and Lyndaker’s Maple Orchard. Flavored maple syrups and maple hard candy comes from Sterling Maple.

We accept debit and credit cards and food stamps. Our store hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. We are closed Sunday. Mark your calendar for our Open House the first weekend in June. There is a free lunch and a storewide discount on your purchases that Friday and Saturday. You can contact us at 315-493-0750 if you have questions or orders. Thank you, friends and customers, for stopping in to shop at the store!



Ready to serve you at Stony Creek Country Store are in front, Ernest Yoder, and standing, from left, Lily Lapp, Savilla Steria, Carla Newswanger, Gabriella Steria, Larissa Lyndaker and Gretchen Yoder.

Carthage free library a community asset for a century

For over 110 years, the Carthage Free Library has been offering valuable services that go beyond the mere loaning of books. As the community grows and evolves, the library’s Board of Trustees, staff, and the Friends of the Carthage Free Library are active to ensure that the library continues to meet the patrons’ needs and to offer a variety of programs and services that are interesting, relevant, and helpful. No matter your age, the Carthage Free Library has something for you.

We have an ever-growing collection of books for all ages, DVDs, video games, STEM kits and games, and magazines available. You can also check out audiobooks and eBooks through the Libby app. Whatever the Carthage branch does not have, can very likely be requested from one of the other 65 libraries within the North Country Library System (NCLS). Through the North Country Library System site (ncls.org) our patrons have access to a multitude of different services such as the entire library system catalog, eBooks and audiobooks via Libby, as well as online resources such as Kanopy (streaming movies and TV), Mometrix (test preparation), JobNow (job resource help), and Ancestry (genealogy searching). The Carthage Free Library also has public computers and print/copy/fax services at minimal cost.

The library runs a variety of programs for different age groups throughout the year. Very popular is the weekly Storytime for Pre-K, which includes songs, crafts, games, snacks, and of course fun books. Our children’s library is a wonderful place for kids to explore books, play, color, or just hang out. We aim to provide a fun and friendly space that is warm, inviting, inspiring, and supports child literacy. Our library also works closely with the local Headstart program. We offer special programs for elementary age such as LEGO builds, STEM programs or crafts; Summer Reading Program; Battle of the Books; and special themed events during Winter and Spring Break. We also have Teen Nights for middle and high schoolers. For adults there is a Book Club, and one-on-one tech help with personal devices. We have monthly Make & Takes, which are crafts that can be finished in two hours, for families and the community. The Community Room space can be rented/used based upon event and availability (40 max).

Our library is one of about 20 that is actively participating in Senior Planet training, a popular system that teaches folks 60+ how to navigate modern technology such as computer basics, smart phones, IPADs, Zoom, tele health, Internet safety, and much more. Classes and workshops cap at 14 people, but lectures are fully open. Follow our web page, follow us on Facebook, or call us if you are interested in Senior Planet classes. For those interested in physical health we also offer seated exercise classes for adults each week called Rock-in’ Chairs Fitness.

The library tries to offer programs that are free to patrons. We rarely charge, but we are grateful for donations because they keep us viable. A couple of times a year we also accept book donations for our book sales that benefits the library. We have an active FRIENDS group, which helps fundraise for the library and are always looking for more friends!

Come visit us at 412 Budd Street in Carthage; we have a Church Street parking lot and are open Monday-Thursday 10:00-7:00, Friday 10:00-4:00, and Saturday 12:00-4:00. For questions call us at 315-493-2620 for find us on the web at www.carthagefreelibrary.org and on Facebook. We are looking forward to serving you!



Foy Agency celebrating its 75th year

The Foy Agency is a 3rd generation, family-owned independent insurance agency that has been providing insurance to businesses and families for 75 years.

The agency was founded by Francis and Rosemary Foy upon Francis’s return home from being a POW in WWII. Francis and Rosemary ran the business out of their home on Roberts Road in Deer River for several years before purchasing a small schoolhouse building on Deer River Road in 1960. Francis’s son and his wife, Thomas and Sue Foy, later took over the family business. The Agency is now owned and operated by Jeffrey Foy and Michael Hayes.

There continues to be three offices located in Lewis County.

The Croghan Office is run by long time employee, Brenda Nortz.

The Lowville Office is managed by Kristi Best-Spencer and they are excited to bring Ashley Hoch to their Lowville branch who will work as a Personal Lines Customer Service Rep.

The main office in Deer River has long-time employees to help manage the Commercial

Lines department and is led by Maureen Steria as well as Paige Eves & Jeanna Everard.

The personal lines department is led by Shawwna Brotherton and Erin Gebo, both who have over 20 years of insurance experience in the North Country and specialize in Personal Lines Sales and Service. Other team members include Brooke Smykla and Rachel Woodworth,

Personal Lines CSR’s, Jake Fleury, Sales & Support & Elisa St. Louis who oversees administrative assistant duties.

Kyle Gehrke and Rox Hultbert continue to be the go-to Farm and Agriculture Specialists.

Kyle often wears several hats and helps with Commercial & Personal Sales as well.

As an Independent insurance firm, the Foy Agency represents over 25 Regional and National Insurance Companies to provide you with all your business and personal insurance needs. Foy Agency’s clients include businesses from agricultural to manufacturing as well as restaurant, lodging and non-for-profit organizations. They welcome the opportunity to work on home and auto quotes, along with motorcycle and offroad vehicles.

The Foy Agency welcomes the chance to provide recommendations on any of your various insurance needs. You may reach us in Deer River at 315-493-2391, Croghan at 315-346-6378 and our Lowville office at 315-376-2731.



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CARTHAGE, NY 13619**

PHONE 315-493-2620

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- Macaroni & Potato Salad - Available Summer Months

Foy Agency Inc.

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Deer River 315-493-2391 Croghan 315-346-6378

Lowville 315-376-2731

Our Staff Has The Know-How To Help You Solve Your Insurance Needs.

Come To Us For Experienced Advice On Low-Cost Insurance



Foy Agency Inc.
7383 Utica Blvd.
Lowville, NY



Foy Agency Inc.
3997 Deer River Road
Deer River, NY



Foy Agency Inc.
9795 Main Street
Croghan, NY

“Built on integrity, since 1950”

Lewis County Health System provides access to vital healthcare services for the north country

Lewis County Health System (LCHS) is a vital anchor organization to the health and vitality of Lewis County and the surrounding communities it serves. The health system provides local access to acute care and diagnostic services, a 24-hour physician-staffed emergency department, long-term care, home health and hospice, and a variety of specialty services, including orthopedics, surgery, and OB/GYN care. Community-based health centers in Beaver Falls, Copenhagen, Harrisville, and Lyons Falls and a school-based health clinic at South Lewis Central School provide additional access to primary care.

The facility continues to invest in the physical plant and to partner with community and educational organizations to ensure residents have local access to care, recently completing a \$32 million capital project. The transformational project included the construction of a new surgical pavilion and the modernization of the medical/surgical and critical care units. Infrastructure investment is essential to the organization's health, from recruiting future healthcare professionals to patient comfort, care, and privacy. The Jefferson Community College RN program and the BOCES LPN nursing students train in the



The surgical pavilion. Contributed.

revitalized patient care areas, preparing to care for patients in the future.

LCHS has over 650 employees who generate \$50 million in payroll. Our dedicated team of medical staff, employees, and volunteers ensures we can meet our patient's healthcare needs, whether those needs involve a surgical procedure, diagnostic testing, or a warm blanket and a smile. Collectively, the team makes LCHS a leader in healthcare access in the North Country. Examples of how we cared for

those in our community in 2024 include the delivery of the following services: 1,853 surgeries, 11,550 emergency department visits, 64,030 clinic visits, 7,191 home health and 1,194 hospice visits, 1,028 inpatient admissions, and 82 births.

Lewis County Health System's Critical Access Hospital Accreditation from The Joint Commission and re-accreditation of the Laboratory from The Joint Commission recognize the team's exceptional dedication and work

to enhance the community's health and deliver the highest level of care for our patients. LCHS is the recipient of the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Rural Stroke Gold award for efforts to optimize stroke care and eliminate rural healthcare outcome disparities. Our Rural Healthcare Outcomes team is committed to improving the lives of people in Lewis County who are affected by stroke, giving them the best

See LCHS CS

Journey Physical Therapy expanding evening hours

Come see Journey Physical Therapy out on the Number Four Road in Lowville! Are you looking to have an appointment later in the day maybe after work, or school? Well, you're in luck! Within the next few months, we are looking to expand our offered evening hours to meet the needs of our patients. Journey also offers one on one therapy sessions to make your experience personalized to you.

This past year Journey has participated in many local events within Lewis County; the fair parade in July, The Cream Cheese Festival in September, and even hosting our very first blood drive in October. We also joined Lowville Academy,

and Beaver River Central School in their Career Days for middle and high school students. We can't wait to see what this year brings for us and the community!

If you've been struggling with new or ongoing symptoms that just won't go away no matter what you do, Journey may be a good fit for you! We continue to provide care for a wide variety of pathologies from surgery, sports injuries, arthritic changes and even vertigo. Several insurances don't require a script from your doctor to attend PT. Some limitations may apply but give us a call at 315-377-4114 for more information or to schedule an appointment with us today.



Staff left to right; Sheila Zehr; accountant, Samantha Brown; office manager/receptionist, Amber Astafan; DPT, PT, Jenna Matuszczak; PTA, and Emmalee Ritz; DPT, PT. Not pictured; Connor Dickinson; PTA, and Eliza Zehr, DPT, PT.

Phone: 315-377-4114
6006 Number Four Road Lowville, NY 13367

Superior Computers serving since 1992

Since 1992 Superior Computer Services, 36880 Old Martin Street Road, Carthage, has been providing north country businesses with top quality IT services.

Superior Computer Services delivers IT services using a team approach. Your technology needs will not be tied to the limitations of a 'break/fix' IT person as often happens with small service providers.

For more than decades, Superior Computer Services has helped manage and support IT networks for small businesses. Superior offers its clients a Proactive Service Plan which provides for a specified number of service hours each month to keep

your systems updated and in top working order. In addition they provide on-call services for clients to handle unplanned or emergency IT situations. Superior's customer services staff is available during normal business hours, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and for emergency services by calling 315-493-2906.

Looking to the future, Superior Computer Services owner Ann Beutel is seeking the right entrepreneur to work with her and to carry on the tradition of excellence she has provided for clients. If interested please feel free to contact the office @ 315-493-2906.

NY Connects – A Phone Call Away for Free, Unbiased Information & Assistance

The NY Connects program at Lewis County Office for the Aging is your trusted place to go for free, unbiased information and assistance. NY Connects can help you or a loved one get linked with long-term services and supports which may help individuals remain in their home. This program is available to caregivers and to anybody else regardless of age or disability. NY Connects works to alleviate the misconception that long-term care services and supports are only delivered in institutional settings.

Our NY Connects Specialists also engage in Options Counseling. Options Counseling is an interactive, person-centered process whereby individuals are supported in making informed

long-term support decisions based on their preferences, strengths, values, abilities, and resources. Options Counseling includes exploring options, assistance in accessing supports and/or services, and following-up with the individual which may result in the development of an action plan.

What areas can we help you or a loved one with?

- In-Home Care
- Application & Enrollment with Public Assistance Benefits
- Transportation
- Home Delivered Meals
- Respite Care
- Early Intervention (children)
- Options Counseling and Support
- Caregiver Supports
- And more

We can help link you to long-term services and supports regardless of diagnosis, age or payor source. NY Connects will coordinate with other agencies to guide you through eligibility processes and we'll provide seamless linkages for any necessary assessment you may need.

You may contact the NY Connects program and be connected to one of our NY Connects Specialists by calling the Lewis County Office for the Aging at 315-376-5432. Our office is located at 5274 Outer Stowe Street in Lowville. You can also explore long-term services and supports in your community by going to the NY Connects Resource Directory at www.ny-connects.ny.gov.

"We Service What "They" Sell"

ANN BEUTEL
Your IT Department
36880 OLD MARTIN STREET 315-493-2906
CARTHAGE, NY 13619 superiorcomputer@live.com

What is NY Connects?

NY Connects is a free resource in Lewis County where you can get information and assistance in long term care services and supports, such as:

- In Home Health Care
- Application Assistance
- Home Delivered Meals
- Transportation
- Respite Care
- Early Intervention (Children)
- Options Counseling and Support
- And More

Is NY Connects for you?

Free information on long term care services available to people of all ages. Including children, older adults, persons with disabilities, caregivers, and helping professionals.

Lewis County Office for the Aging
PO Box 193 • 5274 Outer Stowe St., NY 13367
Phone: 315-376-5432
FAX: 315-376-5105
www.nyconnects.ny.gov

LEWIS COUNTY

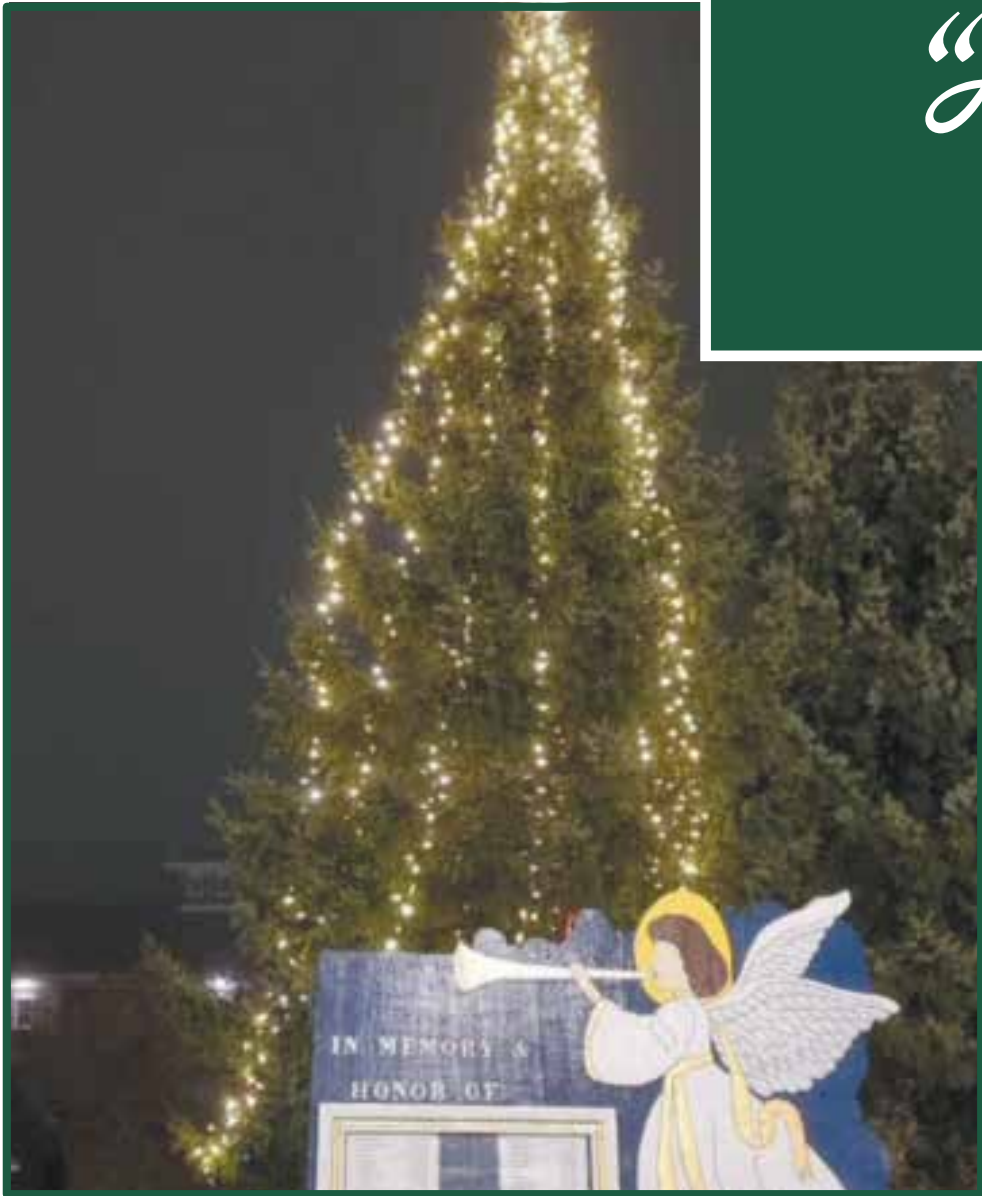
(800) 342-9871 or (315) 376-5432



Welcome to the Greater Carthage Area

Discover why we are...

“A Community of Choice”



The Greater Carthage Area has something for everyone. Our events include our Holiday Parade, Memory Tree Lighting, Winterfest, Citizen of the Year Celebration, Fireworks Festival, Business Person of the Year Celebration and Business After Hours at various locations. Come visit the Farmer’s Market during the summer months and support our local businesses throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



J&H Farms proud to serve the north country

Over the past several years, J & H Farms LLC has enjoyed serving the North Country. Whether it is selling pasture-raised beef or seasoned firewood, Jeff Foy owner and operator of the farm takes great pride in providing quality products.

As fuel prices increased, many folks turned to firewood as an effective way to heat their homes.

With the increase in demand for firewood, Jeff has added a group of hard working team members to his crew.

Richard Oakes, Chris O'Connor, Dylan Smith, and Travis Foy all work to ensure that each order is filled and

delivered promptly with courteous service.

Furthermore, J & H Farms LLC is excited about the addition of their new farm in Deer River, New York. With the addition of this property, they will continue to grow their herd, as well as, explore other ways to utilize the land.

J & H Farms LLC would like to thank all of their loyal customers from Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence county. Jeff and his team look forward to continuing to serve the North Country.

For all of your firewood and beef needs call Jeff at 315-771-8341.

LCHS

From C3

from birth to end of life are not the only benefits of having a full-service rural health care system in Lewis County. The system creates many economic opportunities for area businesses, generates millions in tax dollars to stimulate the local economy, and creates jobs of all skill and salary levels.

According to an economic and community benefit report provided by the Healthcare Association of New York State (HANYS), LCHS significantly contributes to the area's financial health with an estimated impact of over \$141 million through jobs and spending on goods and services. Employees use their wages to purchase goods and services, which create income and employment for other businesses. Employee dollars earned and visitor spending stimulate the local economy, and funds spent to buy goods and services flow from the facility to vendors, businesses, restaurants, and the community. LCHS further

gives back to the community through donations, sponsorships, staff volunteer efforts, fundraisers, and health and wellness initiatives.

Lewis County is a great place to live and work, and the health system is proud to be a partner in the area's health and economic stability. Looking ahead, we will continue to enhance care and services and strengthen community partnerships to expand local access to care and services appropriate for a rural healthcare system. For example, we will welcome a full-time podiatrist to the medical staff and add two more specialty services later this year to ensure residents can obtain needed care without traveling out of the area.

Navigating the ever-evolving healthcare landscape will present new challenges and opportunities. With the continued support from the communities we serve, Lewis County Health System will remain an anchor organization for care and economic stability for the next generation. To learn more about LCHS services or career opportunities, visit www.lcgh.net.

Beaver Camp is the place to be for summer fun

For generations, Beaver Camp has been providing youth with some of the finest experiences of summer, and adults many opportunities to retreat from life's worries on Beaver Lake in the Adirondacks.

Beaver Camp delivers enriching, fun-filled, spiritually-focused summer camps for kids, with swimming, boating, nature instruction and the ropes course that will get you climbing! Beaver Camp offers year-round programming and facilities for youth and adults, including winter camps, and the perfect place to book your group's retreat or event.

Wilderness adventure camps and other specialty camps for youth are also offered at Beaver Camp.

The camp's mission is to provide facilities and programs, infused with God's love, in which people of every age are invited to establish and grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ, through teaching and positive role models. Countless people leave camp each year feeling refreshed, and energized by a fresh, life-changing faith decision.

Beaver Camp is a place to grow, where positive friendships, and lasting faith decisions are made.

Beaver Camp is the DBA of Adirondack Mennonite Camping Association, which is a group of approximately 198 members, governed by a Board of Directors.

Upcoming events

The annual Beaver Camp Auction at the Lewis County Fairgrounds is June 6-7.

