

BNNY Business

A Watertown Daily Times/
Malone Telegram production

Daily updates: NNY360.com May 2026

■ The latest 20 under 40 class will be named in next issue.

2026 Shapiro Award goes to Cathy Quencer

Celebration is 5p.m. to 7 p.m. June 2 @ The Historic Paddock Arcade in Watertown catered by Chef Robert at the Paddock Club.

■ Cape Vincent is home to one of the last independent grocers in NNY.

PAGE 3

■ St. Lawrence University is tooled up to fight for cybersecurity.

PAGE 4

■ The Flanagan Hotel in Malone is coming down and we're looking for stories of its past.

PAGE 15



Catherine Burns Quencer was awarded at the end of March with the Israel A. Shapiro Citizenship Award. Photo courtesy of the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce

By Jonathon Wheeler
jwheeler@wdt.net

A local attorney and all-around leader was recently honored by the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce with the Israel A. Shapiro Citizenship Award.

In late March, Catherine Burns Quencer officially received her Israel A. Shapiro award.

Burns Quencer is the principal at

the law firm of Schwerzmann & Wise P.C., Watertown. She also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Samaritan Medical Center Foundation; is a member of the Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence Foundation Board of Directors; a member of the Watertown Family YMCA Board of Directors; a member of the Samaritan Long Term Care Board of Trustees; and a trustee of the Jane Deline Foundation.

Previously, Burns Quencer served

on the Board of Trustees of Samaritan Medical Center, and was the chair from 2005-2007; she served on the Board of Directors of the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization; was on the Board of Governors of the Hospital Trustees of New York State; and on the Jefferson Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

Burns Quencer said she was inspired

See QUENCERT10

Professional Connection
Page 6



HOME EQUITY

WWW.WATERTOWNSAVINGSBANK.COM

(315) 788-7100



Loans &
Lines of Credit
To Help With
Life's Major
Expenses

Your Bank For Good.



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

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

Cape Vincent grocer one of few remaining independent

By **CRAIG FOX**

cfox@wdt.net

CAPE VINCENT — Rachel McDonough doesn't know what she'd without having to rely on Aubrey's French Towne Market just a few minutes from her home. She picks up milk, bread, eggs and whatever she needs. And she loves the fresh cut meats from the village market's deli counter. She stops in every couple of days.

"I get everything here," she said, while stopping to converse with owner Michael Chavoustie on a recent stop to the Broadway Street market.

She's there on this day to get a gallon of milk and a couple of other items.

"She's one of my best customers," Chavoustie said.

For decades, Aubrey's French Towne Market has been a part of the village's landscape. Located smack dab in the middle section of Main Street, the family-owned market offers produce, dairy products, grocery items, baked goods and a variety of salads, including the "homemade potato salad" and "store made cole slaw," put together by Chavoustie's mother, Sharon, that sells out fast.

He and his parents, Joe and Sharon, have owned the market now for 26 years. The mom n' pop market is truly a family market, with his father, 77, running the produce department and his mother handling the books.

It makes Chavoustie "satisfied" that the business has provided for his family all of these years and helps this river community, he said. Especially since there are fewer markets like Aubrey's still open in the north country.

In recent years, Chavoustie has seen a growing number of "obituaries" for independently owned stores like his. At one time, it seemed like every community in the north country had a small market that it called its own.

In nearby communities, however, the Dexter Market and the Big M in Alexandria Bay recently closed and were gobbled up by Stewart's Shops, the Ballston Spa chain of convenience stores. The market in the village of Sackets Harbor opened under new management and the subsequently closed three times during the past two years. The market in Henderson met the same fate.

Just outside of Sackets Harbor, the Cheese Store of Northern NY on Route 3 has a loyal following of customers who stop by for its subs, deli items and fresh cut meats, but it's not a traditional grocery store with that kind of inventory.

Just down the road from Aubrey's, Craig Bennett has operated the Chaumont Country Store, the same kind of independently owned small store that offers grocery items and a deli counter. It's located in the same building as a liquor store.

The village, hard along the St. Lawrence River, is going through a bit of a revival with a nearby barber shop recently opening, a cafe about to make its debut and diner being built just down the road on Route 12E.

But Chavoustie pointed out that people don't typically pass through Cape Vincent, where Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River meet. Unless Cape Vincent is your destination, you're not going to drive through it, he said.

Aubrey's French Towne Market dates back to the



Owner Michael Chavoustie waits on a customer at the deli counter at the market in Cape Vincent. Shane Fox

1950s when Dorothy and Charles Aubrey opened a small grocery store in the same spot as the current location. Charles was previously a riverboat captain. Dorothy grew up in the cape after her family moved from England. They lived upstairs from the store. The market was lost to a fire, but rebuilt. They continued to run the market until selling it to the Chavoustie family in 1999.

Right now, some of the markets' shelves are almost empty. The market is still on its winter hours, opening at 9 a.m. Monday's, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and closing around 6 p.m. and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Aubrey's is closed on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Business is just beginning to pick up as the weather gets warmer. Chavoustie looks forward to the busy tourist season that begins around the Memorial Day weekend and picks up speed when the schools let out for the summer. That's when this sleepy village of about 700 residents attracts cottagers from Rochester and Syracuse and tourists, campers and short-term renters who converge to the river community, ballooning to as many as 8,000 people, village officials said.

It's the place to go for vacationers to grab everything they need for their cookouts and get-togethers during the summer, Chavoustie said. Otherwise customers would have to drive more than 30 minutes to the Price Chopper in Alexandria Bay or to grocery stores in Watertown.

During the winter, three employees work there. The staff goes to 10 to 12 in the busy season. He'll spend three times as much on weekly inventory and he'll restock more shelves.

