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Ivy Ridge, murders, flooding, bear hunting among most-read

St. Lawrence County's top 10 stories of 2024

The death of local community leaders, calls to censure a Potsdam board member and a former Ivy Ridge employee charged with murder were among the top stories in St. Lawrence County in 2024.

Here are the most significant stories from the past 12 months, as determined by the North Country This Week editorial staff and page views on NorthCountryNow.com.



Frenchie Coupal



Loretta Perez

Community pillars die in crash

Sadly one of the most-read stories was the tragic loss of two prominent members of the Massena community who died in a motor vehicle accident.

Real "Frenchie" Coupal, president of Frenchie's Chevrolet, and Loretta Perez were killed in an accident that remains under investigation by St. Lawrence County sheriff's deputies.

The accident occurred in December near the intersection of State Highway 310 and County Route 34 in Potsdam.

"Frenchie and Loretta were two cornerstones of this community. Each individual was highly involved in the community, whether that be with the Hospital board, the Elks, or the Italian American Club. Two very wonderful people who gave so much to the community and who I will miss dearly. My thoughts are with both of their families and I know the entire Massena community grieves," Mayor Greg Paquin said.

Deputies say a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado, operated by Connor A. Graveline of Ogdensburg, was traveling east on County Route 34 when he failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection and struck a 2022 GMC Acadia, operated by Real C. Coupal of Massena.

Potsdam councilor critical of Trump

At number two was a story that grabbed national attention after a Potsdam town board member made comments about Pres. Donald Trump that some perceived as threatening.



Christine Paige

In July, town council member Christine Paige, who said in a Facebook conversation that shooting the former president would be like "putting down a rabid dog," told North Country This Week in a separate conversation that she

'It's totally unbecoming of a government official to say something like that.'

Glenn Webster
District 11 County Legislator

has a right to freedom of speech and she did not apologize for her statements.

Her comments were part of a larger conversation thread in which the original poster said "Shit they missed his head," in the wake of a failed assassination attempt.

The comments by Paige drew the attention of a county legislature who, in a split vote, called for the town board to issue a formal resolution condemning her comments as a Potsdam town council member.

"It is totally unbecoming of a government official to say something like that," said Glenn J. Webster, District 11 Legislator. Webster, who is from Norwood, represents a section of the town of Potsdam at the county level.

"It's basically political assassination, it's terrorism," Webster said of the assassination attempt on the former president."



Backwoods Taxidermy | Courtesy

Alexa Livernois, 18, shot a near 600-pound bear in southern St. Lawrence County, according to her father, Brian Livernois. This photo was among the most viewed photos published in St. Lawrence County in 2024.



Courtesy

Fast flowing waters in the Oswegatchie near the St. Lawrence River devastated the docks at Hosmer's Marina following flooding in August.

left some vehicles submerged in water. Amazingly, there were no deaths related to the storm.

More than 40 roads in the county were partially closed and a travel advisory remained in effect for more than 24 hours as emergency workers scrambled to clean up the damage from Hurricane Debbie.

Abandoned vehicles, washed out roads, collapsed bridges and flooded homes were among the reported damage.

Social media was overflowing with photos reminiscent of a disaster film related to the event and emergency service providers including EMS, first responders, law enforcement and firefighters worked through the night to answer hundreds of calls throughout the county.

St. Lawrence County Sheriff Rick Engle reported no deaths, but the damage was substantial.

"The travel ban has been lifted and changed to a travel advisory. There are many roads in the county that are still unpassable. Most roads with flooding or traffic hazards have been marked with signs or cones. If you need to travel, allow extra time and use caution."

If you come across a traffic hazard, please report it," he said at the time. "A number of roads are closed due to flooding. The Route 11 underpass just north of the Village of Canton is flooded and closed, and streets in the Judson Street area are also closed. A part of Route 58 in Gouverneur is also impassable."

Murder charge for ex-Ivy Ridge worker

A Netflix documentary about alleged crimes committed by staff members nearly 20 years ago at Ivy Ridge Academy, just outside of Ogdensburg brought national attention to the area.



John Free

The film, "The Program," included footage of abuse and led to layoffs at local school districts and the St. Law

SEE STORIES, PAGE 20

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Former mayor questions hospital sale five years later

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI
North Country This Week

MASSENA -- It's been five years since St. Lawrence Health took control of Massena Memorial Hospital but former Massena Mayor Jim Hidy still has questions about a \$20 million grant from the state Department of Health.

Hidy questioned the expenditures of the hospital and utilization of the grant that he said "was supposed to pay off the hospital's debt."

"Where did all of that money go?" he asked.

"I'm trying to wrap my arms around this \$5 million payback for the hospital pension fund that you're embarking on in February. I've spoken to a lot of people, and a lot of people that didn't have anything to do about it, wondering how did it get there. Then I've spoken to a number of people, well, this is how it got there. So, there are only about three people in this room that actually know how we got to this point," Hidy said.

Hidy pointed to Deputy Town Supervisor Pat Facteau, who served as Massena Memorial Hospital's Chief Financial Officer, Town Supervisor Sue Bellor, who served on the hospital Board of Managers, along with Town Attorney Eric Gustafson, who served as the hospital's attorney.

