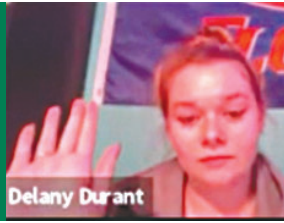


New student rep joins Massena school board. 28



Ogdensburg moves to stop arbitration. 2

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Vaccination effort ramps up

SUNY Potsdam President Kristen Esterberg stands with Waddington Town Supervisor Alex Hammond, who was deployed by the National Guard to assist with operations at the regional clinic.

Massena Mayor resigns, trustees won't rush to fill the job

BY ANDY GARDNER North Country This Week

MASSENA — The Board of Trustees will move forward with finding someone to appoint to the mayor's seat to replace Tim Currier. And Acting Mayor Matt Lebire is urging the village board to take their time in making that decision.

The discussion happened during the village board's Tuesday, Jan. 19 meeting. Currier, who was arrested as part of a drug investigation in December, announced he will resign as mayor seat Feb. 1. Lebire said he has spoken with Currier in private and feels the resignation is "the appropriate thing to do," and

Currier needs to "focus on whatever personal issues he's dealing with." "It's important the village move forward without distraction," he said. He said they have few options to fill the mayor's seat, and the process is dictated by

SEE MAYOR PAGE 21

Mayor not yet charged with harassment

BY JIMMY LAWTON North Country This Week

OGDENSBURG — Both of Canton's town justices have recused themselves from a case in which Ogdensburg Mayor Jeff Skelly is alleged to have knocked Gerald Mack down on the steps of city hall. At the time Mack was a city firefighter, but has since retired. Skelly has not been formally charged and maintains the incident was a setup. However state police have filed paperwork in Ogdensburg City Court, which includes three

sworn statements alleging second-degree harassment charges. Due to potential conflicts of interest, two city judges recused themselves so the paperwork was moved to Canton Town Court. Now both justices there have also recused themselves. Canton Court Clerk Marc Armstrong said the case has now been sent to St. Lawrence County Court Judge Greg Storie, who will give instructions on how to proceed. In an interview Thursday Mack said state police informed him that the charges were filed after investigators reviewed a video of the

SEE HARASSMENT PAGE 21

Vaccination clinic opens with help from National Guard

BY JIMMY LAWTON North Country This Week

POTSDAM — National Guard, health care professionals, and New York State officials from various departments and agencies were on-hand at SUNY Potsdam for the opening of the regional vaccination site at Maxey Hall Monday morning.

The hub opened with Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, along with SUNY Potsdam President Kristen Esterberg, on site to commemorate the event.

Dominguez said the clinic will administer 500 vaccinations daily and scheduling can be done online or by phone. The news was welcomed as St. Lawrence County residents reported trouble setting up appointments last week.

"We are at war," Dominguez said, adding that vaccinations were the best weapon against COVID-19, which has claimed more than 2 million lives globally and 55 in St. Lawrence County.

Limited Supply

Dominguez said Gov. Andrew Cuomo's goal is to make New York the first COVID-free state. And while New York is leading the country in distribution,

SEE VACCINATIONS PAGE 21

Clinic aims to issue 1,000 jabs daily

BY ANDY GARDNER North Country This Week

POTSDAM — The New York State-run regional vaccination clinic at SUNY Potsdam should be ramping up to performing 1,000 vaccinations per day, according to a top county health official.

Dr. Andrew Williams discussed the clinic's opening during a Tuesday, Jan. 19 Zoom call with members of the local press. He is president of the St. Lawrence County Board of Health, an associate chief medical officer of St. Lawrence Health System and chief medical officer for Community Health Centers of the North Country.

"The site was designed to vaccinate more than 1,000 individuals per day, with a plan to ramp up to these levels over the next several weeks," he said. Potsdam's is one of two regional

SEE CLINICS PAGE 22

Search for body in Black Lake halted due to weather

OGDENSBURG — A search led by St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Deputies has been postponed to recover the body of David Redmond Jr. has been postponed.

Rescuers from all over the county searched Black Lake in freezing temperatures for days after David Redmond Jr. and his daughter Larissa Redmond were reported missing after snowmobiling Friday.

Searchers and rescue teams on Wednesday suspended the search until weather conditions improve.

Sheriff's Deputies said that due to dropping temperatures, teams were unable to keep up with ice breaking to allow divers, airboats and sonar equipment to access the water to search for David Redmond Jr.

Redmond and his daughter Larissa Redmond were last seen on Fri-

SEE SEARCH PAGE 21

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### Waddington snowman

Lily Tiernan builds a snowman in Waddington with her cousin Reese Enfield from Rochester.

# Ogdensburg seeks to stay arbitration

BY JIMMY LAWTON  
North Country This Week

OGDENSBURG – Ogdensburg City Manager Stephen Jellie says attorneys for the city have filed a petition with the State Supreme Court to “stay” the International Association of Firefighters Local 1799’s “demand” for arbitration. “Today, the City of Ogdensburg filed a petition in State Supreme Court for an order, pursuant to Article 75 of the Civil Service Practice Law and Rules, For A Permanent Stay of Arbitration from a demand for Arbitration by International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 1799,” Jellie said in a prepared statement.

“The City seeks judicial relief from this demand and we look forward to making the case in Supreme Court,” he said.

The fire union moved to begin arbitration after the city took action that was in direct violation to the contract including minimum staffing issues.

The city and the union have been fighting for months with the city claiming that the existing contract

**Among the major sticking points between the city and the union is an agreement in the contract that requires five firefighters to be on duty at a time**

is unsustainable and the union saying it was negotiated fairly and in good-faith.

Several members have been laid off, several have faced disciplinary action and some have accepted retirement incentives.

The union has rejected two offers from the city, which would have saved jobs at the expense of various negotiated benefits. The union has called the offers insincere. Among the major sticking points between the city and the union is an agreement in the contract that requires five firefighters to be on duty at a time. The city manager, who also

serves as the fire chief, has reduced that to four.

“IAFF Local 1799 outright rejected two very generous offers made by the city to settle the matter and return all laid off firefighters to work,” Jellie said. The current contract was hastily agreed to in the final days of the 2019 City Council and ratified by the Union during a period of significant financial distress for the city and for an unreasonable duration of time (6 years) that is double the length of any recent contract with IAFF Local 1799.”

In it’s call for arbitration IAFF Local 1799 said the city violated and continues to violate the contract.

“On or about December 9, 2020, the City of Ogdensburg violated the entire Collective Bargaining Agreement including, but not limited to, Article 7, Article 8, Sections c, d, e, and f, Article 20, and Article 24. The Collective Bargaining Agreement was violated (and continues to be violated) when the City of Ogdensburg directed that, effective January 1, 2021 it would no longer maintain “manpower” levels as defined and/or referenced by the Agreement, including maintaining a minimum of five bargaining unit members on duty at all times, reducing the total complement of bargaining unit members of 28 to 24 due to budgetary reasons or the abolishment of positions, and by not filling vacancies when the full-time staffing falls below 24.”

The union called for arbitration to demand the city “cease and desist” from violating the agreement and restore the staffing levels as defined by the agreement.

Prior to arbitration the union unsuccessfully sought an injunction that would have kept the laid-off firefighters working through the process. If the court grants the stay of arbitration, the union could appeal the decision. Union Pres. Jason Bouchard had no comment at this time as their attorney had not yet reviewed the documents.

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Cheryl Shumway | NCTW

## Sliding fun for Lisbon boy

Colin Rice, Lisbon, slides down a hill at SUNY Canton recently.

# Massena approves and denies DPW jobs

BY ANDY GARDNER

North Country This Week

MASSENA — Village trustees approved hiring a Department of Public Works backhoe operator, but declined to move forward with appointing a new assistant street foreman for the DPW.

The board took the actions at their Tuesday, Jan. 19 meeting broadcast live online via Zoom.

The board voted 4-0 to appoint Andrew Beaulieu to the backhoe operator position.

The next action item was to appoint Thomas Blair as assistant street foreman.

DPW Superintendent Hassan Fayad said both Beaulieu and Blair were interviewed by village officials including himself, the board's Personnel Committee and the village administrator. He said they are the

candidates that "we believe have the best qualifications for the two positions."

Prior to voting on Blair, the board voted to go into an executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person and matters leading to the appointment of a particular person. New York State Open Meetings Law allows the board to hold those talks behind closed doors.

The board voted to go into executive session, and it passed 3-1. Trustee Greg Paquin voted against going into executive session. There was no discussion prior to that vote.

After the executive session of about 30 minutes, the board returned and was deadlocked 2-2 on appointing Blair. Acting Mayor Matt Lebere and Trustee Francis Carvel were the dissenting votes.

## MCS faces tough fiscal year

BY ANDY GARDNER

North Country This Week

MASSENA — Even though the most recent federal pandemic stimulus package includes some school aid, a Board of Education member says they're still looking at a rough road when they get to crafting the 2021-22 budget.

Loren Fountaine, who chairs the board Finance Committee, updated the board during their Thursday, Jan. 14 meeting.

"Tough budget year because of the pandemic and the effect it had on your the state economy, in turn what that does to collection of taxes," he said. "It is going to be a tough

budget year. We should just give into that and we'll see where we are when we have more solid numbers."

Even though there is federal money for schools going to the state, no one knows how the state is going to actually dole it out.

"We have really no information. The governor's State of the State is a traveling roadshow right now. So we'll see where we end up and make adjustments from there. We don't believe we're going to be in a position where we're getting a lot more money than we did last year, certainly," the finance chair said.

"We started to take a look at the 10,000-foot view," Fountaine said. "We're still unsure where we are."

## Deputy Mayor wants relief for taxpayers

BY JIMMY LAWTON

North Country This Week

OGDENSBURG — Deputy Mayor John Rische is asking banking institutions to adjust their escrow accounts for local property owners to reflect the recent 10 percent tax cut.

"It is my understanding that a majority of city residents use the convenience of escrow accounts to pay their taxes, and water and sewer bills. Adjusting these accounts to reflect the tax reduction would go a long way toward ensuring that this savings in Real Property Taxes is realized sooner rather than later," Rische said in a letter issued to local banks and credit unions.

"It is especially important in these difficult times that the savings realized through the tax cut is not kept by the banks and adjusted later. It is better that these monies not be collected and adjusted a year from now. The sooner this savings is realized to our taxpayers, the better."

"I know there has been pain along the way, but it is high time that our tax rate was adjusted so it is affordable to our residents," Rische said.

Despite a mixed bag of criticism and support from the public, Ogdensburg City Council passed a budget in December 2020 that reduced the tax rate by about \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The budget cuts the tax levy by \$213,000 and reduces the tax rate to \$17.87 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The budget eliminated the city comptroller position, the city recreation director, cut several firefighter positions, reduced funding for the public library and provided additional staff for the planning department.

## Soup kitchen meals increase

BY CHERYL SHUMWAY

North Country This Week

OGDENSBURG —The Ogdensburg Salvation Army soup kitchen is now providing more food for local people in need, thanks to partnerships with Catholic Charities and the Volunteer Transportation Center.

An average of 200 meals are being made each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, said Lt. Mark Devanney, Corps Officer of Ogdensburg's Salvation Army.

Before the pandemic, the soup kitchen was preparing one meal per week.

Since starting a partnership with Catholic Charities in October, the Salvation Army has increased to three days per week.

"Catholic Charities saw the community need and the lack of soup kitchens, so they are now helping with the soup kitchen on Mondays and Thursdays," said Devanney.

Also, the Volunteer Transportation Center began to assist with delivery of the meals in December.

"That has been a great help. Now there are about eight volunteer drivers per night. That partnership is highly valued," said Devanney.

Two volunteer cooks, Elizabeth Marshall and Heather Spell, were recently busy in the kitchen getting the sausage dinners ready for deliveries and pickups of 208 meals.

"The goal of the soup kitchen is to provide food we would be happy to eat ourselves at home," Devanney said.

"It's been an amazing outreach that was born out of the pandemic. A lot of great things are happening at The Salvation Army, and we would love to let the community know," said Captain Ann Marie Devanney.

The Salvation Army is looking for more volunteers to assist with the soup kitchen. Those interested in volunteering can call 315-393-3351.

Donations of money are also being accepted and can be sent to the Salvation Army at P.O. Box 404, Ogdensburg, NY 13669.

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# Massena Mayor resigns

MASSENA — Mayor Tim Currier, who was arrested in December in a drug investigation, will resign on Feb. 1.

Currier, a former Massena police chief, announced the resignation in a statement released Tuesday morning, Jan. 19. He announced a leave of absence to seek drug treatment shortly after his Dec. 1 arrest on charges of misdemeanor possession of crack cocaine, fleeing police and a felony count of evidence tampering.

“Since the events of Dec. 1, I have worked hard on my recovery and I remain profoundly sorry for my actions. So many people have reached out in a variety of ways to lend their support to me and my family. We are thankful for each

and every one of you. Although I know that I could continue to provide strong and capable leadership for this community, I have decided that I will resign as Mayor of Massena, effective Feb. 1. In the coming months, it is vital that I dedicate myself to my personal recovery, repair damage I’ve caused with my family, and work to regain the trust of my closest friends,” Currier wrote.

Currier was arrested at gunpoint a day earlier after county detectives and federal agents attempted to pull him over near Center Street. He is accused of fleeing the stop and throwing one gram of crack cocaine out of his passenger window, coming to a stop near the intersection of Center and Willow streets.



Submitted

## Snowman for all to see

Richard Northrup helped build a snowman for residents of Massena Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

# SLC to discuss BOE ethics investigation

BY ANDY GARDNER  
North Country This Week

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County legislature chair says he expects the board will discuss referring a complaint of the Democratic elections commissioner allegedly using her county email during work to send a Democratic party press release.

Jennie Bacon, the SLC Democratic elections commissioner, sent out the release calling on Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, to resign in the wake of the Jan. 6 Capitol Building riot. Stefanik has been a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump, who critics say incited the

riot with his rhetoric, but has condemned the violence.

County legislature Chairman Bill Sheridan, R-Hammond, says there hasn’t been any action taken yet.

“I do not wish to make any statements on specifics before I make my recommendation to the full board at the upcoming finance meeting on the 25th,” Sheridan wrote in an email. “I do plan on recommending to the board that we refer the matter to the Board of Ethics for investigation and review. Some of this will take place in executive session and some will be in open session.”

He said the ethics board has the authority to conduct an inves-

tigation into the matter “through document reviews and witness interviews. They also have broad subpoena power.” “The (ethics) board has broad authority and the power does include the ability to issue sanctions directly,” he added.

Sheridan said he wants to be fair to both sides of the issue - Rep. Stefanik’s office and Bacon.

“While any citizen or County employee may file a complaint with the Board of Ethics, a decision of this nature should be discussed by the Board. While I am aware of the complaints given by staff of the Congresswoman, I am aware of the rights of Ms. Bacon and I wish to do right by all involved,” he said.

# Teens charged with forcible touching

MASSENA — Troopers say they’ve charged teens with forcible touching Monday, Jan. 18 stemming from two separate incidents reported to state police last year.

Troopers said an unnamed

15-year old was charged with forcible touching stemming from a sex offense report they received Sept. 22.

Stemming from a separate sex offense report troopers received

Sept. 11, 2020, 15-year-old male was additionally charged with fifth-degree criminal sale of marijuana, officers said.

In both cases, the teen charged was cited and released.

# County receives \$44,977 for food, shelter

OGDENSBURG -- St. Lawrence County has been awarded federal funds made available through Congress under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program.

The county has been awarded \$44,977 to supplement Emergency Food and Shelter Programs in the county.

“The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country,” according to Tammy Bush, deputy director at S.T.E.P. by S.T.E.P., Inc.

The board will determine how the funds awarded to St. Lawrence County will be distributed among the Emergency Food and Shelter Programs run by local service agencies in the area, Bush said. The board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting sys-

tem, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board and 7) have a DUNS and FEIN on their application. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply.

Public or private voluntary agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Tammy Bush at S.T.E.P. by S.T.E.P., Inc. 1515 Knox Street, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or [tbush@stepbystepinc.org](mailto:tbush@stepbystepinc.org) or 315-394-0597 ext. 102 for an application.

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Ryan and Lesley Bouchey | Submitted

## Sledding in Ogdensburg

Alivia Bouchey, 2, and Owen Bouchey, 1, build their first snowman during the winter snow storm in Ogdensburg this past weekend. They later went on a sled ride with their dog, Nova.

# Troopers warn of pet scam

State police have received multiple calls from people scammed out of hundreds of dollars after answering classified ads for purebred puppies for sale.

Victims report after answering the ad, the suspects provide a photo of the breed they are looking for and arrange a deposit to be paid. Once the deposit is cleared, the victim is provided an address, which does not exist, to pick up their puppy. Recently, these fake addresses have been in the St. Lawrence County area.

Troopers warn the public of some common themes in this scam:

- The deposit is requested to be made via payment apps, such as Zelle or CashApp.
- All communication with the “breeder” takes place via text.
- An address for the puppies is not provided until after the deposit

is made.

- The “breeder” sends the victim stock photos of whatever breed they are looking for, i.e. Labrador Retriever, Boston Terrier, French Bulldog.

The American Kennel Club offers the following tips on what to avoid when looking for a reputable breeder:

- No phone calls. The seller prefers to handle communication by email and not the phone. A reputable breeder will always communicate with you via phone or video chat (if not in person) before selling you a puppy. Fraudulent sellers are oftentimes outside of the U.S. and may be hiding their phone number by only communicating by email or text message.
- Copycat or stock photos. Photos of the dog or ad text can be found on multiple websites. Search for the

text in the listing to see if the seller copied and pasted it from another site.

- Sketchy payment. The seller asks for wiring of money or payment by gift cards. Be aware that if you choose a non-secure method of payment, it is highly unlikely that you will get your money back. Avoid paying a stranger using apps such as Venmo, as it is harder to get your money back if you don't get what you paid for. Paying by credit card or PayPal are typically the safest options.

- Price is too good to be true. Research the prices for the breed you are considering ahead of time. Purebred dogs sold at deeply discounted prices are typically frauds. If the seller says they register their dogs with a specific organization, you can call the organization to confirm.

## Cobb launches Backroads PAC

CANTON — Former NY-21 Democratic Congressional candidate Tedra Cobb announced the formation of Backroads PAC, a political action committee aimed at helping rural Democrats to electoral success.

Cobb, who twice challenged incumbent Rep. Elise Stefanik fundraised \$5.7 million in 2020. Now, Cobb says she will put that knowledge and infrastructure to work to help rural Congressional candidates.

“Democrats in rural areas have been left behind for decades, lacking infrastructure, organization, and resources,” said Cobb. “Backroads PAC is working to change that so we can defeat Republicans in every district.”

Backroads Pac Mission: Living in rural America requires some grit, some tenacity, and an understanding of the value of community. Running for public office in rural America takes a tremendous amount of all three. Our mission is simple: build an organization to ensure rural Democrats never travel the path to victory alone.