Unfortunately, Chavoustie took a drastic measure that he had never taken before — he closed Aubrey's for a few months during the dead of winter last year and reopened in April. Just as other small markets have been impacted, a Dollar General has hurt business.



Aubrey's French Towne Market, located on Broadway Street, remains an intricate part of the Cape Vincent Community after more than 100 years. Shane Fox

He's cut back on inventory, like pet supplies, that the chain can sell for less because it can purchase it in large volumes, while Aubrey's cannot.

At one time, Aubrey's was one of about a dozen small markets in neighboring communities that made up a small co-op that worked together to purchase merchandise to keep costs down. They were at the peak of their popularity. Since then, one by one has disappeared.

But Chavoustie's encouraged about what this summer will bring.

On this day, the store received a \$1,500 delivery of produce and meats, finding Chavoustie in the back cutting up some London broil. A friend, a retired butcher, will come into the store to lend his expertise.

"You don't find fresh meat at Walmart," he said. "It's all pre-packaged when it comes in there."

Alden Trust grant creates cybersecurity teaching lab at St. Lawrence University

6-MONTH CD SPECIAL

3.56% *APY

minimum balance of \$1,000

St. Lawrence

Federal Credit Union

stlawrfcu.com

315.393.3530



*APY - Annual Percentage Yield. 3.56%. APY is valid on the special 6-month Share Certificate for deposits to St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union. Minimum balance is \$1,000. Fees or other conditions may reduce the earnings on your account. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. This is a limited time offer and may be canceled at any time. Other items and conditions may apply. Federally insured by the NCUA.



Metro Creative Connection.

CANTON — St. Lawrence University has secured a \$200,000 grant from the George I. Alden Trust to establish a new Cybersecurity Teaching Laboratory, enhancing the university's newest academic major: Cybersecurity.

This grant continues the Alden Trust's longstanding partnership with St. Lawrence, contributing to the improvement of campus learning facilities, including previous support for the Bloomberg Finance Lab. The Cybersecurity Teaching Lab aims to upgrade traditional classroom settings into specialized environments tailored for one of today's fastest-growing and most in-demand fields.

The lab will provide a dynamic, collaborative learning environment where students can develop technical expertise through simulations, group projects, and real-world problem-solving. Scheduled for completion this spring and summer, the Cybersecurity Teaching Laboratory is set to open for students and faculty in fall 2026. The Cybersecurity major is the seventh academic program launched at St. Lawrence since 2020, reflecting the university's commitment to expanding interdisciplinary offerings that align with emerging career opportunities.

"We are grateful to the George I. Alden Trust for its generous support of this important facility, which will enhance experien-

tial learning for students in our new Cybersecurity major," said President Kate Morris. "This investment will prepare students for one of today's fastest-growing fields through a liberal arts approach that combines interdisciplinary perspectives with content expertise."

Assistant Professor of Computer Science Kevin Angstadt, a key figure in developing the Cybersecurity major, emphasized the program's design to balance technical depth with flexibility. "The new Cybersecurity Lab will serve as the hub for cybersecurity education at St. Lawrence, allowing us to teach a variety of courses that bridge theory and practice and provide students with the hands-on experience necessary to thrive in this rapidly evolving industry," he said.

St. Lawrence is among a select group of liberal arts institutions offering a full Cybersecurity major. The university's emphasis on mentoring, experiential learning, and career preparation is further bolstered by its alumni network, ranked No. 1 in the nation by The Princeton Review's Best Colleges 2025.

"I am impressed with and proud of our Computer Science faculty, who worked diligently to bring this program from concept to approval in a short time-frame," Morris noted. "They exemplify our ability to design compelling programs within the evolving landscape of higher education."

JCC Athletes give \$4,000 to American Cancer Society

WATERTOWN — Jefferson Community College’s athletics program presented \$4,000 to the American Cancer Society from its annual Coaches vs. Cancer Holiday Shootout held in December.

The 2025 shootout drew 28 high school teams from the tri-county and Central New York region and featured 40 games over six days. The event raises funds for cancer research, the Clinton Clark Memorial Scholarship through the Jefferson Foundation, and JCC basketball programs.

“This event reflects Jefferson’s ongoing commitment to mak-

ing a positive impact beyond the classroom through meaningful community partnerships and sustained annual fundraising efforts,” said Daniel J. Dupee II, college president.

“This event is about more than basketball,” said Jeff Wiley, head women’s basketball coach and director of athletics. “It’s about bringing people together to support a cause that touches so many lives.”

Brooke Wiley, a member of the Jefferson women’s basketball team, said the cause is personal: “I’ve personally lost both a teacher and a coach to cancer, so this

cause is especially meaningful to me. Being part of an event that raises awareness and supports cancer research, while also helping those affected, is something I’m proud to contribute to.”

Marissa Clark, assistant women’s basketball coach and daughter of the late Coach Clint Clark, said turning the annual holiday classic into a larger fundraiser gave the event “a deeper purpose.” “After losing my father, Coach Clint Clark, Coach Wiley and I decided to turn our annual Holiday Basketball Classic into something bigger than basketball,” she said. “It gave us a

deeper purpose — to make these two weeks truly impactful while helping others through their own battles. We’re incredibly grateful for the donations we were able to provide the American Cancer Society and hope they help families like mine. It means so much to my family, and I’m grateful to be able to share this passion with my team while making a difference together.”

Of the \$4,000 raised, \$1,500 was directed to the Jefferson Foundation to support the Clinton Clark Memorial Scholarship. Clark served as an assistant coach for the men’s and wom-

en’s basketball teams at Jefferson for three years before his passing. Scholarship recipient Brandon Dodge, a member of the Jefferson men’s basketball team, said he knows it was Clark’s “hopes and dreams to see me in Jefferson maroon and gold.”