Beaver Camp summer camps begin this year on July 6 and run for seven weeks. Prices vary based on camp and the length of the camp.

Women's scrapbook and craft retreats, a women's retreat, a parenting weekend, a grandparent and grandchild



camp, winter and fall family retreats, and a young adult weekend are also offered throughout the year.

We want to hear from you! If you have any questions about Beaver Camp, please contact Mike Judd, Director at 315-376-2640 or by emailing office@beaver.camp. You can also visit their website at www.beavercamp.org.

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315-771-8341

Ph: 315-376-2640
www.beavercamp.org
8884 Buck Point Road, Lowville, NY

"Life is Better at Beaver Camp"

315-376-5200

A FULL SERVICE Rural Health Care System

LCHS proudly provides quality care and services for North Country residents. State-of-the-art imaging, advanced technology, and highly skilled, knowledgeable physicians and staff provide local access to vital care and services.

Primary Care

Beaver River Health Center
Copenhagen Health Center
Harrisville Health Center
Lewis County Family Practice
Lewis County Internal Medicine
South Lewis Health Center
South Lewis School-Based Health

Specialty Services

Lewis County Orthopedics
Lewis County Surgical Associates
Women's Health Services
Pain Management
Nuclear Medicine
Infusion Services
Podiatry & Other New Services Coming in 2025

Support Care & Outpatient Services

Home Health & Hospice
PT, OT, Speech Therapy
Audiology & Balance Center
Medical Imaging & Laboratory
Cardiopulmonary, & EKG
Occupational Medicine
Respiratory Care & Sleep Center

Residential Health Care Facility

24-Hour Skilled Nursing Care
Short-Term Rehabilitation
Dementia/Alzheimer Care Unit
PT, OT & Speech Therapy
Individual & Group Activities
End of Life Care

Learn more about other available services and career opportunities at www.lcgh.net

St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce Embracing a Sustainable Approach to Tourism

As the designated tourism promotion agency for the County, the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce comprises both a membership services team and a dedicated tourism promotion team. In 2024, the Chamber’s tourism efforts were led by Tiffani Amo, Director of Tourism, and Kathryn Puleo, Tourism & Events Manager. Throughout the year, tourism promotion efforts were guided by a commitment to authenticity and sustainability with a mission to support initiatives that would contribute to making St. Lawrence County a place where people want to live which in turn makes it a place

where people want to visit. Leveraging Grant Funding to Support Our Programming In 2024, the tourism team kicked off two major grant-funded projects secured through a New York State Economic Development Agency (EDA) sub-award grant, including a sport tourism initiative and a Canadian Marketing initiative. Ongoing projects funded through the American Rescue Plan Act in partnership with the Industrial Development Agency also moved forward, including the use of an online booking platform and the production and distribution of rack cards and brochures throughout New York State and Canada. Funds leveraged through these successful grant applications totals more than \$400,000 over the duration of the projects.

Sport Tourism Initiative The EDA-funded sport tourism initiative

See TOURISM C7

Give Try A Wash in Croghan a try



Try A Wash, 6957 Kirschner Road, Croghan, across from the Croghan Recreation Center.

Try A Wash has been open for 15 years at 6957 Kirschner Road, Croghan. The owner is Joe Briot. The business provides two-bay, self-service at its best. Give it a try and have a good day. Now accepting credit and debit cards. Joe says, “Thank you to all our loyal customers. We appreciate your business.”



Logs are unloaded at Farney Lumber Corp. on Brewery Road near Croghan.

Farney Lumber: leader of the local lumber industry

Farney Lumber Corporation, incorporated by Niles E. Farney in 1965, buys all species of hardwood and softwood logs from local loggers year round. In the third generation of ownership, the employ 14 people full time who produce over 3 million feet of lumber per year. Farney Lumber Corp. produces green rough lumber for wholesale and some retail businesses as well as bark, chips, and sawdust. Farney Lumber Corp. is located at 7194 Brewery Rd., Lowville. You may reach them at 315-346-6013 or Todd at 315-790-2306.

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7194 Brewery Road South of Croghan **Phone (315) 346-6013** **Fax (315) 346-1859**

Another great year for Good Morning Realty

2024 was another outstanding year for Good Morning Realty and for buyers and sellers in Lewis County and surrounding markets. While total sales in the region decreased for the second consecutive year, Good Morning Realty’s actual number of transactions increased in 2024, as buyers and sellers continue to see value in the services and level of expertise they find with Good Morning Realty.

2024 also saw the addition of **Bruce Wakalowski**, a NYS Licensed Real Estate Salesperson. Bruce has moved here from the Montrose, Pennsylvania area where he previously ran his own landscaping business and gathered considerable experience in site development and real estate investment.

Our satellite office located at 103 Main St. in Boonville has been well received, and we have begun expanding our regular operating hours in Boonville to meet demand. We will continue to be available seven days per week by appointment as well.

We understand that buying or selling a home can be one of the most stressful transactions in our clients’ lives, so we work hard to make it as smooth a process as possible. This is why we offer free use of an enclosed trailer to our past and present customers and



Good Morning Realty in Lowville. Contributed.

clients for local moves. We also provide real estate auction options, professional photography, drone video/photography, virtual tours, custom signage, laser measured floor plans, custom marketing pieces and more – all of which create unparalleled marketing resources and exposure for our clients. This coupled with unmatched experience and involvement in the local real estate industry has kept Good

Morning Realty at the leading edge of real estate marketing for nearly three decades. Our model was proven effective again in 2024. **Carole Dunbar, Britt Abbey, and Aaron Jantzi** each finished as **Top 10 Producing Agents** in terms of total properties sold in Lewis County during the 2024 calendar year, and **Carole** earned the **Top Producing Agent** distinction once again!

We look forward to 2025 with great anticipation as we’ve had a fabulous start. We believe that buyer interest will continue to be strong as buyers continue to emphasize **Quality of Life**. Good Morning Realty looks forward to providing value to our customers and clients, and we are extremely appreciative of the continued repeat business and referrals that we receive from our past clients and customers.

Good Morning Realty Staff

Bruce Wakalowski
Sales Associate
Call 315-777-1557

Tyler McDonald
Sales Associate
Call 315-796-1285

Steve Kubinsk
Associate Broker
Call 315-486-0059

Roger Abbey
Associate Broker
Call 315-408-7416

Jennifer Law
Associate Broker
Call 315-778-0768

Aaron Jantzi
Salesperson & Appraiser
Call 315-681-7838

Carole Dunbar
Associate Broker
Call 315-681-7798

Britton Abbey
Broker/Owner
Call 315-783-9773

Contact an agent or visit us online to get started today!

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2025 LOOKING FORWARD We look forward to 2025 with great anticipation as we’ve had a fabulous start. We believe that buyer interest will continue to be strong as buyers continue to emphasize Quality of Life. Good Morning Realty looks forward to providing value to our customers and clients, and we are extremely appreciative of the continued repeat business and referrals that we receive from our past clients and customers.

GOOD MORNING REALTY

7556 S. STATE STREET, LOWVILLE, NY 13367
315-376-8688

Britt Abbey, Principal Broker	315-783-9773
Roger Abbey, Associate Broker	315-408-7416
Steve Kubinski, Associate Broker	315-486-0059
Carole Dunbar, Associate Broker	315-681-7798
Jennifer Law, Associate Broker	315-778-0768
Aaron Jantzi, Sales Associate	315-681-7838
Tyler McDonald, Sales Associate	315-796-1285
Bruce Wakalowski, Sales Associate	315-777-1557

www.goodmorningrealty.com

Tourism

From C6

ism initiative is aimed at fostering economic growth and community development through strategic planning that will maximize sport-related opportunities that utilize the area’s natural beauty, recreational assets, and vibrant community spirit to attract visitors and stimulate the local economy. Visit www.visitstlc.com/sport-tourism/ to learn more.

Canadian Marketing Initiative

The EDA-funded Canadian marketing initiative focuses on attracting Canadian visitors to the area year-round through print and digital marketing efforts including the creation of ‘Weekend Getaway’ itineraries designed to make it easy for visitors to plan a trip and explore all the many and widespread hidden gems throughout the county.

Tourism Event Support & Promotional Highlights

2024 Tourism Dinner

More than 50 industry partners came together from all corners of the county for the Chamber’s annual tourism dinner. The event, themed “S.E.E. the Big Picture,” showcased the pivotal role of tourism in the county with consideration to Sustainability, Education, and Engagement. Keynote

speaker and sport tourism industry expert Grant MacDonald of Cimarron Global Solutions shared initial discoveries, opportunities, and strategies from the Chamber’s ongoing sport tourism project. Two tourism excellence

awards were also presented, including the 2024 ‘Best to

the Guest’ Tourism Excellence Award to Otto’s Abode, of Wanakena, for outstanding customer service, and the 2024 Best Destination Marketing Initiative Award to SLC Arts for executing an exceptional marketing campaign for the annual North Country Arts Festival.

Regional, Statewide, and International Connectivity

2024 was a year of investing in local partnerships and growing a wider and stronger tourism network domestically and internationally. Through a combined effort of tourism and chamber staff, team members attended the New York State Tourism Industry Association conferences in partnership with I Love New York and other key tourism partners throughout New York State, as well as the Akwesasne Tourism Summit and the 1000 Islands Binational Tourism Summit to bolster connections with our tourism counterparts across the border and throughout the seaway region. To support promotional efforts for history & culture groups in preparation of America’s 250th Commemoration, STLC was also represented at the New York State 250th Commemoration Summit.

2024 Bassmaster Elite Series

The Bassmaster Elite Series made another stop in Waddington, hosting more than 3,400 attendees and receiving a “Peak Performance” award from Bassmaster. Promotional efforts included a digital marketing campaign

throughout New York State and Canada along with radio interviews, TV coverage, and more.

2024 Total Eclipse Promotions

Tourism promotions for the total eclipse included printed brochures and a custom landing page on the VisitSTLC.com website showcasing information on where and how to view the eclipse, along with sales and distribution of viewing glasses, and collaboration with town and city officials, universities, businesses, and volunteer organizations to organize and promote safe viewing opportunities throughout the county.

Out-of-County Tourism Trade Shows

The Chamber provided support for partners at trade shows throughout New York State and surrounding states, including organizations like the Black Lake Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Massena, the St. Lawrence Valley Paddlers, the St. Lawrence Mountain Biking Association, and Potsdam Pride. The Chamber/ Tourism team also attended the Ottawa Travel &

Vacation show with partners from the Seaway Visitor at Eisenhower Lock, the Frederic Remington Art Museum, and Fort de la Presentation.

Resident-First Tourism in 2025

In 2025, sustainable tourism initiatives will delve even deeper into a sentiment of ‘Resident-First Tourism’ which will prioritize the needs and preferences of local communities when it comes to supporting existing tourism assets as well as when and how to pursue new tourism opportunities.

Preparing For 2025

Snow and more snow, and continued cold! We have been blessed with a real northern winter again! We hope that it proves to be a blessing in disguise!

Perhaps less pests for our summer. The cold and snow have made a major challenge for us, since we are in the process of erecting a larger greenhouse structure to replace the multiple structures we usually work with. The largest snow for this winter arrived on Thanksgiving weekend, putting a major hitch in our plans to get our new greenhouse under cover! We continue to work at it as time and schedule permit. In spite of cold fingers and toes, we continue to make progress and plan to be able to use the new structure to serve you this spring.

Our plans include continuing to supply you with Proven Winner Supertunias, a colorful selection of begonias, geraniums, and many more annuals to fill your flowerbeds and pots. We will also carry a wide selection of garden vegetable plants and herbs for your needs. We also make a wide selection of hanging baskets and large pots for you to choose from. Or select your plants and fill your own pots. If you have a special pot you’d like filled, bring it over and we will fill it for you.



Windy Ridges Greenhouse

We look forward to serving you in 2025, at our greenhouse located just outside of the village of Castorland at 9085 Ridge Road. We also keep a selection of plants on the porch of Nolt’s Country Store and Stony Creek Store along SR26 in Deer River.

We plan to be opening the beginning of May so you can get a special plant for that special Mother in your life! Thank you for choosing our plants, from Windy Ridge Acres Greenhouse.

Windy Ridge Acres Greenhouse

James & Rebecca Good
9085 RIDGE ROAD, CASTORLAND 315-376-0128



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Kerrie Baker • 315-486-4874

Homes Realty of Northern New York would like to take this opportunity to thank our surrounding communities for your love and support. For those who put their trust in us to sell or purchase a property our gratitude is beyond words. For those who have encouraged us along the way, stopped in to say hello, and have spoken kind words about us, that too has not gone unnoticed.

With a team of 16 realtors, we are equipped to help you with any real estate needs. With years of experience, we are confident in what we do. We believe communication, professionalism, honesty, and listening, is the recipe for a successful transaction. With gratitude we ended 2024 being ranked #1 in Lewis County for dollar amount sold. We are a small town company with BIG ideas, and dreams. Repeat business is one of the best compliments you can give us. We also love working with new clients and building new relationships.

Homes Realty is current in technology that gives your listing the best exposure. If you are considering selling or buying our office number is 315-377-4147, or stop in our office at 5411 Shady Ave Lowville, NY 13367 Monday-Friday from 9-5. Our phones are always forwarded to a professional realtor on week ends and evenings. Visit our website at <http://www.homesrealtynny.com> or visit us on facebook at Homes Realty of Northern New York.



4190 STATE HIGHWAY 3 STAR LAKE, NY 13690
\$2,600,000

Incredible opportunity to own a turnkey, thriving hardware store, perfectly positioned for success! Family owned and operated for generations this store boasts a solid financial history, making it a lucrative investment for the right buyer. The sale consists of 6 parcels complete with the store, 4 warehouses/storage buildings for inventory and a furnished 2 bedroom apartment (perfect for living in or great potential for an air BNB/vacation rental), while also featuring 2 areas of deeded lake access! Seize your chance to own a well established hometown hardware store with a loyal customer base and strong revenue stream, benefit from years of goodwill and the reputation for quality service. Being sold with all inventory except a small list of things and personal items. Prime location! Situated in a high traffic area with excellent visibility, providing consistent foot traffic and accessibility for local customers and contractors. With ongoing demand for home improvement and construction supplies there is significant potential for growth. Expand product lines or services. Detailed financials will be provided to qualified buyers. Corporation name not being sold. MLS# S1583911. Presented by **Marcie McCre**, 315-405-7613 with **Homes Realty of Northern New York**



6494 RAMOS ROAD, LOWVILLE, NY 13367
\$279,000

If you are looking for a one of a kind home you'll definitely want to see this one! With just a bit of modification this property would be a stunning 1-2, possibly 3 bedroom home. With a stunning open floor plan that showcases the unique style of the original building this home could make a stunning showpiece of a home. Zoned residential with a special use permit for the business, it has been stated that this could be either a home or a business. Don't miss out if you want something unique as your home. MLS#S1584613. Presented by **Gayla Roggie**, 315-377-4147 with **Homes Realty of Northern New York**



5543 TRINITY AVENUE , LOWVILLE, NY 13367
\$199,000

You will not want to miss out on this three-bedroom home conveniently located in the village of Lowville. The home is within walking distance of Lowville Academy Central School, the Lewis County Fairgrounds, downtown restaurants, and a newly built state-of-the-art outdoor track. This home features a one-stall garage, a very spacious driveway, a patio with pergola and fire pit, a spacious kitchen, bedrooms with cathedral ceilings (which provide excellent natural lighting), two full bathrooms one on the first and second floors, a natural gas fireplace, and a 2nd-floor laundry area. The downstairs was remodeled approximately three years ago. The appliances are also approximately three years old as well. The utilities are affordable due to the natural gas water heater, furnace, and dryer. If you are looking for a low-maintenance home – look no further. Don't miss this opportunity – schedule your showing today. MLS# S1582579. Presented by **Daniel Rivers**, 315-377-4147 with **Homes Realty of Northern New York**

Reflecting On Resilience, Looking Toward Growth

By Casandra Buell
Lewis County Director of Lewis County Planning and Community Development

Lewis County faced significant challenges this past year, impacting our economy, environment, and infrastructure. Continued population loss, rising operational costs and slowing sales tax growth have created economic pressures. Compounding these difficulties, two FEMA-declared natural disasters in July and August further strained our resources and infrastructure. Despite these obstacles, Lewis County has identified efficiencies through shared resources and new initiatives, positioning us to overcome these challenges with a multifaceted approach to economic development.

While we've faced headwinds, there have been notable achievements. We've banded together with municipalities who experienced significant infrastructure damages as a result of the July and August floods. Through coordinated partnerships with municipal officials, Highway Superintendents, New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (NYS DHSES), New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT), and regional engineering firms, we've been able to implement short-term solutions while strategizing for long term solutions. We've provided staff and financial support to assist each

impacted municipality, throughout the cumbersome FEMA process, resulting in well-tailored projects that should reap the maximum funding opportunities and resulting in sustainable, resilient infrastructure replacements.

The devastating floods that occurred in 2024 created significant obstacles which we continue to face today. In addition to these natural disasters, the growing senior population within our changing demographics is affecting our workforce availability which places pressures on our businesses and requires us to reflect our service delivery methods. The tax base continues to shrink and economic vitality declines because we continue to see a decreasing population. Energy and health-care costs are rising, pressuring the limited budgets of both our businesses and municipalities. The reduction in sales tax growth creates additional difficulty for acquiring necessary resources to maintain essential community services.

Despite these challenges, our team is committed to deploying a variety of proactive strategies to bolster our local economy and provide Lewis County residents with the resources and services they depend on. Our first strategy includes an actively pursuing government efficiency efforts to support effective fiscal management. This includes streamlining



Naturally Lewis is seeking ways to reuse the former Lyons Falls Elementary.

processes, exploring interdepartmental shared services and/or resources, and seeking sustainable funding opportunities to maximize the impact of our limited resources. Specific examples of our focus areas include a comprehensive analysis of County fleet usage to assess utilization and identify fleet reduction opportunities through pooled or shared vehicles; identify procurement savings through the deployment of strategic contract management efforts focused on developing a master list of all contracts and streamlining Request for Proposal cycles for all major purchase such as insurance or professional services; and

utilizing our Information Technology (IT) tools and resources to gather and assess data that would identify staff, internal process, and resource efficiencies.

To meet the challenges of our aging population and workforce shortage we have decided to focus our efforts on initiatives for workforce development. The initiative forms alliances with Jefferson Community College and BOCES to develop industry-specific training programs while working to attract young residents and support retention initiatives for current employees. We are also examining data about our aging population to make sure they have the

necessary resources and infrastructure to age safely in place.

We see tourism as a significant opportunity to boost our local economy and are working with partners like Naturally Lewis to promote our natural assets and attractions, support local businesses that cater to tourists, and develop events that draw visitors to our region. This year, new state legislation was enacted allowing counties to opt into receiving occupancy taxes from short-term rentals. Platforms like Airbnb and Vrbo will now require a county registration number for listings and will share data with counties every 90 days. While Lewis County has had a local law in place to collect bed taxes from short-term rentals, tracking and enforcement have historically been challenging. This new legislation is expected to generate approximately \$500,000 in revenue, and the county is dedicated to creating a comprehensive plan for how these funds will be utilized and to support municipalities with the addition of regulations in their land use laws, if warranted.

Lastly, we are and have been committed to various community development initiatives to improve the overall quality of life and attract new residents and businesses. This includes focusing on housing initiatives to address the current shortage and improve the availability of affordable housing

options. Our housing strategies include identifying infill opportunities through the redevelopment of vacant buildings in downtown areas, supporting various investors with the redevelopment of the Glenfield, Lyons Falls, and West Leyden Elementary Schools, and developing and implementing various programs aimed to assist landlords and tenants. We are also prioritizing infrastructure improvements, including roads, complete streets, and water utilities, to support economic growth and enhance the livability of our communities. Coordinated projects include roadway, drainage, complete streets, and water infrastructure improvements in the Villages of Constableville and Port Leyden. Planning efforts and the development of a 5-Year Plan are underway and are in coordination with the municipalities and their engineering teams.