The meeting grew contentious when Hidy called into question the spending of the \$20 million state grant, suggesting the money was improperly allocated or spent during the sale.

"Where did it go? I'm being told that a portion of that should have been applied towards the outstanding pension fund. Why wasn't it applied?" he asked. "Not only were

you given \$20 million by New York state, you were also given \$8 million by St. Lawrence Health Systems. Where did that \$8 million go?" Hidy said.

Facteau said the \$20 million grant was to be used for the overall liabilities of the hospital, which extended beyond the Worker's Compensation debt and pension liability.

Hidy pressed further, questioning Gustafson's role in the deal as well.

But Gustafson said it was quite simple, the liabilities far outweighed the funding that came from the state and St. Lawrence Health.

"The liabilities in the hospital far exceeded the assets. That pension liability had been occurring for years. There wasn't enough grant and other funds to cover the outstanding liabilities to keep the hospital open and pay all the outstanding debt," Gustafson said.

On two separate occasions, in August 2019 and October 2019, the town was forced to bond to keep cash flowing to keep the hospital open.

Former Town Supervisor Steve O'Shaughnessy recently told NCTW that those funds, \$2 million on each occasion, would have fallen to the town to pay off had the state not awarded the \$20 million grant.

Gustafson also addressed the state fronting money to keep the hospital afloat.

"One of the things that you're not bringing up is, yeah, we did get a grant. But, were you aware that a portion of the grants on two separate occasions were used to cash flow the hospital before the closing? There wasn't enough money to keep the hospital open," he said.

Gustafson called Tidy's information "bits and half information" that doesn't paint the full picture and omits key details.

Hidy said he was bringing up the debt because he felt "everybody was left in the dark."

"Nobody knew what was going on," Hidy said.

But Gustafson shot down the notion that people were left in the dark.

"During that time we went through every last bit of the transfer documents and where the funds were going. You had a full hospital board working on it. You had a full town board working on it. You had all the unions involved. It wasn't just the town," he said.

Gustafson called into question why Hidy was bringing up the matter and the trailing liabilities five years after the deal was done.

"You're raising these questions five years after the fact. It just doesn't make any sense," Gustafson said.



Cheryl Shumway | NCTW

Snow much fun in Massena

Kennedy Rufa, Medford, Long Island, makes a snow angel in the remaining snow at the Massena Springs Park Dec. 30. Her dad, Massena native Jonathon Rufa, her brother Jackson, and Kennedy were visiting family in Massena over the holidays.

Sen. Stec announces intention to seek NY-21 Congressional seat

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI
North Country This Week

State Senator Dan Stec is throwing his hat in the ring for the NY-21 Congressional seat currently held by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik.

"That's been the dominant question in my world for about a month. Once that seat is vacated, yes I plan to seek it," Stec said in an announcement.

Stec recently announced his

interest in the seat, commenting that he hopes to be considered and chosen by the Republican Party to run in a special election next year.

Stefanik was recently named as President-elect Donald Trump's choice to serve as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

If confirmed, Stefanik would vacate the seat she has held for over a decade, triggering a special election.

Stefanik recently won reelection for the sixth time, defeating Democrat Paula Collins 60.31% to 36.50%.

Stec ran unopposed in November, gaining over 104,000 votes.

Once her resignation is confirmed, Governor Kathy Hochul would have 10 days to announce the date and schedule for the special election. That would most likely place the election sometime in

April.

Though many Democrats and Republicans have announced "campaigns" for the seat, the process isn't the same as a normal primary or general election, as party chairs from each county will meet to choose who they wish to run instead of holding a primary or convention.

Stec said he's the obvious choice given his track record as a public servant for 25 years.

Stec said he has to earn the nomination but given his voting record and personal stance on numerous issues critical to the North Country, he feels he's the obvious choice.

He cited his history of public service and knowledge of the district as another selling point.

Stec's district, NY-45, lies entirely within the NY-21 Congressional district.

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Toys donation for local tots

SeaComm employees recently made a donation of toys to support the Toys For Tots. The year-long employee fundraising efforts contributed to a \$5,000 donation of toys, which were delivered to local children in need. Pictured from left are SeaComm Branch Manager Elizabeth Holliday and Assistant Branch Manager Ashley Montgomery, and Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Director of Inventory Development Derrick Conway.

BRIEFLY

DWI accident

MASSENA — A Brasher Falls woman was charged with driving while intoxicated following a motor vehicle accident on SH 11C Dec. 26,

according to state police. Virginia L. Willie, 66, was charged with first-offense DWI and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation at 6:35 p.m., officers said.



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Salvation Army just short of Red Kettle goal

MASSENA — The Salvation Army of Massena 2024 Red Kettle Campaign fell just shy of its \$55,000 fundraising goal, with a total of \$54,285 raised. Despite the shortfall of only \$715, the organization is grateful for the generous support of local donors, volunteers, and community members who helped make this year's campaign a success.