Event tri-leader Tina Berkey of the American Cancer Society thanked Jefferson and the community for their continued partnership, saying the funds support “critical research, patient services and education.”

Avery Pritchard named JCC Honors Program Student — April 2026

Avery Pritchard of Adams is Jefferson Community College’s featured Honors Program student for April.

Pritchard, a healthcare management major, researched the generational divide in emergency medical services as part of her Honors Program options. After graduating from JCC, she plans to transfer to Clarkson University to study data analytics and pursue a master’s degree in healthcare analytics.

“The Honors Program at JCC has allowed me to broaden my knowledge and better myself as a student and person,” Pritchard said. “This is a unique experience provided by the school that holds such value. I would push anyone who is slightly interested in learning new things to take a class with Dr. Canale.”

The Jefferson Community College Honors Program offers students with exceptional academic records enriched instruction within their current programs of study. Students select three courses in their curriculum to enhance as Honors Options, each based on a project agreed to by the student and a faculty member who works closely with the student.

Participants also take the



Avery Pritchard. Contributed.

Honors Seminar, an interdisciplinary course open only to program members that examines a single theme each semester, features guest speakers from various disciplines and often includes field experience.

Successful participants earn an Honors Graduate designation on their academic transcript for each Honors Option course. Students who demonstrate excellent academic achievement in high school or who have completed 12 credit hours of college coursework are invited to apply.



Front row: (l-r) Keera Lalonde, Abigail Bombard, Brooke Wiley, Tina Berkey - Event Tri-Leader with American Cancer Society, Kim DiLeonardo, Sincerity Diange, Marisa Clark - Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach. Back row: (l-r) Daniel Dupee - President, Brandon Dodge, Jeff Wiley - Head Women’s Basketball Coach and Director of Athletics, Isabelle Woodcock, Joe Vaadi - Head Men’s Basketball Coach.

JOIN THE SUMMER LINEUP

EARN COLLEGE CREDIT IN **3-8 WEEKS**

CLASS START DATES VARY (**BEGINNING MAY 26**)

REGISTER TODAY

PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION

is featured each Wednesday, Saturday as well as in NNY Business. This is found at your local Chamber of Commerce and in the third Thursday of each month's Watertown Daily Times.

Serving You Since 1974

Barry L. Haynes Co.

Antiques
Dealers • Actioneers • Appraisers



We Buy, Sell & Appraise
Antiques, Collections & Estates

P.O. Box 900, Mexico, N.Y. 13114
315-963-0922 • 315-963-3749

FREE ESTIMATES



★★★☆☆ (315) 767-9552
SPRING CLEAN UP, MULCHING, FALL CLEAN UP, LAWN MAINTENANCE, MOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, FULLY INSURED
Servicing St. Lawrence, Lewis and Jefferson Counties

RADLEY CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING

Offering a variety of services from new construction builds to bathroom, kitchen remodeling, whole house renovations, site work and much more

Contact (315) 783-0227 Radleyconstruction@yahoo.com



A Full Service Real Estate Brokerage Specializing in Land, Camps, Farms, Country Homes and Waterfront Property.

315-854-3144

Local Agents who can help you sell your property!

WWW.NYOUTDOORREALTY.COM

New York State, Licensed Real Estate Brokerage.
PO Box 592, Russell, NY 13684

MOSER'S CUSTOM TRIM TRUCK CAPS & COVERS



See Us For Your Best Truck Cap Option!



ROUTE 56 MASSENA, NY 315-769-5529

BARTLETT AND SONS

PLUMBING HEATING A/C

315-232-3280

★ 24 EMERGENCY SERVICE ★

✓ PLUMBING ✓ HEATING ✓ AIR

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

SHERMAN ELECTRIC

Residential & Commercial Electrical Supplies

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

GREAT PRICES!

417 S. Clinton St. Carthage, NY

315-493-3050

Over 100 years of knowledge and experience!

TIC TOC CLOCK REPAIR

★ Alex MacKinnon ★



All Kinds of Spring and Weight Driven Clocks

Pickups and Delivery Available

Phone: 315-778-1287

ZEHR

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

SALES • INSTALLATION • SERVICE

Let our family help your family with your heating & air conditioning needs

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

All employees are Zehr Family Members!

24-Hour Emergency Service

FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED
CALL 315-788-5828

JOYNER'S, INC.

AUTHORIZED KIOTI DEALER



2506 US RT. 11 MANNVILLE, NY

315-465-6661

AUTOMATIC STANDBY GENERATORS

GENERAC

24/7 AUTOMATIC POWER PROTECTION

Back-Up Power For Your Home Or Business

KIERNAN CONTRACTORS, INC.
ELECTRICAL AND UTILITY CONTRACTORS

315 348-4049

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

Josiah Martin named U.S. small business manufacturer of the year

REBUILT FAMILY PRETZEL BAKERY AFTER FIRE; NOW SHIPS WORLDWIDE FROM MOIRA

The U.S. Small Business Administration has named Josiah Martin, owner of Martin's Handmade Pretzels in Moira, as the 2026 National Small Business Manufacturer of the Year, recognizing his leadership in growing a small-town manufacturing business into a nationally distributed brand.

Martin, a fourth-generation owner, took over the family's pretzel bakery as a teenager and led its relocation to Moira, where he rebuilt operations from the ground up, including installing a 20-ton stone-hearth oven.

The bakery reopened in October 2020. Just weeks later, a fire destroyed the entire facility.

Rather than walk away, Martin rebuilt the business again. The bakery reopened one year later, restoring production and distribution.

Today, Martin's Handmade Pretzels produces more than 6 million hand-twisted pretzels annually, employing 20 people in a town of approximately 2,800 residents. The business ships nationwide and has be-

come a destination for visitors and school groups interested in traditional, handmade food production.