Our future success in addressing these challenges depends on continuous work and partnership efforts. Partnerships with public and private sector stakeholders will focus on developing a resilient economic framework for Lewis County. Our strategic priorities enable us to build a sustainable budget through efficiency measures while stimulating workforce development and supporting critical infrastructure investments throughout our communities.

Carthage area looking to finish projects and to grow

By Elaine M. Avallone
eavallone@lowville.com

Changes come slowly but there has been some progress in the greater Carthage area.

Town of Wilna supervisor Paul H. Smith said there are many challenges but there have been slow progress made on several projects.

He said improvements have been made to infrastructure in two hamlets utilizing grant funding. There have been renovations to the leach field in Herrings to improve the sewer system and to the

water district in Natural Bridge.

"The cost of everything keeps going up," Mr. Smith said. "It has been hard to keep costs down. I hate to raise prices. We try to keep it on level."

He noted one cost increase was the rate DANC charges to dispose of trash and recyclables.

Town of Wilna Community Development Coordinator Sarah Bullock said the comprehensive plan has sparked ideas for the future.

"The town of Wilna, along with villages of Carthage and Deferiet,

have been undertaking a review/update of the Comprehensive Plan, which will be finalized in 2025," she said. "This has been a great opportunity for members of the public to share their interests, concerns, ideas and other thoughts about the future of the community. Adequate and safe housing and neighborhoods remains of high interest of residents according to the survey data. From an economic perspective, the number of vacant commercial spaces is of interest. Assisting property owners with grant

funding to make improvements to commercial buildings and working toward bringing new business into the community is a goal. The village of Deferiet is in the midst of finalizing the Brownfield Opportunity Area Nomination Study, which identifies potential reuses for the former Deferiet Mill property. The formation of the Deferiet Local Development Corporation to help the Village and Town with redevelopment has been a significant development for that project."

Town of Champion supervisor

John D. Peck said there were local developers working on projects in Great Bend and along Cole Road which could bring residents to the community which could be followed by more commercial ventures.

"We are seeing some in fill in vacant areas," he said. "The new housing will help share the costs in the water district and utilize infrastructure."

The planning board is looking to review zoning, Supervisor Peck said.

"They are freshening up the

review process and trying to close up loop holes," he said.

During the past year, the population has remained steady.

"People are still moving here," he said. "The town is also stable on the age side — no land lost to solar. The board has acute concerns about ag land lost."

All in all, he concluded "We are maintaining our population growth, have a growing tax base through new housing which will bring people and that will bring commercial business."

Lewis County humane society saves pets

The Lewis County Humane Society shelter is located on the Pine Grove Road in Glenfield, just 7 miles outside of Lowville, NY. We are a no-kill shelter that takes in lost or stray dogs brought in by Dog Control for 17 townships in Lewis County, 1 township in Jefferson County, and the Fort Drum installation. The shelter works very hard to reunite them with their families. If the owner is not found, they are vetted, and made available for adoption.

The shelter also takes in surrendered animals from private individuals. These animals are also vetted and then put up for adoption.

We pride ourselves in helping our local animals, and took in just 5 non-local puppies this year. This was because we received a call from Lewis County in the State of Washington! After discovering the error, we decided to still dig in and help! We also took in a couple local medical transfers, and transferred out two dogs and four cats to the JC SPCA due to our construction project.

SUPPORT:

We have strived to keep our adoption fees low, which we believe helps us to keep our animal stays short, and adopt animals out more quickly. Our work, and animal shelter operations, rely mostly on the generosity of our supporters because shelter expenses far exceed our revenue.

We want to continue to be the place people can turn to when they need help with sick or injured animals, but we can only do that with your continued support!

If you're wondering how you can help, here are a few ways: Adopt, become a member, donate supplies, volunteer, donate items for our raffles, or drop off your returnable bottles & cans. We are always grateful for monetary donations, which can be sent several ways to include our Facebook

Donate button, PayPal to lewis-countyhumaneociety@gmail.com, Venmo to @lewiscountyhumaneociety, or you can mail checks to PO Box 682, Lowville, NY 13367. Of course, you can always drop off donations at our shelter. We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

BOARD & STAFF

We had two board members resign in 2024, Bre & Kaela Storey, leaving the secretary position vacant. Robin Waite filled the position in November.

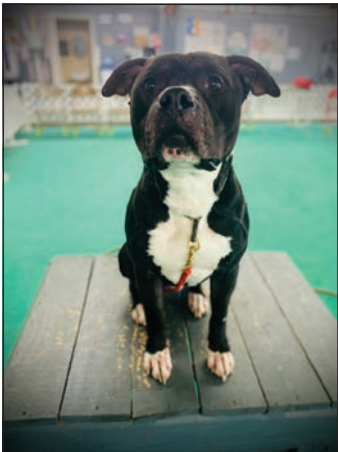
We had many staff changes with several employees departing, to include the shelter manager. At the end of May, Barb Turk was promoted into the Shelter Manager position. We ended the year with new employees Josh Robinson and Sage Stoltzfus. Thank You to the old and Welcome to the new!

ADOPTABLE PETS

You can find all of our adoptable pets on our website at lewis-countyhumaneociety.org. All adoptions include spay/neuter of pet, testing, vaccinations, flea/tick/worm meds, and microchip for dogs. Our website also has a fee list, our hours, what to do if you've lost/found an animal, and lots of other helpful info.

Here we'd like to highlight some of our fostered animals and looking for their forever homes:

Zena is a female 6 year old pit. She was adopted out of the shelter back in 2020, and found her way back to us in April 2024 after being found abandoned at a home. Zena was ill, and at that point, it was thought she had Lymphoma. Her prognosis wasn't great, so she was sent to a hospice foster in June. After months of follow up vet visits, and her nodes not growing like expected with her diagnosis, the vet did a biopsy only to discover Zena does not have cancer after all! She was taken off all her medications and got a clean bill of health. The



Jumbo

bad news is, the foster's own dog has started to not get along with Zena. Zena needs to be in a home where she is either the only dog or with a dog that is laid back and submissive. Zena does fine with dog-savvy cats. She would do best in a home with older children as she can play rough.

Oakley is a 5-6 year old female German Shepherd. She came to us 8 months ago when she was found wandering along Rt 812 between Croghan and Harrisville. Oakley has spent the last few months with a trainer to give her the best chance at finding an adoptive home. She will need someone to go slow with her and be patient. It takes her a moment to trust, and we understand that. Oakley is very smart, independent, loyal to her person, crate trained (loves her crate), and loves squeaky toys and tennis balls. She will need to be an only animal, and prefers a quiet home with no kids.

Lightning is a blind Australian Shepherd/Lab mix, 10 month old male puppy. He has more of the Australian Shepherd genes than lab, and is super smart. Even though he is blind, he is very outgoing and curious. With some consistent training, Lightning will make an amazing companion.



Zena

If he goes to a home where there is another dog, he needs a canine sibling that understands Lightning has no boundaries. Because he is blind, he is a bit of a bull in a China shop, and likes to get right up in another dog's face to get to know them, often running into them. Lightning rides great in the car, is potty trained, loves to play, is a great snuggler, and has a very gentle demeanor.

Jumbo is a 4 year old male pit. Once upon a time, Jumbo had a loving home. Somehow he fell into the unsafe hands of a person who abandoned him in the woods, and then he ended up at the shelter. Imagine how confused Jumbo was about where his life had led him. Shelter life was not good for him, as it stressed him out. Thankfully, he landed an awesome board and train with Canine Sports Unlimited, where he receives the guidance and structure he needs. If you asked Jumbo what he prefers, he'd tell you that he wants to be your one and only pet, like a king of a castle. He absolutely loves humans! He wiggles his cute butt anytime he meets a new human friend. Jumbo is kid friendly, but is a big guy with lots of muscle, so he can be a lot of dog for young children. One

of his favorite things to do is train; learning new things really stimulates his mind! He also likes hiking and taking adventures, which helps him socialize.

VOLUNTEER/FOSTER

We are so blessed to have some of the amazing volunteers and fosters that we have. We're always looking for more individuals or groups who want to lend a helping hand, or those who can foster animals. We are fostering more and more animals due to our construction, but also just because it's a much better climate for the animals while they await their forever homes.

GRANTS/MATCHES RECEIVED 2024:

In 2024 we received some wonderful grants to help with our capital construction project, to include: The Pratt-Northam Foundation, \$20,000; the Mika Foundation, \$16,000; Dorothy Arthur Fund \$6,200; The Community Foundation of Herkimer & Oneida Counties, \$10,000 (Double our December match from Dec 2023); Lewis County \$5,000; Veterinary Care Foundation \$5,000; and as of December 31st, we have received \$9,500 of the \$11,500 in pledges for our Double our December 2024!

PROJECTS/UPGRADES

It's been a busy year with our capital improvement project construction. Our shelter started in a garage, and was slowly added on over many years, with a miniscule budget. To say we are excited at the prospect of having a fully remodeled and more comfortable facility for both our animals and our staff is truly an understatement!

We started construction in Dec 2023 with a replacement of a portion of our steel roof. In 2024 much work was done in our attic to house all the new HVAC equipment. Old insulation was removed, and new spray foam insulation was installed. New duct

work is being installed. A new boiler has also been installed, and heat lines have been relocated into the attic space. Phase 1 which includes the reception area and first set of cat rooms was demolished and new cats rooms and temp housing/office were constructed. New wall panels, ceilings, doors & windows have been installed. A new isolation vestibule/storage and new dog food rooms have also been started. New electrical circuits, switches, outlets and lighting are being installed. And lastly new water lines were installed from the well to a new water pressure tank.

We are about to move into Phase 2, and still have a long way to go to project completion, but all good things take time.

We will be taking donations for our capital project through the end of construction. We are tracking all sponsors over \$500 to be displayed on plaques at project completion. You may specify whether you wish to be on the cat rooms or dog kennels plaque.

If you'd like to read more about our capital project, please see our web page at lewis-countyhumane-society.org.

CHALLENGES

All animal shelters and rescues are experiencing unprecedented need right now. Our phones ring off the hook daily with requests to surrender animals with reasons ranging from the owner no longer being able to afford their pet, to landlords not allowing them. Often there are behavioral issues from lack of socialization, exercise, training, etc.

Many of us are going through "mandatory" construction so we will meet new standards that take effect in December of this year, or face being closed or fined. This equates to not being able to help as many animals, compounding

Beller’s a one stop shop for all your auto repair needs

Beller’s LLC, a family-owned business located at 4783 State Route 410 in Castorland, started in 1979, since then, it has been expanded from a small, one-stalled garage to a ONE STOP SHOP! With our new 2023 expansion, we are so excited to have seven bays for mechanical, with one of those bays dedicated to just precision alignments, one-bay Adas alignment, one-bay collision frame machine and a seven bay auto collision shop, plus a state-of-the-art brand new spray booth that was just put in with our 2023 expansion. Our techs are comfortable with using our ADAS Alignment machine. This machine uses precisely placed targets to align on board cameras and radars, on nearly all current and new model vehicles.

This also has a bay of its own. We have a Hunter Tire Changer and a John Bean wheel balancer, both top of the line. Your wheel will be in perfect balance with us! We are also in the business of selling quality used cars, trucks, and SUV’s.

Myron and Mike Beller, proprietors of Bellers LLC have 30 plus years of experience in the automotive & body repair business, along

with their father, Nevin Beller, having over 45 years in this business. The Beller brothers are constantly updating their knowledge in the technical world of mechanics and body, while also keeping the business updated in the latest technologies and equipment for the new vehicles.

Beller’s has eight dependable employees working alongside Myron and Mike, so we can



Ready to serve you at Beller’s LLC your one-stop-shop are, from left, Zach Gingerich, Auto Body Technician; Mike Beller, Owner/Auto Body Technician and Manager; Daryl Halko, Mechanical Technician; Myron Beller, Owner/Mechanical Technician and Manager; Jacob Zehr, Mechanical Technician; Darin Halko, Auto Body Technician; Michaela Zehr, Office Secretary; Krystal Beller, Office Manager; Nevin Beller, Founder of Beller’s LLC and Lorraine Beller, Co-Founder of Beller’s LLC. Missing from photo is Patrick Sullivan - Auto Body Technician

meet all your automotive and collision needs.

We like to brag about our employees and are very proud of the work they perform. They are highly experienced mechanical

and collision technicians with a proven track record of successful maintenance and repair of automobiles. They are skilled in troubleshooting, problem-solving, and delivering

cost-effective solutions for our customers.

We offer a complete service center with up to date diagnostics of your on-board computer system. To say a few, we offer

tune-ups, brake repair, suspension repair, precision camera four-wheel alignments, complete engine overhauls, Air conditioning service, and electrical work. For

each season, we can help you choose the best tires and mount and balance them at an affordable price. We still offer New York State Inspections along with checking over your vehicle so it’s safe to drive. For your convenience, we stock nearly a full supply of batteries.

We have a complete collision automotive body repair shop with a state-of-the-art paint baking spray booth with a computerized paint

mixing machine and a frame machine. Our frame pulling machine works along with a chief velocity laser measure system. For our customers’ convenience, we offer insurance company assistance, and if you need to rent a car, your car rental can be picked up right here at Beller’s

when you drop your vehicle off for body repairs.

To go along with our collision repair shop, we have a flatbed and wrecker that allows us to also have a towing service. Give us a call when you have a fender bender or a major collision, we can tow you and then will direct you to our certified body shop manager. He will help you from start to finish in all your collision repair needs, starting with an estimate and insurance assistance. We will make this process as easy as we can for you, and will have your vehicle looking new again!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our community and customers for 45 years of business. We are grateful for your business and eagerly anticipate another year of serving

See BELLER’S D3

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New Life for a Historic Landmark: Bellers restore Lowville Town Hall Theater with community-driven vision

In 2024, the Lowville Town Hall Theater, a beloved historic venue in the heart of Lowville, New York, found new stewards in Jonathan and Taren Beller. Known for their work at Tug Hill Estate (formerly Tug Hill Vineyards), the Bellers have taken on the task of revitalizing the theater while preserving its historical charm.

A Rich Legacy in Lowville

The Lowville Town Hall Theater has long been a cultural staple, hosting films, performances, and community events for generations. Built as a town hall and opera house, the venue evolved over the years to accommodate silent films, concerts, and live entertainment.

While the theater has retained much of its historic character, some updates are needed to modernize the space while keeping its historic integrity intact. The Bellers' goal is to ensure that the theater remains a vibrant part of the community for years to come.

The Bellers' Vision for Restoration

Since taking ownership, Taren Beller has led efforts to

restore and refresh the theater. While specific plans are still in development, potential improvements include:

Restoring elements of the original façade to honor the building's history.

Enhancing the seating and stage area to accommodate more diverse programming.

Upgrading facilities to improve the experience for patrons.

Additionally, the Bellers hope to expand the theater's event offerings, making it a versatile space for film screenings, live performances, and community gatherings.

Tug Hill Estate: A Community-Focused Approach

The Bellers are no strangers to preserving and enhancing local landmarks. As the owners of Tug Hill Estate, a winery and event venue just outside of Lowville, they have built a reputation for hospitality, craftsmanship, and community engagement.

Their experience in hosting events, curating experiences, and fostering local partnerships will play a significant role in their approach to the Lowville Town

Hall Theater. While details about potential collaborations between the theater and Tug Hill Estate are still unfolding, the Bellers' commitment to bringing people together remains a priority.

A Community Effort

The Bellers recognize that the success of the theater's revitalization depends on community support and engagement. By working with local businesses, artists, and historical organizations, they aim to preserve the theater's legacy while making it a modern gathering space for residents and visitors alike.

As they move forward with restoration efforts, the Bellers encourage the community to share ideas, memories, and support for the future of the Lowville Town Hall Theater.

With their passion for historic preservation, entertainment, and community enrichment, the Bellers are breathing new life into this cherished landmark—ensuring it remains a hub of culture, creativity, and connection for generations to come.

A Message to the Community

By **BRITTANY DAVIS**
Executive Director of Naturally Lewis, Inc.

As I reflect on 2024, one word comes to mind: growth. This year marked our first full year as Naturally Lewis Inc., bringing together economic development, tourism, and Chamber of Commerce initiatives under one unified organization. This transformation sparked significant planning efforts as we launched our new three-year strategic plan for 2025-2027.

I am filled with optimism for Naturally Lewis' future. Together, we are Building Our Community

by fostering the development of businesses, properties, tourism, and a sense of place. We are Inspiring People by empowering entrepreneurs, engaging with youth, cultivating "pride in place" among residents, and nurturing future leaders. We are Partnering & Collaborating with local, regional, and state partners in economic development and tourism to amplify our collective impact. Finally, we are Sustaining Our Legacy through strategic funding initiatives and a growing membership, ensuring that Naturally Lewis Inc. remains a strong, thoughtful and stable

community organization.

I am incredibly proud of the progress we've made as a team, as boards, and as a community. Walking through our communities, you can see and feel the transformation—the growth, the energy, and the pride. We are building something extraordinary, and this is just the beginning. I look forward to continuing our collaboration with our boards, partners, and communities to make Lewis County the best place to live, work, build a business, and play. Together, the future is ours to create.

Humane

From D1

the situation. Animals in shelters that are under construction are experiencing more stress due to extra noise and strangers in their spaces.

Another challenge we face is our town contracts, and trying to keep a balance between animals coming in on dog control, and private animal surrenders. With 19 contracts, we are often full with dog control which allows us very few selective intakes through surrender.

You can help with responsible pet ownership. The number one thing is to spay or neuter your pet. Think ahead before getting a pet, where will your family be in 10-15 years, because you will have a pet

for this long! Pets are a financial responsibility, not much different than a child. If you cannot provide for lifetime care, please reconsider getting a pet. With cats, please keep them inside, especially if they are not fixed. With dogs, unless you are a dedicated, knowledgeable breeder actively working to improve a specific breed, there should be no reason to have a litter of puppies. We beg of you, please do not contribute to the suffering of homeless animals!

THANKYOU

It's hard to find a new way to say Thank You each year. Days can be long and hard, heart breaking, even downright depressing in the shelter business. But at the end of each day, it's our customers, adopters and supporters who make us feel it's all worthwhile. When you come in and adopt an animal, and we get to see the smile on both of your faces; when

we receive updates of how amazing your new pet fits into your home and how much you love them; even when you just say a few kind words on a post; we feel we're making a difference. We are thankful to be a place of comfort when people need help. It's because of your support that we get to see a parvo puppy or a hit & run kitten go from knocking on death's door to thriving in a loving home. We thank you for considering us worthy of handling your pet needs, and worthy of your unending support.

Please keep sharing our adoptions posts, speaking out against cruelty and animal abusers, advocating for people to spay/neuter, and holding fundraisers for us. It really does help more than you'll ever know! We could never do this without our community's support and we thank you!

Beller's

From D2

you with your vehicle needs. We know you have high expectations, and as a used car dealer and complete auto and body repair shop we enjoy the challenge of meeting and exceeding those expectations each and every time. If you haven't experienced our latest 2023 addition with additional bays for collision and mechanics, we invite you to visit our shop.

When you call us, you will likely be speaking to Michaela,

or Krystal, who will be scheduling your appointment or directing your phone call. Michaela has been with us since May and goes above and beyond her duties here in the office. Patrick joined our team this past year in the collision shop and has been a valuable addition. All of our Technicians have rich automotive background, and are valued here whether it be in the mechanical or collision side of the repair.

We are here to help you determine your vehicle and financing needs that best fit your lifestyle. With used cars and trucks in stock our goal

is to make your buying experience completely satisfying. If you'd like to purchase a vehicle you're welcome to browse our used car lot, speak with our friendly sales rep, test drive and investigate financing options. If you don't see a particular vehicle on our lot, we allow you to email and submit a request for your vehicle.

We will do our best to match your request and will notify you when it is in our inventory. Our prices are competitive without add-ons after the deal is made. After the sale, you will continue to find

extraordinary service at our Automotive and Collision facility in all departments. We are a ONE-STOP-SHOP! Allow us to demonstrate our commitment to excellence! The needs of each individual customer are of paramount concern to us! You can find us at www.bellersauto.com and like us on Facebook!