What they do: Identify, vet, and endorse rural Democrats in competitive districts.

Provide training and infrastructure support for endorsed candidates and campaigns through our vast network of political partners and decades of experience working on and running for local, state, and federal offices. Training includes fundraising, communications, and

**‘Democrats in rural areas have been left behind for decades, lacking infrastructure, organization, and resources,’ said Cobb. ‘Backroads PAC is working to change that so we can defeat Republicans in every district.’**

**Tedra Cobb**

Former Congressional Candidate and County Legislator

earned and social media strategy. They also give financial support to endorsed candidates post-primary.

“The results of the 2020 election prove that Democrats must do a better job communicating to rural voters,” said Cobb. “It’s time to face

some hard facts: 75% of the Members of Congress who voted against certifying the results of the election represent rural districts. Things have to change. Backroads PAC will support the candidates challenging these incumbents.”

## Stefanik votes against Trump impeachment

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, 21st District, voted against H. Res. 24, the Article of Impeachment Wednesday, Jan. 13, which charges the President of the United States with fomenting insurrection, said a press release from Stefanik’s office.

Congresswoman Stefanik, whose district includes St. Lawrence County, issued the following statement regarding her decision.

“I am vehemently opposed to the snap impeachment of President Trump. It is a partisan ploy with no basis in the Constitution. The Democrats’ decision to impeach the President with one week remaining in his term further fuels the divisions in the country during this very trying time,” Stefanik said.

“As Members of the United States Congress, we should focus on unifying our country by delivering solutions to the American people,” said the Congresswoman.

### BRIEFLY

#### Man falls from tower

LAWRENCE — A utility worker was injured after falling from a cellular tower while doing work on the structure. St. Lawrence County sheriff deputies say they responded to the incident at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12 on Ferris Road in Lawrence.

They arrived to find that a Sky-line 360 employee fell “a substantial distance” while working on the cell tower, deputies said. Tri-Town Rescue took the injured person to Canton-Potsdam Hospital. Deputies say OSHA has been notified, and they are working together “to confirm findings.”

#### County organizational meeting

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County legislature will appoint a chairman of the board during an organizational meeting next month. The board voted at their Monday, Dec. 7 meeting to set the organizational meeting for Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. in the St. Lawrence County Courthouse. It will also be broadcast live

on the county’s YouTube channel.

#### Mittens, hats available

MASSENA -- Massena Neighborhood Center still has hats and mittens available for anyone in the Massena Central School District. Contact the center at 315-764-

0050 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday or Tuesday and arrange a pickup in center or curbside.

#### Photo retakes

MASSENA -- Massena Central School photo retakes have been rescheduled for January 28 and 29.

## The Family of Rick Szarka



would like to send heartfelt thanks to the many friends and family members who expressed their sympathy on his unexpected passing.

We thank SLV Hospice, Gerald R. Roy, AmVets Post 4, Chad and the staff of Donaldson’s Funeral Home and everyone who gifted us with food, support, cards & donations in his memory.

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## OBITUARIES

**Marie J. Greene, 100**

Massena

MASSENA -- Marie J. Greene, age 100, formerly of Brighton Street, passed away peacefully on January 13, 2021 at Massena Rehabilitation & Nursing Center.

There will be no public calling hours at this time, a funeral service for Marie will be held in the spring with interment in Calvary Cemetery, Massena at the convenience of the family.

The family has entrusted funeral arrangements to the care and direction of the Phillips Memorial Home in Massena.

Marie was born on August 30, 1920 to the late Frank and Mabel (LaRue) White in Massena, NY.

Marie attended Massena Schools and graduated from Massena High School.

She married Ted Greene on July 1, 1942 at the Church of the Sacred Heart with the Rev. Gerald Kellogg presiding.

Marie is survived by her loving children; Ann Greene of Massena, NY, John and wife Brenda Greene of Louisville, NY and Mary Jane Williams of Potsdam, NY. She

is also survived by her caring grandchildren Alison Greene of Potsdam, NY and Ellen Greene of



Marie Greene

New York City along with two sister in-laws; Carroll White of Massena, NY and Rita Wright of Massena, NY along with several nieces and nephews and close friends.

In addition to her parents, Marie was predeceased by her brothers Bernard, G. Laurence, Carl (Rita), Earl (Lois), Harold, Hubert and Robert White and sisters Frances (Stanley) Dunn, Irene (Ivan) Power and Barbara (Sterling) Brownell along with her husband Ted in 2003, and a son-in-law David Williams in 2018.

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories, stories and online condolences by visiting [www.PhillipsMemorial.com](http://www.PhillipsMemorial.com)

**Sandra K. Dupuis, 61**

Massena

MASSENA -- Sandra "Sandy" K. Dupuis, age 61 passed away Saturday afternoon, January 16, 2021 at Rochester General Hospital.

Arrangements are under the care and direction of Phillips Memorial Home in Massena.

A Memorial Mass will be held on Saturday January 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Lawrence Church in Louisville with Rev. Scott Belina presiding.

Burial will take place in St. Lawrence Cemetery at the family's convenience.

Face coverings are required and social distancing will be practiced.

Sandy was born on April 16, 1959 in Louisville, NY to Raymond and Joyce (Girard) Legault.

She was a graduate of Massena Central School.

She was employed by Spanky's Diner for 32 years as a waitress, she later went to work for St. Lawrence County ARC until she became ill.

Surviving Sandra is her husband Jim Dupuis as well as three children; Amanda Kemison, Kimberly Kemison and Edward Jr. of Massena, NY. Three brothers, Randy Legault of Zephyrhills, FL, Larry Legault and Molly Griffin; and Mike and Tracie Legault both of Louisville NY. Grandchildren, Jacob of Phoenix, AZ; Lilly of Utica, NY, Quinnton and Tatum both

of Massena, and a grandchild due in July 2021.

Sandy is also survived by several nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles and cousins, also her two rescue dogs, Prissy and Bear.



Sandra Dupuis

She was predeceased by her sister Sharon Legault in August 2010 and her father Raymond in

March 2017.

Sandra enjoyed camping as well as gardening.

She would also tend to all the family graves.

Sandra was a very loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and grandmother.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Massena Humane Society; 177 Massena South Racquette River Rd, Massena, NY 13662 or to the American Cancer Society; P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

The family has entrusted funeral arrangements to the care of Phillips Memorial Home of Massena NY. Family and friends are encouraged to share memories and online condolences of Sandra by visiting [www.PhillipsMemorial.com](http://www.PhillipsMemorial.com).

Gary Wayne Prosper, age 85, of Fountain Hills, AZ passed away peacefully on 1/9/2021, after complications due to long standing heart disease which was non-COVID related.

Gary was born in Massena, NY to Joseph and Blanche (Gratton) Prosper on 6/18/1935, and graduated from Massena High School in 1953 excelling in both academics and athletics.

After graduating, he had a brief stint at Union College in Schenectady, NY, then joined the military in 1954, spending time in Korea, being discharged in 1956.

Following discharge, he married the love of his life, MaryEllen Faucher, had son Andy and daughter Tracie, attended Clarkson College in Potsdam, NY, graduated SUNY at Potsdam with a degree in education, then taught high school math for 6 years at Massena High School.

He was an active skier and was on the Lake Placid ski patrol, played semi pro football and coached his son's hockey teams.

He went on to attend the University of Maine and later graduated from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, earning a Masters of Combined Science and EdD in Sec-

**Gary Wayne Prosper, 85**

formerly of Massena

ondary Education Administration.

In 1971, the family moved to Flagstaff, AZ where he took the position of Assistant Superintendent of Flagstaff Public School District for 10 years.

While in Flagstaff, he made many lifelong friends, enjoyed hunting, fishing at Lees Ferry, officiating high

school football, tennis, cutting firewood, playing poker with his buddies, finding the perfect Christmas tree, and especially being involved in his kids many sporting activities.

In 1980, he retired his skis and snow shovel and moved to Fountain Hills, AZ where he became Principal/Superintendent of Fountain Hills School District. He then moved on to Arizona State University as Director of Support Services before returning to public education administration as Principal of Anderson Junior High School in Chandler, AZ.

Following retirement, Gary stayed active in education, teaching



Gary Prosper

**Kathryn O'Geen, 90**

Massena

NY with their four sons in 1959 with General Motors, adding two daughters to the mix later.



Kathryn O'Geen

They were very active with the Lake St. Lawrence Yacht Club at its inception, and were avid campers, enjoying many summers at Cole's Creek with their young family.

Kitty was a prolific knitter, and her family still enjoys her incredible afghans. Each of her grand- and great-grandchildren were brought home from the hospital in one of her beautiful sweater sets.

We will remember fondly her incredible wit, which she maintained through her last days. Her ability to come up with a line that would make

math at the Community College level and was as a hearing officer for the Scottsdale school district.

Gary was an avid fisherman and would drive cross-country many summers with his beloved Golden Retriever "Sam" to fish the St. Lawrence River in Massena, NY.

He loved all things sports, especially ASU and a day without a cigar meant he must be sick. The highlight of every year was Christmas Day with the entire family around the table having a part singing "The 12 Days of Christmas"

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Maryellen Faucher Prosper, son Andrew (Sharon) Prosper of Flagstaff, AZ, daughter Tracie Prosper Springer of Phoenix, AZ, "Papa" to grandsons, Richard (Tina) Ciombor and their children, Alexis and Melinda of Cave Creek, AZ and Michael Ciombor, of Phoenix, AZ.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Gary's memory to Extended Hands Food Bank, 16548 E. Laser Dr. #6, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 or to the charity of your choice.

Due to the current COVID restrictions, a private memorial will be held at a later date.

## RECENT DEATHS

**DONALD DESHANE**, 78, Brasher Falls, Jan. 17. Arrangements with Hammill Funeral Home, Winthrop.

**LANNY SIMMONS**, 67, Morristown, Jan. 16. Arrangements with Phillips Memorial Home, Massena.

**WILLIAM WILKINS**, 85, Massena, Jan. 16. Arrangements with Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena.

**CAROLA SAVAGE**, 68, formerly of Ogdensburg, Jan. 16.

**SANDY DUPUIS**, 61, Massena, Jan. 16. Arrangements with Phillips Memorial Home, Massena.

**LAWRENCE ROBINSON**, 77, formerly of Ogdensburg, Jan. 14. Arrangements with Osceola Memory Gardens, FL.

**HAROLD MORRIS**, 98, Ogdensburg, Jan. 15. Arrangements with IslandView Funeral Home, Morristown.

**GERREN HART**, 31, Akwesasne, Jan. 14. Arrangements with Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena.

**JEFFREY CLINE**, 65, Ogdens-

burg, Jan. 14. Arrangements with Frary Funeral Home, Ogdensburg.

**ALICIA NEWTOWN**, 74, Ogdensburg, Jan. 14. Arrangements with Frary Funeral Home, Ogdensburg.

**PAULINE COOK**, 90, Akwesasne, Jan. 13. Arrangements with Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena.

**KATHRYN O'GEEN**, 90, Massena, Jan. 13. Arrangements with Phillips Memorial Home, Massena.

**STEVEN FARMER**, 68, Massena, Jan. 13. Arrangements with Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena.

**BEVERLY GAUTHIER**, 82, Stockholm, Jan. 13. Arrangements with Hammill Funeral Home, Winthrop.

**JACQUELINE LACOMB**, 89, Ogdensburg, Jan. 13. Arrangements with LaRue & Pitcher Funeral Home, Ogdensburg.

**MARIE GREENE**, 100, formerly of Massena, Jan. 13. Arrangements with Phillips Memorial Home, Massena.

**ANITA KENNEDY**, 101, Ogdensburg, Jan. 12. Arrangements

with Fox & Murray Funeral Home, Ogdensburg.

**RICHARD LEGAULT**, 73, Waddington, Jan. 10. Arrangements with Frary Funeral Home, Ogdensburg.

**JEAN ZAGROBELNY**, 100, formerly of Massena, Jan. 9. Arrangements with Phillips Memorial Home, Massena.

**GARY PROSPER**, 85, formerly of Massena, Jan. 9.

**GLENDEN BARSE**, 56, Massena. Arrangements with Phillips Memorial Home, Massena.

**OBITUARIES AND** death notices are posted as soon as they are available at [NorthCountryNow.com/obituaries](http://NorthCountryNow.com/obituaries)

**SUBMITTING OBITUARIES:** Families now have the option of publishing obituaries in North Country This Week -- ask the funeral home to submit the obituary for publication in the paper as well as on [NorthCountryNow.com](http://NorthCountryNow.com). For more information or to submit an obituary, email [obituaries@northcountrynow.com](mailto:obituaries@northcountrynow.com) or call 315-265-1000 ext. 33.

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Ellen Nesbitt | NCTW

**Josh and Alicia Taillon holding their daughter Clementine recently opened The Blue House restaurant in Madrid. The opening weekend was a sell-out with just take-out being offered**

## Farm-to-table restaurant opens on CR 14 in Madrid

BY ELLEN NESBITT  
North Country This Week

MADRID – With a commitment to community, a local chef and his family have opened The Blue House restaurant, at 3736 County Route 14, overlooking the Grasse River.

Josh Taillon along with his wife Alicia, and toddler Clementine hosted the soft opening of the new farm-to-table restaurant for take-out only the weekend of January 16 with food selling out. With a wood-fire oven and grill, pizza and lasagna are topping the menu the first couple of weeks.

“We plan to have different offerings each week, as we get going,” Taillon said, who is proud to show off the unique features of the rehabbed house, located in the center of the village.

The bar is made from local cedar timbers and lightning strike maple. Local stone mason Mark Seymour from Radiant Hearth, Inc. in Norwood created the oven, grill and high service counter.

Taillon has been a chef for 25 years. He earned his degree from Paul Smith’s College, and then spent time training in France. He moved to Colorado and even set up his own restaurant there, before moving back to the North Country when opportunity presented itself at Iroquois Farm.

He spent the last five years as the chef at Jake’s on the Water in Hannawa Falls before moving out on his own again, which is a family business, with his wife Alicia as president.

Ironically, the property has been bought and sold over it’s more than 100 years history from women. And even a cubby in the house revealed bakery coupons from when it was a bakery in 1910.

“I got chills, thinking about it being a bakery 100 years ago and now I’m making dough from scratch,” Taillon said.

**‘I got chills thinking about it being a bakery 100 years ago and now I’m making dough from scratch.’**

**Josh Taillon**  
The Blue House owner

The business really is a circle of family and friends. Taillon’s sous chef Brad Rookey met his wife while working with Taillon, and Taillon and his wife also met when they were working at Iroquois farm. And both their fathers have done large amounts of work on the property to renovate it.

He is purchasing food locally and even has plans for growing their own herbs and vegetables at Taillon’s father’s property. He is purchasing vegetables from nearby farmers, Daniel Martin and the Kent Family farm.

“We are all about being part of the community and helping local businesses and growers,” Taillon said.

More windows were installed on to take advantage of the view of the Grasse River and overlook one of the few stone bridges left in New York, Taillon said.

The second floor dining area will seat 50 when open to full capacity seating. For now, the business is open Thursday-Sunday, 4 to 8 p.m. and the menu is posted on The Blue House Facebook page. Their phone number is 315-590-3021.

## SLC Chamber names new executive director

CANTON — The St. Lawrence County Chamber has named a new executive director.

Ben Dixon will begin in that role on Feb. 1.

“Ben has been a friend of the Chamber in many capacities for a number of years with over 14 years on the board,” said Board President Nadia Cutler. “Our interview process allowed us to learn even more about Ben’s professional experiences and the opportunities he will bring to build upon the great work the Chamber has done.”

Dixon has served as the coordinator of regional development for St. Lawrence University since 2006. In that role he has represented the university to numerous entities committed to the economic and community development of Canton, St. Lawrence County, and the North Country Region. He has coordinated fourteen North Country Symposiums – an annual forum aimed at exploring and enhancing the economic, educational, and environmental vitality of the North Country region. Through the Symposium, Ben was able to bring new ideas and emerging approaches to sustainable development to our region. While at St. Lawrence Uni-

versity, he worked in various other areas, including a period of time coordinating green campus programs and work on campus energy efficiency and energy management.

Since 2012, Ben has also managed the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley, a not-for-profit consortium of Clarkson University, St. Lawrence University, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam.

Prior to his arrival in St. Lawrence County, Ben worked at Harvard’s Office for Sponsored Programs. Over the course of six years there, he was promoted several times to the position of Sr. Grants & Contracts Specialist where he was responsible for managing multiple grant opportunities and partnerships. While at Harvard, he took graduate courses in Environmental Resource Management and Sustainable Development.

“I am absolutely thrilled at the opportunity to work with the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce - its staff, its Board of Directors, and its hundreds of members

and partners – to build a vibrant business climate in the county and enhance its economic vitality and wonderful quality of life” said Dixon.

He can be reached after Feb. 1 at ben@slcchamber.org.

The new hiring is part of a reorganization brought on by changing priorities due to the pandemic, most notably, moving away from a strong event based operation, a press release from the chamber said. In the reorganization, current executive director, Brooke Rouse requested a transition to the new director of tourism role at the chamber, opening the search for a new Executive Director. Rouse has been executive director since 2014. She will continue to develop tourism destination planning and marketing, working with the county, regional and state partners to leverage opportunities for the growth of St. Lawrence County as a destination.

Rouse can be reached at brooke@slcchamber.org.

## SeaComm donates \$150K to hospitals in their market

MASSENA – SeaComm recently committed \$150,000 worth of donation between six regional hospital foundations across northern New York and Vermont.

The funds will assist in delivering quality care to local residents, while helping to purchase essential medical supplies and support frontline healthcare workers amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, a press release from SeaComm said.

The credit union has branches in Massena, Potsdam, Malone, Canton, Ogdensburg and Plattsburgh, as well as South Burlington, Vt.

“The SeaComm Board of Directors is pleased to support our North Country hospitals and their respective foundations with this significant donation,” states SeaComm Board Chairman Myron Burns. “Each \$25,000 donation deservedly supports the health care needs of the communities in which we do business.”

The donations will be given to hospitals that serve communities in which SeaComm has retail branch locations, including Canton-Potsdam Hospital Foundation, Potsdam; Massena Hospital Foundation, Massena; Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center Foundation, Ogdensburg; Alice Hyde Medical Center Foundation, Malone; CVPH Foundation, Plattsburgh; and UVM Foundation, Burlington, VT.

“This is a concrete way for us to partner with them in their overall efforts of making our communities healthier and safer, especially during this most unprecedented time,” Burns adds.

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# NORTH COUNTRY PEOPLE

## NOTABLE



A former Massena resident, Jennifer Bellor, has been named as one of six winners of the American Prize 2020, honoring artists who have "sustained excellence" over a number of seasons as laureates in the competitions.

NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK | MASSENA-OGDENSBURG, NY | JANUARY 23 - 29, 2021

## SUNY Canton names students to Dean's List for 2020

CANTON -- More than 500 students earned Dean's List honors during the fall 2020 semester at SUNY Canton. Dean's List recognizes full-time students with a GPA between 3.25 and 3.74.

From Massena: Sydney Belge, Alexander Boyden, Samantha Devlin, Luis Estevez-Breton, Michael Francis III, Zackery Goolden, Brianna Hartigan, Katherine Havican, Amy Lake, Alyssa Laneville, Raphael Leblanc, Rebecca

Lobdell, Brandon McPherson, Kala Shope, Aliza O'Geen, Candace O'Neill, Kourtney Peets, Heather Rosenberg, Sydney Shadle, Jeselyn Simpson, Bhushan Takhtani, Alayna Taraska, Baylie Trumble, Dylan Tyo, Madison Weir, Oren White, and Nicky Young.

From Ogdensburg: Fadi Karoum, Danielle St. Denis, Jacob Adner, Kursten Cooke, Jaylene Dawle, Erin Denner, Sara Denny, Andee Farrand, Rheanne Fortune, James

Gibson, Bailey Gilmour, Rachael Hamilton, Bradley Hillier, Adrien Hyde, Jacob Kinney, Zachary LaFave, Katherine Larock, Lucas Larose, Timothy Lashomb, Mollie Lawton, Caitlin Mahoney, Gregory Mallott, Chelsea Montroy, Sydney Morley, Isabelle Powers, John Powers, Chelsey Raven, Emily Rayburn, Tessa Richardson, Keegan Robinson, Julian Rufa, Wanda Snickles, Shannon Szafranski, and Trenton Yerdon.

Other area students include: Jheri White, Akwesasne; Gabrielle Durant, Chase Mills; Taylor Arquitt, Elizabeth Cutway, Alyssa Fisher, Brett Gleason, and Savannah Rathbun all of Hammond; Stacie Hale, Hermon; Sarah Dupree, Frank Omarah, Makayla Paro and Thomas Schofell all of Heuvelton; Rae-Ann Adams, Mia Arnold, and Kenneth Arquette all of Hogansburg.

Additional students include: Austin Cadrette, Nathan Cota, and

Cheali Kench all of Lisbon; Dylan Aumell, Hannah Brady, Jillian Breitbeck, Gabrielle Torres all of Norfolk; Elizabeth Arquette, Laura Jones, and Stephani Sherwood all of North Lawrence; Elizabeth Azar, Nichalos Burke, Alexis Jackson, Emily Kolanko, Hailey Lepage, Hailey Scovil, and Damion Taylor all of Norwood; Caleb Cisco, Charles Clark III, and Kaylee Whalen all of Waddington; Michaelyn Hunter, Chase Sweeney, and Cole Sweeney both of Winthrop.

## SUNY Canton Dean's List students

CANTON -- The following students have been named to the SUNY Canton President's List for fall 2020. From Ogdensburg: Shannon Abar, Eric Anson, Courtney Baker, Mark Barr, Bailey Benware, Cortney Brunet, Christina Bush, Jessie Gagnon, Keeley Grizzuto, Breanna Hacia, Michael Hazen-Courson, Nicole Holmes, Heather Howe, Mary Johnson, Jad Karroum, Jayden Kench, Brogan LaRose, Ruthanne

Middlemiss, Brandon Montroy, Shane Moyer, Dana Olmstead, Livia Shaver, Jordan Snyder, Jackson Troiano, Harrison Wert, Fayeane West, Heather Worden and Callee Zulauf.

From Massena: Amber Delosh-Niles, Megan Eddy, Ian Frederick, Alexis Gondosch, Jessica Goodfellow, Jocelyn Gotham, Sara LaDuke, Kamren LeBire, Patrick Obrien, Marcella Perry, Abigail Shearer,

Christopher Shearer, Diane Shearer, Breanna Taraska, Emily Witkop, and Carlena Wright

Others area students include: Jacob Dutch, Benjamin Horner, Ansen Weegar, Eric Wiley and Rebecca Wiley all from Brasher Falls; Patrick Dubuque and Bryan O'Hearon from Chase Mills; Halle Coffey, Jade Coffey, Leeann Gotham, Kate Rowe all of Hermon; Katie Palmer, Heuvelton; Jacob Bero, Hogansburg; Nicole Bonno, Joshua Godbout, Jillian O'Brien, Donica Robinson and Nathan Spooner, all of Lisbon; Logan Green, Morristown; Kyle Chen, Raymondville; Kambree White, Russell; Kyle Field and Carmen Hall of Waddington; Ryan Besaw and Emily Burgess, Richville; Cole Currier and Fisnik Hadzovic, from Norfolk; Noah Felix, North Lawrence; Dylan Bradley, West Stockholm; Joshua D'Souza, Emily Deshane, Erik Hull, Grace Lyon, Chad Mason Jr and Hannah White, Winthrop.

## Students name to SUNY Potsdam honors list

POTSDAM -- The State University of New York at Potsdam recently named 245 students who excelled academically in the Fall 2020 semester to the College's Dean's List. Students on the Dean's list have a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49.

Local students named to the list include: Elizabeth Mitchell, Hope

Switzer, and Cael Woodcock from Ogdensburg; Kirby Thompson and Morgan Arquette of Hogansburg; Grace LePage and Gabriella Scott both of Waddington; Samantha Newtown, Helena; Shane Rose, Brasher Falls; Emily Thomas, Chase Mills and Alyson Crosby and Morgan Macaulay, both of Brier Hill.

## BRIEFLY

### Two honored at WGU

The following local residents have earned an Award of Excellence at Western Governors University (WGU). The award is given to students who perform at a superior level in their coursework. They include: Ryan Duquette, Nicholasville, in the Business College, and

Jamie Hyde, Ogdensburg, in the Teachers College.

### Siena honor students

Local students recently named to Siena College's Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester include: Cole Allen, Massena and Lorraine Hollis, Ogdensburg. To be named to the Dean's List, a student's grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.

**SUBMITTING MILESTONES:** To obtain a form to submit an engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement, visit [NorthCountryNow.com/submit-milestone](http://NorthCountryNow.com/submit-milestone), call 315-265-1000, or email [ThisWeek@NorthCountryNow.com](mailto:ThisWeek@NorthCountryNow.com).

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8	6	4	3	1	9	5	7	2





## Food producer classes offered in February online

CANTON -- St. Lawrence Cornell Cooperative Extension offers two workshops for food producers; one for those thinking of including a new value-added product to their line, and a second panel discussion with the state departments of Health, and Ag & Markets in February.

"Production Options for Farm Food Products" will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 6-8 p.m. online.

When discussing this possibility there are many options to pursue, such as co-packing, private labeling, building a facility or renting offsite commercial space.

While there are similarities across these production options, each possibility has differences that affect business such as: who is making the product, who owns the recipe, what records need to be kept, startup costs and more.

The session will be led by Flip Filippi, local food program leader and Harvest Kitchen

manager with guest Jori Wekin, founder of Hub on the Hill in Essex County.

This online session is well-suited to individuals or businesses who are considering creating a value-added product.

The panel discussion with the state departments will be held Thursday, Feb. 18 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. with Flippi and Joanna Clifford-Allard, senior sanitarian for the St. Lawrence County DOH and Greg Cuthbert, food inspector for Ag & Markets.

Participants will hear directly from the professionals what to expect in an inspection, resources to operate a business, common challenges of new food entrepreneurs and tips for maintaining a productive relationship with inspectors/sanitarians.

Cost is on a sliding scale of what participants can afford for these sessions, and registration can be found online at [stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu/events](http://stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu/events).



Ellen Nesbitt | NCTM

Chicken piccata offers a citrus flavor and is a quick fix any day.

### Recipe of the Month

## Easy chicken for a fancy Valentine's Day dinner

Looking for something amazing for a fancy Valentine's Day dinner, but easy enough to whip up quickly? Chicken piccata is the answer. This recipe can be made in about half hour.

Serve with a side of vegetables or pasta.

2 large chicken breasts  
salt and pepper to taste  
1/4 t. garlic powder  
Flour for dredging  
4 T butter  
1 T olive oil  
3/4 c chicken stock or broth  
Zest of 1 lemon  
1 T lemon juice  
1 T brined capers  
Cut chicken breasts in half horizontally. If

they aren't very thick, they can be pounded thinner with meat mallet or a can of vegetables.

Salt and pepper each side. Dredge breast in flour and set aside.

In a large skillet heat on high melt 2 T of butter and olive oil, when hot, carefully add the chicken and cook 4-5 minutes on each side. Heat may be lowered to avoid burning.

Remove chicken. Remove pan from heat, add stock, lemon zest, juice, remaining butter and capers. Place back on heat and cook sauce bubbling. Reduce heat and return chicken to pan to heat through.

Serve with chopped parsley or parmesan cheese sprinkled on top.

It can also be made into a creamy dish, just substitute 1/2 c of heavy cream for 1/2 cup of broth.

## 'Starting with Sourdough' class offered by SL Cornell Coop. Extension

CANTON -- Have you been intrigued with sourdough but too intimidated to try? Or perhaps having difficulty with a starter? St. Lawrence County Cornell Cooperative Extension sponsors "Starting with Sourdough" online class, Saturday, Jan. 23, 1-3 p.m.

With experience as both a professional and home baker, Alexandra Brown will walk through a variety of sourdough recipes, focusing on bread while touching on other applications.

Additionally, she will cover strategies for maintaining a vigorous sourdough starter

and insight into baking techniques.

A supplementary follow up discussion will take place a month after the workshop, allowing participants to share successes, troubleshoot problems and ask questions during and after the session.

All pre-registered participants will receive the link to the class recording along with the recipes.

This class is made available on a sliding scale from \$0-30. If you are able to contribute support is appreciated.

To register visit [stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu](http://stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu)

## Some foods can bolster hormones that promote happiness

BY MAGGIE ELLIOTT  
Nature Storehouse

It's that time of year--the days are short and the sun is sparse.

Living at a far north longitude in the winter can be hard on one's mental health.

While there are many factors influencing mood-- like sun exposure, quality of relationships, and what you ate for lunch-- most of it can be traced back to hormones.

Two crucial hormones for mood are serotonin and dopamine.

Serotonin is responsible for stabilizing mood and promoting a sustained feeling of wellbeing.

It is also important for the sleep-wake cycle as it is the precursor to the hormone melatonin.

Over 90% of the body's serotonin resides in the gut! Gut bacteria actually promote serotonin production through their manufacture of short chain fatty acids (SCFAs).

To bolster healthy serotonin levels feed your gut bacteria with a variety of prebiotic rich foods. A mixture of raw and cooked vegetables, leafy greens, cooked cold potatoes, less-ripe bananas, overnight oats, legumes, citrus, berries, mushrooms, and collagen will provide a rich array of substrates (prebiotics) to feed your gut.

You may also consider supplementing with

probiotics from time to time, especially if you have ever taken antibiotics as these can kill off large portions of your gut microbiome.

The precursor to serotonin is the essential amino acid tryptophan. Consuming adequate protein from meats, eggs, and legumes can help with healthy serotonin levels.

If you're actively struggling with depression you may consider the supplement 5-HTP. This is the natural chemical precursor to serotonin, derived from tryptophan.

Another hormone, dopamine, is known as the "reward chemical". It is responsible for short term motivation and is the driving factor behind addictive behaviors. If you need a quick pick-me-up, you can hack the dopamine

response by completing a small task on your list.

While vital for basic functions like motor control, alertness, and learning, dopamine in excess can lead to unwanted impulsive behavior.

It has been shown that high levels of serotonin can inhibit dopamine production, while low levels of serotonin can cause overproduction of dopamine. Therefore, the best way to keep dopamine levels in check is to nurture healthy serotonin levels through a prebiotic rich diet.

Maggie Elliott is an employee at Nature's Storehouse and a NASM Certified personal trainer.

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**Congress shall make no law** respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States

NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK | MASSENA-OGDENSBURG, NY | JANUARY 23 - 29, 2021

## LETTERS

### SLC Republican chairwoman Stands with Stefanik

I am proud to stand with Congresswoman Elise Stefanik as she once again takes the national stage to defend our constitutional rights.

Congresswoman Stefanik was one of the first to condemn what happened on the Capitol grounds. I, too, am appalled at what happened last week and with the looting and rioting that happened last summer in cities across the country.

The right to vote is sacred. Our election process is prescribed and protected by the Constitution. Many Americans have lost confidence with the integrity of our electoral system. Regarding our recent election, questions remain unanswered and therefore require further investigation and exploration.

There is concern that the 2020 election did indeed include unprecedented voting irregularities in some parts of the country. For example, it is clear, the Constitution requires state legislatures (or state legislators) to set election law; as we saw in the 2020 election, judges, governors and secretaries of state usurped the state legislature's authority and made serious changes to election law. This issue needs to be debated and discussed.

If the American people are going to begin to regain trust in our elections, there must be transparency. Congresswoman Stefanik continues to seek transparency.

On another note, shame on Harvard University for removing Congresswoman Stefanik from the Senior Advisory Committee of the Institute of Politics at Harvard Kennedy School.

Thank you, Congresswoman Stefanik, for continuing to be a champion for the Constitution and the North County.

Nancy K. Martin, Chairwoman  
SLC Republican Committee

### City again ignores firefighters' contract

On Sunday January 17, 2021, at approximately 7:30 PM, City Manager Stephen Jellie, issued an order via email to departmental personnel that effective 7 AM today, he and city administration would again ignore our contract by reducing the mutually agreed upon staffing minimum from five to four.

Ogdensburg Firefighters Local 1799 recognizes this as yet another egregious violation of our safety and contract with the city we protect. This obscene directive not only disregards our collectively bargained agreement, but also violates the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard of

two-in/two-out, and conveniently ignores the impact this will have on our vital service expected by the citizens, businesses, and visitors to our great city.

Our Union views this most recent action by the city as a direct attack on Article 18 of our contract which states, "A minimum of 5 bargaining unit employees (4 firefighters plus 1 officer, or 3 firefighters plus 2 officers) shall be on-duty at all times unless otherwise mutually agreed to in writing for the period of this contract."

Secondly, this directive turns a blind eye to specific OSHA provisions regarding two-in/two-out regulations.

\*OSHA 1910.134(g)(4) requires that that at least two employees be located outside the Immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) atmosphere). This assures that the "two in" can monitor each other and assist with equipment failure or entrapment or other hazards, and the "two out" can monitor those in the building, initiate rescue, or call for back-up."

As a department, our 5-man minimum has not been bargained for arbitrarily. Realizing the importance of safety in emergency operations, and our responsibility to operate as such, the number five has always been our line in the sand. Running an interior firefighting crew with five, without immediate assistance presents a myriad of challenges.

However, with five, our department was still capable of arriving on scene, securing a water supply, and entering a structure to successfully mitigate a structure fire. This has been done numerous times while still adhering to OSHA law. This will not be the case with four. Any attempt by the city manager or city administration to do so is illegal, reckless and dangerous.

Likewise and not to be understated, is the impact on our service that citizens, businesses, and visitors of this city will actually receive given this vindictive directive.

With a crew size of four, the City of Ogdensburg will no longer have an interior firefighting unit.

Interior firefighting involves a coordinated attack to get to, "the seat of the fire," or origin point. For over 15 decades, our department has prided itself on rushing into homes to find points of origin and quelling fires, in an effort to maintain life and property.

However, with this administration's ignorance of OSHA directives and the exponential growth at which fire spreads, we will no longer be able to safely operate to save these homes.

Lastly, the city manager has led citizens of Ogdensburg to believe that his disregard for our contract and pre-existing plans to manage structure fires within our city will be dealt with accordingly by, "automatic mutual aid."

However, these auto-aid agreements have not been signed by neighboring departments, nor will they be. Mr. Jellie has skirted this by ordering our officers to request outside assistance immediately, even before the extent of the emergency is realized.

Dangerously mobilizing units that may not be necessary, in order to justify the elimination of jobs within our Union is incredibly unsafe and inconsiderate not only to

## NCNOW SURVEY

### The Question: Do you support paying traffic fines by installments?

**NORTH COUNTRY** Drivers in St. Lawrence County who can't afford to pay a traffic fine in full will now be able pay via installments. The Driver's License Suspension Reform Act ends the practice of suspending licenses of people who haven't been able to pay their fines. Do you support installment payments for traffic fines?

**HERE ARE COMMENTS** from some survey participants:

'Should have always been this way.'

'This is a good first step in eliminating the financial inequality that keeps poor people without a license because their income can't support it.'

'People need to be held accountable. Break the law and pay the fines. It's not easy but maybe they need to give up their smokes for a few days.'

'It just doesn't pay to be a law-abiding citizen anymore. People who violate laws are the ones getting all the breaks.'

**TO READ MORE COMMENTS**, visit [NorthCountryNow.com/ncnow-survey](http://NorthCountryNow.com/ncnow-survey).

Ogdensburg, but to its surrounding municipalities and their departments.

Similarly, the immediacy of this order has to be taken into consideration.

As Interim-Fire Chief, Mr. Jellie has done nothing to familiarize, instruct, or train our personnel on how to safely operate with a four man minimum.

As with all things from this manager, directives are sent down to be followed right away, without proper consideration of the safety and well-being of the men he leads, nor the citizens of the city he manages.

Our officers were given a meager 12 hours to make this total change in departmental operations, with nothing more than an email.

In emergency services, minutes matter. Automatically mobilizing volunteer resources despite their refusal, with an estimated time of arrival exceeding 15 minutes is not sufficient to maintain our departmental ability to safely preserve life and property.

This most recent move by city management has continued their theme of utter disregard for resident and employee safety.

Our Union finds this disheartening and dangerous. This all coming during an unprecedented global pandemic, when public safety should be at the forefront of all policymakers.

Jason Bouchard, Pres.  
O'burg Firefighters Local 1799

### City moving forward budget as planned

The City of Ogdensburg continues to move forward with the re-structuring and reduction of the fire department as planned, and approved in the 2021 City Budget. IAFF Local 1799 President Jason Bouchard is not being truthful



Cathy Whalen | NCTW

**TO TAKE THE CURRENT SURVEY**, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/FR88VFY](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FR88VFY)

**THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:** Assemblyman Mark Walczyk expressed opposition to legislation that would force the detention of New Yorkers alleged to be carrying communicable diseases for up to eight business days. The bill has raised new concerns about

the impact it could have on New Yorkers if enacted. Do you support a law allowing contagious patients to be detained during a state of emergency?

The NCNow Survey is an unscientific poll of visitors to NorthCountryNow.com who choose to participate. Please keep comments to 150 words or fewer; all are subject to editing.

when he asserts the reduction in daily minimum staffing was a surprise or is something new.

The city began planning for the reduction of the fire department in August 2020 while working on the 2021 City Budget; IAFF Local 1799 simply failed to participate in any meaningful way toward finding a collective solution, in fact, they refused each and every opportunity to work together on a plan.