"This journey hasn't been easy, but it proves that even when everything falls apart, you can rebuild and come back stronger," Martin said.

The bakery traces its roots to 1935 and continues to use a traditional sourdough recipe, with pretzels hand-rolled, hand-twisted, and baked in a stone-hearth oven. The company has been featured in Food & Wine, The New York Times, Vogue, and Good Morning America.

Martin leads the business alongside his father, Justus Martin, a co-owner, continuing a four-generation family legacy.

Martin has also worked with the SUNY Canton Small Business Development Center, part of the SBA's resource partner network, receiving guidance on business planning, financial projections, and growth strategy. Following the 2020 fire, SBDC support helped connect him with resources that made



Martin's Handmade Pretzels, owned by Josiah Martin, accepts a New York Small Business Development Council award in 2025. He has been named the U.S. small business manufacturer of the year for 2026 by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Provided photo

rebuilding possible.

In addition to the pretzel bakery, Martin is involved in operations at Martin's Country Store,

a family business with three locations employing more than 35 people across Northern New York.

Martin will be recognized during National Small Business Week events in Washington, D.C., May 3-4.

Nominations open for St. Lawrence tourism awards

Nominations are open for the 2026 St. Lawrence County Tourism Excellence Awards.

The awards will be presented at the annual STLC Tourism Dinner on June 11, held in partnership with the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce and the Ogdensburg International Airport. The dinner will be in the airport's new event space.

The awards recognize tourism operators who deliver standout experiences, from welcoming stays and memorable meals to creative marketing and destination-driven initiatives. Categories include "Best to the Guest," for exceptional service across lodging, dining, attractions and guiding, and "Best Destination Marketing," for campaigns that attract attention

and drive visitation.

The public may submit nominations online at VisitSTLC.com/tourism-dinner beginning April 13. The nomination period closes May 11. Winners will be announced shortly thereafter and honored at the STLC Tourism Dinner. Registration for the dinner opens May 1.

Past recipients range from locally owned restaurants and lodging properties to cultural institutions and regional marketing efforts that help grow the county's visitor economy.

For more information, visit VisitSTLC.com/tourism-dinner or contact Tiffani Amo, director of tourism, at tif@slcchamber.org or 315-386-4000.

Your Home Equity, Working For You

Turn your home's value into the freedom to fund what matters most - from big upgrades to life's everyday needs.

Get in touch with us in whatever way works best for you!

SEACOMM

seacomm.org
(800) 764-0566

IMPORTANT DISCLOSURE: Membership eligibility is required. Some restrictions may apply.

Sweethearts & Heroes, Ellis Automotive end strong year with St. Regis Falls students

ST. REGIS FALLS, N.Y. — Pat Fish of Sweethearts & Heroes visited St. Regis Falls Central School District on March 3 for his final session of the school year, concluding a partnership sponsored by Ellis Automotive and the North Country Chevy Dealers.

Sweethearts & Heroes, a youth leadership program, aims to prevent hopelessness, bullying and suicide by teaching empathy, compassion and teamwork. Its offerings include a signature presentation promoting HOPE (Hold On, Possibilities Exist), Circle group communication sessions, the BRAVE Youth Leadership System and the Kennedy Columbus STEP program, which trains high school students to lead lessons for younger grades.

Fish, the organization's BRAVE director and Circle specialist, helped develop the BRAVE system in the district this year. Colten Regan and Austin Lincoln, both 10th-graders, said



Fish's training helped them lead bully-prevention drills and build confidence interacting with younger students.

"The younger students don't always look up to adults, but they look up to older students," Lincoln said. "Working with them during the bully drills helps them learn from us, and it also gives us experience encouraging them to open up."

Regan said the training "taught us how to interact with younger students.

Now that we understand the techniques, we feel confident leading the drills ourselves."

Jason Ellis, president of Ellis Automotive, said the dealership was "honored to support a program that encourages empathy, leadership and positive choices among local youth."

Sweethearts & Heroes co-founder Tom Murphy said the group has presented its anti-bullying message to more than 2.5 million students over 16 years. The organization also offers professional development for businesses and civic groups and a digital subscription called The HOPE Classroom.

Sweethearts & Heroes' publications include Fish's poetry collection Boredom School; the novel 13 Pillows for Affective Teachers by Murphy and Brian McKeon; and A Bridge Named Amos by Sgt. Rick Yarosh. For more information, the group posts on social media.



Dr. Tiffany Hecht Ogdensburg Pediatrics

”

Dr. Hecht is truly amazing and an asset to our community! It's refreshing to see compassionate and competent care being delivered here in Ogdensburg!



Community Health Center
of the North Country

315.713.9350

102 Ford Street, Ogdensburg

Jazzercise Potsdam celebrates one-year anniversary with ribbon cutting



Jazzercise Potsdam recently gathered to celebrate their one-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting celebration. Owner, instructor Rae Mackey was joined by participants from the Saturday class to mark a year of fitness, connection, and community impact. For more information, please visit www.jazzercise.com/studio/ny/potsdam. Potsdam Chamber of Commerce photo

Jazzercise Potsdam recently gathered to celebrate their one-year anniversary with a ribbon cutting celebration.

Owner, instructor Rae Mackey was joined by participants from the Saturday class to mark a year

of fitness, connection, and community impact. For more information, please visit www.jazzercise.com.

Join The Finishing Line's first anniversary open house May 7

POTSDAM — The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce is celebrating the first anniversary of The Finishing Line, located at 22 Depot St., Suite 31, with a special open house.

Community members are invited to visit on Thursday, May 7, from noon to 5 p.m. to meet owners Sean and David Lennox, explore their custom framing work, and learn more about the craftsmanship behind their business.