"We are incredibly thankful for the outpouring of generosity from our community," said Lt. Nicholas White, of the Salvation Army. "While we did not meet our exact goal, every dollar raised goes directly to supporting

our programs and services right here around the Massena area that make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families in need. The impact of this campaign will be felt for months to come."

The funds raised through the Red Kettle Campaign help provide essential services, including food, shelter, youth programs, and emergency assistance to those in crisis throughout Massena and surrounding areas. With continued community support, the Salvation Army is able to carry out its mission to serve those in need regardless of their circumstances.

Though the final tally did not reach the \$55,000 target, the campaign's success is a testament to the compassion and kindness of local residents. The Salvation Army remains committed to meeting the needs of the community and is already looking forward to next year's campaign.

"We are optimistic about the future and excited for what we can accomplish together with our community in 2025," Lt. Nicholas added.

Donations can still be made in person at 178 Victory Road, Massena or by mail to P.O. Box 107 Massena NY 13662.

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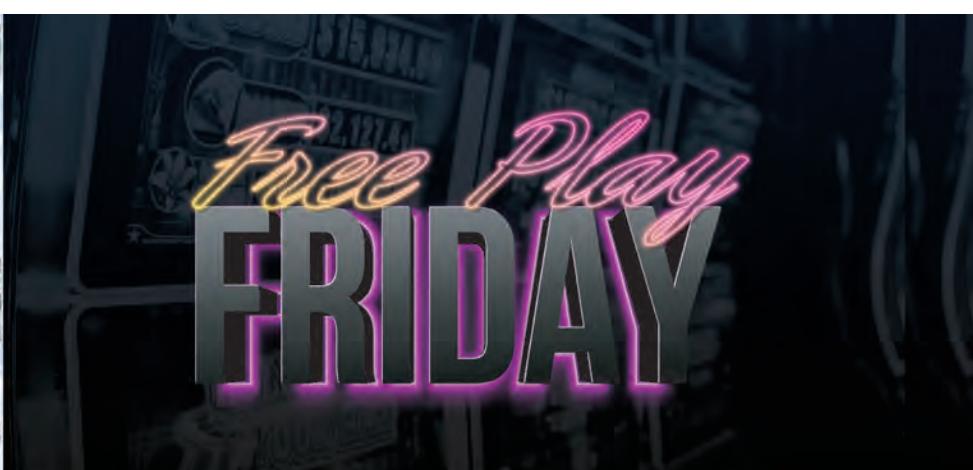


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State reps call on governor to provide financial relief to town of Massena

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI
North Country This Week

MASSENA -- Trailing liabilities from the sale of Massena Memorial Hospital continue to plague the town of Massena but State Senator Dan Stec and Assemblyman Scott Gray are seeking relief on behalf of the town.

In a letter to Governor Kathy Hochul, the two state legislators called on the state to provide assistance to the town due to the "urgent fiscal matter."

Stec and Gray say the debt incurred by the town following the sale of the hospital has dire consequences for tax payers that, if left unaddressed, will continue to financially cripple the town.

Following the sale of the hospital in January 2020, the town of Massena owed St. Lawrence County \$1.7 million for the Worker's Compensation plan and an additional \$5 million to the state for the pension fund.

Though the county and town were squared up with a \$1.7 million payment under former Town Supervisor Steve O'Shaughnessy, the state pension fund remained on the books collecting interest.

Earlier this year the town opted to enter a repayment plan with the

state, offering to pay \$383,000 each year over 30 years.

But that debt wipes out the town's fund balance, according to Town Supervisor Sue Bellor.

In their letter to Hochul, Stec and Gray called into question the practices of the state Department of Health as it issued a \$20 grant for the hospital sale.

"The Department of Health, for a reason unknown to anyone, required the Town to assume a portion of the debt. Furthermore, the hospital received a New York Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program grant of \$20 million, a portion of the funding allocated for this transition and used to maintain cash flow to keep the hospital operational," Stec and Gray wrote.

In Aug. 2019 and Oct. 2019 town officials agreed to deals that secured \$2 million each time to ensure the hospital could stay afloat and meet payroll requirements. The \$4 million distributed came directly from the \$20 million grant, O'Shaughnessy said.

One aspect of the repayment plan that is hampering the town is the interest rate, which sits at 7% on the \$5 million debt.

Town officials have lobbied for Home Rule legislation to be passed

in the state legislature in recent years, which would give special bonding privileges to the town, creating more financial flexibility.

That legislation has been stuck in committee each of the last two years as both Stec and Gray have continued to lobby on behalf of the town. Bellor previously said that despite the best efforts of the representatives, it appeared other state representatives did not care much to advance the legislation.

Deputy Town Supervisor Pat Facteau recently commented that the town was also looking into grant options to pay down the debt.

"We're looking to see what is out there. Maybe we can find something to at least help with that pension liability," he said.

Stec and Gray also called into question why the town was the "sole liable entity" for the pension debt, saying it was "an inequitable outcome given the hospital's regional role."

They presented three options to the Governor, including allocating state funds to reduce or entirely eliminate the liability through the state budget, amortization flexibility, or a combined approach that would relieve some of the debt coupled with an extended amortization schedule to make repayment more manageable for the town.