The City of Ogdensburg, and any city for that matter, with an average household income per person of \$38,000 can no longer afford the average cost of \$131,000 per firefighter, and the additional perks that coincide with those jobs and it would be irresponsible for city government to allow that to continue as a matter of policy.

With an overall organization strength of 20, it is not possible to maintain daily staffing of 5 on each of 4 work shifts, IAFF Local 1799 knows this but they will use each and every opportunity to instill fear, anxiety and insecurity in their continued efforts to protect their lucrative contract that was hastily agreed to and ratified in the fall of 2019 following the staggering defeat of 4 city council members.

Lives are not in danger, and the increased risk to firefighter personnel and the community by reducing the daily operating force by ONE person is manageable. Assistant Fire Chiefs were notified in late October that these changes were imminent and must be planned for and personnel trained on the impacts to operating procedures.

IAFF Local 1799 also knows this as all the Assistant Fire Chiefs are members of the union.

Further, there is no violation to the OSHA 2 IN / 2 OUT Rule (2 In + 2 Out = 4); IAFF Local 1799 is distorting this federal rule designed

to ensure firefighter safety as part of their campaign of fear and efforts to convince the community that 5 personnel is the "red line" for safety.

The City of Ogdensburg leadership is confident that the Ogdensburg Fire Department will continue to operate safely and efficiently as it always has, with ONE less person operating on each shift.

It is unfortunate that IAFF Local 1799 is choosing to use fear as a community motivator instead of projecting confidence in the fire department's ability to adapt to the challenges facing all city departments and employees.

Every department in the City of Ogdensburg is doing more (lots more) with less and not spending every possible moment complaining about it.

IAFF Local 1799's continued, almost daily campaign of writing long and lengthy media releases about that are designed for the sole purpose of protecting their perks is embarrassing and shows a real lack of concern for anything else occurring in the city.

It really is time that the members of IAFF Local 1799 stop complaining, get back to work and appreciate the salaries, healthcare benefits and retirement packages they are guaranteed - those three items really should be enough.

City Manager Stephen P. Jellie continues to urge IAFF Local 1799 President Jason Bouchard to finally roll up his sleeves and get to work collectively on a solution that would return the remaining three laid off firefighters back to work (just like all of the union's officers), and we sincerely urge IAFF Local 1799 to join the decisive efforts taken by city council to save the city, while working equally as hard to revive the city.

Stephen Jellie  
Ogdensburg City Manager

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## Cost of city firefighters, city's offer outlined

*In order to lower taxes and have funds to make essential infrastructure repairs throughout the city, it is essential to reduce expenses within the Ogdensburg Fire Department.*

*Every other department in the city has suffered cuts so that residents have a chance for a prosperous future.*

*Here is the city's settlement offer to unionized city firefighters, the total cost for each firefighter, and how their compensation compares to other city employees.*



### Average cost of city firefighter

Salary Total (without Chief)	\$1,395,028
Overtime	\$96,000
Sick Leave Incentive	\$12,000
Time Accruals Payouts	\$42,588
Longevity Incentive	-
Health Insurance Buyout	\$16,000
Police/Fire Retirement	\$582,198
Social Security Expense	\$106,719
Health Insurance without retiree costs	<u>\$388,831</u>
<b>Total cost with benefits for 20 firefighters</b>	<b>\$2,639,364</b>
<b>Avg. cost per firefighter</b>	<b>\$131,968</b>

Source: 2021 Budget

### How total firefighter pay compares to other city employees

<b>Average salary of firefighters</b> (union positions only)	\$70,767
Avg. salary with benefits, taxes & related expenses	<b>\$131,968</b>
<b>Average salary of city management positions</b>	\$94,496
Avg. salary with benefits, taxes & related expenses	<b>\$131,889</b>
<b>Average Salary of police department</b> (union positions only)	\$63,971
Avg. salary with benefits, taxes & related expenses	<b>\$123,442</b>
<b>Average Salary of DPW</b> (union positions only)	\$51,702
Avg. salary with benefits, taxes & related expenses	<b>\$83,697</b>
<b>Average salary of administrative staff</b>	\$50,755
Avg. salary with benefits, taxes & related expenses	<b>\$76,611</b>

Source: 2021 Budget

### City of Ogdensburg settlement proposal to IAFF Local 1799

- 1. MINIMUM DEPARTMENT-LEVEL STAFFING**  
24 Firefighters for the balance of the CBA term
- 2. MINIMUM DAILY STAFFING**  
4 Employees (1 Officer & 3 Firefighters)
- 3. MAXIMUM PERSONNEL ON VACATION**  
1 per shift on scheduled vacations
- 4. SHIFT PERSONNEL STRUCTURE**  
1 Captain - 5 Firefighters
- 5. VACATION TIME**  
No longer paid out annually if unused. It will be scheduled and used annually.
- 6. SICK LEAVE BONUSES**  
Remove annual sick leave usage bonuses;  
Leave career sick leave buy-out.
- 7. SUPPLEMENTAL DISABILITY INSURANCE**  
Remove free supplemental disability insurance --  
no other city employees receive this free.
- 8. OUT OF TITLE WORK**  
Eliminate out-of-title pay for 2 or less consecutive shifts.
- 9. TRAINING OVERTIME**  
Employees will be paid overtime (choice of pay or comp - hour worked/hour earned)
- 10. HOLIDAYS**  
Holiday Pay only if the holiday is worked.
- 11. EMT STIPEND**  
No longer paid effective Jan. 1, 2021.
- 12. HAZARD PAY**  
Only paid for any daily shifts that operate for longer than 2 hours below 4.
- 13. CODE ENFORCEMENT**  
Remove all perks for assisting with this work.





Ogdensburg's Lockwood Arena reopened last week after being closed due to safety concerns with COVID. St. Lawrence Steel 10U, of Canton Minor Hockey, practice there Saturday.

NcNow photo

## Lockwood Arena now open

BY JIMMY LAWTON  
North Country This Week

OGDENSBURG – Ogdensburg's Lockwood Arena is open with a Saturday free skate scheduled from 5:50 to 6:30 p.m., but availability is limited to 30 people.

Director of Public Works Shane Brown said anyone who hasn't been to the arena recently will need to fill out some paperwork, which is available by calling the DPW at 315-393-2300.

He said temperatures are taken at the door and a release waiver must be signed.

Brown said most of the available ice time is spoken for as youth hockey and figure skating and other teams are renting space due to the closure of Ogdensburg Free Academy's Golden Dome.

Brown says anyone interested in attending free skates must register in advance by calling the DPW.

Brown says he's hopeful more free skates can be offered but said the ice rink has been booked up with other rinks closed down due to COVID-19.

He said extra cleaning is also eating up some of the time that would be allotted for rentals.

City Manager Stephen Jellie decided to open the arena despite the high number of COVID-19 cases after

consultation with Ogdensburg School Superintendent Kevin Kendall.

Several area youth groups and councilors also lobbied for the opening.

### Fees

Renting the ice will cost resident youth groups \$71.50 per hour and non-resident youth groups \$81.50 per hour.

Adult residents can rent the ice for \$81.50 per hour and non-residents can rent ice for \$1-5.50 per hour.

On Monday through Friday from a discount of \$60 per hour is available before 3 p.m., but excludes holidays and school breaks.

Ice can be rented for special events for \$71.50 per hour and skate rentals are included.

Public skates cost \$1 with \$3 skate rentals. No season passes are offered this year as closures of the arena are unpredictable.

### Facilities

The Lockwood offers a warming room with vending machines, a heated mezzanine with bleachers for spectators, locker rooms with showers and a heated score box for hockey and ice sports as well as a sound system.

## Library offering curbside programs

OGDENSBURG – Ogdensburg Public Library remains open with reduced hours and is offering curbside craft programs for area youth.

One craft will be for elementary age children and the other for children aged 18 months to 4 years. The elementary aged crafts will feature African American inventors and each kit will include the bio of an inventor and an activity or craft based on their invention.

Those crafts can be picked up Feb/ 4, 11, 18 and 25 at no charge.

Reserve a craft by calling 315-393-4325. Complete the craft at home. Each kit contains a short fact sheet featuring an African American inventor and everything you need to complete a craft or activity based on one of their inventions.

Younger children will receive a craft teaching them important pre-literacy skills and concepts like colors,

shapes, letters and numbers. Each Toddler kit will also include a free picture book.

Those will be available Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 12.

Reserve a craft by calling 315-393-4325. Complete the craft at home. Each kit contains an early literacy pamphlet with a song and instructions for a craft, the materials to make the craft and a free picture book to read together.

The library is open for browsing and computer use Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On Wednesdays access is available from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. And on Thursdays and Fridays it is open from 1:30 to 4:40 p.m.

Curbside hours are offered 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays. On Wednesdays pickup is available from 11:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. On Thursdays and Fridays curbside is offered from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m.

## Mountain Club slating snowshoe, hike

The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) welcomes the public to take part in its events. Those who have questions or want to go on a particular event, contact the leader/organizer

for that event. Questions about the overall program or about the ADK, contact Joan Trivilino at 315-276-1663 or joantrivilino@hotmail.com.

• Saturday February 27: Snowshoe to Pinnacle Mountain. Near

Santa Clara. 4 to 5 miles RT. The first 1.5 miles is flat, and then a 380 foot rise on the mountain trail. Moderate. Contact trip leader Tom Ortmeyer, tortmeye@gmail.com or 315-244-3707.

• Saturday March 20 Spring Equinox Road Walk. 4-6 miles along one of the branches of the Grass River. Moderate. Contact trip leader Tom Ortmeyer, tortmeye@gmail.com or 315-244-3707.

## SAT/ACT workshop

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES is offering the SAT/ACT workshop to high school juniors who plan to take the SAT and/or ACT this spring. Classes will be remote using Google Classroom and Zoom on seven Saturdays or Sundays starting March 6 or 7 through May 1 or 2.

Students from Canton, Colton-Pierrepont, Edwards-Knox, Gouverneur, Hermon-DeKalb, Heuvelton, Lisbon, Madrid-Waddington, Morristown, Norwood-Norfolk, Ogdensburg, and Potsdam must register through guidance counselors by Feb. 10.

Others should mail the registration form available online at <https://satactworkshop.weebly.com/> and fee to David Dufrane by Feb. 10.

Questions? Email Meg Clemens, [satactworkshop@sllbooces.org](mailto:satactworkshop@sllbooces.org).

### BRIEFLY

#### Fish fry

OGDENSBURG -- The Ogdensburg Knights of Columbus, 721 Hasbrouck St., will be host a fish fry on Friday, Jan. 22, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The meal includes fries, mac & cheese, coleslaw and a roll. Also available will be a seafood platter. That meal includes had-dock, shrimp, clam strips, French fries, mac & cheese, coleslaw and a roll. The cost is \$12 per meal and

the public is welcome. Call 315-393-7990 to order. Eac dinner choice is limited to 50. The meal is pick up or delivery only.

#### Chicken BBQ

OGDENSBURG — Ogdensburg VFW Post 293b, 1112 Champlain St., will serve a chicken BBQ Saturday, Feb. 20, from 1 p.m. until sold out. The meal includes a half chicken, salt potatoes, baked beans and a roll for \$12. The meal will be curbside pickup or delivery. For deliveries, call 315-528-7074.

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## Unprecedented challenges for Hospice in 2020

It's no secret 2020 handed down unprecedented challenges for every individual, family, small business and organization across our community.

Luckily, the Progress Edition gives an opportunity for reflection on some of the positive things that occurred and an opportunity to look forward to all the coming year may bring.

As the COVID-19 pandemic became more and more of a reality in our community, frontline healthcare organizations were forced to act swiftly, adjusting virtually every aspect of their care for patients and the loved ones who support them.

With guidance and regulations from state and federal officials changing daily, sometimes hourly, front-liners were forced to adapt to new safety protocols and standards of care, and their work, as they knew it, changed dramatically. Hospice was no exception.

For us, this meant going back to basics. Our organization was founded on providing our family, friends, and neighbors with

the opportunity to remain at home during the end of their life journey. Ensuring this option continued as safely as possible for our patients, their families and our staff became our primary focus.

Our clinical leadership poured over hundreds of pages of guidance on COVID-19 screening for staff, patients, and families; safety protocols were developed and changed, and changed again when required.

A quick shift to offering telehealth and virtual visits was implemented for patients and families who didn't feel comfortable with staff entering the home. Illness does not ignore the boundaries of a pandemic and our staff remained dedicated to providing care each and every day.

Although challenges were present, Hospice served nearly 400 families which amounted to 19,055 days of care.

Hospice care is provided by a team of medical professionals, social workers, registered nurses, LPN's, home health aides and clergy. The team approach ensures care and services

are extended beyond the patient to the entire family.

Healthcare providers in our home-based Advanced Illness Management program provided more than 1,200 visits to patients as they learn to navigate life with a chronic illness.

AIM allows a unique opportunity for patients to receive support with pain and symptom management, monitoring medications and assistance with any sudden changes with the illness.

As we move cautiously into 2021, COVID-19 remains a very real concern. At Hospice, programs and services will continue to be evaluated on the basis of safety for patients, their families and our staff.

We would like to thank the patients and families who entrust their care to our organization, our staff for their dedication and tireless work and the many, many community members who support our work.

For more information visit [www.hospiceslv.org](http://www.hospiceslv.org) or call 31-26-3105.

## Spay Neuter Now entering 27th year providing services

HAMMOND – 2021 is Spay Neuter Now's (SNN) 27th year of providing spay/neuter services to in-need cats & dogs.

Despite the COVID shutdown, SNN was able to spay/neuter a new annual record of 1,563 cats & dogs in 2020 and has now provided assistance for over 23,000 North Country animals.

SNN programs include a high quality, high volume mobile spay/neuter clinic and veterinary partnerships with Town & Country Vet Clinic in Ogdensburg, Potsdam and Massena; and Little Friends Veterinary Services, Lyons Falls.

Since the start of the partnership with Town & Country, their three clinics have provided over 3,500 spays and neuters through this program.

SNN spay/neuter cat packages are \$85 and dog packages range from \$140-\$215 depending on gender, weight and age. All SNN program packages include vaccinations for rabies & distemper as part of this subsidized-cost surgery package.

SNN programs operate primarily in St. Lawrence, Jefferson and Lewis counties for cats & dogs in income-qualified households, as well as for caretakers of free-roaming cats.

Please call 315-489-0541 or visit [www.spayneuternow.org](http://www.spayneuternow.org) for information and to start your application for assistance.

Spay-Neuter-Now is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity and its programs depend on the continued dedication of its supporters, volunteers, donors and staff. Tax-deductible donations can be made to Spay Neuter Now, PO Box 802, Canton, NY 13617.

## Arc Jefferson-St. Lawrence thrives while facing challenges

The Arc Jefferson - St. Lawrence, continues to thrive while facing challenges related to the pandemic. Despite funding cuts and having 20% of the Medicaid budget withheld, the agency supported over 2,000 people with developmental disabilities to lead safe, fulfilling lives in 2020.

Between the counties, there are 51 residential sites, two work centers, seven Day Habilitation site-based programs, Federal contracts at the border stations and Fort Drum, two UPS stores, as well as many community-based work and educational programs for children, teens, and adults. Clinical services such as Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech Therapy, and an Article 16 Clinic are available.

The agency also has certified Applied Behavior Analysts to guide service plans, as needed.

The Arc Jefferson St. Lawrence employs 1,300 staff members and has an annual budget of \$70 million. The agency is overseen by Howard Ganter, chief executive officer and Jackie Sauter serves as the board of directors' president.

"The impact of COVID-19 will be with us for years based on the fiscal challenges it has caused, but we are a resilient organization and will come out of this stronger," stated CEO Howie Ganter. "Words cannot express the appreciation for all our staff members' efforts to keep the people we support safe, keep families informed, and maintain operations despite

not only the pressures of the virus, but the challenges we face daily."

In 2021, the agency will continue to innovate and advocate for quality services, as it has done for nearly 70 years. There will be increased use of technology to support people, and community-based services will be a priority when it is safe to resume these activities. Advocacy will continue to keep programs that the people supported and to increase funding to enhance staff salaries.

The Arc Jefferson - St. Lawrence provides lifelong opportunities that improve the lives of people, so they may achieve their aspirations. To learn more, visit [www.thearcjslc.org](http://www.thearcjslc.org) or on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.



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In 2020, Arconic employees volunteered over 150 hours in over 9 events, donated \$27,000 to local not-for-profit organizations in the area including NorthCountry Animal Shelter, Back the Pack, Meals on Wheels, CPH Foundation, Community Lunch Program for Kids, Community Basket Program and St. Peter's Outreach Ministry. Arconic participated in collections for Christmas of Hope donating stocking stuffers for children in foster care, pet food and supplies for the Massena Community Center, and coats for St. Peter's Outreach Ministry.





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## New location for Bronson One Hour

Bronson One Hour and Roto-Rooter has moved!

We recently purchased 7585 US Highway 11, across the road from the old location in June 2020. Although still renovating, we are open for business.

The Bronson name has been known in the plumbing and heating business since 1946.

Harry Bronson, Dan Bronson's father, started his plumbing and heating business in the summer of 1946. Dan started working full time in the business after graduating from Canton College in 1971. Harry Bronson retired in 1986.

Dan and his wife Pat wanted to go in a different direction and started their own business in April of 1986 under the name Bronson Service Corp. The first DBA was for the plumbing side of the business as Roto-Rooter Plumbing Service. Dan had purchased the Roto-Rooter franchise servicing St Lawrence County in 1976.

At the start of the business, the heating was done under the name of Bronson Service Corp. until the purchase of the One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning Franchise in 2003.

Roto-Rooter Plumbing is not just a drain cleaning service; it does all facets of plumbing service from water pumps and systems, sewage pumps and systems, water heaters, faucets, toilets and water conditioning. Sewer cleaning, for residential and commercial, is done with many types of equipment from cable machines, pressure jetters, both with hot and cold water and, thawing machines, for a solution to almost every drain problem.

As a new offering Roto-Rooter has recently purchased trenchless sewer replacement equipment to repair or replace sewer sys-

tems with minimal intrusion to the area. Roto-Rooter has a 100 % satisfaction guarantee on all work and you know your price before you start with their straightforward pricing.

In 2008 Bronson Service Corp. became a dealer for Kinetico water softeners and other water conditioning products.

With Bronson's One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning, you will receive first class service that is professional and on time. You will breathe easy knowing all one hour technicians are professionally trained, skilled and experienced and ready to help.

We handle many brands of high efficient oil, natural gas and propane boilers and furnaces.

We also install high efficient air conditioners and heat pumps and Mitsubishi ductless mini split air conditioning and heat pumps. Bronson One Hour is a Mitsubishi "Diamond Dealer."

We have a satisfaction guarantee on the heating side as well.

If you aren't 100% satisfied with the work we will make it right.

All costs will be detailed up front for your approval before any work begins with their Straight Forward Pricing™.