Founded with a passion for art, design, and woodworking, The Finishing Line specializes in high-quality custom framing that preserves and enhances artwork, photographs, and meaningful pieces. Their work reflects a strong commitment



Pictured left to right: Kevin Pask; owners Sean and David Lennox; and Tuukka. Contributed.

to detail and personalization, helping customers showcase what matters most.

As part of the celebration, the business will host "Behind the Frames: Owner Remarks" at 1 p.m., offering insight into their process, inspiration, and their first year in business.

The Chamber encourages the community to join in celebrating this milestone and supporting a growing downtown Potsdam business.

For more information, visit <https://tflny.com/> or contact The Finishing Line at (315) 274-0029 or shop@TFLNY.com.

Ribbon cut on the Melting Pot Community Center



The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting of The Melting Pot Community Center, located at 24 S Main Street in Norwood.

NORWOOD — Community members, local vendors, business owners and Chamber representatives gathered to celebrate the opening of the Melting Pot Community Center.

The event featured family-friendly activities including an Easter egg hunt, scavenger hunt, games, storytime and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

The center is designed as a

hub for connection, collaboration and community engagement. It will provide space for local vendors and small businesses to showcase products and will host events, workshops and activities for residents of all ages.

Officials said the new center reflects a continued commitment to strengthening community ties and supporting local entrepreneurship.

Northern Credit Union sponsors Potsdam Summer Fest



A \$500 check is presented making Northern Credit Union a Silver Level Main Stage Sponsor. Melanie Flack, Executive Director, Potsdam Chamber of Commerce; Tom Burns; Albert Hanson; Helen Sullivan; Emily Clark, Member Relationship Manager, Northern Credit Union; Shawn Spadaccini, Supervisor, Gouverneur Northern Credit Union; Tim Welpel; Brittany Krawczyk; Janice Adderley; and Louise Jensen.



POTSDAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Supporting Business Building Community

MEMBERSHIP TO THE CHAMBER HAS ITS ADVANTAGES!

Whether you're a farmer, business owner, mom & pop shop, home-based entrepreneur or owner of a franchise, you will benefit from our membership.

potsdamchamber.com or email director@potsdamchamber.com for more info

Quencer

From T1

by her mother, who also did a lot of volunteer work.

After she came home from law school, Burns Quencer was recruited to the YWCA Board of Trustees. After that, she became involved with many different boards.

She's been with the Samaritan Medical Center boards the longest, which led to being on the New York State Hospital Board of Trustees, and the American Hospital Association Committee on Governance Board.

"All of these things are incredibly fascinating," she said. "You learn so much and you meet great people. It's been great."

She said that she hates to say no to being on a board, but added that "six boards at once is the maximum I can do."

Burns Quencer said that she wanted to volunteer in the community because "it never occurred to (her) to do



Catherine Burns Quencer was awarded at the end of March with the Israel A. Shapiro Citizenship Award. Photo courtesy of the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce

otherwise."

"The legal training I have brings a certain skillset that a lot of boards need and it's

been thoroughly enjoyable," she said. "Nonprofits won't survive without volunteers and I worry about the future,

so I'm glad to do my part. We just got to get more younger people involved."

She said younger people

should start with something they are passionate about.

"If there's an organization you care about or an issue you care about, you can reach out to an organization that serves that issue or need and see where you might be helpful," she said. "You don't have to start out as a board member. Volunteer for one project or something."

She shouted out the Jefferson Leadership Institute and the Youth Philanthropy Council for helping produce young leaders.

"That's a great resource for boards that are looking for younger people," she said. "We've got to make sure the younger people want to step in or the organizations won't be able to provide the very vital services that they do."

Kaylee Millward, executive director of the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce said that leadership is about making an impact.



Plan for the coming years— and the coming generations

Making sure your loved ones are taken care of starts with the choices you make today. At RBC Wealth Management, we help you prepare and establish your unique financial legacy.

Call today for a complimentary consultation.

The Watertown branch of RBC Wealth Management

19485 U.S. Route 11 | Watertown, NY 13601

(315) 788-4200 | us.rbcwm.com/watertown



**Wealth
Management**

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

Belleville-Henderson wins Utica National 2026 Titanium School Safety Award

BELLEVILLE — Belleville Henderson Central School District is among 157 New York districts to receive Utica National Insurance Group's 2026 School Safety Excellence Award at the Titanium with Honors level.

The annual award recognizes districts' efforts to keep students, staff and visitors safe. Belleville Henderson received the award at Utica National's 44th school safety seminar — one of six the company hosts in the state — and was presented a certificate and a \$500 grant to support its safety program.

Utica National's program evaluates districts, BOCES and schools with contract or in-house transportation across categories such as bullying prevention and playground safety. Awards are given at titanium, platinum and gold levels based on specific, quantifiable survey criteria.

"Safety and health concerns



BHCS SRO Steve Earl, Superintendent Timothy Filiatrault and Secretary Teresa McIntosh show off the district's School Safety Excellence Award. Contributed.

continue to be a priority in our school districts," said Mark Angelucci, senior vice president and head of Utica National's specialty lines. "Districts that go 'above and beyond' to provide a safe, healthy and focused culture for learning are to be applauded, and we're pleased to count Belleville Henderson Central School

District among them."

Angelucci added that the program helps districts identify potential safety threats before a loss occurs, strengthening overall safety culture. Utica National has insured more than 300 upstate New York school districts and has been involved in school safety for more than 50 years.

NY Sea Grant Charter Captains Workshops on Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Fisheries, Safety April 29 & May 7

OSWEGO — New York Sea Grant will hold charter captains workshops focused on Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River fisheries, research and safety on April 29 and May 7.