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Since 1994, Hoyt's Collision & Body has been satisfying customers throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties and continues to provide dependable and friendly service on a consistent basis. Whether it is a simple fender bender or a complete body overhaul, you can count on owner Mark Hoyt, with over 30 years of experience in collision repair, to do the job right, along with his sons. Mark is PPG certified, and all paint is mixed on a PPG mixing station on the premises to ensure a better quality paint match. We are one of the few shops in the area that uses this environmentally-friendly waterborne paint. Hoyt's Collision & Body will guarantee all work that leaves the premises. Located on the corner of state routes 410 and 126 in Naumburg, Hoyt's Collision & Body is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment.



Hoyt's Collision.

Dionne-Rumple VFW Post 7227: 2024 Progress

I first want to thank our amazing Community for all the support they have given to the Post over this past year. It was a very busy, productive and growing year.

We have started a lot of family events and activities to bring families together and have fun. Events such as our Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, summer long Kids corn-hole Sundays, and our kids Halloween Party.

As usual we have our annual functions and events that have grown in attendance and supported by our Active duty Military, the Veterans and our Community members. All is greatly appreciated. Our 2nd Annual Military ball was a great success and is open to all Active Duty and Veterans.

We have started a couple new things to bring the Community together and spend quality time with each other. First is our Friday Night Wings and Things we run from 1 Oct. to 28 Feb. Second, is our VFW Community Brunch, which is conducted every Wednesday morning from 9 to noon. This is a donation only program to bring the Community together to socialize and have a great homemade from scratch meal.

We are looking forward to a great year as we are moving forward with our remodeling projects to assist our Veterans and Community experience and services.

We are Veterans still serving our Veterans, community members and our future generations.

NNY Farmers Co-Op celebrating 42 years

NNY Farmers Marketing Co-Op, Inc. is celebrating its 42nd year of being the only New York State Livestock auction market owned and operated by local farmers. In 1982, a group of local farmers joined together to create NNY Farmers Market, opening its doors on April 1, 1982. They purchased the sale barn from Empire Livestock, who was on their way out of town, and a dream became reality. Today at 8204 State Route 26 in Lowville, NNY Farmers Marketing Co-Op has become known as one of the largest livestock auction markets in New York.

This dream has grown into an incredible opportunity for local farmers; to include weekly auctions on Monday's and Thursday's at 1 p.m. starting with calves and moving onto dairy cows and bulls. The market also hosts monthly dairy and feeder sales to include goats, sheep, pigs, and other livestock. The market also hosts on-site specialty sales to include maple equipment and machinery equipment. NNY Farmers Market has been up to some exciting things in the past year. As business grows, we do our best to invest in it what our amazing farmers have

invested in us. We have added a beautiful gate system that allows for easy and safe transition between livestock during each sale. This upgrade has ensured an even smoother sale for our staff and buyers. In addition, we have also added a new dock to our barn, and continued updating our information systems. Come see what we are about, whether you want to join us for a weekly sale, one of our monthly dairy and feeder sales, or our machinery sale happening this April, we invite you to see what a handful of dedicated farmers have created.



NNY Farmers Marketing Co-op Inc., 8204 State Rt. 26, Lowville.

For auctions or updated market information, and to keep current with sale barn changes, updates, and upcoming events, be sure to find us on Facebook at NNY Livestock Market, visit our

website, nnyfarmersmarketcoop@gmail.com, or listen to the Froggy 97.5. For more information, call us at 315-376-7441 or email us at nnyfarmersmarketcoop@gmail.com.

Bush Memorial Library serving the community for over 100 years

The William H. Bush Memorial Library is located on the corner of Whitaker Road and NYS Route 26 in Martinsburg. Open hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday. The library was established

in 1912 by Dr. M. Anstance Harris and M. Alice Whitaker to provide the citizens of the community with good reading material. Over one hundred years later the library continues to offer good books, as well as audio books, newspapers, magazines and movies on compact disks. Also available to patrons

are public access computers, a copier and an AccuCut machine. Wifi capability is provided for those patrons who prefer to bring their own devices for internet connection and is now available to use from personal vehicles in the parking lot or Whitaker Road at times when the library is not open. As a member of the North Country Library System, the materials of all 66 member libraries are available to any patron. Placing an order on the system's website will bring the item to the library where it can

be borrowed and returned. A museum contains many items of interest from Martinsburg and other areas. The staff will gladly open the museum upon request. A summer reading program provides children and adults with an opportunity to challenge themselves to reading during the busy summer school vacation. The friendly staff consists of Brandie Rogers, director; Susan Boldt, assistant librarian; and Susan Adsit, substitute librarian. David Ortlieb and Jack Beyer keep the grounds

and building in pristine condition. Everyone is welcome to take advantage of the many services at the William H. Bush Memorial Library.



Front row, Sue Boldt, Santa, Sue McArdle, Elijah Manning with sister. Back row, David Ortlieb, Brandie Rogers, Daniel Jantzi, Gayla Ortlieb, Amy Beyer, Nelson Schwartzentruber, Cheri Kelly

William H. Bush Memorial Library
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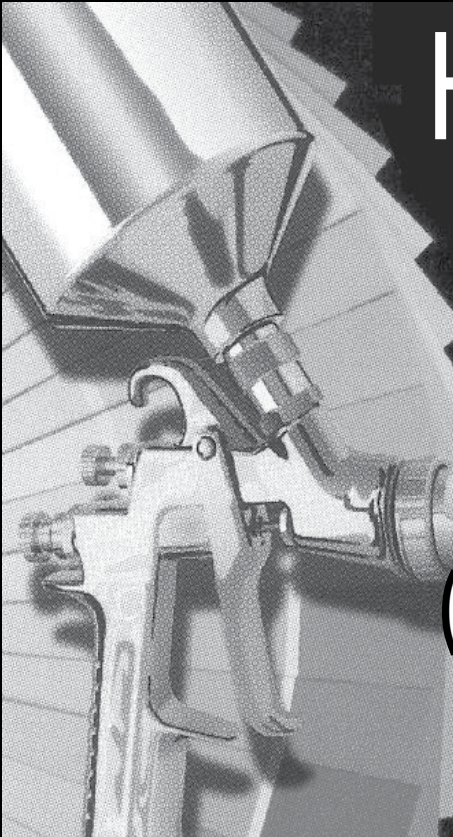
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Following The Latest Trend May Not Be The Best Strategy For Your Tax Preparation

It seems like every year a new trend in tax preparation services is promoted throughout the media. First, there were seasonal tax office locations in previously empty store fronts. Then, as soon as tax season ended, they seem to disappear. Next, there were pop-up locations in stores and malls. Now, it is all about on-line internet companies and apps, which promise fast and easy, with little effort at all. The professionals at M.R. Gaebel Tax and Accounting Services recognize the importance of filing your taxes in a correct manner which will help maximize your potential refund. Quite simply, when it comes to filing your taxes should you just follow the latest

trend? Or use real tax professionals! Tax codes and regulations change every year. Filing your taxes really does require the assistance of tax professionals, such as M.R. Gaebel, to navigate through these complex waters. You can be assured that the year-round professionals at M.R. Gaebel are constantly staying up to date with the most rules enacted (or proposed) by the IRS and utilize that knowledge in the services provided to their clients. “Today’s tax laws really can complicate a person’s filing their tax returns. We can help sort all of that out and maximize your opportunity for a refund. We also take pride in the fact that our services are offered

throughout the entire year, not just seasonally. Being local is also important to our clients. Too often outside agencies come in and offer services at cut rates and then increase their prices later, as well as a decline in service. In today’s unstable financial atmosphere, it is very important that our clients have access to us, and not just during tax preparation season. We are able to offer a full array of tax and accounting services at any time of the year.” Small Business Payroll and Record Keeping are also an important part of the services offered at M.R. Gaebel. “Small business owners spend countless hours each week doing payroll and recordkeeping,

when they could utilize that time on their business generating more income. Our payroll services are an affordable, timely, local option to make doing payroll and recordkeeping easier. In addition, with the host of government agencies reporting requirements that are constantly changing, a business owner must ask themselves...is it worth the risk? Errors can result in unnecessary penalties and interest owed. That is where our trained staff can help. We offer a variety of services, ranging from certified payrolls, year end and quarterly reports, payroll checks, payroll taxes, direct deposits, workers compensation audits and more. The business owner can pick



MR Gaebel Income Tax Preparation and Accounting Services

which services best fit their needs”. M.R. Gaebel sets the standard of tax and accounting services for businesses and residents of Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties. They specialize in offering their clients personalized, professional, quality service together with CPA expertise, knowledge and experience... all at affordable rates. Appointments are available in Watertown and Carthage. To schedule an appointment for individual tax services, or for more information, please call 315-493-1862, or visit them at their website, www.mrgaebel.com.

Family Ice Cream celebrating 22 years of serving up soft custard ice cream

Rich and Kim Martin want to thank everyone who helped Family Ice Cream have a wonderful season in 2024. We couldn’t have done it without you. Now we are looking forward to 2025 with some new and exciting additions to our menu. We also have weekly Fruit Slush flavor specials. We are located at 7388 Turin Road, Lowville, the last place on the left going up Martinsburg Hill, the colorful building which represents some of the more than 40 flavors we serve in soft custard ice cream. For those of you that haven’t visited Family Ice Cream our menu consist of waffle, sugar and gluten free cones always with free sprinkles, sundaes, banana splits with many different toppings and always includes nuts,

whipped cream and of course a cherry. Our avalanches are out of this world: Butterfinger, Oreo, M&M, Reese’s Pieces, cookie dough, Heath and Andes candies and of course your own combination. We also have shaved ice with many different flavors to choose from. Don’t forget to try our signature sundaes the Piggy Sweet, you guessed it, a waffle bowl, two toppings, nuts, whipped cream, cherry and the piggy (bacon bits). You’ll love it. As Rich and I look back to our early years of Family Ice Cream, we can only thank our faithful customers for supporting our business. If it wasn’t for them we wouldn’t have had the wonderful years that has brought us to where we are today. We



Family Ice Cream, 7388 Turin Road, Lowville, offers a wide variety of sweet summertime treats.

always miss the interaction with our customers during the off season and look forward to opening day, which will be Friday, April 25. Again thank you everyone.

Roggie’s Flooring Thanks the Community

As we enter our 19th year of serving our community, we here at Roggies Flooring Center would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to you. We look forward to continuing our tradition of bringing the latest styles of all types of flooring to you. We are a member of The Flooring Network which represents an association of strong, knowledgeable, and local independent flooring retailers across the Northeast. We provide all things flooring as well as ongoing product

knowledge, industry tips, and most importantly real value. You can check out the Flooring Network @ www.flooring-network.com. It is our desire to provide a shopping experience that will be personal and tailored to your needs. Your new floor, installed by our experienced installers, will add even more beauty to your home. You can follow our Facebook page as well as checking out our website - www.roggiesflooring.com



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Location: 6390 Pine Grove Road, Glenfield, NY
Mail: P.O. Box 682, Lowville, NY 13367

Email: LewisCountyHumandSociety@gmail.com
Facebook: Lewis County Humane Society 501c3
Web: LewisCountyHumaneSociety.org

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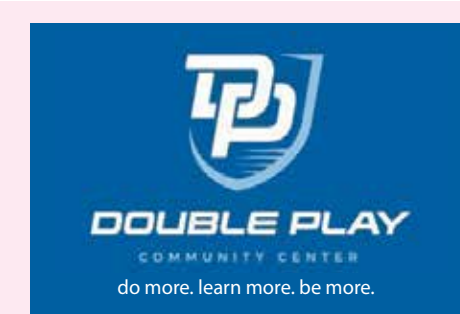
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Owner Ed Yancey stands in front of his business, Yancey’s Sales and Service, Lowville.

Friendly service at fair prices at Yancey’s Sales and Service

Yancey’s Sales and Service opened for business in August 1971. It is owned and operated by Edward A. Yancey and family. Ed started out selling Chaparral snowmobiles and minicycles. A short time later, he added the Stihl chainsaw line. Ed and his brothers enjoyed racing snowmobiles and dirt bikes. They won many trophies and championships over the years. Ed has raced for over 50 years in one form or another. Originally, Yancey’s was located next to the old high bridge on State Route 12 North. When the new bridge was being built in 1974, they moved to their present location down the street toward the village. Their old building was taken down to make room for the new high bridge. Ed and his wife, Arlene, have three children: Edward B., Jessica and Jennifer.

Over the years, Yancey’s Sales and Service has sold many products, including Chaparral, Sno-Jet, Kawasaki, Arctic Cat and Polaris snowmobiles, Hodaka motorcycles, Kawasaki and Polaris ATVs. Ed currently deals in Stihl products, including chainsaws, trimmers, blowers, tappers and many other gas-powered tools. He also buys and sells used sleds and ATVs. He carries many parts and accessories for sleds and ATVs, new and used.

Ed has acquired many hard-to-find parts over the years or knows how to order them. He also carries a nice line of reasonably-priced helmets and clothing. If he doesn’t have it, he can usually get it in a few days. Ed believes in friendly, courteous service and fair prices. The next time you are in need of one of his products, stop by or give Ed a call at 315-376-7442, 7368 Dayan St. (Route 12), Lowville. Your business is appreciated.



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supplies and lighting fixtures for industries, residences, municipalities, contractors and schools. They stock Berko electric heat, Nutone ventilators, Sylvania lamps, Progress lighting, Murray distribution equipment and Klein tools and provide sales and service on GE appliances. They also carry all sizes of conduit and wire, GE appliances, TVs, DVD players and electronics supplies. Ray invites you to stop in and see their wide range of products firsthand. The shop is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday or give them a call at 315-493- 3050. They’ll be happy to assist your needs.

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The North Star Health Alliance Charts the Future of Local Care

Richard Duvall, President & CEO
North Star Health Alliance



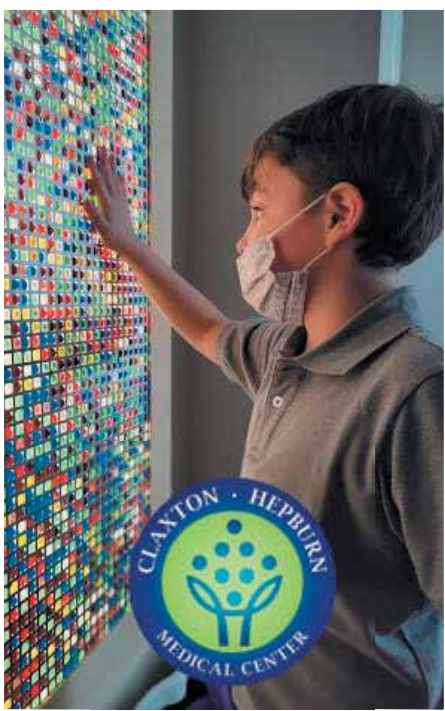
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Carthage Chamber presents business awards

By Elaine M. Avallone
eavallone@lowville.com

Originally published Nov. 13, 2024

It was a full house as nearly 170 people gathered at Pa-permaker’s Pub At Zero Dock Street for the Carthage Area Chamber Of Commerce Annual Business Awards Dinner on Oct. 29

Robert Sligar, chamber treasurer and emcee for the evening, said the chamber holds events to drive traffic into the community and make the Carthage area a community of choice.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to the cham-ber’s annual sponsors, which provide the funds to provide events such as Winterfest, the July fireworks and the Decem-ber holiday parade and fire-works.

Chamber president Tina Lanier introduced the new chamber director, Deborah At-kins.

The evening’s main event, the presentation of business awards, was held after dinner.

Chamber board member Robert Kulkinca presented the New Member Spotlight award to Paegan Thatcher, owner of The Morning Ritual.

“She enjoys doing things for the people around her and this has given her a platform to be able to give back,” the pre-senter said.

The Non-Profit of the Year Award, presented by cham-ber board member Kelly Sha-nahan, went to Encompass



The Community Impact Award went to the village of Carthage and West Carthage for aiding in feeding the children at summer recreation. Pictured from left are Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce director Deborah Atkins, Carthage clerk-treasurer Kristy O’Shaughnessy, West Carthage clerk-treasurer Tiffany Queary, West Carthage deputy clerk-treasurer Megan Brotherton and chamber president Tina Lanier. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

Recreation.

Founded by Kylie Schell in 2022, the organization aims to provide recreational oppor-tunities for youth with higher support needs.

“Encompass Recreation’s mission is to provide recre-ational opportunities to youth where differences are celebrat-ed, strengths are accentuated and there is a place for every-one on every team,” Shanahan said.

Schell noted they were deeply grateful to accept the award, especially since last year the young organization was recognized with the New Mem-ber Spotlight.

“We are forever grateful that we live in a community



The Simons-Baker family was presented with the Business of the Year award at the annual Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Dinner. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

and time that embraces our mission, vision and values,”



Kylie Schell, left, founder of Encompass Recreation, accepted the Non Profit Award at the Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce along with citations from state officials including one from Mark Walczyk’s office presented by Bonnie Fikes, right. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

especially those with higher support needs, should experi-ence the joy, confidence and connection that our events provide.’

Sligar presented the Small Business of the Year Award to Church Street Diner.

Celebrating its 25th year in business, the diner was opened in 1999 by Dawn Lelakowski who expressed thanks to her staff, community, food suppli-ers and family and friends “that have become family.”

The Community Impact Award went to the villages of Carthage and West Carthage for coming through for area children by organizing lunches for the summer recreation pro-grams in the Twin Villages.

Kristy O’Shaughnessy, Car-thage village clerk/treasurer, explained that when the villag-es were informed by Commu-nity Action Planning Council that they were changing how they administered their pro-gram and no longer providing meals to summer recreation programs, the villages took ac-tion. Along with West Carthage clerk/treasurer Tiffany M. Queary, local businesses, in-dividuals and organizations as well as the two villages stepped up to feed the children. Queary gave special recognition to West Carthage deputy clerk-treasurer Megan Brotherton who saw to the day-to-day de-livery of the meals.

Former chamber board member Teri Ellis presented the Business of the Year Award to Simon’s Farm and Home Center.

Ellis gave an overview of the history of the store. Ray Simon took ownership of the Carthage Agway in 1982.

The presenter noted that whatever your needs - small animal feed, bedding plants, stove pellets, window glass cut - you go to Simon’s. After a dev-astating fire in 2023, the family rebuilt the business and con-tinues providing for the com-munity as a third generation carries on the tradition.

The climax of the evening was the presentation of the Business Person of the Year.

Nominator Faith Parks presented the award to Jason

See CHAMBER E3



The Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business Award went to Church Street Diner. Chamber treasurer Robert Sligar, left, presented the award to diner owner Dawn Lelakowski, along with chamber director Deborah Atkins and chamber president Tina Lanier. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers



The 2024 Business Person of the Year Award went to Jason Christman, third from left, who is pictured with, from left, his nominator Faith Parks, chamber director Deborah Atkins and chamber president Tina Lanier, far right. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

Naturally Lewis honors local businesses

By Elaine M. Avallone
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Originally published Dec. 4, 2024

LOWVILLE — This year’s Membership Awards Night hosted by Naturally Lewis Inc. held on Nov. 21, had a different format. Instead of being held in one location it was a progressive party starting with a cocktail hour at Jeb’s Res-taurant then moving to the Town Hall Theater for the awards and back to Jeb’s for an after party.

The event brought together more than 12 business and community leaders along with community stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of the Naturally Lewis Mem-ber-ship who contribute to the success of Lewis County’s economy.

“Membership Awards Night was a night of in-spiration, recognition, and community spirit,” said a Naturally Lewis spokesperson, noting the event’s sponsors included AES and Northern Credit Union.

“Tonight, we celebrate the incredible achieve-ment of the membership through four awards that will recognize 12 incredible nominees,” said Jenna Lauraine, Naturally Lewis, Inc.; Darrell Miller, Miller’s Meat Market; Brandon and Kristin Cunningham, HumbleBee Farms and The Depot Market; Heather Hurd, Kelytown Kove; Daniel Myers, Double Play Community Center; Olivia Anderson, Office of state Sen. Mark Walczyk. Photo provided by Naturally Lewis



The award winners, pictured with representatives of the host and state government are, from left, Jenna Lauraine, Naturally Lewis, Inc.; Darrell Miller, Miller’s Meat Market; Brandon and Kristin Cunningham, HumbleBee Farms and The Depot Market; Heather Hurd, Kelytown Kove; Daniel Myers, Double Play Community Center; Olivia Anderson, Office of state Sen. Mark Walczyk. Photo provided by Naturally Lewis

demonstrates exceptional commitment to serv-ing and enhancing the community. The winner goes above and beyond to serve the community and contribute to a well-rounded county. This year the award went to Double Play Commu-nity Center for the Dare to Dream capital project. With the purchase of the former Ridgeview Inn

Restaurant and Lounge building, the commu-nity center combines three of Double Play’s four facilities under one roof. The new facility, 6912 Bardo Road, houses the fitness center, dance studio the center for youths and seniors.