Riley Luckie | Courtesy

Emcee Jamie Luckie speaks at the retirement party for his brother, Thomas Luckie, Jr., longtime director of Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club.

Luckie honored for service to Boys and Girls Club

OGDENSBURG — Thomas Luckie, Jr. was recently honored for his 26 years of dedicated service to the Ogdensburg Boys and Girls Club at the Ogdensburg Elks Lodge.

His retirement party was attended by 200 friends, family, former club members, and players

he has coached over the years.

Luckie served as the Director of the Boys and Girls Club for the past 18 years and assistant director for eight years prior to that.

Luckie will not completely retire from the club. In semi-retirement, he will stay on as Director of Development and Major Gifts in a part-time role.

"Congratulations and well deserved to Mr. Luckie, Jr. on your "semi" retirement from the club, and we are excited for your new role. Thank you for making the dif-

ference and impact you have had on the Ogdensburg and surrounding communities. We hope you can enjoy some more time now with your family and on the golf course," said the Ogdensburg Bgc Facebook page.

"Tom Luckie Jr. Appreciation Day was a success. The best night for the best dad, husband, brother, son, role model and mentor. We have been Luckie to watch you touch the lives of generations of kids. Thank you to all who came to celebrate our dad. It was a great night," said Riley Luckie, Tom's daughter.

Megan McNamara will assume the Executive Director position effective January 1, 2025. McNamara has been employed by the club for 21 years, and served the last 12 as the assistant executive director.

Crisis call center shuts down

BY ADAM ATKINSON
North Country This Week

POTSDAM — A suicide prevention hotline and mental health crisis service that has operated out of Potsdam for decades is shutting its phone lines off, citing funding issues.

Reachout of St. Lawrence County, Inc., which took its first call in 1977, will turn off the phones on Dec. 31.

The organization has offered emergency mental health counseling to those in need with both paid staff and volunteers managing the phone hotlines.

"We are heartbroken to announce that, as of December 31st, we will no longer be there when people call," said a press release from Reachout, circulated by director Karen Butler Easter.

Reachout receives about \$425,000 annually in state and local aid through the county for operating expenses. The county receives about \$5 million in state aid to fund multiple agencies that supply mental health and addiction services, said Jay Ulrich, St. Lawrence County Director of Community Services. This past year, the county's Community Services Board as part of its local response plan opted to circulate a Request for Proposals from agencies offering more comprehensive crisis services to receive the funding. While Reachout had the opportunity, the organization did not submit an RFP

to the board, said Ulrich.

The agency that was awarded the contract to be the community provider of mental health crisis services and receive the state and local funding aid instead of Reachout still has to present to the county legislature at its meeting on Jan. 13th before final approval. The new agency will be announced at that time, Ulrich and Lindsay Best, St. Lawrence County Deputy Director of Community Services, told North Country This Week.

To date, there have been no changes to the funding allocation, Ulrich said.

Ulrich and Best said the Community Services Board has discussed a transition to a new level of crisis management services in the region for several years. "This is a thought-out process," Ulrich said.

Best said that the plan moving forward was for the county to fund an agency that can offer a more comprehensive approach to the task, which included additional services on the front end as well as coordinated follow-up care.

"If you've ever called Reachout, please know this: we believe in you, we care about you, and we wish you the very best. Thank you for trusting us with your stories, your grief, your elation, your trials, your tribulations, and your triumphs. Knowing you has changed us for the better, and we're grateful for your trust," Reachout said.

AG says trooper was justified in SLC shooting

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI
North Country This Week

RUSSELL -- The shooting death of fugitive Shawn Sheridan by a State Trooper has been deemed justified by the state Attorney General's Office following a lengthy investigation.

Sheridan was found hiding in the Donnerville State Forest in the town of Russell near his family's camp with his pregnant girlfriend Chantelle Myatt, then 19-years-old.

In an interview with NCTW on Aug. 21, 2023 Myatt said she and Sheridan lived near his family's camp in Russell for nearly a month, living off trapped animals, including boiled possum and minnow jerky, before he was killed by police.

Sheridan was shot and killed by Trooper Conner Sutton after Sheridan fired one shot from his rifle towards officers, leading Sutton to respond with his duty rifle.

According to the report, Sutton shot six times with one round hitting Sheridan in the left eye, exiting the back of his skull.

"Through counsel, Trooper Sutton refused to be interviewed by OSI or to provide a written statement," documents state.

Upon seeing police approach their camp, Myatt began to run away. Sheridan could be seen with a rifle in hand, police said in statements.

According to a statement issued by Senior Investigator Steven Bos of the New York State Police, Sheridan was warned to drop the firearm or officers would release a K9.

At that point K9 Skiff was deployed, according to Bos' statement.

Bos states he heard Sutton yell "Gun, gun, gun," followed by "four to six shots," although he was unsure who had fired.

He stated he then saw K9 Skiff near Sheridan, who was now on his back with a gunshot wound to the head.

According to Bos' statement, he was unsure if Sheridan had been taken down by K9 Skiff or a gunshot.

At that time Bos asked if any member had been hit after Sheridan had opened fire, to which Sutton responded he believed K9 Skiff had been shot.