The first session is scheduled April 29 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the McCrobie Civic Center in Oswego. A second session will be May 7 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Clayton Opera House in Clayton. Attendance is free and no registration is required; captains may attend one or both workshops.

Presenters include the

U.S. Geological Survey, SUNY Oswego and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. USGS will discuss native fisheries and habitats in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. New York Sea Grant will cover safe boating, electronic distress signals and selecting U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets. SUNY Oswego will present on alewife, salmon and yellow perch at the Oswego session.

"New York Sea Grant has designed these Captains workshops as opportunities for the charter industry and

fisheries research communities to share and gain information that helps enhance their services and stewardship," said Stacy Furgal, New York Sea Grant Great Lakes fisheries and ecosystem health specialist.

Organizers said the events aim to connect charter captains and fishing guides with current research and safety practices to improve visitor experiences and stewardship of regional fisheries.

White's Farm Supply welcomes Erick Haas

CANASTOTA — White's Farm Supply has hired Erick Haas as precision specialist.

Haas has more than 15 years of experience in agricultural technology, precision agriculture, sales management and training. He lives in Chittenango with his wife, a local teacher, and their two daughters. The family operates a 65-acre farm that produces hay and maple syrup and raises horses, Highland cattle, goats and chickens.

In the role, Haas will support White's sales team and customers in adopting and advancing precision-agriculture technology, providing expertise across a range of applications.

"I believe precision technology plays a key role in driving equipment sales, strengthening customer relationships and creating long-term value for both customers and the dealership," Haas said. "I'm looking forward to working with the White's Farm Supply team, learning the unique needs of each location and customer base, and finding ways to best support their operations in the field."

Haas will help the sales



Erick Haas. Contributed.

team with precision-agriculture discussions, equipment packages and customer opportunities, and assist with technology adoption in the field.

White's Farm Supply is an agricultural equipment dealer serving farmers across New York state with equipment, parts, service and precision-agriculture solutions.

Contact: Erick Haas, precision specialist, White's Farm Supply, 315-414-8871, erick.haas@whitesfarm-supply.com.

Scrub Hub, Hartley's Meat Market are businesses of the year

Times staff report

WATERTOWN — The North Central New York Small Business Development Center has announced 2026 Businesses of the Year for Jefferson and Lewis counties.

The Scrub Hub, 19033 State Route 11, Watertown, will receive their Jefferson County Business of the Year award at 2 p.m. May 4.

In Lewis County, Hartley's Meat Market, 7090 W. Main St., Port Leyden, will receive their Lewis County Business of the Year award at 10:30



a.m. on May 5.

Both awards will be presented at the establishments.

North Country Book Crawl steps up for 'collaboration over competition'



Birchbark Bookshop owner Timothy Strong signs a copy of his novel "Whippoorwill Chronicles" in September 2020 at his Parishville store. BirchBark is one of the independent bookstores participating in this week's North Country Book Crawl. Watertown Daily Times



Stephen and Norma Jean Side at their Bearly Hyde N' Cabin Used Books & Gifts on Hyde Lake Road, Theresa. Chris Brock/Watertown Daily Times

By Chris Brock
cbrock@wdt.net

THERESA — Last year, independent bookshops worldwide invited readers to journey from bookshop to bookshop to experience books and to build a sense of community. In the spirit of that Global Bookstore Crawl and to coincide with it, the one-week North Country Book Crawl and pet food drive launches Saturday.

The crawl, concluding April 26, consists of 11 local, independently owned bookstores, or stores that sell books, across the tri-county

area, bringing together small businesses from multiple communities in a shared effort to celebrate reading and local commerce.

Participants can explore multiple locations, collect stamps in a bookstore "passport," and enter to win a raffle prize made up of contributions from participating shops. The event is designed to highlight the role local bookstores play in our communities while encouraging people to discover new places and reconnect with reading.

The event is being orga-

nized by Bearly Hyde N Cabin Used Books & Gifts, Theresa.

"It's built on the idea of collaboration over competition, helping to strengthen visibility and community engagement for independent bookstores in our region," said Nora Jean Side, co-owner of Bearly Hyde. "It brings together small businesses from multiple communities in a shared effort to celebrate reading and local commerce."

In addition to supporting local businesses, the crawl includes a community pet

food drive. Participating bookstores will be collecting donations for a local animal rescue of their choice.

Participating establishments:

- **The Little Bookstore**, 510 Riverside Drive, Clayton: and also the Little Bookstore at 183 Broadway St., Cape Vincent and in Watertown, at Crosstown Market, Washington Street Plaza.

- **Four Quills Book Shoppe**, Paddock Arcade, Watertown.

- **Bearly Hyde N Cabin Used Books & Gifts**, 40071 Hyde Lake Road, Theresa.

- **Raven's Nest**, 1310 County Road 12, Gouverneur.

- **Kiss and Tell Book Boutique**, 125 Commercial Street, Theresa.

- **One More Chapter Bookstore**, 101 East Main Street, Gouverneur.

- **The Raven's Quill Bookstore**, 7632 N. State Street, Lowville.

- **Birchbark Bookshop**, 40 Ashton Road, Potsdam.

- **Bearly Hyde N' Cabin Used Books & Gifts** also operates out of Pickers Dream, 470 E. Main Street, Gouverneur.



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

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

~ Follow us on Facebook ~

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

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

Screening of "Christine the History Queen" special on Eisenhower Locks at Seaway Visitor Center

MASSENA — Christine Darrow, host and Executive Producer of Christine the History Queen, will make a special appearance at a Watch Party at the Seaway Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock, 76 Barnhart Island Rd, on Saturday, May 9 at 1 p.m. as part of Massena Spring Fever Fest.