Hand-in-hand’s childcare expansion project and Lewis County Agricultural Society’s

grandstand capital project were also considered for this award.

The Discover Tug Hill Award, which is for tour-ism-based members that promote Lewis County to residents and tourist alike as the ideal place to live, work and play, brining visitors from more than 50 miles away, went to Kelpytown Kove.

Owned by Heather E. Hurd, Kelpytown Kove was established as a Yoga Center and Glamping Bed & Breakfast in 2021, The center offers yoga classes, workshops and glamping retreats.

Others nominated for the tourism award were Adirondack Foothills Cycling Club and Turin Highland Lodge.

Entrepreneur of the Year is awarded to a busi-ness owner whose vision and leadership have not only achieved substantial business success but have significantly contributed to economic growth and development in Lewis County. This year’s winners were Brandon and Kristin Cun-ningham, owners of HumbleBee Farms and The Depot Market.

The Depot Market features products from hy-per-local farmers, food artisans and small busi-nesses, including produce grown year-round at the Cunninghams’ hydroponic farm, Humble-Bee Farms

Christie Andrus-Nakano of The Human Fac-tor Leadership and Mark Lemieux of Port Leyden Portal LLC were also nominated for this award.

The Naturally Lewis Outstanding Business Award has been termed the ultimate business

See LEWIS E4

Lowville moves forward with plans for DRI funds

By Elaine M. Avallone
eavallone@lowville.com

Originally published May 22, 2024

The fourth time was a charm for the village of Lowville. The Restore, Rediscover, Reconnect Downtown Revitalization Initiative round 7 application was accepted in the amount of \$10 million.

Now, the real work begins to decide how to utilize the funds.

The DRI is led by the Department of State, in close partnership with Empire State Development, NYS Homes and Community Renewal and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority.

The program aims to transforms downtown neighborhoods into vibrant centers that offer a high quality of life and are magnets for redevelopment, business, job creation, and economic and housing diversity. These compact, walkable downtowns are a key ingredient to helping New York rebuild its economy from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to achieving the state’s bold climate goals by promoting the use of public transit and reducing dependence on private vehicles, according to the state website.

The village of Lowville, along with its state partners, held the first meeting of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative Local Planning Committee on May 15 at the Lewis County Historical Society.

The Local Planning Committee includes local and regional leaders, stakeholders and community representatives. LPC members will provide input and feedback on the community vision for downtown goals and revitalization strategies, provide direction to consultants, review planning products, and help identify, evaluate and select proposed projects for the state’s consideration. LPC members will also assist with broad community engagement by guiding the public engagement approach and helping reach out to various constituencies about public engagement opportunities. Lowville Deputy Mayor Dan Salmon and Michele Ledoux of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County and member of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council will serve as the Lowville LPC co-chairs.

“The goal of the first consultant visit was organizational for the Local Planning Committee and



Attendees at the May 15 Local Planning Committee meeting look over a map of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative for the village of Lowville. Provided photo

information-gathering as they kicked off their Downtown Profile and Assessment,” said Cheyenne Steria, director of development, Naturally Lewis and a member of the LPC. “In addition to the first Local Planning Committee meeting, two public input sessions were held to gain input on public and village government projects to be developed for application for funding and for the public to understand the process as well as how private projects can apply for inclusion.”

Mrs. Steria said she believed these goals were met. “I believe the Local Planning Committee members understand our roles in the process and are excited to participate in building out the community

vision, goals and revitalization strategies and to see projects come in,” she said. “I’d like to see the community get more involved and excited about the process. We have a great opportunity to set a vision for the future of downtown Lowville with tangible means to chase after that vision and continue the snowball effect towards improvement that has already started.”

After being awarded the funding, the state requested a change in the boundaries.

“A contingency of NYS’s award of the DRI to the village of Lowville was a more condensed definition of what ‘downtown’ would mean for the sake of this particular grant,” Mrs. Steria explained. “The village

agreed to this stipulation, which means we’ll pivot efforts to revitalize the Trinity and Forest Avenue neighborhood and focus the DRI on an area the includes much of State Street and directly adjacent streets. The updated boundary map can be found on lowvilledri.org.”

Other projects suggested in the application are not automatically funded by the DRI.

“Keep your eyes open for the Open Call for Projects next month,” said Casandra Buell, Lewis County Director of planning and community development. “Over a four-week period, we’ll seek transformational and feasible, shovel-ready projects within the DRI Boundary. All potential projects, including those submitted to New York in the awarded application, must complete a project submission through this process. It’s important for project prospective project sponsors to begin sharpening their pencils now for projects that they would be interested in submitting.”

The state DRI funding aims to ignite economic growth, enhance livability and embrace the unique spirit of Lowville. Eligible Project types include new development and redevelopment of existing buildings.

Public workshops and events will be scheduled and publicized throughout the DRI effort to ensure that all who wish to participate can contribute to the success of the program states a press release.

Mrs. Steria said the LPC core team will continue to meet with the Department of State representatives and the consultant, Camiros Ltd., bi-weekly as the consultant “puts the knowledge they gained while in town into action.”

“The consultant will work directly with the village to start to flesh out the public projects,” she said.

The public is encouraged to attend the next meeting of the full Lowville Planning Committee set for 9-11 a.m. Thursday, June 13, at the Lowville Free Library, 5387 Dayan St.

Information on Lowville’s preparation for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative, visit the Lowville DRI website at www.lowvilledri.org. More information about the DRI can be found at www.ny.gov/dri.

Adirondack Foothills Cycling Club Gears Up for Exciting 2025 Season

Croghan, N.Y. — The Adirondack Foothills Cycling Club is set for another thrilling season in 2025, continuing its mission of promoting cycling education, safety, and advocacy across Lewis County. With an exciting lineup of events and community programs, the club aims to inspire riders of all ages and skill levels while fostering a strong cycling culture in the region.

Two Premier Events Kick Off the Season

Cycling enthusiasts will have two opportunities to test their endurance and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Adirondack region with the club’s premier events: the Tour de Lewis: O to O in May and the North Winds Gravel Classic in July.

The Tour de Lewis: O to O is expected to attract riders eager to experience the rolling terrain and breathtaking landscapes of Lewis County. This event serves as a great season opener, catering to both competitive and recreational cyclists looking for a rewarding ride.

In July, the North Winds Gravel Classic will challenge cyclists with a rugged and scenic gravel course. Gravel riding has surged in popularity in recent years, and this event highlights some of the best backroads and countryside that make Tug Hill a top-tier cycling destination.

A Commitment to Education and Safety

Beyond its cycling events, the Adirondack Foothills Cycling Club remains dedicated to education and safety, ensuring that cycling remains an accessible and secure activity for the entire community. This year, the club will host a Bike Safety Day at the Lowville Free Library in May, providing families with essential tips on bike maintenance, helmet fitting, and road safety.

Additionally, the club will participate in the Lewis County Progressive Safety Day, a crucial event that teaches county school children about safe cycling practices. Through interactive demonstrations and hands-on activities, young riders will learn valuable skills that help them become responsible and confident cyclists.

All Kids Bike Program Expands Outreach

One of the most impactful initiatives of the club this year is the All Kids Bike program, which focuses on teaching children with higher support needs how to ride a bike. This program, rooted in inclusivity and empowerment, ensures that every child has the opportunity to experience the joy of cycling, regardless of ability level. By providing adaptive equipment and personalized

instruction, the club continues to break barriers and promote the lifelong benefits of biking.

Building a Stronger Cycling Community

As the 2025 season

approaches, the Adirondack Foothills Cycling Club remains steadfast in its mission to make cycling safer, more inclusive, and more enjoyable for everyone. Whether through challenging rides, safety initiatives, or community programs, the club is paving the way for a vibrant and active cycling culture in the Adirondack region.

For more information on upcoming events and how to get involved, visit the Adirondack Foothills Cycling Club’s official website www.adkfoothillscyclingclub.org or follow them on social media for the latest updates.

ADIRONDACK FOOTHILLS CYCLING CLUB

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www.wolffsbodyshop.com

Wolff's Body Shop has been serving Lewis County and the surrounding area for 64 years! Beginning in 1961, founder Jim Wolff opened the shop behind his home at 9850 Main St. Croghan. Tom and Ron Croghan. Since that point, there have been two expansion projects designed to accommodate their growing clientele. In 1988 and relocated the shop to its present location at 9411 State Route 812, Croghan. In 2013 Scott Moshier, a then 12-year employee, purchased the business from the Wolff brothers with a vision of providing the highest quality auto body repairs. Also serving their customers are Manager- Greg Dermady, and Technicians- Carl Schermerhorn, Zach Pelo, Jeff Covey, and Jaden Kline. These men are specialists in collision repair and take great pride in their workmanship. Wolff's Body Shop is a PPG certified collision repair facility and uses only the highest quality PPG water-based finishes. They also offer 24-hour towing and have the most up to date equipment and training to keep up with the demand of repairing ever changing vehicle technology. Their business hours are 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday- Friday, and by appointment on Saturday. They would like to express their appreciation for the community's continued support and confidence in their auto body services. Please check out their website at- wolffsbodyshop.com and their Facebook page.

Introducing Lowville Appliance and Air Conditioning

We're excited to introduce you to Lowville Appliance and Air Conditioning, located right in the former Brown's Appliance building on Shady Ave. in Lowville. Lowville Appliance and Air Conditioning is owned and operated by Bradley and Megan Moser. Bradley was a long time employee of Wm. C. Brown and Son, Lowville NY.

Lowville Appliance and Air Conditioning is offering the following services; appliance sales, installation of new appliances and repair of your current appliances, whether they have been bought from Lowville Appliance and Air Conditioning or not. A showroom (located in the former Brown's appliance building) will offer a look at most major brands of appliances. Our knowledgeable sales and service team will be available to answer questions, and if you don't see what you're looking for, we can order it from our vast appliance buying group. We will continue to offer Carrier branded Air Conditioning, heat pumps, and mini split units; along with installation and repair services. We are also available to help our customers with opening and closing their seasonal camps. We are also very close to being able to offer customer financing options as well. Give us a call, if that is something you'd like more information on.

Our employees are Ethan Widrick and Michael Simmons (both former Brown's employees). Ethan is a professional



young man who is knowledgeable in this field. He is working on his refrigeration license. Michael Simmons is our sales associate and is in the office to answer any questions that you might have. Michael would love to have you stop in and see what we have available in the showroom. Bradley splits his time between the office and the field, keeping everything running smoothly. Megan handles much of the back office work and their daughters are a huge help as well, keeping the showroom and offices looking neat and clean.

Our goal is to offer our community a reputable and professional business model. We're



so thankful for those who have already supported our new business and we're looking forward to seeing more of you

in the future! We're excitedly planning an Open House for May 31, 2025. Look to Face-



From left to right: Ethan Widrick, Megan Moser, Brad Moser, Michael Simmons Front row: Brianna Moser, Nicole Moser. Store mascot: Millie

book and the local radio station for more details as the date gets closer.

Please reach out to us at 315-377-4098 or 315-377-4139. You can also find us on Facebook.

We are working on a website and hope to have that ready within the next month or so. We'd love to have you consider us for your next home appliance or air conditioning needs.

Chamber

From E1

Christman, the owner of Christman Fuel Service Inc., who along with his wife, Samantha, and his father Scott began the company 21 years ago.

After its humble beginnings in the Christman home with one truck, Christman Fuel Service now employs more than 25 employees and maintains as many as 30 fuel vehicles at any given time serving Jefferson and Lewis counties.

In addition, Christman gives back to the community by coaching and financially supporting Little League and Pop Warner. Following the untimely death of their youngest son, the Christmans established the Tyler R. Christman Foundation, which further contributes to area youth sports and provides scholarships for graduating Carthage seniors.

In accepting the honor, Christman thanked his father, grandfather Ross Christman, and his wife. He also recognized a deceased businessman.

"It is truly humbling for me to be chosen for this award," he said, thanking the selection committee. He went on to honor the late Gary Johnson who was a businessman in Carthage for more than 45 years and had given Christman his first real job and later became a customer of Christman Fuels.

"I always looked up to Gary

and respected his work ethic," Christman said.

During the evening a 50/50 raffle was held with Michelle Davis winning, and the \$158 proceeds were donated to the Non-Profit of the Year - Encompass Recreation.

All of the honorees also received citations from the offices of Assemblyman Kenneth Blankenbush and Sen. Mark Walczyk. In addition, Christman received a certificate from the village of Carthage.

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Community Foundation partners with donors to improve quality of life across Lewis County and the North Country



The Northern New York Community Foundation partners with families, individuals, businesses, and organizations across Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County to support a diverse variety of charitable interests.

Since 1929, the Community Foundation has worked to make the region a better place to live, work and play. Its commitment to donors helps them achieve their charitable objectives now and for generations to come by preserving and honoring legacies of community philanthropy. The Foundation is also a resource for local charitable organizations, donors, professional advisors, and nonprofits.

The Foundation’s mission — to inspire and celebrate giving, steward resources honorably, and foster vibrant North

Country communities — has evolved to serve communities across Northern New York. Its guiding values shape the work it does in partnership with donors to improve quality of life: Inspire Philanthropy. Develop Relationships. Act Respectfully. Honor Stewardship.

As the Community Foundation reflects on its 95-year history, much has changed but one constant remains: The spirit of local philanthropy that so moved community leaders to organize a charitable foundation is stronger than ever in Northern New York.

Throughout 2024, the Community Foundation, along with many North Country donors, responded to needs across the region as they continued to emerge. In partnership with those who love

Northern New York, the Foundation continues to address the critical and essential needs of our neighbors.

Community foundations work with charitably inclined individuals, families, organizations, and businesses to support quality-of-life programs, projects and services that improve the region. Any one may decide to establish a charitable fund at the Community Foundation to support a cause, geographic area, or organization about which they are passionate, both now and in the future. These can be scholarships to specific schools to support education, a fund to support a nonprofit agency in perpetuity, or a customized fund to fulfill any person’s charitable interests. Another option is to make a gift to the Friends of the Foundation

Community Betterment Annual Fund, which is designated to support various community programs, projects, and endeavors — including next-generation Youth Philanthropy and LEAD councils — in a flexible and responsive manner. The Foundation also makes many grants to projects that bring vital services and value to the community.

Establishing a fund at the Community Foundation isn’t a one-time event. It is managed locally with an eye toward steady and stable growth. This means that the fund can provide for its intended purpose in perpetuity with added stewardship and oversight. Charitable funds can be created to honor a loved one, family members, and those who have made a difference in our community.

Educational support for post-secondary students continues to be a long-standing part of the Community Foundation’s legacy and heritage. Annual gifts to the Foundation help build scholarship funds and extend opportunities for students. Many awards also

honor the legacies of caring individuals who believed in the value of making education more accessible.

Thanks to the generosity of donors who have made gifts to support Foundation scholarships, opportunities for students have grown through the establishment of new awards. Scholarships were awarded to 583 students in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties in 2024 with donors creating 27 new scholarships at the Community Foundation.

The Foundation is fortunate to partner with more than 150 nonprofits, 17 of which are based in Lewis County. Many nonprofit partners have created resources within the Community Foundation that provide permanent support through endowments and other funds. Partnerships help strengthen organizations while working to preserve the North Country’s past, enhance its present, and secure its future. These critical relationships also provide stewarded options for donors. Lowville Academy and Central School, Copenhagen and

Beaver River Central School Districts all partner with the Community Foundation to administer permanent scholarship funds on their behalf as well as educational foundations to more broadly support students.

Lowville Academy’s Donovan Exford and South Lewis student Felicity Szucs were among 10 middle schoolers selected as winners of the 2023-2024 Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge. Double Play Community Center and the Port Leyden Food Pantry were each awarded a grant thanks to the thoughtful recommendations of the Lewis County students.

The Community Foundation is based in the Northern New York Philanthropy Center, 131 Washington St. Watertown. Contact the Foundation at 315-782-7110 or info@nnycf.org. The team can work with you to plan the most effective and enduring legacy for today and tomorrow. Visit nnycf.org to learn more and follow the Foundation on social media.

Mental Health Community Partners Program at NRCIL

Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL) was founded in 1987 with a grant from the New York State Education Department; we are part of a network of 41 independent living centers in New York State. Peer advocacy at NRCIL, provides a choice of activities and interactions between people who share similar experiences with mental health, substance use disorders, physical disabilities, or have a child with a disability. As peers, we have an ability to connect, engage, and empower individuals with acceptance, understanding, and validation not found in any other professional relationship.

NRCIL is pleased to announce the rollout of our Mental Health Community Partners Program. This program was made possible through the support of Mental Health Association of New York State and New York State Office of Mental Health. NRCIL currently has nine certified Mental Health Community Partners ready to help families throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

The Mental Health Community Partners (MHCP) program supports adults & youth aged 12+ in transitioning from unwell to well.



The MHCP model takes an innovative relational approach - supporting the person in recovery, plus their whole family or chosen supporters in the community. Certified Mental Health Community Partners engage the student/adult-in-recovery and their family members or other chosen supporters for 90 days and provide assistance in their transition to wellness.

MHCP Brandy Roberts explains it this way – “As a Mental Health Community Partner, we help to open up communication. We provide education around the 8 dimensions of wellness and about wellness scales – these can be used in our every-day work. Because wellness isn’t an “either/or” option. We can scale up or down. This program helps people to work with resources in their home community to provide alignment with life goals and structure to achieve those goals step-by-step.”

After going through the Community Partner curriculum which is limited to 90 days, a person could continue their work with a Care Path Coach. NRCIL has two certified Care Path Coaches on staff. As explained by

MHCP and Certified Care Path Coach, Noelle Eisenhower, “If a young person is in crisis and is going to have a stay in a hospital, NRCIL’s Care Path Coaches can help the family and the young person to reconnect after discharge. We can help them connect to each other and connect to the community.”

NRCIL is a Partner Site as an organization and a part of the solution for leveraging community support and partnerships. We bring together peers and families and encourage shared values while building connections and supporting recovery within a whole-health model. NRCIL is proud to provide authentic peer services and is eager to meet the changing needs of our community identified by individuals we assist. Our services are confidential and free in our office by appointment, by phone, or via computer. We care very much about the health and wellness of individuals we support as well as our staff and community.

To learn more about Mental Health Community Partners or Care Path Coaches, please call NRCIL at 315-836-3735 or email us at nrcil@nrcil.net. We have four Mental Health Community Partners in Lewis

County, two in St. Lawrence County, and three in Jefferson County. Additionally, two of our advocates in Jefferson County, and one in Lewis County are also certified as Care Path Coaches. We are available on Facebook or at our website www.nrcil.net.

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 - Substance Abuse and Addiction Support
 - Making Healthy Meals
- NRCIL has an Employment Team providing services through NYS ACCES-VR
- NRCIL ADVOCATES can meet with you for PEER SUPPORT - Confidential and FREE
- NRCIL can assist you with BENEFITS ADVISEMENT
 - Social Security applications
 - Employment questions
 - Court questions, employment services, and many other services
- NRCIL’s PROFESSIONAL FAMILY PEER ADVOCATES are parents of children with disabilities who can
 - Help you understand your child’s diagnosis
 - Assist with school meetings and understanding evaluations
 - Provide opportunities for you and your family to enjoy fun activities

For more information, or to request accommodations please call 315-836-3735 or TTY: 315-785-8704
NRCIL is open Monday through Friday 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. or by appointment before or after hours



NRCIL

Your Disability Rights and Resource Center

Lewis

From E1

award going to a business that contributes to greater economic growth and development in a variety of ways such as increasing the tax base, community involvement and continuous self improvement to remain competitive. This year’s honoree was Miller’s Meat Market.