All installations are performed to the highest safety and quality standards. All employees are drug tested and background checked.

We also have protection plans for your equipment to fit your home's needs, and many financing options for replacement equipment.

You have our personal commitment to providing superior service. So, get comfortable now and discover the One Hour difference.

Follow us on Facebook at One Hour at Bronson Service and Roto-Rooter Potsdam.

## Arconic helps expand fish monitoring

With the support of a grant from Arconic Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, an environmental conservation nonprofit that works locally and globally, is expanding its use of innovative eDNA monitoring technology to protect iconic lake whitefish and cisco

species in the rivers and waterways near the Arconic facility in Massena.

The Nature Conservancy will seek to use this cutting-edge technology to investigate the extent of the threat posed by invasive species and how native species can be best protected.



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# St. Lawrence County IDA points to 2020 positive developments

The mission of the St. Lawrence County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is to promote, encourage, attract, and develop job opportunities and economically sound commerce and industry in St. Lawrence County.

Although 2020 was a difficult year, there were positive economic development activities in the County. For example, an overwhelming number of our key private sector employers were designated as "essential" industries, enabling these businesses to continue their operations throughout the pandemic, limiting layoffs and positioning them for future success. Additionally, company expansion projects are underway at Corning Inc, In-Law Brewing Company, North American Forest Group, and Structural Wood Corporation.

The ability of our employers, including private industry, not-for-profit, and public institutions to persevere throughout this pandemic has been remarkable. Their success is a testament both to their own resiliency and to the dedication of our local workforce.

The IDA spent most of the year working with its partners responding to the pandemic. In addition to chairing the County's Reopening Task Force, the IDA worked with the County Chamber, Small Business Development Center, Cooperative Extension, and numerous local, regional, and state economic development part-

ners to provide businesses and residents with the best information possible regarding customer and worker safety, financial assistance, and general business guidance.

At the beginning of the crisis, the IDA assisted businesses in seeking the essential business designation that helped keep many open. The IDA worked quickly with the North Country Alliance to create an emergency loan fund for businesses and a payment moratorium was offered early on to IDA Local Development Corporation borrowers so companies could plan accordingly for their short-term needs.

IDA staff reached out to several hundred businesses to offer support. Ads ran on local radio stations, in print, and online. As the crisis evolved, the IDA worked with its partners to host virtual networking events to help businesses connect and learn from one another. Window and lawn signs were placed in front of businesses and institutions to encourage and enhance the public health messaging. Progress in St. Lawrence County can be seen through a number of important property redevelopment projects. Quarry Potsdam, LLC, is moving forward with the renovation of the 88,572 square foot building known as Clarkson University's Old Snell Hall in downtown Potsdam. Through an IDA PILOT for the project, the building, will generate over \$2.1 million in PILOT payments

to the village, town, county, and school district over the next 30 years.

The IDA has received a \$500,000 award from the Northern Border Regional Council and a \$200,000 loan/grant award from the Development Authority of the North Country for rehabilitation work at the 64,000 square foot former Newell Building in Ogdensburg. Plans also continue for the study regarding the development of a business park on property owned by Arconic in Massena. The IDA sought received a \$90,000 award from Empire State Development toward this project.

Eight community-scale solar developments have been approved for PILOT assistance by the IDA. These projects represent over \$120,000 in revenue for the county and taxing jurisdictions in the first year, which will increase by 2% per year over the life of the PILOTS. There are over 20 similar projects in the pipeline. As we work to continue to develop the skills and aptitude of our workforce, the IDA received an award from the USDA Rural Business Development

Grant Program to assist with the cost of tuition for students interested in taking the CDL-A training course now being offered at the CREST Center at SUNY Canton. This seven-week certification program will give people the chance to obtain a Class A Commercial Driver's License locally; 21 students participated in 2020.

The IDA and New York Power Authority hosted the business-to-business "Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership" program that is the first spin off from a highly successful program initiated at the University of Buffalo. SUNY Canton is the local sponsor for this affiliation. Six small business leaders from throughout the county completed the session. The IDA Local Development Corporation and St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency also approved \$100,000 in awards for the 2020 River Valley Community Development and Environmental Improvement Program and provided \$700,000 in loan financing packages for numerous local companies.

Info: 315-379-9806 or visit [www.slcida.com](http://www.slcida.com).

## Village Green series ready for 2021

The Norwood Village Green Concert Series is a non-profit founded to impact our home communities via inspiring and spirit-uplifting public outdoor performances. The key words here are "Public Outdoor Performances".

In May, 2020 it was decided that the 2020 season of the Norwood Village Green Concert Series would be postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Those restrictions were on-going throughout the traditional series' season. They are continuing and the outlook seems to be that when the series is expected resume in late spring 2021 the restrictions will be lifted.

The series did not engage in any on-line performances due to the nature of its mission

(public outdoor performances) but instead concentrated on facilities improvements.

During the 2020 down-time energies were spent to upgrade the facilities.

The restrooms needed work, especially taking into consideration COVID-19 requirements. The restrooms have received a professional paint job financed by the series and the Village of Norwood will resurface and redo the flooring in the spring of 2021. The lighting project was completed with required electrical system upgrading, and the procurement, installation, and programming of the system.

The series 48th annual season in 2021's theme is "Taking a Sad Song and Making it Better".

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# St. Lawrence Health System brings new models of patient-centered care

St. Lawrence Health System (SLHS) continues to bring new models of patient-centered, cost-effective, accountable care to our community.

As a 'health system,' SLHS integrates three hospitals; Canton-Potsdam Hospital, which includes a Level III Trauma Center; Gouverneur Hospital; and Massena Hospital.

In addition, SLHS consists of an extensive network of outpatient specialty and primary care facilities across the County, including in Brasher Falls, Canton, Colton, DeKalb Junction, Edwards, Gouverneur, Louisville, Massena, Norfolk, and Potsdam.

SLHS also serves as a powerful engine of access, progress, and growth that helps to strengthen the North Country's economy. As the largest employer in St. Lawrence County, SLHS employs 1,950 staff and 195 full-time medical providers.

At the close of 2020, SLHS successfully recruited more than 25 new providers in the specialty fields of anesthesiology, cardiology,

emergency medicine, gastroenterology, general surgery, hospital medicine, midwifery, orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, podiatry, and pulmonology.

Our hospitals also serve as important training grounds for future healthcare leaders. In many communities, the local hospital is the leading source of jobs and helps support other local businesses.

On January 1, 2020, Massena Hospital began operating as a member of SLHS; ensuring long-term stability of coordinated healthcare within the Massena community.

Since its inclusion a year ago, the Hospital's primary care practices have been granted Rural Health Clinic status, which helps solidify consistency of care for patients within rural and underserved communities.

Massena Hospital also joins Canton-Potsdam and Gouverneur hospitals in achieving national accreditation from Det Norske Veritas (DNV), the only hospital accreditation program approved by the US Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that integrates the ISO 9001 Quality Management System with the Medicare Conditions of Participation.

DNV sets the highest of standards in patient safety and quality with rigorous evaluation processes that impact patient care and patient safety facility- and system-wide.

Gouverneur Hospital began a 2,697 square foot modernization of its former medical surgical space in August.

On schedule for a March 2021 completion, the space will house an Integrated Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic offering comprehensive care for all types of behavioral health needs.

The Hospital's Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Clinic continues to expand its offering of medication-assisted treatment, and the Maternity Wrap (M-Wrap) program has grown into an invaluable support resource for pregnant and post-pregnant patients with substance use disorders.



SL Health System | Provided

**St. Lawrence Health System's Associate Chief Medical Officer and St. Lawrence County Board of Health President Andrew Williams, MD, FACP, receives the first Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine administered at Canton-Potsdam Hospital by CPH Director of Nursing Education Amy Nugent.**

As an extension of the Hospital's outreach, telehealth, peer recovery, and virtual group therapy are made available, continuity of care remains critical for patients of the Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder programs; so much so that OASAS has granted permanent telehealth certification for these outpatient services.

Shortly after the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, therapists of the service line quickly implemented a 24/7 emotional support and mental health hotline (315) 261-5395, to ensure staff and community members could quickly establish help navigating through difficult moments.

SLHS's Clinical and Rural Health Research Department (CRHRD) was awarded an additional \$150K of funding (on top of the \$216K award in 2019) by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The award was earmarked for COVID-19 community education with collaborative work between PCORI, healthcare providers, patients, and community members.

The grant was fulfilled through two COVID-19 educational seminars and a three-part educational series.

Throughout the year, CRHRD was engaged in over 20 research projects, including the introduction of local COVID-19 Operation Warp Speed inpatient and outpatient clinical trials, physician-initiated research, and collaborations with local and national universities.

SLHS's obstetrics, gynecology, and fertility program offers telecommunication for high-risk pregnancies where patients are afforded an on-site consult with an off-site specialist. Similarly, Tele-Maternal Fetal Monitoring with a specialist from Rochester Regional Health is now available in real time for patients presenting to the Emergency Department.

SLHS was the first within the County to obtain Endobronchial ultrasound bronchoscopy; a procedure to more accurately diagnose and determine treatment for lung disorders and lung cancer.

Also this year, the Center for Cancer Care was equipped to perform Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (radiosurgery), which targets tumors with high-precision radiation beams; significantly reducing the number of treatments necessary, and a critical alternative for those who cannot undergo surgery.

St. Lawrence Health System experienced a cyberattack on October 28 that resulted in the temporary suspension of information technology applications at two of its hospitals. Through an immediate response of its security teams, there was no unauthorized access, copying, or misuse of patient or employee information.

Concentrated efforts throughout 2020 realized into a formal affiliation between Rochester Regional Health and St. Lawrence Health System on January 1, 2021.

The affiliation will soon avail SLHS and its patients access to Rochester Regional Health's sophisticated electronic health record system (EPIC), innovative population health management programs, and investments in capital improvements and provider recruitment and retention initiatives.

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**SLHS . . .**

Although 2020 was an unprecedented year with unforeseen challenges and mandates, SLHS continued to provide essential care through alternative means, while undertaking new projects that enhance safety and provide access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Early interventions, innovative precautions, enhanced screenings, fast testing, and thorough training on use of personal protective equipment are contributors to SLHS's success in keeping COVID-19 out of its facilities.

Specialty and primary care services began offering telehealth and virtual visits to ensure continued access to essential care for its patients.

SLHS established four COVID-19 testing centers across the County and installed six Rheonix fast-testing units among its hospitals; each unit capable of processes 88 tests per day with results produced within hours of collection.

To care for the communities SLHS serves, inside its hospitals' walls, SLHS constructed additional negative pressure rooms (to accommodate a surge in COVID+ cases), drive-through testing centers, safe and socially distanced waiting areas, an obstetrics triage room within the Birthplace, and installed tempered glass throughout our patient-facing areas.

As a participant in Operation Warp Speed, SLHS acquired ThermoScientific freezer and refrigeration units to accommodate the storage of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, and under coordination with New York State Department of Health and local health departments, was selected as a vaccine distribution point for five North Country hospitals within St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Franklin counties.

Most recently, in collaboration with New York State and St. Lawrence County Public Health, SLHS will manage large-scale points of distribution (PODs) across the County.

Through a collaboration with New York State and SUNY Potsdam, the first POD

became active at Maxcy Hall the week of January 18, 2021.

SLHS is proud to collaborate with local universities and high schools to quickly meet the robust safety demands of COVID-19; including designing an emergency department respiratory unit, construction of intubation safety boxes, invention of a more efficient mask strapping and sterilization process, extending the battery life longevity of Positive Air Pressure Respirators, supplemental freezer storage, utilizing clinical student resources for testing and vaccinating the masses, and hosting County-wide vaccination PODs.

As a result of collective fundraising efforts among foundations, guilds, and auxiliaries across SLHS, more than \$500,000 was realized; supporting initiatives such as clinical enhancements, suicide prevention education, nursing education, COVID-19 response efforts, enrichments in patient experience, and equipment for simulation training.

An additional \$1.966M was received in grant funding for programs including

COVID-19 telehealth, opioid treatment, maternal wrap-around services, cancer screening support, patient-centered clinical outcomes education, and patient safety initiatives.

As of December 2020, SLHS achieved an annual net operating revenue of \$296M, inclusive of operating revenues for CPH, CPMP, GH, and MH.

SLHS also received \$21.6M in CARE funding as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to support COVID-19 patient care initiatives.

"We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support we have received from our local community members. Your words of encouragement and strength continue to make a difference," said St. Lawrence Health System President David Acker.

"We expect 2021 will present a combination of recovery and growth. While we are working to ensure our communities receive vaccines as soon as possible, we remain optimistic and poised to expect the unexpected."

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St. Lawrence Health System continues to work in collaboration with state and local public health officials to meet the needs of our communities. Together, we remain resourceful, innovative, and prepared to offer access to safe healthcare, vaccinations, and high-speed testing.

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# Staff and professionals at CHMC pivoted to face pandemic challenge

To say 2020 was a challenging year would be understating the obvious: it was a year of relentless unknowns, universally forcing Claxton-Hepburn Medical Center and the North Country to adapt and improvise on how we live our everyday lives.

The “normal” we all knew disappeared, and our staff and medical professionals were forced to pivot from day-to-day operations, treatment, and prevention to preparing and caring for patients of an unpredictable pandemic.

For Claxton-Hepburn, like so many other healthcare systems, it was a year of difficult decisions that were necessary to ensure future care remains here for our patients, care truly

driven by local decision makers to keep us North Country Strong.

Strong patient care has been a constant driver during 2020. At the onset of the pandemic, we created the Respiratory Clinic and COVID Nursing Advice Hotline as proactive responses. Recognizing the challenges of accessing needed care, we worked hard to reopen all of our patient care services to the community as soon as state mandates allowed.

Most services are available now, including physical rehabilitation, cardiology, lab and x-ray, surgical services, and patient financial counseling, to name a few. We have also become a COVID testing and vaccination site to ensure local residents had someplace nearby

to go for answers and prevention.

Despite the financial losses and staff positions claimed by the pandemic, Claxton-Hepburn remained dedicated to providing safe, high-level quality care. Our staff never stopped striving for excellence, and we are proud of the accomplishments they accomplished in the midst of so many unknowns.

We were able to expand oncology care to our Waddington and Canton Health Centers, and we now have same-day appointments and convenient care, open seven days a week, at our Canton Health Center.

Other highlights include our Surgical Robotics team, who performed their 500th surgery using our da Vinci XI surgical robot; our Richard E. Winter Cancer Center, who was granted a three-year accreditation by The American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), as well as CoC’s 2019 Outstanding Achievement Award; and our Intensive Care Unit, who celebrated two years of being Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection free.

Despite the ups and downs of 2020 overall, Claxton-Hepburn was also able to grow our team of providers to offer our patients even more services closer to home.

Our provider recruitment team welcomed to our medical staff: Soheil Altafi, MD, Gastroenterology; Mizra Ashraf, MD, Tele-Cardiology; Aaron Campbell, MD, Emergency Medicine; John Duffy, MD, Family Medicine; Michael Gordon, MD, Anesthesiology; Varun Katdare, MD, Hospitalist; Francis Lee, MD, Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine; William Smith, MD, Orthopedic Surgery; Dr. Rebecca Tan-Alberto, Anesthesiology; Ryan Beshaw, LMSW; Glenn DiMatteo, CRNA; Katelyn Guarino, LMSW; Kinglsey Malcolm, CRNA; Alana Stevenson, FNP-C; and Leah Thompson, PMHNP-C.

2020 could not stop progress where it is needed most. Claxton-Hepburn began work on our Children’s Mental Health Unit, a new 12-bed inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric unit, thanks to a \$2.63 million grant from New York State and support from the Claxton-Hepburn Foundation and Auxiliary. Once completed, the new unit will provide inpatient treatment for children and adolescents under

18 years of age. This unit’s addition complements CHMC’s continuum of care that begins in its Emergency Department and continues through outpatient services at our Wellness Center.

Although community collaboration looked very different from past years, Claxton-Hepburn was still able to work with the US Department of Agriculture and host a Farmers to Families Food Drive, where 1080 boxes, or 21,000 pounds, of dairy, produce, and meat products, were distributed to 360 households at the event.

We also teamed up with the Northern Area Health Education Center, Inc. (NAHEC) at the start of the year to provide a one-day Medical Academy of Science and Health (MASH) Camp, where students that participated in the camp were provided an inside look and hands-on-experience into various aspects of careers in the medical field.

Claxton-Hepburn was even able to add a new monthly Bereavement Support Group and a Facebook Cancer Support Group for community members.

2020 was also a year of collaboration between healthcare systems. Claxton-Hepburn and Carthage Area Hospital expanded on their collaboration and found ways to create efficiencies, expand services, and share critical staff during times of need caused by the pandemic’s consequences. In 2021, our leadership will explore more opportunities to share staff and services between the organizations to offer the best care, closer to home, from North Country grown hospitals.

As we look to 2021, we know the work ahead is hard and ongoing. With COVID-19 vaccinations and hospitalizations as a focus initially, we sincerely look forward to the months past the pandemic, when we can get back to business as usual: taking care of our communities, and fulfilling our mission to meet the needs of those we serve.

We encourage you to stay connected with us through Facebook or by visiting us at [www.claxtonhepburn.org](http://www.claxtonhepburn.org) to stay up to date on the latest COVID-19 pandemic and all the ways we are working to keep you North Country Strong.

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## SLFCU plans new Heuvelton branch

For St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union, this past year has been unlike any other.

Everyone has been affected by uncertainty and hardship. We are proud to say our credit union has been able to continue providing services, to meet the needs of our members, along with taking the necessary steps for health and safety. Our staff has been accommodating with the steps we have had to take, and we would like to recognize them for their patience and understanding.

In 2020, St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union ranked 17th on the New York State Society of Human Resource Management’s list of “Best Companies to Work For” in the state. The credit union is listed Under the category of best small companies to work for, which they define as having 15-99 U.S. employees.

We offer a host of products and services for our members, rewards checking, debit cards, credit cards, online banking, mobile banking, mobile deposit & much more. You also have free access to over 30,000 ATM’s nationwide through our participation in the ATM Co-op network. That means more direct access to your money than most traditional bank customers do.

With a look to the future, we will be opening a new branch in Heuvelton, with a target for opening in March of this year. It will be

located in the building attached to historic Pickens Hall. We hope to start the renovations shortly.

St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union has been approved by our regulating agency, NCUA, to expand our field of membership to include 11 more counties that surround St. Lawrence County.

St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union has always made its mission to serve the community by providing added value, personalized service, and increased flexibility; these are benefits that a lot of the bigger financial institutions can’t and don’t provide,” stated Todd Mashaw, president & CEO, St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union.

“Our slogan, ‘Where People Are Worth More Than Money’, serves as a reminder that we are not in a money business, we are in a people business and our members are our number one priority” added Mashaw.