The event will feature a special screening of Darrow's documentary highlighting Queen Elizabeth II's historic 1959 visit to Massena for the dedication of the Eisenhower Lock, along with the story of a local Massena woman who recalls serving as a waitress at the Queen's luncheon.

Christine the History Queen is a docu-series dedicated to uncovering the untold stories behind the history of Northern and Central New York. The series premiered in November 2025 on WPBS and has since aired on PBS stations nationwide, with a holiday special reaching major markets including Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, and New York City. Season 2 is currently in production and is expected to air in November 2026.

A Massena native, Christine Darrow is a historian, actress, and author. Her appearance will include a meet-and-greet with autograph signing, a brief talk about her background, previews of upcoming events and Season 2, a 30-minute screening of the documentary, and a Q&A session.

"Few people realize just how pivotal Northern New York has been in shaping the history of the nation and the world," says Darrow. "The Eisenhower Lock represents the literal passage between the United States and the rest of the world, and the visit by the Queen was a moment reflecting that."

"This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new and old friends while celebrating the history of St. Lawrence County and the community



Queen Elizabeth II makes remarks at the dedication of the Eisenhower Lock in 1959. A screening of Christine the History Queen's documentary highlighting the Queen's visit will be held at the Seaway Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock, 76 Barnhart Island Rd, on Saturday, May 9 at 1:00 PM as part of Massena Spring Fever Fest. Provided photo



Christine Darrow, host and Executive Producer of Christine the History Queen. Sarissa Melissa Photography

of Massena," said Ben Dixon, Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce. "We want to thank Christine Darrow, WPBS, Amy Stark, and the Seaway Visitor Center at Eisenhower Lock for making this unique experi-

ence available."

"This special screening offers a powerful window into a remarkable moment in our region's history—Queen Elizabeth II's 1959 visit to Massena and the dedication of the Eisenhower Lock," said Amy Stark, Visitor Center and Community Relations Manager. "Through firsthand memories, including those of a

local resident who served at the Queen's luncheon, we're able to bring this story to life in a deeply personal and engaging way. We're proud to create opportunities like this that connect our community to the Seaway's legacy while inspiring new memories for generations to come."

To learn more about this event, contact Amy Stark at 771-216-1580 or amy.stark@dot.gov. The event web page can be found at www.slccchamber.org.

NASHVILLE'S



SALUTE

TO THE TROOPS

FRI, MAY 15

1000 ISLANDS HARBOR HOTEL

200 RIVERSIDE DRIVE CLAYTON NY

DOORS OPEN 6PM SHOW BEGINS 7PM

THIS YEAR'S STORIES WILL HONOR JACK SWEET, PEYTON MORSE AND DAVID BENSON

STORIES • LIVE PERFORMANCES • AUCTION



FEATURED SINGER - SONGWRITERS



EVENT DETAILS & TICKETS: OPERATIONSONGCLAYTON.COM

Market

From T3

That's some of the special service that customers find at Aubrey's that they won't get when they shop at a large grocery store. He's proud of that.

A little later, his father arrived to work on produce. He's putting out some new bananas and filling the produce cooler.

"When you own a business, you don't retire," Joe Chavoustie. "It keeps me busy."

Over the years, he and his son have been involved in the community as members of organizations and committees "getting things done," he said.

Originally from the town of Lyme, Joe has spent his life in the local grocery industry, working at the old P&C and Weston's, so he sees what his family does as important for the community.

This winter, Debbie White and her two daughters, Lacy, 21, and Lexi Kenyon, 20, worked at the cash register and Andrew Mayne was back at the deli. White started at the store before her daughters were born

and then returned when they were in their teens, now in her 19th year there. The two sisters have been there for the past few years.

However, Shirley White, now 79, was the longest reigning employee with 36 years, starting under the original owners. She retired in December, saying "it was time."

"They always treated me like family," she said.

Village Mayor Jerry Golden remembered the days when the Cape had two markets, a few more businesses and more summer visitors. The local Red and White store burnt down about 40 years ago and was never rebuilt. It remains a vacant lot to this day, he said.

The market, Cape Vincent schools, a local bank branch and a Samaritan Medical Center health clinic down the street make up "the core of the community." He's pleased that such a longtime business supports the community and the community supports the market.

Corey Fram, director of the Thousand Islands International Tourism Council, said Aubrey's adds to the village's "character" and that "ame-

NNY Business

nities like that" bring tourists back for more visits. The ability to get groceries in the place that they are staying is an asset, he explained.

Mike Chavoustie envisions "the potential" that the Cape has, mentioning some state funding that will create major village improvements right in front of his building.

The village secured a \$4.5 million New York Forward grant to complete streetscape improvements along Broadway Street and an upgrade to its waterfront and park. The idea is to connect the waterfront with downtown, Golden explained. Work will start next year.

"It's going to be good for us and the other businesses in the Cape," Chavoustie said.

But, at this moment, he's waiting on McDonough, who remembered going to Aubrey's when she grew up in the Cape. Her husband retired from the military and she naturally went back as a regular customer to her friend's market when they moved to her childhood home eight years ago.

"I wish all my customers were like her," the shop owner said. "She's always coming in."

Clarkson students advise NorPro on growth, branding

POTSDAM — Clarkson University students gained hands-on consulting experience this fall by partnering with regional businesses, including NorPro, a subsidiary of Northline Utilities.

Students in the Organizational Policy and Strategy course — Tyler Nash, Tristan Gilbert, Camaron Fougere and Emilia Bartlett — developed strategic recommendations to support NorPro's long-term growth. NorPro provides construction management, storm response and utility services across the Northeast.