Started in 1962 as Miller’s General Store by Carl and Norma Miller the business was sold to their son Dan and his wife Charlene in 1978. Miller’s Meat Market in the town of Watson continues as a family-owned store and butchery that specializes in a number of homemade salads, sausages, hand cut meats, bulk food items, fresh fruits and vegetables and baked goods. During hunting season the butchery offers deer processing services.

Omnia Advanced Materials and Open Sky Wellness Center were also nominated for this award.



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Keeping North Country Comfortable Since 2009: A Spotlight on Fletcher’s Contracting

Nestled in the heart of Carthage, New York, Fletcher’s Contracting has been the community’s trusted partner for HVAC, Electrical, and Generator needs since 2009. With over a decade of experience, this family-owned business has built a reputation for exceptional service, quality craftsmanship, and unwavering dedication to customer satisfaction.

In 2009, Jeremiah Fletcher saw an opportunity to fill a gap in the Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties. Combining years of expertise in heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC), electrical systems, and generators, he founded Fletcher’s Contracting with a clear vision: to provide top-notch services while fostering lasting relationships with clients.

Our Services:

At Fletcher’s Contracting, we pride ourselves on offering a comprehensive range of services to meet the diverse needs of our customers. From routine HVAC maintenance and emergency repairs to custom electrical installations and generator setups, no job is too big or too small for our skilled team.

HVAC: Our technicians are trained to handle everything from heating and cooling system installations to regular maintenance and urgent repairs. We work with top brands to ensure our customers receive reliable and efficient solutions.

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Whether it’s a simple home wiring project or a complex commercial electrical system, our electricians deliver safe and professional results every time.

Generators: Power outages are no match for our expertly installed and maintained generators. We help our clients stay prepared and secure, no matter what the weather.

Our Commitment:

What sets Fletcher’s Contracting apart is our unwavering commitment to excellence. We believe in going the extra mile to ensure our clients are not just satisfied but delighted with our services. Our team is passionate about staying up to date with the latest industry advancements, which allows us to provide cutting-edge solutions tailored to each client’s unique needs.

Community Focused:

As a locally owned business, we understand the importance of community. We’re proud to support local events, sponsor youth sports teams, and participate in charitable initiatives. Our goal is to give back to the community that has supported us for so many years.

Looking Ahead:

As we look to the future, Fletcher’s Contracting remains dedicated to innovation, quality, and customer satisfaction. We are excited to continue growing and evolving to meet the changing needs of our clients and the industry.

In conclusion, Fletcher’s Contracting is more than just a service provider; we are a trusted partner in creating comfortable and safe environments for homes and businesses alike. Whether you need HVAC, Electrical, or Generator services, our experienced team is here to help. Thank you for choosing Fletcher’s Contracting and we look forward to serving you for many more years to come.

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David Roes from Roes Applications, Route 26, Lowville.

Fuller Insurance Agency Local Service, Local Knowledge

Fuller Insurance Agency, Inc. is an independent insurance agency offering all types of insurance from auto, property and life to all types of clients including individuals, businesses, not-for-profits and public entities.

The second generation agency has been serving clients throughout Northern New York for over 44 years. Wilfred T. “Bill” Fuller founded the agency on State Street in Carthage in September, 1980. While many things have changed since 1980, the agency remains committed to providing local service with local knowledge.

Adam Fuller commented on the current state of insurance. “Insurance, particularly auto insurance, is in a tough spot right now. We call it a hard market. Insurance companies are taking rate increases, non-renewing policies and some are even ceasing to write new business.” He added, “more than ever, having a local independent insurance agent

is important, especially one who provides local service with local knowledge, to help you navigate during turbulent times.”

In July, 2021, Fuller Insurance Agency became appointed to represent Erie Insurance in New York. Erie Insurance (Erie, PA and Rochester, NY) offers a full line of property/casualty insurance products including auto and homeowners insurance as well as commercial insurance. Adam

Fuller, agency principal, said “we’re extremely proud and honored to represent Erie Insurance. We both share similar values and a commitment to service for our clients.”

In addition to Erie Insurance, Fuller Insurance Agency represents numerous other national and regional carriers plus access to specialty insurance programs. For a full list of insurance carriers and programs, please visit <https://www.fullerinsuranceagency.com/partners.html>.



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Our first funeral home was established in Harrisville 69 years ago, in 1956, by its founder, James J. Scanlon, who later expanded the firm by opening a second funeral home in Croghan 49 years ago, in 1973, and since has served the Lewis County area longer than any other funeral firm.

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Scanlon Funeral Home, Main Street, Croghan, can be reached at 315-346-6311; Scanlon Funeral Home, State Street, Harrisville, can be reached at 315-543-2516.

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Red Barn Meats, Inc. Moves Forward in 2025



Red Barn Meats in 2013. Contributed.

What started off as a dream is finally coming to fruition. From a simple operation of offering mobile services to a family run business that began in a garage and now is busting at the seams, Red Barn Meats, Inc. has become a well known name in our community offering USDA inspection, custom meat cutting, deliveries and nationwide shipping, Red Barn Meats is able to serve the community in a variety of ways. They specialize in offering locally sourced products and meats at affordable prices. The need to expand has

been a goal for some time but a process requiring lots of patience, hard work and persistence, from applying to permits, purchasing property, and seeing financial assistance, the time has finally come for the expansion project to begin. With the help of Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation and Naturally Lewis, the project finally began October 9, 2024. Pate Dirt works began digging the foundation and Adirondack Valley Builders began pouring concrete.



Red Barn Meats expansion project underway in January. Contributed.

In the last four months and open lot has turned into a very large building with a roof, windows and rooms. Seeing our dream come to life is so exciting and we would personally like to thank the following businesses for their help: Croghan Electric, T Mechanical, Coldway, Monnats Plumbing and Heating and Amp Electric. Progress remains steady with hopes of completion in mid to late spring. We would like to thank our customers and community for their support and constant encouragement as we move

“forward in faith.” Serving others and making lasting friendships is what motivates us and brings us joy. Thank you to our staff and their families for all you do! Our business is located at 9095 Brier Road, Croghan, NY 13327. ■ We can be reached at 315-346-1254. ■ Visit our website at <https://redbarnmeatsinc.com>. ■ Visit, like and share our Facebook page at Red Barn Meats, Inc. ■ Instagram - [redbarnmeatsinc2024](#)

Zehr’s flowers is ready for 2025

The team at Zehr’s Flowers and Landscaping are hard at work right now gearing up for a busy 2025. The commercial estimators are in full swing bidding and lining up jobs so when Spring comes we are ready for “go time”. Our office staff have also been busy executing contracts and tying up all the loose ends, so we are ready for another busy season. We also have many employees working hard to get their CDL’s so they can operate our big equipment.

We are excited to serve you as we are going into our 23rd year of business and we are honored to be a part of the amazing community, we call home! It takes a lot to win at business, but it takes even more to continue to win, year after year. I fully believe that the future is bright for the green industry and I’m excited to see the PROGRESS in 2025 here at Zehrs!



Lewis County Hospital Foundation Supports Health System Growth

In 2024 the Lewis County Health System made significant improvements to the physical campus and added many new services to enhance quality healthcare for our community . The renovation of the Med/Surg Wing was completed in 2024 and includes 24 state-of-the-art private patient rooms with private baths. The new and expanded Critical Care Unit (CCU) includes five private patient rooms to ensure infection prevention and privacy to provide the highest quality critical care for our patients. A Comfort Care Room was included in the Med/Surg construction. In the Comfort Care Room, patients receive care that is focused on comfort, quality of life and dignity. The Comfort Care Room is a large, private, and homelike space for patients and their families to spend time together as they navigate end-of-life care for their loved one. The Maternity Department at Lewis County General Hospital reopened in March 2024 to offer a local option for expectant mothers to deliver their babies in Lewis County. The Lewis County Hospital Foundation, in collaboration with Jeb’s Restaurant, provides a special dinner for our new parents to celebrate the birth of their baby at Lewis County General Hospital. The goal in 2025 is to deliver 185 babies!



The Med/Surg Wing at Lewis County General Hospital includes a Comfort Care Room for patients and their families to spend time together as they navigate end-of-life care for their loved one.

donation to the Lewis County Hospital Foundation. You may make an on-line donation to a variety of restricted funds including the Fund for Hope, Lewis County Hospice, the Lewis County Residential Health Care Facility Activities Department and many more at <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/twjhLQ>. You may also mail

a donation to Lewis County Hospital Foundation, 7785 North State Street, Lowville, NY 13367. For more information on ways to support the Health System, including how to become a 1931 Legacy society member, please call the Hospital Foundation office at 315-376-5110.

Fuller

From E5

Aaron Fuller, agency principal, added “being an independent agent means we have choices for our clients. Today, that means offering service in-person, phone, email, text or on our agency’s consumer portal app.” Fuller Insurance Agency, Inc. is located at 110 S. School Street, Carthage and at 10 Court Street, Canton The agency has eight staff members who share over 100 years of combined insurance experience. They can be contacted in Carthage at 315.493.2110 or in Canton at 315.386.3403 or visit them on the web: www.fullerinsuranceagency.com.



The Fuller Agency team.



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Augustinian Academy: A Pillar of Education, Faith, and Community in the North Country

Proudly serving the communities of Carthage, Fort Drum, Copenhagen, Lowville, Beaver Falls, and surrounding areas, Augustinian Academy has built a well-earned reputation as a top-tier educational institution for Pre-K through 8th-grade students. Since its founding in 1885 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Academy has remained deeply committed to providing a faith-based education grounded in academic excellence, service, and faith formation.

The school is known for its small class sizes, dedicated staff, and strong family-oriented environment, which all contribute to a personalized educational experience. Augustinian Academy offers an education that spans beyond academics to nurture physical, emotional, and spiritual growth. This commitment extends to a wide range of extracurricular programs and opportunities for character development and community service. While Augustinian Academy is a Catholic school, the foundations of this faith offer spiritual formation for students of all denomina-

tions.

In addition to its commitment to academic and community service, Augustinian Academy has a long history of organizing events that bring the community together. The school's annual Gala, now in its 21st year, has become a cornerstone of the community's social calendar. Originally envisioned by the late principal Sister John Mary as a fun night for staff, parishioners, and community members, the Gala has evolved into a major fundraising event. This year, attendees will enjoy a 1980s theme with "Retro Rewind- An 80s Night to Remember," featuring dinner, dancing, silent auction, live music, raffles, prizes and more. The event is made possible through the generosity of local Major Event Sponsors- Carthage Area Hospital, Rob Sligar with Cross Country Mortgage, the Sister of St. Joseph, Iseneker Funeral Home, The Knights of Columbus- Father John Cosmis Council 291, and Indigo Inkwell. Several other area businesses and individual sponsors contribute through sponsorships and donations, offering

gift certificates, raffle items, and gift baskets for the silent auction. These contributions play a vital role in ensuring the continued success of the school's mission. The Academy takes pride in never turning away a student due to an inability to pay tuition, keeping costs as affordable as possible to ensure access to quality education for all families.

The Academy's largest annual fundraiser, the St. James Fair, is another beloved community event. With its wide variety of food, live music, amusement rides, games, and carnival attractions, the fair draws record crowds every summer. This year marks the fair's 51st year. The St. James Fair is a testament to the school's deep roots in the community and its role in bringing people together.

In terms of academics, Augustinian Academy offers a rigorous curriculum that not only meets New York State Standards but is also accredited through Cognia. This accreditation assures that we are rooted in our Catholic identity while constantly improving and expanding NYS



Standard achievement. Eighth-grade students have the opportunity to accelerate in subjects like Math, earning high school credits through NYS Regents courses. The Academy also provides additional support for students with Individualized Educational Plans and 504 Plans in partnership with local public schools. The school's comprehensive approach includes regular classes in physical education, music, art, and technology, along with a modern library and computer lab.

Students also have the opportunity to participate in extracur-

ricular activities such as Science Olympiad, Battle of the Books, and intramural sports. Recently competing at the Adirondack Regional Science Olympiad, students in grades 5th-8th earned an overall 2nd place, earning the opportunity to compete at the State level this spring. The school offers an After-care program where students can take part in activities such as baton twirling, drama club and arts and crafts while also leaving time to work on homework and get the help they need. These efforts reflect Augustinian Academy's dedication to fostering well-rounded

individuals who are prepared for both academic success and life-long learning.

Augustinian Academy's commitment to academic excellence, faith and service has made it a cornerstone of the community, offering a safe, nurturing environment where students thrive both in and out of the classroom. With a focus on affordability through scholarships, low tuition, and busing services provided by local school districts, the Academy ensures that a Catholic education is accessible to all families. Looking ahead, Augustinian Academy remains dedicated to providing a well-rounded educational experience that fosters academic success, spiritual growth, and active community engagement. As the school prepares for the 2025-2026 school year, it continues to accept applications and invites prospective families to explore the many opportunities it has to offer. For more information or to schedule a visit, families can visit www.c-augustinian.org or contact the school directly at 315-493-1301.

The tradition continues for Freeman's Taffy

The Freeman Family is ready to begin its 130th year of making their delicious taffy products.

The taffy stand at the top of the hill at the Lewis County Fairgrounds was originally owned and operated by Charlie and Minnie Ryan.

They also operated the Green Gate Fine Candy Store on State Street. The Ryan's built the taffy stand at its present location in 1895, and that original structure is still utilized today.



Hannah Freeman, Scott Freeman, Lori Freeman, Carli Freeman, Chris Freeman, Heather Reed, Kyla Reed, John Reed, Cole Reed, Ryan Reed, Teresa Freeman and Shawn Freeman.

Family stories recall that they started out only making only four flavors of taffy a far cry from their 21-flavor selection today.

Mr. and Mrs. Ryan died in the 1950s, as did Clarence Ryan. Clarence's brother-in-law, Lester Freeman and his wife Nora then took over the operation of the taffy business. They were later joined by Betty, Beryl and his wife Cornelia (Tip).

In 1976, their son, Jim and his wife Christine took control of the stand. Their children and grandchildren grew up learning the trade and help to this day.

Although the operation has changed hands through the generations, the actual process of taffy making has changed very little. The candy is still made on the same coal stove, although it has been converted to gas. The candy still gets cooled on white hard

marbles and then hand-cut as it was done in 1895. While the taffy used to be hand pulled, it is now machine pulled. The old hook hangs on site as a reminder of days gone by. The recipe has also remained intact, using only sugar, water, flavors and coloring.

You can buy a stick or kisses at the original stand on top of the hill, still made the old way... As Beryl once stated, "with a lot of love and sweetness and a drop of water from heaven."

One special flavor of kiss is a regionally favorite as it contains pure Lewis County Maple Syrup.

The layout of the fair has changed over the years, and, to spare some fairgoers the

walk up the hill, the Freemans have added a second location next to the Information Booth. You will still want to head up the hill to see where the taffy was made and maybe grab a fresh sample, but our trailer also offers; sno-cones, nachos, popcorn and lemonade.

Even though the taffy tradition centers around the week of the Lewis County Fair, their Pure Maple Taffy Kisses are also available at various north country businesses. These kisses can be found at Lowville Producer's Cheese Store, Miller's Meat Market, Thousands Islands River Rat Cheese Store, Burrville Cider Mill, Massey Ranch, Colwell's Farm Market, Brantingham

Station, Steiner's Sugar Shack and Widrick Maple. In addition to the Cream Cheese Festival, The Freeman's Taffy and Treats concession trailer has expanded to include Lewis County Food Truck Friday events. We would like to thank these businesses for carrying our products and allowing us to continue the tradition.

Sadly, Jim passed away on October 8, 2020. Although he, along with his expertise is missed; his wife Chris along with their children Heather and John Reed, Scott and Lori Freeman, Shawn and Teresa Freeman and five grandchildren Ryan, Cole and Kyla Reed,

Hannah and Carli Freeman are carrying on this long-standing tradition.

130 years of a family tradition is something the Freeman Family is extremely proud of and wishes to thank the community who has played a large part in supporting this tradition.



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Legacy Society

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www.johnsonpine.com

Johnson Lumber Company, LLC, also known as Johnson Pine, celebrates its 48th year of business in 2025! Since our last update, we have much to share as far as progress and plans. In 2017, neighboring property was purchased to expand operations including the addition of our new building as well as two warehouses. Our new building currently houses our second planer mill, allowing us to plane an additional 40,000 BF per day! Also within this building are our upgraded state-of-the-art pre-finishing machines for our tongue and groove pine and trim. Our office and sales team moved into the new building, and trucks are now able to be loaded inside out of the elements. Around the yard other improvements have also been made including a reorganized log yard that includes lighting for evening deliveries, sprinkler system to water our log supply as needed, installation of a five head stenner in our sawmill to utilize more from each log, and the reintegration of a third dry kiln. A partnership with National Grid allowed for upgraded drives throughout the mill to reduce energy demand load. As we continued to grow, our original pre-finishing line was put back into service and now runs as needed to fulfill special orders and miscellaneous items, simultaneously to the new machines. For deliveries, we invested in two tractor trailers, as well as three fifth wheel trucks to pull 34 foot tarped sided trailers for smaller deliveries. New multi-directional Combilift forklifts were purchased to organize inventory and load trucks with ease. To best utilize by-products, Johnson Lumber now bales a sawdust/shavings/fiber blend into 4 foot round bales. These round bales are used by farms for bedding all over NYS. We now have a tarping system for all incoming trucks, to allow easy, safe tarping over the lumber units for protection. Beginning in Spring 2025, we are excited to offer pine mulch in various colors to wholesale accounts in bulk. All improvements and changes have been made strategically to optimize efficiency and safety!



In the lumber industry, Johnson Lumber is well known for high quality products. Our lumber ships across the country, truckloads to Minnesota, Tennessee, Michigan, Virginia, Florida and more! Our membership in Lumber Merchandising Corporation, and partnership with a wholesaler in New England, has opened new avenues of growth for our products. The future is bright and Johnson Lumber is proud to be part of the Carthage and Lewis County community!

Current plans for the future include improvements to our sawmill, product growth into additional states, and continued efficiency, safety and quality control measures. Transitioning to three of the second generation is also in the works!

Our progress and success are in major thanks to our wonderful crew. Our dedicated employees are the key and we are honored to have such wonderful individuals on our team. In addition to our team, our retailers are the best partners we could ask for. We are grateful to have so many wonderful lumber retailers, promoting and stocking our products, and distributing them to their fine contractors and homeowners.

Schumer announces funding for Kraft-Heinz plant

By Elaine M. Avallone
eavallone@lowville.com

Originally published Dec. 11, 2024

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer paid a visit to the Kraft Heinz plant Dec. 6 to share with company officials information about funding he helped secure earlier this year to upgrade the plant making it more energy efficient.

According to a press release from the senator's office, Kraft Heinz received an estimated \$22 million in federal funding secured from the U.S. Department of Energy's Industrial Demonstrations Program to upgrade and decarbonize its heating process to reduce carbon emissions in pursuit of the company's zero carbon by 2050 goal.

The upgrades will strengthen the plant and make it more sustainable.

Opening the press conference, Sen. Schumer congratulated the Kraft Heinz plant for successfully bringing back the Guinness World Record for the largest cheesecake.

Sen. Schumer pointed out during the press conference, his long history with the plant which he help to keep operating in 2015 when it was at risk to close.

"Lowville's Heinz Kraft dairy plant has long been the cream of the crop, a lynchpin of the North Country's dairy industry, which is why I personally worked on an agreement to successfully save nearly a thousand jobs back in 2015," the senator said. "I promised to keep fighting to grow the plant ever since, and I'm thrilled today to say that a promise made is a promise kept. The plant is thriving and recently secured a major \$22 million federal investment to upgrade and decarbonize



Surrounded by Kraft Heinz officials and employees, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, center, holds a tub of Philadelphia Cream Cheese during a press conference at the dairy plant in Lowville. Elaine M. Avallone/Johnson Newspapers

its heating process to significantly reduce carbon emissions from the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure & Jobs Law. I'm thrilled that the feds are churning up resources to create a cleaner, greener future for the plant and these laws are continuing to deliver for the North Country."

Kraft Heinz has successfully completed award

negotiations with the Department of Energy on Phase I of the planned four-phase project.