It was later determined to be a superficial wound to his paw that was not the result of a gunshot wound, according to previous NCTW reports.

Blood found on his fur could possibly have come from Sheridan's wound, the report stated.

Officers had commanded Sheridan to push the gun away so they could "get him help," documents state, however Sheridan died shortly after being shot.

Rockwood stated officers approached Sheridan when they

determined it was safe to do so, at which time he saw the wound to Sheridan's left eye and could positively identify him.

St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Office Detective Brian Thivierge also offered a statement, saying officers had converged on the campsite, eventually coming within 10 yards of Sheridan who had blended into the woods due to his camouflage.

Thivierge stated Sutton yelled "he has a gun" before issuing a command to Sheridan, though he was unsure of what was said.

At that time he said he saw K9 Skiff be released, leading to Sheridan firing his rifle towards officers.

He said Sutton then returned fire, though he was unsure of how many shots because "of how quickly events unfolded." He also stated he was unsure if Sheridan had fired his rifle again.

After seeing Sheridan down on the ground, Thivierge called in Deputy Brandon Yerdon, one of the two snipers on the team, to hold cover on Sheridan as he lay wounded.

He said he then found Myatt at the bottom of the hill yelling, before instructing Yerdon to command Myatt to lie on her stomach.

Reports say she complied with the command, allowing Thivierge to come to her, identify her and handcuff her before walking her up the hill to turn her over to State Police.

Of the six officers who were interviewed or gave statements, none could confirm the exact number of shots fired, sequence of firing, nor confirm seeing when Sheridan was hit, though each did confirm that multiple shots were fired and could confirm that Sutton had issued commands to Sheridan prior to opening fire.

Sheridan had been on the run for nearly a month after he failed to appear in St. Lawrence County Court for sentencing. He had pleaded guilty to attempted assault in the first degree after he admitted to shooting a former girlfriend in the neck with a rifle on March 9, 2022.

RECENT DEATHS

WILLIAM FRANCIS, 91, Akwesasne, Dec. 26. Arrangements with Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena.

GILBERT RANSON, 58, Massena, Dec. 26. Arrangements with Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena.

JANET MILLER, 93, Massena, Dec. 29. Arrangements with Donaldson Funeral Home, Massena.

GEORGIANNA BURNS, 80, formerly of Ogdensburg, Dec. 29. Arrangements with Fox & Mur-

ray Funeral Home, Ogdensburg.

OBITUARIES AND death notices are posted as soon as they are available at 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. For more information or to submit an obituary, email obituaries@northcountrynow.com or call 315-265-1000 ext. 33.



Victoria Bova | Submitted

Meeting a legend

Karter Strathdee, an eleven-year-old sixth grader at Kennedy Elementary School in Ogdensburg, met NFL legend Dan Marino Dec. 22 when the San Francisco 49ers played the Miami Dolphins at the Hard Rock Stadium in Florida. He attended the game with his mother (Marissa Catlin) and grandmother (Victoria Bova), as a surprise Christmas present. His parents are Jordan Strathdee and Marissa Catlin of Ogdensburg.

Massena village trustees spare former Woodlawn Hotel

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI

North Country This Week

MASSENA -- The bids are in to demolish the former Woodlawn Hotel but village officials have delayed taking action, instead opting to give the property owner a few months to bring it up to code.

Trustees learned that two bids were received for the demolition work during the Dec. 17 board meeting, both of which carried hefty price tags.

According to Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Hardy, Republic Services entered with a bid of \$81,425, with JEDA Environmental Services bidding \$93,825.

The bids come two months after trustees initially discussed the possible demolition of the structure, with Mayor Greg Paquin saying the board would give the property owner until the December meeting

to contact the code office and bring stamped architectural documents.

Ye Nanhair, a Flushing, Queen resident, owns the building and has in fact brought stamped plans to the code office, according to Hardy.

"We have seen the stamped plans, so it's a step in the right direction," he said.

Just what will be done with the space remains to be seen as "multiple ideas have been floated," he said.

In the meantime, a significant amount of work needs to be completed on the structure to bring it up to code, something the village board will allow.

The first step will be to address the exterior issue cited by code enforcement, which includes numerous broken windows, doors that need to be boarded up again, as well as several walls and floors that are collapsing, according to

Hardy.

Hardy commented that a number of walls were detaching and could fall, due in large part to significant water damage inside the building.

When the work will start is up in the air with winter setting in, however Hardy said the property owner has submitted a letter that detailed plans with a finish date of May 2025.

Hardy said it was ultimately up to the board to decide if they want to demolish the building or allow the owner time to remediate.

"From the code enforcement standpoint, we are always looking for voluntary compliance. We are not looking to smash down buildings and fine people to death. We are looking to get things taken care of. This looks like an olive branch," Hardy said.

Mayor Greg Paquin agreed, commenting that the tab for demolition

"We did have the stay-at-home order from March to May, but looking at the businesses in our system, there were very few that were impacted by it. Even with the businesses closed to the public, they're still operating. They're still required by law to have the fire inspection. So, we shouldn't see it die that much," O'Brien said.