Our expansion has been done with the future in mind, giving us the ability to grow and be somewhat geographically diverse. This will not alter any products or services we currently offer and will not affect any member service. We will continue to do business electronically or traditionally, your choice.

St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union is still your hometown financial institution and as always, here to serve you.

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# SeaComm adapted to changes of 2020 to continue services

MASSENA – This past year, the pandemic presented many challenges for North Country residents. As an essential service, it was SeaComm's duty to remain dedicated to the financial needs of its credit union members.

SeaComm adapted to the changes that were necessary to ensure the health and safety of its staff and membership, while continuing to meet the needs of the community.

"Every day, our staff touches the lives of our members by providing the best value when it comes to financial services," says Scott A. Wilson, president/chief executive officer. "From the time they walk into one of our branches, phone into our Call Center, or log in at one of our mobile delivery platforms, we want the experience to exceed their expectations."

SeaComm continued its efforts with the "Pay-it-Forward" program, which allowed it to deliver random acts of kindness to more than 2,100 people during a challenging period.

In the last year, SeaComm purchased pizza for local healthcare workers, paid the admission costs for nearly 200 people at local drive-in theaters, provided backpacks and school supplies to students in need, surprised families with free Christmas trees, and paid off layaway balances for individuals during the holidays, just to name a few.

These gestures attracted national attention when SeaComm was awarded the Category's Best Diamond Award for an ongoing event, and the First Place Dora Maxwell Award for social responsibility and community service. "These awards are a testament to the fact that we are doing what is right, and ultimately has a significant benefit to the people of the North Country," said Wilson.

SeaComm staff members have been encouraged to participate in the "Do Some Good" Program, which allows them to go out into the

communities served by SeaComm, and dedicate eight hours of company time to volunteer for a charity or cause of their choice.

This ongoing program has allowed SeaComm and employees to make an impact in a direct, meaningful way. Staff members took advantage of the opportunity, volunteering at various local charities, including the Tri-Town Community Basket Program and Five Pond Partners Volunteer Stewardship Program. In combination with this initiative, more than \$261,000 in donations and sponsorships were given, which includes pledge donations to CVPH Medical Center, Claxton Hepburn Medical Center, and Massena Hospital Foundation.

SeaComm has continued to support higher education with four scholarship endowments of \$25,000 each, provided to SUNY Canton, SUNY Plattsburgh, North Country Community College and Clinton Community College. In addition, SeaComm also gave fifteen academic scholarships to local, college bound high school graduates. Each scholarship held a \$500 value.

For the tenth consecutive year, SeaComm was named as one of the 2020 Best Medium Size Companies to Work for in New York. This statewide competition recognizes the State of New York's leading employers. The designation was chosen by SeaComm employees who participated in a comprehensive 82-question survey in the categories of leadership and planning, corporate culture and communications, role satisfaction, work environment, pay and benefits, training development and relationship with supervisor. Out of the employees who participated, 96% stated an overall satisfaction with SeaComm.

Weiss, an independent rating agency, has provided SeaComm the "A-" rating in terms of excellent financial strength. BauerFinancial, Inc., another independent rating company, has

awarded SeaComm the Superior Five-Stars.

The star ratings classify each credit union based on a complex formula, which factors in relevant data including, but not limited to: capital, historical trends, loan delinquencies, differences in the book and market values of its investment portfolio, profitability, repossessed assets, reserves, charge-offs, regulatory compliance and asset quality. It has deemed SeaComm as safe, financially sound and that it is operating well above regulatory capital requirements.

Due to years of advanced planning, SeaComm was prepared with the financial strength to proceed ahead with its overall strategic plan during this uncertain time. The credit union expanded its growth strategy by opening the doors to its South Burlington branch location in January 2020.

SeaComm also began construction on its Essex, VT branch in September, with plans to open in the spring.

"As the CEO, my job, along with our dedicat-

ed Board of Directors, is the long-term strategy of the organization. This additional location will offer the credit union the opportunity to continue to grow and diversify our markets," says Wilson. The recent expansion will enable SeaComm to continue to provide competitive rates and convenient services, with enhanced online and mobile banking technology, as well as a virtual loan pre-approval program.

With strong financial performance and a solid plan for the future, SeaComm is well positioned for a brighter year ahead. Assets exceed \$640 million, with branches in Massena, Potsdam, Malone, Canton, Ogdensburg, Plattsburgh and South Burlington.

In serving its more than 49,880 members, SeaComm looks forward to a successful 2021. Membership is open to anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in St. Lawrence, Franklin, Essex, and Clinton counties, New York, and Grand Isle, Chittenden and Franklin counties, VT.

## Moore's Hill lilac garden now online

The 2021 Virtual Display Garden is now online for Moore's Hill Lilacs. There will be 43 lilac varieties for sale this year, according to owners Cliff and Janice Westerling.

The online display shows photos and descriptions for each variety that will be on sale, grouped by colors.

The Westerlings grow and sell lilac shrubs as a part-time retirement business, at their farm home in West Potsdam. They encourage everyone to go online before they come out to shop in the spring. "People are always amazed at the variety of colors," according to the Westerlings.

Beyond the many shades of purple and magenta there are whites, pinks, blues, and stunning multi-colored varieties.

Moore's Hill Lilacs will be open weekends for on-site shopping; Saturday 10 to 4, Sun-


day noon to 4, from Mother's Day weekend to Father's Day.

In addition, select plants online at the website MooresHillLilacs.com, phone in an order 315-265-1630, and then pickup.

A third option is to call in advance to shop by appointment. Phone orders and by appointment shopping begins May 1. Gift certificates are also available. The nursery does not do mail order shipping.

Garden clubs and other groups are invited to schedule a guided tour of the large on-site display garden with more than 50 varieties.

Customers shopping for lilacs can also tour the display garden. "We always enjoy the chance to talk about lilacs," the Westerlings noted. Customers come from throughout the North Country, as far as Watertown, Malone, and Lake Placid.



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## Norwood Village Green Concert Series 48th Annual Season

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*All Concerts at 7 pm except where indicated - Rain Site - Norwood-Norfolk Auditorium  
All Events: Subject to updated Covid 19 restrictions*

<p>Thursday, May 27</p> <p>Thursday, June 3</p> <p>Sunday, June 6</p> <p>Thursday, June 10</p> <p>Sunday, June 13</p> <p>Thursday, June 17</p> <p>Sunday, June 20</p> <p>Thursday, June 24</p> <p>Sunday, June 27</p> <p>Thursday, July 1</p> <p>Monday, July 5</p> <p>Sunday, July 11</p> <p>Thursday, July 15</p> <p>Sunday, July 18</p> <p>Thursday, July 22</p> <p>Sunday, July 25</p> <p>Thursday, July 29</p> <p>Sunday, Aug. 1</p> <p>Thursday, Aug. 5</p> <p>Sunday, Aug. 8</p> <p>Thursday, Aug. 12</p>	<p>St. Lawrence County Music Educators Festival 3-9 pm</p> <p>NNCS Program - 1 pm for NNCS and 7 pm for everyone</p> <p>String Solstice with guest artist Andy Van Duyn</p> <p>Annie and the Hedonists</p> <p>Aviva Chernick</p> <p>Honey Dew Drops</p> <p>The Giroux Brothers</p> <p>Northern Symphonic Winds</p> <p>Johnny and the Triumphs featuring Gwen Tracy</p> <p>The Gibson Brothers</p> <p>The All Star Big Band under the direction of Wally Siebel with guest artist and master trombonist Andy Martin</p> <p>Jordan Davidson with Toni Zygadlo &amp; Lonel Woods with Julie Miller</p> <p>Mikaela Davis and Southern Star</p> <p>Sultans of String</p> <p>Shimul Zaman and Len Mackey, &amp; Friends</p> <p>Maggie Gould and Nanni Assis, &amp; Friends</p> <p>The Brass Firemen</p> <p>Koehler and Kelly</p> <p>The Girls</p> <p>Waydown Wailers</p> <p>Topaz</p>
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## Agency works remotely in 2020

What a year to remember...or forget? 2020...

It seems like it started so long ago and in a whole different world. The year began like any other with events being planned and our employees excited for the year ahead. Then, it all changed, and we had to learn to adapt.

During the pandemic, Northern Insuring Agency was able to keep operating efficiently with employees staying safely at home.

The company deployed laptops to employees in need and set everyone up with remote access to our systems. Our phones transitioned to cell phones with no indication to the customer. It was a smooth transition allowing us to be accessible and assist our customers. Zoom and other technology was utilized to stay in contact with each other.

We had exciting announcements throughout the year the Potsdam office.

In March, Tanya Krise, associate vice president, was honored the St. Lawrence County Chamber "Chamber Day" Award recipient.

Beck Tessier, senior sales executive, was deservedly named a Paul Harris recipient for the Potsdam Rotary Club.

The office stayed as active in the community as possible with Amanda Terrance doing a virtual "Run a Mile for Hospice" and organized a food drive for the Potsdam Neighborhood Center, raising nearly \$500 between food and cash donations.

Northern did a matching donation of \$1,500 to the BOCES Rotary Scholarship.

The office participated in Potsdam Chamber's Halloween Scavenger hunt and won the Halloween window decorating contest!

We shared in the stress of others, but we stayed strong and kept our office running as efficiently as possible.

We look forward to continuing those strong relationships for years to come. We are open by appointment and working mostly in the office; however, we ask customers to screen and sanitize before entering to ensure we keep a safe environment for all.

## Children's Museum reopens

POTSDAM -- The North Country Children's Museum (NCCM) at 10 Raymond Street is open to the public with limited capacity. Check the "reopening tab" on the museum's website for information on COVID guidelines and to register for a visit. Regular hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The museum is geared for children 12 years and under and their families. The museum's permanent exhibits celebrate local themes including: the Maple Tree Digital interactive, Kids' Co-op Natural Grocery Store modeled after the Potsdam Food Co-op, Adirondack Waterplay featuring a mini hydroelectric dam and a working lock, Construction Zone highlighting Mohawk Skywalkers, Adirondack Animal Digital Wall, and History of a North Country Childhood storytelling exhibit.

An exterior play area in front of the building includes a renovated, historic tractor for climb-on play.

There are drop-in Family STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programs every Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m.

These drop-in programs are included with

membership and admission and there is no need to preregister.

The museum also offers special class series that compliment hybrid learning in schools. There are vacation week camps during February, April, and summer vacation.

This February school break, the museum has an Art & Music Camp for children in grades 1-5. The camp runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is \$195 for the week with a 10% discount for NCCM members.

There are two scholarship spots available for all camps and classes on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration for camps and classes is available through the website.

Museum family memberships are \$85 annually. For families who qualify for free/reduced lunch through the federal income guidelines, annual memberships are only \$25 annually. Daily fees are \$8 per person.

Info: visit NCCM on Facebook, Instagram, or through [www.northcountrychildrensmuseum.org](http://www.northcountrychildrensmuseum.org) or call 315-274-9380.

## Chronic/Serious Illness or End-of-Life Healthcare... We Can Help.

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Who can receive this care?	Anyone with a serious illness, regardless of life expectancy, can receive palliative care.	Someone with an illness with a life expectancy measured in months, not years.
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Does Medicare pay?	Some treatments and medications may be covered just like other medical treatments.	Medicare pays all charges related to hospice including durable medical equipment and medications related to the terminal illness.
Does Medicaid pay?	Some treatments and medications may be covered.	NH Medicaid pays for all charges related to hospice as described above.
Does private insurance pay?	No, there is no 'palliative care' package, the services are flexible and based on the patient's needs.	Most insurance plans have a hospice benefit that covers charges related to durable medical equipment and medications related to the terminal illness.
Is this a package deal?	No, there is no 'palliative care' package, the services are flexible and based on the patient's needs.	Medicare and Medicaid hospice benefits are package deals.
How long can I receive care?	This will depend upon your care needs, and the coverage you have through Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance.	As long as you meet the hospice's criteria of an illness with a life expectancy of months not years.



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## Chocolate company now in 4th year

COLTON -- In a stressful 2020, everyone is looking forward to an enlightened 2021.

Apothecary Chocolates is entering its fourth year with hope and sweetness. Owner Shelby Connelly, despite the pandemic expanded distribution of these fine, small-batch, handmade chocolates, and made its 10,000th bar.

Found in several local shops in Potsdam Canton, and now Massena, the bars are also carried in stores throughout the region, Adirondacks, 1000 Islands and into Vermont and Connecticut.

"We have been very fortunate despite the circumstances of 2020," said Connelly. "We have some wonderful partners who have helped us along the challenging path."

Apothecary Chocolates are made with adaptogenic herbs, which are nontoxic plants that can help the body adapt to stress and fatigue. Chocolatier Angela Ballou, who has more than 10 years experience making chocolate, also

uses local maple, birch and balsam syrups; coffee from St. Lawrence Roasters; local hard ciders and spirits and other local ingredients to create the various bar collections. Apothecary Chocolates is also one of the only places to find the ruby "chocolate," which is a naturally pink chocolate with tart, berry undertones.

For the new year, Apothecary Chocolates will continue to offer confections through local outlets like Maple Run Emporium, Jernabi Coffeehouse, Willowtree Florist, Nature Storehouse, and most recently added, Verville's Florist in Massena.

It can also be purchased the home location at Five Elements Living, 46 State Highway 68, in Colton, as well as online at [www.ApothecaryChocolates.com](http://www.ApothecaryChocolates.com).

They are already gearing up for Valentine's Day with some special limited edition truffle flavors and ruby cacao bars. And gift cards are always a great idea!

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**SEARCH...**

day, Jan 15 snowmobiling. The pair are believed to have gone through the ice on the lake. Larissa Redmond's body was found Tuesday, Jan. 20, reported the sheriff's department. Her father has still not been found.

Ten agencies, including 20 law enforcement officers and fire department divers, are involved in the search.

"We will continue our recovery efforts when it can be done safely for all of the Police and Fire personnel whom have been working tirelessly for the last three days. Our condolences go out to the families involved in this tragedy," said Undersheriff Sean O'Brien.

**VACCINES...**

the rollout is limited due to the supply.

Although Dominguez was excited to announce the clinic, she said the state faces a lack of supply, which she blamed on the federal government.

She said the state is receiving just 250,000 doses per week, but has a pool of 7 million New Yorkers eligible for the jab. She said efforts are being made to increase New Yorks distribution to help meet that need, but it has to come from U.S. government.

Dominguez asked for patience, as supplies will limit the number of people who can get vaccinated in the near future, but urged everyone who is eligible to schedule appointments as soon as possible.

As of Monday morning, appointments were booked into February. She said appointments can be booked now even if the date of the vaccination is a month or two away. She said there is no need to wait to make an appointment.

Statewide, New York is lagging behind others state for percent of doses received administered, according to a report from the Associated Press.

However, the North Country Region has been among the most successful in the state with 97% of doses received administered. Only the Southern Tier ranked higher at 99 percent.

Although Dominguez said the rates of vaccination wouldn't be consideration for where the state moves allotted doses, in a press conference Gov. Andrew Cuomo said he would make sure vaccines were going to places that are successful in distributing them.

"We are in a footrace to get the vaccine into the arms of eligible New Yorkers as quickly and equitably as possible," Governor Cuomo said. "However, we now have 7 million New Yorkers vying for a fraction of doses made available to use by the federal government. We need Washington to step up and increase New York's supply to make sure everyone who wants the vaccine has the opportunity to get it."

Esterberg said she was excited to see the site open on SUNY Potsdam's campus and that if the facility can't be used for sporting events, this is the best possible alternative.

Esterberg thanked St. Lawrence Health System, New York State officials and the National Guard for helping make the clinic possible.

To make an appointment, visit the link below. Those who are eligible will be prompted accordingly to set up an appointment.

<https://am-i-eligible.covid-19vaccine.health.ny.gov/Public/prescreener>

**MAYOR...**

village law.

"It appears we need to appoint a new mayor at some point soon. The timeframe is not indicated," Lebire said, adding that he intends to consult with other village officials and elections experts on the proper procedure. "It's important we don't rush into it."

He said they can opt to appoint a current trustee as mayor, or someone else who is eligible but doesn't sit on the board. Whoever is appointed would serve as mayor until Dec. 1. In the November election, the mayor's seat will be on the ballot to fill out the final year of Currier's unexpired term.

The village board wants to hear thoughts from village residents on how they should fill Currier's seat.

"I would encourage the community members to reach out and give feedback on how they'd like

us to proceed on filling this vacancy," Lebire said. "We will continue to update everyone as we move forward with more information on that process."

Currier, a former Massena police chief, announced the resignation in a statement released Tuesday morning, Jan. 19. He announced a leave of absence to seek drug treatment shortly after his Dec. 1 arrest on charges of misdemeanor possession of crack cocaine, fleeing police and a felony count of evidence tampering. He was arrested at gunpoint after county detectives and federal agents attempted to pull him over near Center Street. Currier is accused of fleeing the stop and throwing one gram of crack cocaine out of his passenger window, coming to a stop near the intersection of Center and Willow streets.

**HARASSMENT...**

incident captured on state-owned cameras.

He said the video vindicates his version of the story, as he and Skelly had presented different versions of the events.

Both men agree that Mack ended up on the ground, but while Mack says it was due to physical contact from the mayor, Skelly says Mack took a dive. Although the state police have filed the charges against Skelly with the court, he will not be formally charged until a judge takes the case at which point a summons would be issued.

The three statements filed with

the courts are from Allen Rickett, Gerald Mack and Joe Sovie.

In the legal document state police accuse the mayor of committing second-degree harassment.

"On Dec. 9, 2020 at about 6:55 p.m. while outside of 330 Ford St. (Ogdensburg City Hall) in the City of Ogdensburg, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York, the defendant, Jeffrey M. Skelly did intentionally, knowingly commit the offense of harassment in the second degree when he caused unwanted physical contact to the victim, Gerald H. Mack causing him to fall to the ground and become alarmed and annoyed," the document says

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**CLINICS...**

clinics in the seven-county North Country region with the other in Plattsburgh.

There will be smaller clinics opening in Massena, Ogdensburg, Gouverneur and Star Lake. Dr. Williams said they are close to announcing the specific locations, which he expects sometime next week.

"St. Lawrence County has been working with the different communities and determining appropriate locations, most accessible sites," he said. "There's an emphasis on making sure ... all have adequate access."

He said the ability to offer vaccinations at the five clinics depends on federal vaccine supply, which goes to the states and from there are distributed for injections.

"If anyplace in New York State is going to get vaccine, it's going to be the New York State-designated vaccination sites," Dr. Williams said, which includes SUNY Potsdam. "As the county gets more vaccine and the hospital gets more vaccine, these smaller sites will open and allow individuals to schedule appointments."

He said local, county and state health officials chose SUNY Pots-

dam's Maxcy Hall for a regional clinic because it has a lot of space, it's well-ventilated and it "allows for a COVID-safe experience." Those showing up for vaccinations are required to wear masks and social distance, and they are screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering. The doctor said Maxcy is also accessible for anyone with mobility challenges, and wheelchairs are available there.