Phase 1 scope of work will include planning, permitting, design and optimization activities and should take about 20 months starting December 2024.

According to Sen. Schumer, Kraft Heinz and the Department of Energy will work

out goals and timeline for the completion of the project.

"In 2024, Schumer helped Kraft Heinz secure an up to \$170.9 million award from the DOE IDP to upgrade and decarbonize its heating process in a sustainable and efficient way while creating good-paying new jobs, developing Kraft's existing workforce, engaging with labor and community stakeholders,"

stated the press release.

Kraft Heinz's "Delicious Decarbonization Through Integrated Electrification and Energy Storage Project" will help the company decarbonize production at as many as 11 facilities, including the Lowville plant, by applying a range of state-of-the-art technologies, such as heat pumps, electric heaters, and electric boilers in combination with

sustainable fuel boilers, solar thermal, solar panels, and thermal energy storage.

"Implementing these technologies at each facility is expected to reduce annual emissions by as much as 100,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year, translating to a significant reduction from 2022 levels for Kraft Heinz, all while helping

See PLANTF3

The economic outlook for Lewis County

By Brittany Davis
Naturally Lewis Executive Director

As we move into 2025, Lewis County is at the center of opportunity and transformation. At Naturally Lewis, our mission is to foster a strong, sustainable economy through strategic investments, thoughtful risk-taking and the creation of opportunities for businesses—large and small, new and established.

Guided by our new 2025-2027 strategy, we are focused on:

- Building our community through asset development
- Inspiring our people — entrepreneurs, youth and leaders
- Strengthening partnerships and collaboration
- Sustaining a lasting legacy for Naturally Lewis Inc.

Through these efforts, we are working to ensure that Lewis County remains a place where businesses thrive and people want to live, work, play, and invest. Our key priorities for the coming year include:

Strengthening Local Business and Industry

Our focus this year is on helping businesses grow through local and state incentives, loans, and grant programs, with a particular emphasis on manufacturing,

tourism, and small business development.

The Jefferson-Lewis Manufacturing Alliance continues to be a vital initiative, bringing together industry leaders to foster innovation, collaboration, and problem-solving, ensuring that our region remains competitive. At the same time, we continue to support entrepreneurs and small businesses through programs that help them launch, scale, and sustain their operations. At the end of 2024, we have been able to award \$192,000 from our Community Economic Development Program Grant Funds to local businesses, which has led to a \$607,000 in total project investment. Lewis County is an entrepreneurial-friendly place, and we're proud to champion that effort.

Revitalization and Site Development

Vacant property revitalization has been a top priority for the past three years. Through our partnership with Lewis County, we established a fund to incentivize property owners to transform vacant spaces into businesses, housing, and lodging. This program has awarded \$690,500 in funding to property owners, which has resulted in a total project investment of \$5,585,928.



Naturally Lewis Naturally Lewis, Inc., on behalf of the Lewis County Development Corporation, is accepting Requests for Expressions of Interest for the Lyons Falls Mill Site located within the Village of Lyons Falls.

In addition, we developed a Property & Site Development Plan as part of our 2024-2027 strategic plan to guide our efforts in adaptive reuse and greenfield site development. The Lewis County IDA's new Universal Tax Exemption Policy now incentivizes not just new construction, but also the reuse

of existing spaces—creating more opportunities for businesses to grow within our communities.

Tourism and Placemaking
With the addition of a dedicated Director of Tourism under Naturally Lewis Inc., we have a strategic focus on tourism development and promotion—not just for

visitors, but for the benefit of our residents as well.

In 2024, we launched Discover Tug Hill, a regional tourism brand promoting the four counties of the Tug Hill Region. With visitor numbers and tourism spending on the rise over the past two years, our focus is now on sustainable

development—ensuring that tourism growth enhances the quality of life for residents while providing an exceptional experience for visitors.

The Future of Naturally Lewis Inc.

Naturally Lewis Inc. is the result of a long-term vision. As a newly established nonprofit, we successfully merged economic development services and the Chamber of Commerce, creating a unified, one-stop-shop for business support.

This collaboration had been discussed for 15 years, but in 2023-2024, we made it a reality — bringing a streamlined, efficient approach to business and economic development.

Lewis County is full of opportunity, and the future is bright. Naturally Lewis, alongside the county, municipal, and economic development partners, is dedicated to continuing the momentum of growth and innovation. By working together, we can ensure that Lewis County remains a place where businesses succeed, communities grow and thrive, and people choose to make Lewis County their home to live, work, build business and play.

Widrick Auto Sales has been locally owned and operated in Watertown since 1980.

Co-owners James Widrick and Steven Widrick both are Jefferson County natives.



Widrick Auto Sales has been locally owned and operated in Watertown since 1980. Co-owners James Widrick and Steven Widrick both are Jefferson County natives. Widrick Auto Sales is always expanding, looking to better serve the needs of our customers. We are carrying the largest inventory in its history, providing quality pre-owned vehicles at competitive prices. Facility expansion is ongoing and we recently opened a new detailing shop to maximize our ability to process vehicles for sale, as well as, provide quality detail services for our customers. Widrick Auto Sales specializes in finding finance options for all credit situations including first time buyers, bankruptcy and repossession.

To service what we sell, our facility offers a full service department, as well as a state of the art collision and body shop with over 50 years of combined experience. Look to us first for your next preowned vehicle. Your experience here will be transparent and accommodating and you won't want to buy anywhere else. We make it easy, that's what we do!



2018 FORD F-150 4DR
14705. Medium Earth Gray, 75,582 miles
\$26,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2020 ACURA TLX
15660. AWD,Majestic Black Pearl, 50,323 miles
\$27,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2021 GMC ACADIA AT4
15892. Summit White, 54,418 miles
\$27,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2017 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI SPORT
15917. Titan Black, 100,255 miles
\$14,399 Plus tax, title & reg.



2021 FORD RANGER XLT
15777. Carbonized Gray, 42,767 miles
\$29,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2018 FORD TRANSIT VAN
15761. Oxford White, 122,501 miles
\$21,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2019 HONDA RIDGELINE RTL
15640. Modern Steel Metallic, 78,005 miles
\$24,799 Plus tax, title & reg.



2019 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED
15498. Bright White Clear Coat, 87,643 miles
\$20,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2018 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500
15851. Deep Ocean Blue Metallic, 66,732 miles
\$31,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2019 DODGE DURANGO SXT
15872. White Knuckle Clear Coat, 95,853 miles
\$19,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2017 DODGE JOURNEY SE
15889. Redline 2 Pearl Coat, 70,276 miles
\$11,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2019 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED
15270. Agate Black, 70,976 miles
\$24,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2018 JEEP WRANGLER JK UNLIMITED RUBICON
15314. Tan, 65,255 miles
\$27,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2021 KIA K5 LXS
15887. Ebony Black, 86,126 miles
\$14,399 Plus tax, title & reg.



2020 NISSAN ARMADA SL
15658. Super Black, 86,732 miles
\$26,599 Plus tax, title & reg.



2020 RAM 2500 BIG HORN
15822. Bright White Clear Coat, 100,515 miles
\$36,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2019 SUBARU CROSSTREK 2.0i LIMITED WAGON
15865. Blue, 77,109 miles
\$20,999 Plus tax, title & reg.



2021 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLI
15901. Pure Gray, 49,513 miles
\$21,999 Plus tax, title & reg.

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Plant

From F1

create hundreds of good paying construction jobs,” said the senator, who described the Lowville plant as a national model for clean energy. “At the Lowville Kraft Heinz plant, the funding will help develop a tailored approach to replace aging gas and other high carbon emitting technologies with sustainable, energy efficient and environmentally friendly alternatives that are best suited to the needs of the plant, workforce, and community.”

In addition to the Lowville plant, this award could help Kraft Heinz will boost decarbonization efforts in Champaign, Ill.; Kendallville, Ind.; Mason City, Iowa; New Ulm, Minn.; Columbia, MO; Granite City, Ill.; Fremont, Ohio; Mason, Ohio; Garland, Texas; and Winchester, Va.

“Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, which Schumer led to passage as Majority Leader, the Department of Energy’s Industrial Demonstrations Program (IDP) funds projects that focus on the highest emitting and hardest to abate industries where decarbonization technologies can have the greatest impact: iron and steel, cement and concrete, chemicals and refining, food and beverage, paper and forest products, aluminum, other energy-intensive manufacturing industries and cross-cutting technologies,” states the press release. “The program aims to accelerate decarbonization projects in energy-intensive industries and provide American manufacturers a competitive advantage in the race to lead the world in low- and net-zero carbon manufacturing.”

Hills Hometown Carwash looks forward to another great year

Hello everyone!
We would like to thank our customers for another great year of business. We would like to thank Doug and Mary Hanno again for continuing to be available any time we had questions about anything. In the words of Doug “It never happened to me in 20 years”, which has become our running joke. This year has tested both our patience and skills with some of the pesky issues that have popped up. This has truly been a year of trials, tribulations and learning but we wouldn’t have it any other way.
The past year we have completed a few projects that we had on our 5 year plan. Including installing a light on

our flag pole, replacing our outer Bay wall and restructuring, as well as fixing some holes in our driveway/black-top.
Our future projects hope to include installing solar panels or EV charging stations. We also hope to install an automatic door opener on one of the self-serve bays to assist the public with opening the doors effortlessly. We have also floated around several other ideas in our 5 year plan, so be on the lookout for new things to come.
Thank you again for another great year of business. We look forward to the upcoming year and hope to have a little less rain and a little more sun.



Moving Mountains Cafe

MENU

HOT

	12oz.	16oz.	
Latte	3.75	4.25	
Cappuccino	3.75	4.25	
Steamer	3.00	3.50	
Hot Chocolate	3.00	3.50	
Chai Latte	4.00	4.50	
Macchiato	3.75	4.25	
Americano	3.00	3.50	
Brewed 20oz	2.50	2.00	2.25

ICED

	16oz.	24oz.
Iced Coffee	3.75	4.75
Iced Latte	4.50	5.00
Iced Chai Latte	4.50	5.00
Iced Macchiato	4.50	5.00
Iced Americano	3.50	4.00
Shaken Espresso	4.50	5.50
Refreshers	4.00	4.50
Red Bull Refresher	--	6.50

EXTRAS

Almond/Oat Milk	1.25
Sweet Cream Cold Foam	1.25

Moving Mountains Cafe

FLAVORS

REGULAR

Brown Sugar Cinnamon	Mocha
Butter Pecan	Peanut Butter
Carmel	Peppermint
Cheesecake	Praline
Cinnamon	Pumpkin
Coconut	Salted Carmel
English Toffee	Shortbread
Hazelnut	Toasted Marshmallow
Irish Cream	Toffee Nut
Italian Eggnog	Vanilla
Maple	White Chocolate

SUGAR FREE

- Carmel
- Mocha
- Vanilla

FRUIT

Apple	Orange
Blackberry	Peach
Blue Raspberry	Raspberry
Cotton Candy	Strawberry
	Watermelon

SMOOTHIES

Peach
Strawberry Banana
Wildberry

MILKSHAKES

Chocolate	Strawberry
Peanut Butter	Vanilla

Moving Mountains Cafe

FOOD MENU

BREAKFAST

Breakfast Sandwich

made with egg, cheese & your choice of meat and bread

- Bacon
- Sausage
- Without meat
- Bagel
- English Muffin
- Homemade Toast

Donut	1.50
Bagel	3.50
Cinnamon Roll	4.25
English Muffin Toast	2.50
Turnover	3.75
Muffin	3.75

LUNCH

Paninis

comes with chips & a pickle and your choice of cheese

- Cheese
- Ham & Cheese
- Chicken Bacon Ranch
- Buffalo Chicken
- Roast Beef
- The Adirondack

(chicken, ham & bacon with barbecue sauce)

Cheeses: American, Swiss, Provolone

Wraps

*when available

comes with chips & a pickle and your choice of cheese

- Buffalo chicken
- Chicken Bacon Ranch

Salads

*when available

comes with carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, cheese, croutons.

*with meat

Small side salad

Dressing choices: Ranch, Blue Cheese, Italian, Vinaigrette

Moving Mountains Cafe in Croghan, NY

Moving Mountains Cafe in Croghan offers a warm and friendly atmosphere while serving a variety of speciality and seasonal beverages, including lattes, cappuccinos, frappes, and hot or iced coffees. Additionally, they offer delicious sourdough bagel breakfast sandwiches, soups, paninis, pastries, and much more. Moving Mountains Cafe has an abundance of indoor seating, seasonal outdoor seating, a drive through window, and takeout options.
Come and see us at 9719 State Rte. 812, Croghan, or call us at 315-301-4015.

2024 Year in Review GYMO Architecture, Engineering and Land Surveying, DPC

GYMO Architecture, Engineering, & Land Surveying, DPC had an eventful 2024, filled with community engagement, professional accomplishments, and exciting projects that continue to enhance the North Country region.

GYMO remained actively involved in local events and initiatives throughout the year. Staff attended the Tug Hill Commission's Local Government Conference, Naturally Lewis' Economic Development Conference, SUNY Potsdam Local Government Conference, Spring Conference for Public Housing Authorities, and the Clayton Climate Smart Community Public Information Session. We were also proud to be sponsors for the Tyler R Christman Foundation's 3rd Annual ATV/UTV "Ride for Ty" and the 203rd Lewis County Fair, among other local events and initiatives. The team enjoyed time together at the Great Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, as well as our own annual GYMO Open and BBQ at Thompson Park Golf Course. We wrapped up the year with the annual North Country Festival of Trees, where we were excited to win the "Most Elegant" award. Our team members are not just making a living – they're making a difference, and we are proud of their individual causes of choice.

This year brought significant professional growth within our team. The firm was able to grow with quality individuals who are committed to improving the North Country. We are proud to announce that the following people joined GYMO in 2024.

Construction Management:

- Neal Moser - Senior Construction Manager, bringing years of experience in overseeing large-scale projects and ensuring quality execution.
- Mark Cote - Senior Construction Manager, utilizing his expertise in project coordination and site management to support our clients.

Engineering:

- Matthew Mehaffy, PE - Senior Project Engineer specializing in Structural Engineering, providing critical analysis and design solutions for various projects.
- Ryan Aubertine and Connor Chawgo - Design Engineers, contributing to project development with innovative engineering solutions.

Architecture:

- Konrad Krysztoforski - Architecture Intern from Endicott College, gaining valuable hands-on experience in the field.

Administration:

- Emily Rogers - Administrative Assistant for Construction Management, helping to streamline operations and support project teams.
- David Nisley - Marketing Coordinator, enhancing GYMO's outreach, branding, and communication strategies.

Several of our team members also achieved notable accomplishments this year. McKenzie Fisk-Kamide further

demonstrated her leadership skills by graduating from the Jefferson Leadership Institute, a prestigious program aimed at developing the next generation of community leaders. Zach Scordo received his Professional Land Surveying License. Peter Clough, Director of Construction Management, was honored as the newest president of the Northern New York Builders Exchange at their annual dinner, a well-deserved recognition of his contributions to the industry.

As we look ahead, GYMO is excited to continue growing our team and is actively hiring for several positions, including Design Engineer, Project Engineer, Senior Project Engineer, and Senior Construction Manager.

GYMO also continued to expand our reach and impact through a range of projects, working with a variety of healthcare facilities, municipalities, private residences, and nonprofit organizations.

Existing Projects:

- The Historical Globe Building - This iconic mixed-use building will soon feature BOCES in the vibrant commercial space on the first floor and stylish market-rate apartments on the second floor.
- Downybrook Nature Reserve (OBI) - Land surveying and map designs
- Ducks Unlimited – ALTA surveys
- Watertown Savings Bank's Lending Center – The new lending center was completed, with a courtyard and elevated bridge connecting over 40 offices with existing headquarters.
- City of Watertown's Thompson Park – Phase 1 of the Trail Expansion Project was completed, enhancing accessibility and connectivity throughout the western area of the historic park.
- Oswego County's Camp Zerbe – A new ADA accessible bathroom and new sewer system were designed and constructed.
- Thousand Islands Central School District – Phase 1 of elementary school renovations is complete! The \$23 million capital project included the removal of over 35,000 square feet of asbestos plaster ceilings, upgrading heating systems, installing new energy-efficient LED lighting, reconstructing parking lots, and installing new fire alarm systems and public address systems for enhanced safety.
- Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District – Phase 2 of construction was completed.

The project included a new auditorium with increased seating capacity, state-of-the-art sound and lighting system, an expanded stage, and a green room to support district theatrical performances.

- Town of Potsdam's Parks - The Town of Potsdam hired GYMO for Grant Writing and Engineering Services. Conceptual designs have been developed for Unionville Park located in Potsdam and Postwood Park located in Pierrepont. These designs will

See GYMO F6

From Humble Beginnings to Award-Winning: The Story of Tim Fralick Custom Calls

By MARION GRANT

In 1985, a friend in the Adirondacks introduced Tim Fralick to the world of turkey hunting. Eager to begin, Tim quickly realized the cost of the gear and decided to craft his own calls. His inaugural creation? A piece of hand-cut slate nestled in a discarded Skoal can.

This makeshift call sparked a deep dive into the art of game calling. Already a talented woodworker, Tim began experimenting with different wood species, discovering the nuances of each for box calls and pot calls. He meticulously honed his craft, learning to coax a symphony of sounds from his creations, from soft purrs to loud yelps that would make any turkey take notice.



Tim Fralick plays a turkey call. Contributed.

Tim then pioneered hybrid pot calls, pairing acrylic with various woods, a combination that garnered him 4th, 5th, and 6th place finishes at the National Wild

Turkey Federation's National Call Maker's Competition. He expanded his repertoire to include the Burrville Bomber Long Box Call and effective locator calls.

As his skills increased, he applied his expertise to crafting a diverse range of calls for deer, waterfowl, and predators. Each call is a testament to his dedication, meticulously handcrafted in his workshop using a wood lathe. Only the reeds are sourced externally; every other component is born from his skilled hands and meticulously tuned and tested to ensure it delivers the perfect sound.

While awards like 1st, 2nd, and Best of Class at the Virginia State NWTF Call Maker's Competition are certainly a feather in his cap, Tim finds the greatest reward in the success of his customers. Their photos and stories truly fuel his passion.



Northern Beginnings Realty

Northern Beginnings realty blossoms

Northern Beginnings Realty was founded in November of 2023, by Broker/Owner Amanda Mattimore, a lifetime resident of the North Country. Before starting Northern Beginnings Realty LLC, Amanda had over 9 years of Real Estate experience.

With over 250 transactions and years of continued education she decided it was time to start her own dream.

2024 was Northern Beginnings Realty LLC first full year in business, helping over 25 families buy or sell their properties. We have hired two

brand new agents and hired an experienced agent from another brokerage. Amanda and her family built an office in Croghan, which they are very proud of.

Our goals for 2025 are to make Northern Beginnings Realty LLC a household name in Jefferson and Lewis County. We are looking forward to business growth so that all four of our agents can become full-time and be blessed to help our community.

Northern Beginnings Realty LLC are very Thankful for the opportunity to serve you!



Custom Game Calls
Handcrafted in the North Country

WHAT PEOPLE ARE BUYING NOW!

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A Rising Multi-Discipline Design Firm Welcomes New Employees to the Team

Aubertine and Currier Architects, Engineers & Land Surveyors, PLLC is a NYS Certified Women Business Enterprise located in the City of Watertown. For over 25 years, we have been servicing clients throughout the North Country by leading projects with innovative, efficient design while growing long-lasting, professional relationships with clients and colleagues. Through decades of hard work and expertise, we have become a major player in the developments happening in our local communities.

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new hires this past year.

We are happy to welcome Julian Meares III to our Land Surveying Department as a Survey Technician. Julian hails from Bel Air, Maryland, and has lived in North Carolina, Florida, and Virginia before settling in Watertown, NY. He holds a degree in Geography from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He has previously worked as an electrician in both North Carolina and Florida and served as a Gym Manager in Virginia. Julian and his wife share their home with two German Shepherd mix dogs. Julian also played defensive line for the Army Football Team while attending West Point. In his free time, he enjoys visiting national parks and working out.