He said the trend didn't improve much in 2023, with the town only collecting \$1,400 total, the lowest amount ever recorded.

"There's a lot of reasons for this, one of which was when the village was sending out inspection notices. Basically, they'd send an invoice with it and that was the end of the follow-up. There was no report coming to the town about code enforcement activities, so there's no way for the town clerk or the town board to know what was going on or know what to expect. The town clerk's office would process the payments as they came in, but they didn't really know how many inspections were going on because it wasn't communicated," O'Brien said.

Square footage calculations also played a role, with the town not collecting the proper amount on 54 inspections.

He said the town was essentially undercharged for fire inspections in many cases.

"Out of the 54, we found roughly 40% where no square footage was entered into the system. When no square footage is entered, it zeroes it out and charges them the minimum amount for a fire inspection, \$25. So, I found about 40% should have been \$100, \$150, \$200 fire inspections that we were undercharging

for 2000 to 2003," he said.

Seven businesses in particular were undercharged by a wide margin, he said.

Those included Alcoa, Arconic, North Country Colocation Services and multiple occupancies in the former St. Lawrence Centre mall, each of which should have had \$500 inspections.

He said the town typically collected \$775 annually from those inspections but should have collected around \$2,000.

"From those seven pre-existing businesses, what we were collecting was \$0 when we should have been collecting about \$2,500 annually," he said.

O'Brien said that is set to change this year, with the town finally streamlining the inspection process and collecting the proper payments.

He said it is his belief that the town will no longer lose money on fire inspections in the future.

NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK

Massena - Ogdensburg Edition

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BRIEFLY

Fire displaces one

OGDENSBURG — One person was displaced following a reported fire Sunday evening. Volunteers from the American Red Cross said they provided immediate emergency aid to one person after the blaze on Pray Road. The Red Cross provided financial assistance which can be used for necessities such as shelter, food, and clothing, to one adult. Volunteers also offered emotional support and comfort kits containing personal care items. In the coming days, Red Cross staff and volunteers will remain available to help those affected by the fire as they navigate the road to recovery.

Gun incident on Christmas Eve

BOMBAY — A Massena resident

was accused of pointing a gun at someone on Christmas Eve, according to state police. Jacy V. Charleston, 34, of Massena, was charged with criminal possession of a firearm, and second-degree menacing, officers said. Troopers responded to around 5:40 p.m. to County Route 4 for a menacing

complaint. Investigation allegedly determined Charleston presented a firearm, pointed it at the victim, and made threatening remarks. Charleston was arraigned in Town of Bombay Court, where he was released under the supervision of probation, troopers said.



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“ STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

Tai Chi with Master Sean has helped me with arthritis and balance and is helping me to recuperate from two major surgeries. His sense of humor and encouragement make Tai Chi class fun!

-Linda

“ STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

I am so grateful for this opportunity to join. I have been able to do movements that I have not been able to do for years. I enjoy every class and highly recommend trying it. I am sure once you try, you will enjoy it as much I do. Thank you, Master Sean.

-Ranny

“ STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

I joined North Country Tai Chi while living in the North Country, and Master Sean's excellent teaching and the practice helped me maintain health and focus during a stressful time. When I moved away I was very sad to leave the school behind. However, when the pandemic started Master Sean was quick to move classes online – and I could join in again! I am grateful to have access to the school once more, and the online resources are very helpful.

Anne

www.northcountrytaichi.com
northcountrytaichi@gmail.com
(315) 229-4003

Seaway administrator preparing to hand off reins

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI
North Country

MASSENA — The new year approaches, shipping on the St. Lawrence Seaway closes on January 5th and with it comes the end of GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlicht's run as the head of the seaway.

Appointed to the position by President Joe Biden on Nov. 6, 2022, Tindall-Schlicht has overseen a resurgence in shipping on the seaway following down years due to the COVID pandemic.

Tindall-Schlicht said he was preparing for his final weeks in the role before he hands in his formal resignation to clear the way for President-elect Donald Trump to select the new GLS administrator.

Tindall-Schlicht said one of his proudest achievements was leading consistent operations across the seaway, offering praise to the many employees at GLS who made it happen.

He said it was his hope the incoming administration would "extend and prolong the work that we've accomplished over the last two years, strengthening seaway infrastructure through robust reinvestment."

Under Tindall-Schlicht, GLS secured its largest ever budget, allowing for critical reinvestment in its infrastructure, he said.

But he also commented that the work that was completed and is currently underway to ensure the seaway maintains its role as an environmental steward of the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes will prove crucial as seaway officials look to deepen collaboration with local, state, federal and industry users in the region.

During his tenure, Tindall-Schlicht also oversaw the construction of a new visitor center at the Eisenhower Lock, something seaway officials had lobbied for many times.

"I started coming to Massena basically in 2010 in the earliest stages of my seaway career, and I well remember the previous iteration of the visitor center and to see a modern, vibrant facility where both the history of the St. Lawrence Seaway is honored, but where the future of the Seaway is celebrated has been, I think, one of the primary achievements that we've been able to accomplish over the last two years during my tenure as administrator," he said.

Tindall-Schlicht commented that many of his favorite moments have occurred at the visitor center, which opened in May of this year.