Vaccination is done by appointment only. Walk-ins are turned away. Dr. Williams said that although there were some problems with the state website used to make appointments to get vaccinated, but that's getting better.

"Right now, the appointments are scheduling in mid-February, and there are quite a few appointments available that time and afterwards," he said.

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SNOWMOBILE for sale: 2001 Yamaha Venture. Liquid cooled, 2 up seat with cover, 1324 original miles & new battery Sept.2019. Excellent condition-runs great! \$2,000. 315-286-0684 or 315-286-0685 Gouverneur Rock Island Road, from Route US 11 turn off by Dunkin Donuts, go 9 miles mailbox 1843.

**Legal Notices**

**LEGAL NOTICES**

The Town of Waddington's Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a zoom meeting to consider two separate variance requests. 1st request is from Julie Parks to construct a 24x22 tiny home on an existing concrete slab on her property located @ 327 McGinnis Rd, Waddington. The home would be 16' off the existing adjacent property owner. 2nd request is from Frederick & Michelle Young to replace two existing sheds with an 8' x 20' shed located 10' from the property line. To join the virtual meeting please go to the town's website [www.townofwaddington.com](http://www.townofwaddington.com) to obtain the login information. Dated: January 19, 2021 Carol A. Burns, Town Clerk.

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will take place on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the MCS Cafeteria for public comment on the following: • New "Continuation of Operations Plan Addressing Public Health Emergency Involving Communicable Diseases" • New Policy # 3421 "Title IX and Sex Discrimination" • New Policy #3520 "Extraordinary Circumstances;" and • New Policy #7150 "Remote Learning" All documents are available in the District Office as well as on the District's website at: <https://greenrockets.org/page/2504>. Stacey L. Basford, District Clerk Morristown Central School District PO Box 217 ~ 408 Gouverneur Street, Morristown, NY 13664

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Archaut Enterprise, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/26/2020. Office location: St. Lawrence County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served upon him/her to: 6604 State Highway 56, Potsdam, NY 13676. Purpose: to engage in any lawful business or activity.

**STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PUBLICATION FORMATION OF A NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY PURSUANT TO NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY LAW SECTION 203:**  
1. The name of the limited liability company is **Five Ponds Forest Management LLC** 2. The date of filing of the Articles of Organization with the Department of State is **December 21, 2020** 3. The county in New York in which the office of the company is located is **ST. LAWRENCE** 4. The Secretary of State has

been designated as agent of the company upon whom process may be served, and the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the company served upon him or her to: **Five Ponds Forest Management LLC PO Box 191 Wanakena, NY 13695 5.** The term of the limited liability company shall be perpetual. 6. The purpose of the limited liability company is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be organized.

**BID REQUESTS**

**INVITATION TO BID**

81 State Street Renovation / Heuvelton, NY. Sealed bids, clearly marked with bid title and bidder, will be received by Heuvelton Historical Association (Owner) at Pickens General Store, 83 State Street, Heuvelton, NY 13654 until 1:00 p.m. local time on February 3, 2021 following which all bids will be opened and read aloud. No pre-bid meeting will be scheduled. Call Pickens General Store (315-344-7950) for building access during normal hours of operation. Contact the Architect for all other questions. Bid documents are available in hard a/o electronic format for purchase and shipping at Bidder's expense from Plan & Print Systems and online for review at [www.planandprint.com](http://www.planandprint.com) in the PlanWell. Call Plan & Print (315-437-5111) for access instructions. Bidders not registered with Plan & Print will not receive addenda and related project information. The Architect is Crawford & Stearns / Syracuse, NY (315-471-2162) c/o [jcarnes@ CrawfordStearns.com](mailto:jcarnes@ CrawfordStearns.com). The work of this project shall be let as TWO distinct and separate contracts that will include one or more of the scopes bid as funding allows. In general the work includes the stabilization and complete renovation of a two story wood framed structure including interior build-out, exterior restoration, and new mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems. A Bid guarantee of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), in the form of a certified check or bid bond, will be required. Payment & Performance Bonds for 100% of the contract amount may be required for contract. The Heuvelton Historical Association has been and will continue to be an equal opportunity organization. All persons and qualified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) suppliers, contractors and/or businesses will be afforded equal opportunity without discrimination because of race, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual preference or Vietnam Era Veterans status.

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Or visit: [www.walkintubinfo.com/nypress](http://www.walkintubinfo.com/nypress)

**Sudoku**

	7			4	9	2	
		8		6		5	
3			1				6
	4	6	9			8	
9				5		4	
	2				6		1
5			8		7	6	
	1			4			3
		4			9		2

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.  
Answers found elsewhere in this paper.

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 Sunday - CLOSED

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'20 Chevy Silverado D. Cab, 5.3L V8, 4x4, White, Auto Start, 16,583 Miles <b>\$35,788</b>	'19 Chevy Malibu LT Very Sharp, White, Loaded 28,000 Miles <b>\$18,588</b>
'19 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab, 5.3L V8, 4x4 RST Package, 10,000 Miles <b>\$38,888</b>	'19 Ford F-150 XTR Crew Cab, 4x4, 5.0L V8 Gray, Only 8,500 Miles <b>\$37,888</b>
'19 Chevy Equinox LT Silver, Fully Loaded, AWD, 17,000 Miles <b>\$20,388</b>	'19 GMC Sierra Dbl. Cab, 4x4, 5.3L V8, Gray Very Nice, 6,000 Miles <b>\$34,588</b>
'19 Dodge RAM White, Quad Cab, 4 x 4, ONLY 19,000 Miles <b>\$32,588</b>	'19 Chevy Silverado Crew Cab, Blue, 5.3L V8, 4x4 12,000 Miles <b>\$34,500</b>
	'18 Ford Escape SEL Silver, AWD, Heated Seats ONLY 30,000 Miles <b>\$19,388</b>

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 White • 5.3L V8 • 4WD • 20" Prem. Wheels  
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'18 Ford Edge SEL  
 Magnetic gray • 3.5L V6 • AWD • Heated Seats  
 Navigation • Backup Camera • Panoramic Roof  
 Premium Wheels • Towing & Winter Pkg. Many  
 Extras • ONLY 25,357 Miles  
 Was \$27,295 **NOW \$26,295**

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 Blue • 2.7L V6 EcoBoost • 4WD • Heated Seats  
 Navigation • Towing Pkg. • Premium Wheels  
 Many Extras • ONLY 19,501 Miles  
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'16 Dodge RAM 1500 CREW CAB OUTDOORSMEN  
 Granite Crystal Metallic • 5.7L V8 • 4WD  
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**Now Accepting Applications!**

Rent Includes:  
 Electricity, Water, Heat,  
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**315-265-4070**  
**Fax 315-265-5709**  
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Homes and Community Renewal

Mayfield Apartments is an equal opportunity moderate income housing project for senior citizens ages 55 years and older. Admissions preference given to qualified Veterans.

**Midtown Apartments**

Convenient Downtown Location at Munson St., Potsdam

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One Bedroom Apartments  
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 Relay Phone • 1-800-662-1220

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- Opening
- Cartoon frame
- Vend
- "Dallas" matriarch
- Sleep problem
- Court hammers
- 1998 Bruce Willis thriller
- Shock partner
- Hoodwinks
- Water tester
- Gum flavor
- Roll call reply
- Fry lightly
- Belted area
- Cooking fat
- Uttered
- Chemical suffix
- Up and about
- Quilters' get-together
- Wimbledon champ of 2008
- Wife of Jacob
- Edition
- Nodded off
- D.C. baseball team
- Picnic crasher
- Ram's mate
- land
- Upper crust
- Docs' org.
- Bull's sound
- Ancient letter
- "My word!"
- Wet dirt
- Secreted
- Less loony
- Sports venues
- Banshee's cry
- Delta, for one
- Actress Tyler
- Long-legged shorebird
- Wan
- Used a broom
- Butter up the turkey
- Flightless birds
- Compass pt.
- Bruins' sch.
- Caesar's "vidi"

**DOWN**

- Category
- Sir Guinness
- Enthusiastic approval
- County of Ireland
- Graceland idol
- Fibs
- Gush
- Pharaoh's

Answers found elsewhere in this paper.



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Rent Includes: Utilities • Heat • Water Electric • Trash Removal • FREE Parking

2 Bedroom, \$815/mo.

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All applicants are subject to suitability screening based on criminal, credit, landlord history. Project eligibility guidelines apply based on income, assets and student status. No pets allowed. Potsdam Housing Authority provides Equal Housing Opportunity.



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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the federal Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or any intention to make such a preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in the newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!  
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**FREE**  
7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
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Offer valid December 15, 2020 - March 1, 2021

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Located on Market Street, 1.6 acres, large parking lot, 16 lane alley with snack bar, legal beverage bar, 1 BR upstairs apt., store rooms, 3 bathrooms & much more.

Great Entertainment Place for the Community!

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For Information, Write or Call:  
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3 High Street, Riverview Apartments  
Norfolk, NY 13667

315-384-4715



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Massena-Ogdensburg Edition Deadline: 2 pm Wednesday

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ONLINE 24/7: NorthCountryNow.com/Classifieds

BY PHONE: 315-265-1000, ext. 1 Weekdays

8:30am-5:30pm

IN PERSON: 4 Clarkson Ave., Potsdam

E-MAIL: Classifieds@NorthCountryNow.com

The Potsdam Food Co-op is looking for part-time staff with a flexible schedule, positive attitude, strong customer service skills, and an interest in food to work between 15 to 25 hours per week in the store. Applications available in the store.

### NORWOOD-NORFOLK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

is accepting applications for the following position: FOOD SERVICE WORKER (5 ½ hours per day) – \$13.37/hr. Applications can be downloaded from the school website (www.nncsk12.org) or obtained in the

District Office at NNCS. Deadline to apply is February 5, 2021. NNCS is an EEO Employer. NYS Education Department fingerprint clearance is required for all appointments.

WANTED: GREAT HOME CLEANER IN POTSDAM. RATE IS NEGOTIABLE Call 315-262-6210

## Trivia Test

- MOVIES: Who was the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Actor?
  - ASTRONOMY: How many phases does the Moon go through each month?
  - MEDICAL: What are leukocytes?
  - TELEVISION: What are the names of the three animated "Powerpuff Girls"?
  - INVENTIONS: Who is credited with inventing the first battery?
  - GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest country in Africa in land area?
  - MEASUREMENTS: What does a Geiger counter measure?
  - LITERATURE: What item did the crocodile swallow in "Peter Pan"?
  - FOOD & DRINK: What is grenadine made from?
  - ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby goat called?
- Answers found elsewhere in this paper.

## ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

### Cook – Dining & Conference

St. Lawrence University has an opening for a full-time/seasonal, 9-month Cook in Dining & Conference Services. Under supervision, is responsible for preparing food items according to documented recipes and monitors food quality throughout meal periods. The primary hours of work are 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm Thursday-Monday.

**Qualifications:** High School diploma (or equivalent) required. Culinary training preferred. Serve-Safe training beneficial or ability to be certified within one year. Good mathematical skills. Minimum of one year full time experience in quantity hot food productions in a large scale food service operation required. Will consider successful completion of an externship or internship in quantity cooking in place required experience. Ability to read, understand and prepare items according to recipes; move 25 pounds a minimum of 10 feet; operate and maintain standard cooking machinery and equipment required. Interested applicants must apply online at.

Interested candidates please apply at :  
<https://employment.stlawu.edu/>.

Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until position is filled. SLU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer. .

All offers of employment are contingent upon the finalist successfully passing a background (including criminal records) check.



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### Employment Opportunities

#### Research Associate (Potsdam, NY)

Research Associate to support the experimental and computational research activities for the development of a real-time quality monitoring system for additive manufacturing processes at the Photo-Acoustics Research Laboratory in the Department of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering, at Clarkson University.

To view full posting and for more information on how to apply, visit <http://www.clarkson.edu/hr> and click "Career Opportunities" below Careers at Clarkson.

An equal opportunity /affirmative action employer, Clarkson actively seeks and encourages applications from minorities, women and people with disabilities. Prior to a final offer of employment, the selected candidate will be required to submit to a background check including, but not limited to, employment verification, educational and other credential verification, and criminal background check. Positions located at our Potsdam, NY campus.

ALL EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISING in this newspaper is subject to section 296 of the human rights law, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, creed, national origin, disability, marital status, sex, age, or arrest conviction record, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. Title 29, US Code, Chap. 630 excludes the federal government from the age discrimination provisions. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for employment which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that employment offerings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



**MASSENA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

is currently accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year:

**Teacher Aide - Massena Central High School**

**1 - Food Service Manager - Location to be Determined**

**3 - Food Service Helper - Location to be Determined**

Please refer to <https://www.mcs.k12.ny.us> Human Resources - Job Opportunities for professional application process.



Please direct questions to: [lsloanbarkley@mcs.k12.ny.us](mailto:lsloanbarkley@mcs.k12.ny.us) or (315) 764-3700, extension 3011.

All written correspondence should be addressed to Human Resource Office, Massena Central School District, 84 Nightengale Ave., Massena, NY 13662.

Required applications materials: Support Staff Application and Resume

**Application Deadline: Jan. 29, 2021**

**Nursing Supervisor**

The University of Vermont Health Network—Alice Hyde Medical Center is looking for a Nursing Supervisor for the evening and night shift. Be part of a dynamic and growing team that offers a wide range of services for the community. We take pride in caring for our patients and partnering with our health care providers to deliver exceptional patient care.



**Incentives include: Pay starting at \$41.00 an hour, Tuition reimbursement, Relocation assistance and a \$15,000 sign on bonus**

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Registered Nurse with New York State license. Baccalaureate degree preferred.
2. Recent clinical and management experience preferred, with a minimum of three years Supervisory/Charge experience.
3. Demonstrated ability to function in a leadership position and to perform with sound judgment.

Visit [alicehyde.com/careers](http://alicehyde.com/careers) for a complete job description and to submit an online application.



UVMHealth.org/AHMC



**WANTED:** Customer Service Representative for an Insurance Agency. License preferred but not required. Agency is willing to train and get licensed. Send resume to [richsins@yahoo.com](mailto:richsins@yahoo.com)

The Town of Oswegatchie is accepting applications for a part-time Bookkeeper. The person is responsible for all aspects of bookkeeping for the Town of Oswegatchie including payroll, accounts receivable and payable, fiscal controls, benefits administration and any other related duties as assigned. The successful applicant must have computer and organizational skills. Applications may be obtained by calling the Town Clerk at 315-344-2400x110. All applications must be received at the Town Clerk's Office by February 3, 2021. References required. For questions call 344-2400 ext. 110.

**LOSURDO FOODS, INC.**

is seeking a FULL TIME OFFICE WORKER. General office skills are necessary including data entry, Excel, Word, answering phones

etc. Apply in person at 34 Union Street Heuvelton, NY 13654

**LOSURDO FOODS, INC.**

is accepting applications for production workers. Full time position. Benefits include: Medical, Dental, Life, LTD, 401k, and some paid holidays. Apply in person at 34 Union St. Heuvelton, NY

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**NOW HIRING!  
ENTRY-LEVEL POSITIONS**

- Environmental Service Worker
- Food Service Worker
- Health Care Access Screener



For more information, call 315.713.5287

apply today!  
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**CorTech, LLC**

is a service-oriented staffing/recruiting company dedicated to working closely with our clients. We are currently hiring Production, Admin, and Food Service Workers. We also have several other positions available at this time. For more information please apply at [www.cor-tech.net](http://www.cor-tech.net) or Contact our office (315)265-8860.

Customer Service and Sales Representative - Citizens Telephone Company of Hammond, NY, Inc. is currently taking applications for the full time position of Customer Sales & Service Representative. Essential Job Functions • Promotes and sells services to new and existing customers. • Maintain customer records. • Provides customer service by assisting customers with billing inquiries, new service requests, service plan changes, disconnects, reconnects, and service questions and concerns. • Receives payments from customers and issues receipts as requested. • Trouble ticket resolution and trouble ticket creation. • Skill in operating various office equipment such as personal computer, various software programs, calculator and telephone systems. • Skill in oral and written communication. • Ability to communicate with customers, co-workers, and various business contacts in a professional and courteous manner. • Ability to organize and prioritize multiple work assignments. • Ability to maintain confidentiality. • Ability to follow written and oral instructions. • Ability to work with frequent interruptions. • Ability to pay close attention to detail. Please send resume to [jodih@cit-tele.com](mailto:jodih@cit-tele.com) Or mail to Citizens Telephone Company, ATT-Business Office Manager PO Box 217, Hammond, NY 13646

Are you a great caregiver? Become a Personal Care Aide! At HSNNY, we know that you want to be a person that feels good when you get to help others. In order to do that, you need to be able to work one-on-one with the people you help. The problem is most caregiving jobs come with things you don't want. Things like: • Being mandated to work extra, • No say in your work schedule, • Or how many people you need to care for at the same time. These things make you feel stressed because you can't provide the type of help you wish you could. We believe you should have some say in what your job looks and feels like. We understand that your job needs to fit well with your other life responsibilities. That is why we work with you to find the right balance for your situation. Here's how we do it: 1. You apply and provide us with your work experience as a caregiver. 2. We guide your through any training and

background checks that are needed 3. Together, we build a work plan that works for everyone, including YOU! So, apply today at <https://us59.dayforcehcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-US/hamistgroup/Site/HEALTH-CARE/JobApplication?postingid=55> Stop being unhappy and stressed with your work and instead feel the satisfaction of helping others the way you always wanted it to feel!

Registered Nurse Case Manager - HSNNY. Would you like to be a Hometown Hero? Today, it's riskier than ever being an RN. HSNNY understands the concerns surrounding staying safe at work but still making a difference in the lives of your patients. The safest place for our patients to be is at HOME! COVID-19 cases are on the rise in our county and now more than ever, our community needs homecare. We strive to keep our nurses safe while out in the community by requiring mandatory pre-visit screening

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The **Customer Support Manager** is a management position that oversees the daily operations of client support, central scheduling and the intake process of the behavioral health practices in Malone, Saranac Lake, Massena and additional locations as Citizen Advocates continues to expand geographically. This position represents and leads Citizen Advocate's first contact with our clients, as well as leads the team in accurate data collection activities to support revenue cycle management. The **Customer Support Manager** will work closely with clients/patients, providers, billing and our finance teams.

**Required Education and Experience**

1. Bachelor's Degree preferred, or commensurate coursework or commensurate professional-level relevant experience may be applied.
2. 5 years' supervisory experience in the health care industry (with billing/coding experience, customer service experience insurance verification, call center/scheduling; mental health or substance use populations preferred, but not required).
3. Strong organizational, technical, personnel management and communication skills are required as well as solid information system and Microsoft Office skills.
4. Must be able to handle multiple priorities effectively and meet deadlines.