Guided by Joshua LaFave, director of graduate business programs and an adjunct instructor in organizational studies, the team analyzed challenges including limited brand recognition, a growing geographic footprint and stiff competition in the engineering and utility sectors. Their goal was to boost the company's competitive advantage and market presence.

The students met weekly with NorPro and kept regular communication throughout the semester.

Their final deliverable was a detailed quarterly action plan emphasizing expanded social media use, showcasing completed projects, increasing employee spotlights and strengthening outreach through college events, career fairs and technical education programs.

"The NorPro team had the pleasure of working with an exceptionally engaged and driven group of students from the Clarkson Strategy class," said Courtney Farbotko, NorPro's proposal coordinator. "Their final presentation was a comprehensive look at our business and offered fresh perspectives on how we can advance our goals — perspectives we're already using to shape our 2026 business development efforts."

For the students, the project offered a chance to apply classroom concepts in a professional setting. "This experience was invaluable," said Gilbert. "We were able to apply analytical and critical thinking skills to real-world challenges, identify areas for organizational improvement and develop actionable strategies."

Wealth planning isn't just for the ultra-wealthy

The right strategy starts with understanding your financial life today, even if it's just beginning.

If your life, career, or retirement plans are evolving, it may be the right time to talk through the bigger picture

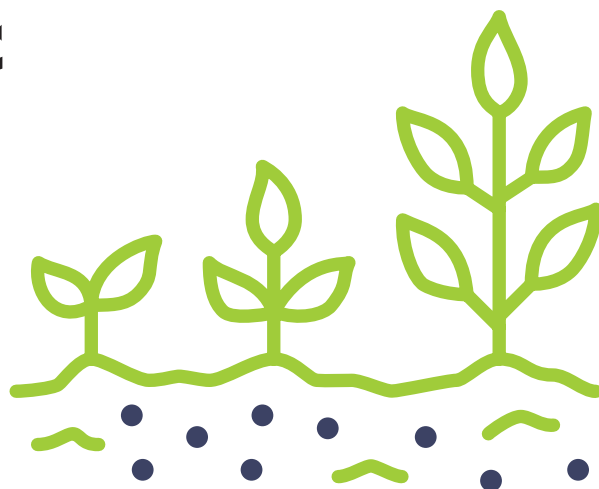
Morgia Wealth Management helps people like you plan for the future they envision for themselves and their family.



151 Mullin Street, Watertown NY
13601 | 315.222.7148
MORGIAWM.COM

Start planning for your future today.

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



Telegram seeks memories, stories, of the Flanagan



The former Flanagan hotel at the corner of Elm and Main streets in Malone. Richard Rosentreter photo



The Flanagan Hotel in Malone is reduced to rubble. Richard Rosentreter photo.

Malone Telegram

Although the former Flanagan is demolished, the memories of its heyday will never go away – and the Telegram wants to enshrine those memories in the pages of the local newspaper so they will continue to exist as a historical record.

In the upcoming weeks, the Telegram will produce stories and sections focused on the history of the Malone landmark – and the goal is to accumulate stories, anecdotes and photographs to create a final chapter to memorialize an iconic place in local history.

The Telegram is now requesting the community - and all others whose lives the Flanagan has touched - to submit

their fondest memories along with any photos they may have. How in-depth the upcoming stories are, depends on how much information and photos are provided and collected.

Our coverage of the Flanagan will continue in the upcoming weeks, and the goal is to focus on all the treasured memories that were provided by the hotel, which was much more than that to so many people. The Flanagan was a meeting place, a place of work and a mecca of vibrant social activity.

It was a stopping point for visitors and travelers just passing through – and for many, it was their one connection to Malone. Most importantly, a countless number of com-



Demolition underway at the Flanagan in Malone. Richard Rosentreter photo.

munity members, family and friends attended very special events there, such as weddings, anniversaries and other celebrations.

And the pages in the Telegram focusing on the Flanagan will be just that. A tribute and celebration more than an obituary lamenting its loss. Just as when a loved one passes away there is a celebration of

life – so too will these pages be. It will be a celebration of life of the Flanagan, highlighting all the special memories that will move from the walls of the former hotel, and into the pages of history.

Share your memories

To share your fondest memory or experience at the Flanagan, along with any photo-

graphs you may have, email them to: news@mttelegram.com.

Please note, that we cannot process hard copy photos or handwritten text – materials must be sent in electronic form. If that is not possible, please still reach out to the Telegram, and we will do our best to address any issues.

Comfort & Style

La-Z-boy®

12 MONTH NO INTEREST FINANCING

FREE DELIVERY AND SET UP

Lancer Inc

Bassett

LA Z BOY

STEARNS & FOSTER

TEMPUR-PEDIC

Sealy

Flemings

FINE FURNITURE

424 East Main Street, Malone NY • 518-483-0114

TUES., - FRI., 10AM - 5PM SAT., 10AM - 3PM | SHOPFLEMINGS.COM | PARKING IN REAR • SIDE ENTRANCE



SPEND YOUR SUMMER AT THE ANTIQUE BOAT MUSEUM!

May 9 • Opening Day - 7 days a week, 10 am - 5 pm

May 23 • Ride the River Speedboat Rides & *La Duchesse* Tours Begin

May 27 • Volunteer Meet & Mix

June 6 • 1000 Islands Family Free Day

June 6 - 12 • The Great International Steamboat Flotilla

June 27 • 1000 Islands Concours d'Elegance (Raindate June 28)

July 3 • Community Shore Dinner w/ the Clayton Guides Association

July 31 - Aug 2 • 62nd Antique Boat Show & Auction

August 15 • Bob Speltz Day

October 10 • Small Craft Festival

Visit abm.org for our complete schedule of educational programming, including sailing classes and boatyard workshops!



750 Mary St. Clayton, NY | 315.686.4104 | abm.org