He commented that the advent of containerization bypassed the Great Lakes when shipping really took off, however he hopes to bring it to the region in the near future.

That could lead to new imports and exports, more jobs being created and an economic boost to the North Country, he said.

"There's a tremendous opportunity here to leverage what, really what God has given us with the St. Lawrence river, to move more cargo by water. What that does is that takes cargo off roads and bridges, and what it does is also reduces greenhouse gas emissions," Fisher said.

Both Tindall-Schlicht and Fisher said the move to containerized ships would allow the United States to be more economically competitive in the world market, with grain and coal exports playing a key role in that.

But that work will have to be continued by Fisher, as Tindall-Schlicht prepares for the end of his tenure.

"I want to share my gratitude to the women and men that have worked at the GLS, the users of the Seaway, and to the community of Massena overall. I started coming here early in my career and what I've always found in Massena is people who have welcomed me personally and professionally. I've spent holidays here. I became a father during my time as GLS administrator, and I said in our all-hands meeting today that so much of the professional success but the personal joy I've had in my life is because of the trust and faith in friendships that I found in Massena and across the North Country, and for that I will always be grateful," Tyndall-Schlicht said.

St. Lawrence County food pantries receive \$59,000 from 'Community Foundation' awards

The Northern New York Community Foundation will provide \$59,000 in support this year to 47 local food pantries, soup kitchens, and school-based backpack programs in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties.

The total support includes \$40,000 to 37 organizations across the region that the Foundation's Board of Directors approved as year-end aid during its December meeting.

The grants will help strengthen programs and stock shelves at community food pantries and soup kitchens across the tri-county region. A total of \$19,000 was awarded through that fund to 14 tri-county organizations already this year.

Pantries and soup kitchens receiving year-end support may utilize it to secure the most important supplies for their clients, including

food, hygiene products, and other grocery items not available through the Food Bank.

Organizations from St. Lawrence County receiving year-end grant support include:

- Christian Fellowship Center Food Pantry, Madrid

- Church and Community Program Churches of Canton

- Free Will Meal Program Soup Kitchen, Canton

- Heuvelton Central School District Food Pantry

- Massena First United Methodist Church Soup Kitchen

- New Beginnings Clothing and Food Outreach, Madrid

- Ogdensburg Snackpack Program

- Parishville-Hopkinton Central School Backpack Program

- Potsdam Snack Pack Program

- Salvation Army of Massena

- St. Lawrence County Commu-

nity Development Program

- St. Peter's Outreach Ministry, Massena

- Star Lake Food Pantry

- Tri-Town Community Services Food Pantry, Brasher Falls

- Waddington Family Resource Center Pantry

Organizations that previously received a share of \$19,000 in Community Support Fund grant support this year include:

- Community Lunch Program for Kids, Norwood

- Grasse River Food Pantry, Russell

- Hammond Food Pantry

- Helping Hands of Potsdam

- Heuvelton Central School District Food Pantry

- Norfolk-Raymondville Food Pantry

- Massena First United Methodist Church Soup Kitchen

- Potsdam Snack Pack Program

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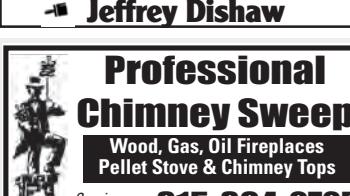
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NORTH COUNTRY OPINION

JANUARY 4-10, 2025 | NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK | MASSENA-OGDENSBURG, NY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Upset about Reachout ceasing operations

It is very sad for St. Lawrence County that Reachout will cease operations December 31st after almost a half century of service to those struggling with various life crises, tangible needs, and information about resources.

When I returned to the north country in 1985 and became oriented to agencies and other assets in the area and region, Reachout and Karen Easter were a part of every conversation I had and appeared on every list I received.

In the time since, it has been a rare week that has passed when I have not told someone "call Reachout; they'll know and be able to help you."

I was privileged to sit on their Board for a number of years and experience first-hand how much could be done with so little.

This was Karen's life and she rose to national prominence in the field.

The Reachout employees worked for less pay than cohorts elsewhere and did so with total commitment and devotion.

And a book could be written about the volunteers! Have we really come to the point where everything has to be bigger in order to be "better"?

I am sure that whoever takes the mantle from Reachout will do excellent work with life-threatening crises. I wonder, however, about the 95% other calls seeking food, clothing, shelter, and help with concerns about what to do about a lonely, shut-in parent?

I really hope that they have the humility to call Reachout and get some good resource information.

Carolyn M. White
Executive Director, Grace House

We're not all in this together

I write "Letters-to-the-Editor" to educate and responsibly warn people that the GOP is misleading its voters. (Case in point: voters convinced that illegals stream "unimpeded" across borders are probably unaware that this year, according to US Immigration statistics, deportations rose to its highest level since 2014 - or ironically, that Trump's second-highest-donor buses illegal workers from Mexico to their Wisconsin factories.)

Mr. Farnsworth's "Letters-to-the-Editor" asserted that Trump won because he "listened" to voters. Not quite.