Apply at:  
<https://citizenadvocates.isolvedhire.com/jobs/222871-19476.html>

**PARISHVILLE-HOPKINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Seeks **BUS DRIVERS AND SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS!**

Must have a High School Diploma. CDL with Passenger and School Bus endorsements preferred. Training is possible for the right candidate.

~ (1) Salaried position at \$15,352 annually with benefits package.

This 10-Month position follows the School calendar. ~

~ \$21.31 per hour for substitute drivers. ~



Please submit application materials to:  
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P.O. Box 187  
Parishville, NY 13672

or apply online at <https://forms.sllbooces.org/Forms/CommonApplication>



Now Hiring

# CDL TRUCK DRIVER

Poulin Grain - Canton, NY

Poulin Grain is a family owned and operated company that has a true passion for its people. The company has been serving the agriculture community for 88 years! Caring for our people and our customers has set us apart from the rest and we are now looking for the next family member that is willing to go the extra mile with us!

**Offers health insurance, paid time off, 401K and profit sharing! No overnights.**

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- Ability to Lift 50 lbs
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- Communication
- Class A CDL

### RESPONSIBILITIES

- Delivering bag and bulk grain
- Loading the truck in preparation for delivery
- On-time, accurate completion of daily logbook
- Routine maintenance on vehicle

### HOW TO APPLY

Find and send application at [www.poulingrain.com/careers](http://www.poulingrain.com/careers)

**POULIN GRAIN**  
Leading Animal Nutrition  
6005 US-11, Canton, NY 13617  
315.379.1730

(Office is closed to the public, please call with questions)



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- Emergency Service Assistant
- LCSW
- LMSW
- Medical Assistant
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- Office Nurse II
- Pharmacist
- Physician Office Nurse
- RN - Emergency Department
- RN - Cancer Treatment Center
- RN - Med-Surg
- Respiratory Therapist

Sign-on Bonus may be available for some positions.



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and providing necessary PPE for all high-risk environments. Our patients appreciate our dedication to keeping them in their home environment amidst the pandemic. Stay safe while becoming the Hometown Hero we know you can be and apply immediately! Applications for RNCM being accepted through January 31st, 2021. Apply today at <https://us59.dayforcehcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-US/hamistergroup/Site/HEALTHCARE/Posting/View/108>



Per Diem Nursing Positions Available Today! If you're seeking per diem employment as a RN or LPN, Health Services of Northern New York may have the flexibility you need. Regardless of where you live in St. Lawrence County, we can offer you a per diem nursing position. Utilize a wide range of nursing skills in a homecare setting. As a per diem employee, you can accept as many or as few visits as you wish. Don't miss out on this opportunity, contact HSNNY today! Applications for RN or LPN Per Diem Nurses being accepted through January 31st, 2021. Apply today at <https://us59.dayforcehcm.com/>

[CandidatePortal/en-US/hamistergroup/Site/HEALTHCARE/Posting/View/114](https://www.stregiscsd.org/CandidatePortal/en-US/hamistergroup/Site/HEALTHCARE/Posting/View/114)

### ANTICIPATED VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

St. Regis Falls Central School District (EO/AE) is accepting applications for the following position with an anticipated start date of Sept. 1, 2021: GUIDANCE COUNSELOR - NYS Certified. Deadline to apply: February 1, 2021 Applications are available at [www.stregiscsd.org](http://www.stregiscsd.org) or by calling (518)856-9421 ext 1007. Please submit applications to: Marlee Burnett, Superintendent's Administrative Assistant St. Regis Falls Central School, PO Box 309, 92 North Main Street, St. Regis Falls, NY 12980 or email to: [mburnett@stregiscsd.org](mailto:mburnett@stregiscsd.org)

### SALES ASSOCIATE.

30+ hour/week. Applications at The UPS Store, 200 Market St., Potsdam.

# St. Lawrence Health System

## Experienced Accountant

This professional position is at the System-level.

St. Lawrence Health System's Finance Team reviews and reconciles health system accounts. Accountants prepare and examine accounting records and financial statements in conformance to reporting and accounting standards.

Required: Bachelor's degree with a minimum of two year's experience, or Master's degree.

View complete posting and apply online at [StLawrenceHealthSystem.org](http://StLawrenceHealthSystem.org).

EOE



St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

is looking to fill the following position:

### HELPDESK TECHNICIAN (SCHOOL BASED)

This position will provide technical support services and routine maintenance of school computers, display boards, inventory tracking etc. Minimum qualifications are a High School Diploma and 2 years full time, paid work experience as an Information Technology Helpdesk Technician or Computer Technician OR an Associate's degree in Computer Science or related field. This is a provisional appointment. The successful candidate will need to take a civil service exam and be reachable on the civil service list in order to be permanently appointed.

The BOCES application can be accessed & submitted online at [www.sllbores.org](http://www.sllbores.org). Applications will be accepted until this position is filled. EOE



RIVER HOSPITAL in Alexandria Bay is seeking a

### Night shift Emergency Room RN Full Time: 6pm - 6am

Competitive Compensation and Benefit package with SIGN ON and RETENTION BONUS available.

Please visit [www.RiverHospital.org](http://www.RiverHospital.org) and apply directly on the career page.





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- Medical Scribe
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214 King Street, Ogdensburg, New York 13669

### CONTROLLER:

Under the direction and supervision of the Assistant Chief Financial Officer, the Controller is accountable for the planning, organization, direction and control of the daily accounting operations within the Finance Department. The Controller will oversee the tribal general fund, other governmental funds and the annual audit preparation. Assist the Assistant Chief Financial Officer with establishing departmental policies and procedures to implement the goals of the SRMT Strategic Plan. Salary: \$54,561.80 - \$120,868.80, Status: Full-time, Non-exempt. Deadline: 02/04/2021. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov).

test data to issue reports that use charts, graphs, or narratives. Analyze the results of tests or experiments to ensure conformity to specifications, using special mechanical or electrical devices. Collect blood or tissue samples from patients, observing principles of asepsis to obtain blood sample. Conduct blood tests for transfusion purposes and perform blood counts. Conduct chemical analyses of body fluids, such as blood or urine, using microscope or automatic analyzer to detect abnormalities or diseases and enter findings into computer. Status: Full-time, Non-exempt. Deadline: 02/11/2021. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov).

the Clinical Manager is responsible for leading efforts to improve quality of outcomes and clinic operations to improve the overall patient experience. Status: Full-time, Non-exempt. Deadline: 02/11/2021. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at: [www.srmt-nsn.gov](http://www.srmt-nsn.gov). Head Start has an opening for a TRANSPORTATION COORDINATOR beginning August 2021 with paid training in the interim. The position is at our Administrative Office in Canton. Full time, 35 hours per week, 43 weeks/year. Individual must have a minimum of CDL - C with Article 19A and "P" & "S" endorsements. Experience with supervision preferred as well as bus driving related knowledge of New York State regulations. Substitutes in all positions are needed. Positions follow the BOCES schedule/holidays. Please call the Head Start Main Office at 315-386-8574 for more specific detail. Send letter of interest, resume and three current, signed and dated written letters of reference to Head Start, One Commerce Lane, Canton, NY 13617. Deadline is until the positions are filled. Head Start is an EOE.

PART-TIME Home Health Aide needed to work MONDAY - FRIDAY in my Potsdam home. 315-212-5497.

CARPENTERS WANTED, Excellent pay for experienced carpenters, must have 5 years verifiable experience, own transportation. 315-250-0650 tn

Head Start has the following openings: Classroom Aide/Bus Monitor for our Massena Head Start. This is a part time position. Person must have a minimum of a high school diploma or its equivalent. BOCES Certificate of Early Childhood, CDA, or substantial experience in early childhood daycare preferred. Substitutes in all positions are needed. Positions follow the school schedule/holidays. Please call the Head Start Main Office at 315-386-8574 for more specific detail. Send letter of interest, resume and three current, signed and dated written letters of reference to Head Start, One Commerce Lane, Canton, NY 13617. Deadline is until the positions are filled. Head Start is an EOE.

Truck Drivers - Malone. Renzi Foodservice is looking for Class A or Class B drivers. Routes start and stop in Malone. Monday through Friday schedules, competitive pay and great benefits and you'll be home every night! Apply online at [RenziFoodservice.com/careers](http://RenziFoodservice.com/careers).

LMHC, LCSW, or Psychologist: Full-time and part-time telehealth professionals to work in a private outpatient office. Flexible hours, and benefits. Send resume and cover letter to [mhcsny@gmail.com](mailto:mhcsny@gmail.com)

### EMPLOYMENT INFO.

\$18.50 NYC, \$16 L.I. & up to \$13.50 Upstate NY! If you need care from your relative,

### LABORATORY TECHNICIAN:

will be responsible for Analyze and record

### CLINICAL MANAGER:

Under the direction of the Medical Director,

## Ultrasound Tech

The University of Vermont Health Network—Alice Hyde Medical Center is looking for an Ultrasound Tech. Be part of a dynamic and growing team that offers a wide range of services for the community. We take pride in caring for our patients and partnering with our health care providers to deliver exceptional patient care.



Competitive compensation and benefit package available including a sign on bonus, tuition reimbursement and relocation assistance.

### REQUIREMENTS:

1. High School graduate/equivalent.
2. 3 years of Ultrasound work experience.
3. Graduate of accredited Radiology program helpful, but not required.
4. Degree in Ultrasound, Cardiac Sonography and Vascular Sonography preferred or Registry eligible.

Visit [alicehyde.com/careers](http://alicehyde.com/careers) for a complete job description and to submit an online application.



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University of Vermont  
HEALTH NETWORK  
Alice Hyde Medical Center

## Always Growing

### Food Services Manager

United Helpers, founded in 1898, is seeking a Food Services Manager with the skills, compassion and commitment to deliver high-quality services to people in northern New York.

The person in this position is responsible for the day-to-day management of food service operations, including food ordering/inventory management, and staff scheduling, hiring, and performance management at United Helpers Rehabilitation and Senior Care in Ogdensburg.

Applicants must be one of the following or willing to become a certified dietary manager; a certified food service manager; possess similar national certification for food service management and safety from a national certifying body; or have an associate's or higher degree in food service management or in hospitality, if the course study includes food service or restaurant management.

Prior experience preferred in institutional cooking, recipe development and conversion, and New York State sanitation standards, with a minimum of five years' experience preferred in quantity food service and supervision.

Join our organization of more than 1000 dedicated professionals providing care and support in facilities and community-based programs across St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties. We want to talk to you if you enjoy working in teams, provide high-quality services, mentor and support team members, and strive for excellence.

Rehabilitation and Senior Care in Ogdensburg offers a continuum of health care services including post-hospital (subacute) rehabilitation and skilled nursing.

Benefits include health insurance with vision and dental plans available, life insurance, 401-K retirement plan, paid time off, and a company-wide employee assistance program.

If you enjoy working in teams, providing high-quality services, are interested in learning and mentoring others, and making a positive difference in the lives of others every day, we encourage you to apply.

Learn more, visit:  
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### St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

is looking to fill the following position:

### PART-TIME HUMAN SERVICES TEACHER

The Adult Education and Workforce Development Department is in need of a part-time hourly instructor to teach Introduction to Human Services. Preferred qualifications include a minimum of an Associate's Degree in a related field in addition to Human Services workplace experience. Teaching experience is preferred, but not required. Applications accepted until January 29th, 2021.

The BOCES application can be accessed & submitted online at [www.sllboces.org](http://www.sllboces.org). EOE

### EMPLOYMENT INFO

friend or neighbor and you have Medicaid, they may be eligible to start taking care of you as a personal assistant under NYS Medicaid CDPA Program. No Certificates needed. Phone: 347-713-3553

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TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-516-1375. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

### EDUCATION

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COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)





Focus on Education

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NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK | MASSENA-OGDENSBURG, NY | JANUARY 23 - 29, 2021

## Massena Central to start test of chatbot 'Raider'

BY ANDY GARDNER

North Country This Week

MASSENA — The Massena Central School District will start using artificial intelligence (AI) to communicate with families and track attendance.

Community Schools Director Kristin Collarusso-Martin discussed the program with the Board of Education during their Thursday, Jan. 14 meeting.

She said the "chatbot," named Raider, can be used to send announcements to the entire district. And people getting a text from Raider can ask it questions and it will answer them.

A chatbot is a software application to have an online chat or conversation via text or text-to-speech, in lieu of having a conversation with an in-person operator.

"If we have an announcement to get out to the district. We want to remind people it's a holiday on Monday and USDA meal pickup

would be Friday," she said. "It will talk back and forth. The more we use it, the smarter it will actually get."

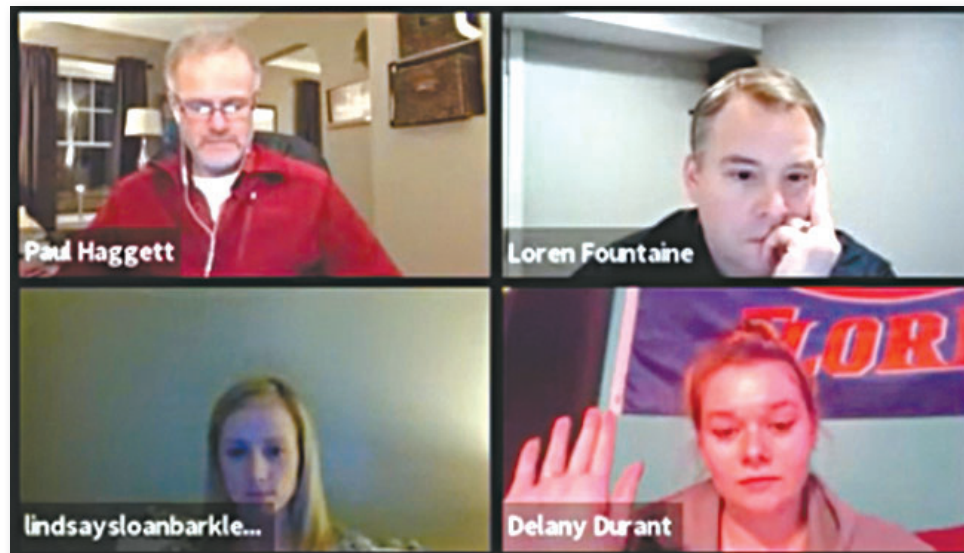
She said they are building a database "of all critical information we want Raider to start out with."

In addition to that, they can set an attendance threshold for the Raider bot to send a text to parents asking if everything is ok if the student misses so many days.

In case the bot is unable to answer questions, or receives a report of something serious, the district has what Collarusso-Martin called "escalation teams" to handle that.

"Each building sets up escalation teams so if someone asks a question the chatbot, Raider, isn't able to answer, it goes to the escalation team," she said, adding that something serious like a report of a student in crisis would go directly to a building principal.

She said they have the chatbot on a trial basis until June. After that, it's \$500 per building to extend the contract.



Screenshot from Zoom

Massena High School senior Delaney Durant; bottom right; is sworn in as a student ex officio member of the Board of Education.

## Northwest Tech names top student

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES Northwest Technical and Career Center announces the January student of the month.

Senior Jayden Carr, Lisbon, is in the Natural Resource Management program and an excellent student as he shows up ready for class and to get to work each day, according to Northwest Tech teachers and staff.

"Carr has an exemplary attitude and is well respected by his peers. He works hard and wants to excel at any work set before him."

He plans to attend lineman school following graduation and would like to pursue a career as a line worker.



Jayden Carr

### BRIEFLY

#### SAT/ACT workshop planned

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES is offering the SAT/ACT workshop to high school juniors who plan to take the SAT and/or ACT this spring. Classes will be remote using Google Classroom and Zoom on seven Saturdays or Sundays starting March 6 or 7 through May 1 or 2.

Students from Heuvelton, Lisbon, Madrid-Waddington, Morristown, and Ogdensburg, must register through guidance counselors by Feb. 10.

Others should mail the registration form available online at <https://satactworkshop.weebly.com/> and fee to David Dufrane by Feb. 10.

For more information email Meg Clemens at, [satactworkshop@sllboces.org](mailto:satactworkshop@sllboces.org).

#### BOCES offers parent support

St. Lawrence Lewis BOCES hosts a parent support group meeting planned via Zoom 4-5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 26, which is

open to parents from any school district.

Parents will discuss mindfulness and life stressors during this difficult time.

Parents are also encouraged to share resources: books, articles, child's toys, or equipment they have found helpful. There is also a networking time allowed at the end of the meeting to converse with other parents and professionals.

For more information contact Kirstie O'Grady 716-523-3325 or [kogrady@sllboces.org](mailto:kogrady@sllboces.org), or Alicia Pirie 315-389-1879, [alicia.pirie@sllboces.org](mailto:alicia.pirie@sllboces.org)

#### Doughnut sale

MADRID -- Madrid-Waddington Central School class of 2022 is holding an online Krispy Kreme Doughnut sale with orders and payment due by Jan. 26.

Orders can be placed online through the Madrid-Waddington Central School District Facebook page. Doughnuts are \$8/doz. and will be delivered Feb. 3.

MASSENA — The Board of Education swore in a new student ex-officio member.

Massena High School senior Delaney Durant will serve as a non-voting board member for the remainder of the school year.

During reports from board officers at monthly school board meetings, the student board member typically gives a short report of what's going on among the student body.

Superintendent Pat Brady said she "comes with a great pedigree" and participates in music and sports, in addition to serving on the student council.

He said after graduation, Durant is "heading off to college and wants to go into law enforcement."

"Congratulations, I guess, and thanks for helping us out," Board President Pat Bronchetti said.

## SLC students awarded grants to community organizations for their winning essays

The Northern New York Community Foundation recently awarded \$1,500 in Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge grants to two St. Lawrence County schools.

A committee that included Community Foundation staff and a retired junior high school teacher judged and scored the applications with results as follows:

- \$500, Canton-Potsdam Hospital Foundation, Canton, Olivia White, Canton Central School
- \$500, Help Sami Kick Cancer Foundation, Canton, Vivian Coburn, Canton Central School
- \$500, Renewal House for Victims of Family Violence, Jazmine Carpenter, Morristown Central School

As public health guidelines safely permit, the Community Foundation and schools will work with winning students in the coming weeks to coordinate visits to their respective charitable agencies to present grants and learn more about the organizations they chose.

The initiative was launched in 2017 to introduce middle school students to concepts of philanthropy and community needs.

The challenge seeks to engage youths as they explore the meaning of community and are empowered to recommend grants to support their concepts that strengthen the quality of life in the region.

Students write an essay that articulates their definition of community and explains what makes it a great place to live, work and play. Participants are then asked to name a charitable organization that makes their community a better place through its service to residents.

In the past four years, 83 students have been selected to present 79 grants totaling \$40,000 to 67 different nonprofit organizations that serve tri-county residents. Since the Community Spirit Youth Giving Challenge began, 397 students representing 21 school districts across the region have applied to the program, recommending grants to 160 different charitable organizations.

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