We are thrilled to announce the addition of Dave Cushing to our Structural Engineering Department. Dave resides in Lowville, NY, and will be graduating this Spring from SUNY Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, specializing in Structural Concentration. Dave worked as a carpenter with Cedarcrest Construction, focusing on residential construction projects where he developed an interest in structural systems. His new interest has inspired Dave to return to pursue his engineering career. Dave and his wife, Lizzie, have a son named Sebastian and an Australian Shepherd. Dave enjoys playing guitar, woodworking, and spending time outdoors. His hobbies include hiking, skiing, and ice fishing.

Lastly, we are pleased to announce the addition of Shyanne Jones to our Engineering Department as a Civil/Site Engineering Technician. Shyanne grew up in Vinemont, Alabama, and currently resides in Watertown, NY. She holds an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in Engineering Technology, which she pursued through the Fast Track program at her local community college while still in high school. Demonstrating

remarkable commitment, Shyanne began her college education at just 16 years old. In 2020, Shyanne married her high school sweetheart, who serves in the U.S. Army. The couple returned stateside after spending the last 2 years in Germany. Shyanne is eager to dive into her career in engineering with Aubertine and Currier and we look forward to seeing her develop in her new role.

For A&C, 2024 was yet another successful year. Our firm took part in several significant projects. A few highlighted projects include:

Countryside Veterinary Clinic, Carthage, NY - A&C provided architectural and engineering services for the expansion of Countryside Veterinary Clinic executing a two-phase project to enhance operational efficiency and patient care. Phase 1 introduced a 3,650-square-foot addition, incorporating a new reception and waiting area, four exam rooms, two comfort rooms, administrative and provider offices, a locker room, and an individualized treatment room. Essential support spaces, including restrooms, janitorial areas, and storage, were integrated to optimize workflow. The addition was strategically connected to the existing facility on the east side, with a widened passageway designed to improve circulation and prevent bottlenecks between treatment spaces. Phase 2 focused on interior renovations, modernizing the treatment area with new equipment and expanding the staff breakroom. Structural upgrades included modifications to the existing roof to accommodate the addition, along with the installation of a new EPDM roofing system over rigid insulation, applied atop the retained metal roofing. The expansion enhances the clinic's capacity, functionality, and overall efficiency, supporting its commitment to high-quality veterinary care.

Cambay Court Multifamily Housing, Gouverneur, NY - A&C provided full professional design services for a 12,000-square-foot multifamily housing project for United Helpers, focusing on accessibility, energy efficiency, and community-centered living. The project began with a comprehensive Physical Needs Assessment, laying the foundation for a design that prioritizes both functionality and sustainability. The building design incorporates accessible walkways, ramps, and patios leading into individual apartments, along with an accessible entry to the community building. The exterior envelope features durable

and low-maintenance materials, including vinyl shake and clapboard siding, architectural shingle roofing, PVC fascia and soffits, fiberglass windows, and storefront entrances. Energy efficiency was a key consideration, with enhanced insulation in ceilings and exterior wall cavities, as well as closed-cell spray foam insulation in crawl space rim joists. New HVAC and domestic hot water systems were installed to improve performance and sustainability. Interior upgrades include new doors, lighting, flooring, and fully renovated kitchens and bathrooms equipped with modern fixtures and appliances. Additionally, four living units were designed to meet ADA compliance standards for mobility and vision accessibility. The project also features two common laundry spaces and a central community gathering area for residents. The design aligns with New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) energy efficiency standards. Site improvements enhance accessibility and safety, including new concrete walkway routes connecting buildings to on-site parking, accessible parking spaces, improved drainage, and dedicated trash, recycling, and bus stop shelters. Additional site enhancements include new lighting and walkways to improve visibility and security.

In the coming year, A&C is honored to once again host the 4th Annual Jefferson Community College CSTEP Leadership Conference, which has been on hold since 2020. CSTEP, the Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program, is dedicated to fostering academic success and preparing students for careers in engineering, healthcare, mathematics, science, and technology. This event aims to broaden students' perspectives on regional businesses and career opportunities while showcasing the exceptional quality of life Jefferson County offers. The ultimate goal is to inspire them to return to our region post-graduation and establish fulfilling careers within the community.

Aubertine and Currier always welcomes resumes from qualified applicants in the fields of Architecture, Structural or Civil Engineering, Land Surveying and Construction Inspection. If you are looking for a rewarding career at a design firm, we might be the right fit for you! For further information on our firm, please visit us on Facebook, Instagram, or LinkedIn, and check out our website www.aubertinecurrier.com. We cannot wait to see what 2025 will bring!

Employee Recognition at the AdironDUCK Race

Join us on Sunday, April 27, 2025, for the 31st Annual AdironDUCK Race at the Oswegatchie Educational Center. The day includes delicious pancake breakfast, free entertainment, and watching as many as 10,000 rubber ducks' races down the West Branch of the Oswegatchie River! This is a family-friendly event that is open to the public.

Employee recognition programs are methods of recognizing the accomplishments of a company's deserving workforce and teams. These activities aim to boost workers' morale, retain talent, and create a bond between workers and the organization. Acknowledging your employees' efforts is a straightforward way to build your professional community. The Oswegatchie Educational Center has two options for recognizing employees.

Option #1: As an employer, you could purchase a "yellow duck" for each employee at \$10 each. This is a straightforward strategy that allows employees to receive



Adironduck Race.

something, with the possibility of winning something greater. Winners do not have to be present to claim their prize.

Option #2: For the cost of \$20 per employee, every employee in your business will receive a yellow duck, a pancake breakfast coupon, and an entry into our AdironDUCK 5K Trail Run. This total package is worth \$40; however, your cost remains just \$20 per employee.

Winners do not have to be present and participation in the 5k is not mandatory.

To learn more about Oswegatchie's employee recognition program, go to www.adironduckrace.com/employee-recognition.html Oswegatchie can be found online at www.oswegatchie.org or by phone at (315) 346-1222. Oswegatchie is owned and operated by the New York FFA Foundation. (www.nyffaoundation.org)

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Lowville Food Pantry: A Community Effort in Tough Times

By SARAH BROOKER

In a time when many are facing financial strain, the phrase "It takes a village" rings especially true for the Lowville Food Pantry. As the number of people turning to the pantry continues to rise, so does the outpouring of support from the local community, ensuring that no one in Lewis County goes hungry.

From September through December 2024, the pantry served a total of 2,758 individuals — a reflection of the growing need within the community. The numbers paint a clear picture of the pantry's critical role:

These numbers may fluctuate, but one thing remains constant: the pantry is a beacon of hope for those struggling to make ends meet.

The Lowville Food Pantry's success is largely due to the tireless work of volunteers and the support of local businesses and organizations. With no paid staff, the pantry is run entirely by a dedicated group of volunteers who donate their time and

energy to ensure the shelves stay stocked and the doors remain open. Many of these volunteers dedicate five days a week to the cause, while others contribute one or two mornings each week.

The pantry also benefits from a board of community members who meet regularly to ensure the pantry's practices remain fair and equitable, addressing challenges and ensuring smooth operations.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of everything we do," said Pantry Manager Mike Hanno. "We truly wouldn't be able to meet the growing demand without their support."

Local businesses have also stepped up to the plate, recognizing the growing need in the community. Walmart, Tops, and Bimbo Breads are among the generous food donors who donate food weekly that helps ensure the pantry stays stocked. In addition to these are organizations like the Northern New York Community Foundation, Kraft Foods, Stewarts, Dyson,

Essenlohr's, and many others, too numerous to mention who contribute on an "as needed" basis, along with local clubs, organizations, and churches who

See PANTRY 66



Oswegatchie's 31st Annual Sunday April 27th, 2025

AdironDUCK Race

Racing as many as 10,000 rubber ducks!
All proceeds go to support the
Oswegatchie Summer Camp Program.



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Quickly Order DUCKS online at: **www.adironduckrace.com**

\$10 per Duck Grand Prize \$2,000!

Welcome to All Things Beautiful Bed and Breakfast in Croghan

We are so grateful for all our wonderful guests — those staying with us for the first time and those who return time and again. Your business and friendship mean the world to us, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

At our Bed and Breakfast, we host guests from all walks of life and many corners of the world. Whether you're a vacationer, visiting family, attending a reunion, wedding, or funeral, or traveling for work, we're here to make your stay comfortable. Most of our rooms are equipped with microwaves and mini-fridges, perfect for traveling professionals like nurses, doctors, or business travelers who need simple meal options.

Why Stay With Us?

- Need a relaxing weekend getaway?



All Things Beautiful

- Hosting out-of-town guests but short on space?
 - Planning a reunion, wedding, or group event?
 - Looking for a cozy spot with Wi-Fi for your scrap-booking group?
- Our five charming bedrooms in a 100+ year-old Victorian home are ready to

welcome you. Each stay includes a hearty breakfast, served with care.

Recent updates include a freshly painted exterior and improved entryway with additional hand railings for extra support—features our guests have truly appreciated.

Relaxation Awaits

Unwind in our vibrant flower, vegetable, and fruit gardens. Enjoy a moment of peace on the front porch in a comfortable rocking chair, listening to the birds and friendly greetings from our neighbors. Want to feel even more pampered? Book an on-premises massage during your stay.

Local Activities

Croghan offers plenty of attractions within walking distance:

- Chocolate shop and ice cream parlor

- Specialty meat market
 - Railroad and Maple Museums
 - Hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing, and picnicking
- A Unique Artistic Touch**
- One thing that sets us apart is the original art displayed throughout our home, much of which is available for purchase. From oil paintings and watercolors to embroidery, pottery, and photography, there's something for every art lover. Guests also enjoy the historical timeline of Croghan, displayed floor-to-ceiling in our entryway.
- Rooms & Rates**
- **Applewood Suite:** Queen bed, kitchenette (mini-fridge, microwave, table), private bathroom.
 - **Plumwood Suite:** Queen bed, small fridge, private bathroom.
 - **Maplewood:** Two XL twin beds, a trundle daybed,

table, small fridge/microwave, shared bathroom.

- **Spruce:** Queen bed, table, small fridge/microwave, shared bathroom.
- **Birch:** Queen bed, chair, shared bathroom.

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Pantry

From F5

frequently contribute. It truly does take a village.

When a holiday season approaches, the pantry steps up its outreach with special programs like Christmas Sharing, Santa for Seniors, and the Easter Egg Hop (which is scheduled to happen on April 12th this year), providing families in need with the opportunity to celebrate, even when money is tight. Volunteers also organize fundraising efforts, such as garage sales and raffles at the Lewis County Fair and Lowville Cream Cheese Festival, to help offset operating costs.

One of the more unique efforts to collect food for the pantry comes from Food Pantry Fred, a draft horse owned by Mickey Dietrich. Fred's next pass through Lowville is scheduled to happen May 17th (in memory of Nancy Hanno), collecting food donations from residents, and further deepening the connection between the pantry and the community.

All of our food drives and fund raising efforts go toward making the pantry run more smoothly and reliably. The pantry recently purchased a new freezer and a new van, both of which are invaluable to its operations. The new freezer has significantly expanded the pantry's ability to store perishable items, while the new van allows for more efficient transportation of goods. These updates are just another example of how the

community's generosity and support continue to drive the pantry's success.

"The support we receive truly feels like a village coming together," said Hanno. "It's inspiring to see so many people contribute in their own ways, whether it's by donating food, volunteering time, or hosting fundraisers."

In a world that often feels divided, the Lowville Food Pantry is a testament to the power of community. It's a place where individuals, families, businesses, and volunteers unite for a common cause—to ensure that no one goes hungry in Lewis County.

The Lowville Food Pantry has faced an incredibly difficult year, losing four of its dedicated volunteers to cancer: Linda O'Leary (known affectionately as Miss O), Bob Wright, Jeff Bruckman, and most recently, Nancy Hanno. These individuals were not just volunteers; they were pillars of our community, selflessly giving their time and energy to ensure that those in need had access to food and support. Their loss has left a profound hole in the heart of the pantry and the lives of all who knew them. As we grieve their passing, we also honor their legacy of kindness, compassion, and unwavering commitment to helping others. Their spirits will continue to inspire the work of the pantry and the many lives they touched.

If you'd like to help, whether through donations, volunteering, or hosting a fundraiser, the Lowville Food Pantry welcomes your support. Visit their website or stop by to learn more about how you can make an impact.

GYMO

From F4

be used to apply for The New York State

Office of Parks and Historic Preservation grants.

- Town of Tupper Lake – An Engineering Report and Environmental Review were completed for the modification of Water and Sewer District #1.
- Town of Henderson - GYMO assisted the Town of Henderson in securing over \$29 million in grants and completed Engineering Plans and Specifications that have been approved by the NYS DEC and EFC for a new sewer collection and treatment system for over 400 residences and businesses in Henderson Harbor and the Town of Henderson.
- Town of Watertown – Since 2005, GYMO has completed numerous technical studies, Engineering Reports, and Engineering Designs for the Northeast Water District #7. Recently, the Town was awarded \$5 million in grant funds and a \$3 million 0% interest loan for the project. GYMO is completing final design plans for a 2025 start of construction.
- City of Watertown – City Hall first floor renovations
- Multi-family housing units for housing authorities and other organizations in Malone, Massena, Ogdensburg, Wilna, Watertown, Tupper Lake, West Carthage, and the North Jefferson Improvement Association.

New Projects:

- Village of Hammond – Sewer

Study

- Village of Mannsville – Lilac Park Drive Drainage project
- Village of Lowville – Groundwater Well Development project
- Town of Potsdam – Bridge Replacement
- 136 Court Street – mixed-use renovations
- Thousand Islands Central School District's High School Renovations - Phase 2 construction
- Jefferson County SPCA – Phase 2 Expansion Project
- Town of Webb Union Free School District Capital Project
- General Brown Central School District Capital Project
- Morristown Central School District Capital Project
- Stockbridge Central School District Capital Project
- Madison Central School District Capital Project
- H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse – Exterior Renovation Project
- Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust – Concept Plans and Conservation Easements
- Jefferson County Dog Control – Renovations
- Claxton Hepburn – Renovation Plans for Grant Funding
- Lewis County Health System – New Surgical and Procedure Offices

We extend our sincere gratitude to our valued clients and partners for their continued trust and collaboration. GYMO remains dedicated to delivering quality architecture, engineering, land surveying, and construction management, and we eagerly anticipate another year of progress and innovation in 2025.

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From the Desk of Andrew Boulais, P.E., Regional Manager and Senior Vice President, New York Power Authority St. Lawrence FDR Power Project.

As we welcome a new year, I am excited about the many accomplishments and opportunities that lie ahead for the New York Power Authority in 2025. As I prepare to complete my first full-year in the role of Regional Manager for NYPA's Northern New York operations, I wanted to share the many contributions and accomplishments that are associated with the operation of the St. Lawrence-Franklin D. Roosevelt Power Project in Massena.

As a long-time North Country resident, I am deeply grateful for the unparalleled support my family and I have received from this incredible community. Moving forward into 2025, the community will play a vital role in our efforts to implement programs that align with NYPA's strategic vision, advance the state's clean energy goals, and enhance the quality of life for North Country residents.

Strong communication and relationship-building have been, and will continue to be, central to our success. In collaboration with our IBEW Local workforce, we've taken significant steps to secure the long-term future of the St. Lawrence-Franklin D. Roosevelt Power Project as a clean energy producer that fosters economic growth. This project is a cornerstone of the North Country's economy, anchoring jobs at key facilities like Alcoa and Arconic.

The low-cost power generated at the St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project directly supports nearly 10,000 jobs in the North Country and has leveraged over \$1 billion in capital investments. Recent allocations include 90 MW of Preservation Power to Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., enabling the development of a green hydrogen production facility in Massena.

Since its launch in December

2014, the Northern New York Power Proceeds program has awarded over \$4 million to 14 organizations, creating 199 job commitments and leveraging more than \$39.6 million in capital expenditures. Recent beneficiaries include Natural Insulation Products of America, Inc., which will establish a down-fabric production facility in Massena, and the Massena Arts and Theater Association, Inc., which is renovating the historic Schine Theater into a multi-use community cultural and event center in support of Massena's downtown revitalization efforts.

NYPA continues to partner with our host communities with dedicated funding to recreation, emergency services and general funds. The Power Authority provides a total of \$2 million annually to St. Lawrence County, the towns of Massena, Louisville and Waddington, the villages of Massena and Waddington, Massena Central and Madrid-Waddington school districts that are located within the project boundary. NYPA provided over \$767,000 in funding to the host communities for the operation and maintenance of local parks, beaches and boat launches in support of local recreation.

NYPA's commitment to a clean energy future includes investments in public facilities and education. Our Environmental Justice team has been deeply engaged with the community, offering energy literacy and weatherization workshops, and collaborating with the Massena Housing Authority to upgrade facilities—a partnership that began in 2018.

Our employees are proud to give back to the community where many of them live, work, and raise their families. On August 6, more than 20 NYPA volunteers painted the

community room at the Housing Authority's Grasmere Terrace complex, using supplies donated by NYPA. Later that month, the Environmental Justice team sponsored the annual Community Education Day, providing food, educational games, and exhibits for about 100 guests. NYPA purchased LED lighting for the Housing Authority, with staff installing the new equipment to improve energy efficiency in residential units.

NYPA also completed major recreational projects in host communities. The ongoing drainage improvement project on St. Lawrence Avenue in Waddington is slated for completion in spring 2025. Construction was finished on new tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts at Whittaker Park. Additionally, emerald ash borer tree removal at Louisville Landing and tree replanting at Massena Intake, Whalen Park, and Louisville Landing are enhancing these public spaces.

In addition to these efforts, we achieved significant operational milestones in 2024. We completed the final two motor operated disconnect replacements at the Massena substation and power distribution upgrades at the Long Sault Dam. Two generating unit rotor modifications were successfully finished, with work on a third now underway. Our team also brought four new

breakers into service within the main switchyard, enhancing reliability and system performance. Furthermore, we completed two critical FERC audits — covering water impounding facilities and security—with no major findings, reflecting our ongoing commitment to safety, regulatory compliance, and operational excellence.

Our Smart Path Connect transmission project is making significant progress. Line work, managed in partnership with contractor Michels, is expected to be completed by June 2025, with substation work scheduled for completion by June 2026.

More than three dozen schools and 36,000 visitors attended events at the Nicandri Nature Center and the Frank S. McCullough Jr. Hawkins Point Visitor Center in 2024 to learn about the region's rich history and energy production.

These accomplishments represent just a portion of NYPA's contributions to the community in 2024. Looking ahead to 2025, we are eager to tackle many exciting projects. We will continue to pursue opportunities to develop new renewable energy projects and support job growth and retention across various sectors of the economy. Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Together, we'll create a sustainable and prosperous future for the North Country.



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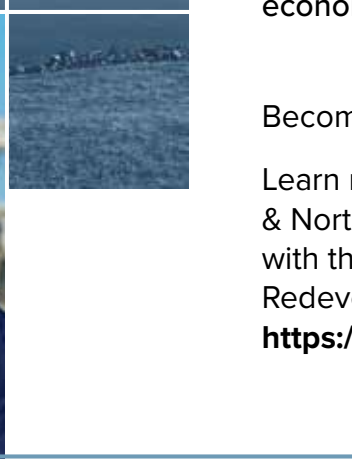
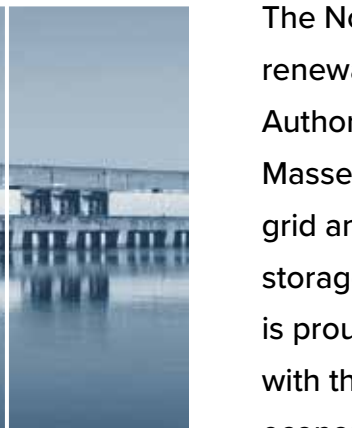
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The North Country economy is built on low-cost renewable hydropower from the New York Power Authority's St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project in Massena. By rebuilding its regional transmission grid and introducing renewables like energy storage and solar, the New York Power Authority is proud to continue the legacy of its partnership with the North Country for a clean, reliable and economical energy future.

Become a Partner, Contact karen.white@nypa.gov

Learn more about Low-cost Power & North Country Success Stories with the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency <https://slcida.com/rvrda/>





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