Neuroscientific studies confirmed that campaign rhetoric contained emotional/mental triggers making people "feel" that way. If people weren't taught how Hitler used brain-washing propaganda to demonize Jewish people ("the other")?

If they weren't taught about Hitler using psychological manipulation to attract disillusioned, disgruntled Germans? That explains Republican voters who didn't recognize how the GOP was replicating the same methodology used by dictators who've undermined democracies throughout history.

However, ignorance of historical fascism is no excuse for the angry Mr. Shirtz(s), Mr. Beary(s) and Mr. Finley(s) of this world who, in the past 5 years, have personally attacked me and other fellow community members for having the integrity to convey research-based



NCNow Photo

Free skating in Massena

Friends Evelyn Christy, left, and Lincoln Mulvenna enjoy the free public skating Dec. 30 at Massena Arena. Several free sessions were available over the holiday vacation, thanks to Seacomm, Northside Community Church, Massena Sons of Amvets, Massena Amvets, Mike Hazelton Foundation and Warden's Custom and Vinyl.

perceptions different from their regurgitated conservative-media-based soundbites.

Mr. Shirtz thinks astute readers will believe his pompously fake "Letter-to-the-Editor" that "we're all in this together"?

Mr. Shirtz, among others, remains blind to the ways right-wing, hyper-biased rhetoric is designed to create political divides in America.

Rural and urban voters are pitted against one another. Immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, "liberals" or "DemocRats" are blamed for everything wrong with America. The GOP ignores pleas to respect commonality and decency. Right-wing media continues to mislead voters by obviously labeling Social Security and public education as "entitlements".

The right-wing-funded Heritage Foundation publishes slanted data about supposedly "wasteful government spending"; turning public

opinion against federal programs. Elon Musk and corporations can now do what they've always wanted - take over the military, prisons, medical care, schools, the post office, national parks, infrastructure etc. - enterprises that will make more money for them - not necessarily benefit the people of America.

Republican voters convinced that Democrats caused inflation? Wait until empowered corporations and billionaires bypass constitutional governance to run our country as their own private profitable business.

Good-bye consumer protections against price-gouging, fraud, higher insurance premiums, health and safety violations. We're NOT all in this together when Republican extremists can make life worse than it already is for struggling working families in this country.

Martha Hodges

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

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NCNOW SURVEY

Artificial trees more popular than real



Debbie Morgan | NCTW

Last week's question

If you put up a Christmas tree this year, did you have an artificial or real tree??

IF YOU PUT UP a Christmas tree this year, did you have an artificial or real tree?

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: If you put

up a Christmas tree this year, did you have an artificial or real tree?

TO TAKE THE CURRENT SURVEY, visit bit.ly/4a04MWR

entities in agreement to which the US federal court approved.

To date the two colonial systems have agreed to a very contentious deal but the Mohawk Nation has rejected any settlement which cedes aboriginal territory, fails to protect our Native rights or exempts the New York Power Authority and the St. Lawrence Seaway from paying their fair share as they continue to use our natural resources.

Key issues such as civil and criminal jurisdiction, payment for ecological damages to our lands and the placing of our territory into US "trust" are vehemently opposed by those who consider themselves citizens of the Nation.

Formal notices of rejection are being prepared to be sent to St. Lawrence and Franklin counties, the governor, the US Senate and to the President.

Doug George-Kanentiio
Akwesasne Mohawk

Massena Land rights issues in Akwesasne

Contrary to what has been reported the land rights issue has not been resolved.

There are three governing entities at Akwesasne two of which were imposed upon the Mohawks at force of arms; the St. Regis Tribal Council created by an act of the New York State legislature in 1892 and the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne empowered by the government of Canada in 1899.

The third is the Mohawk Nation Council which is indigenous to Akwesasne although it does not have federal recognition in Ottawa or Washington.

When the formal legal rights action was initiated 40 years ago it was decided that no final settlement would be possible without all three

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June Exhibition Show

July 26 & 27

Civil War Reenactment
Weekend - Fort Tribute

Aug. 30 & 31

Fall Exhibition Show

Sept. 2025

SLC CoC Open Air Market
Food, Crafts & Wine

October 4

Kids Pumpkin Patch Party

October 4

US Military Timeline -
Fort Tribute



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Nicandri Nature Center | Courtesy

Youth learn how to ski in Massena

Youth programs, including free ski lessons, were given over the holiday vacation at Nicandri Nature Center. Here, the Wildings group of skiers ages 5-9 receive a beginners lesson in skiing Dec. 26. Ski equipment rentals are free and available when the center is open.

DEC encourages St. Lawrence County anglers to fish safely this season

With the onset of winter and colder temperatures, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is reminding ice anglers to be safe when venturing onto the ice this season, especially given recent variations in weather conditions.

St. Lawrence County outdoor enthusiasts considering ice fishing should always be aware of essential safety guidelines and make sure ice is thick enough before heading out, officials said.

"The possibilities of affordable outdoor adventures are endless across New York's abundant natural areas and winter is no exception," said Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar. "I encourage those recreating on ice to exercise caution by routinely checking ice thickness when navigating around water bodies. Understanding ice thickness safety is essential, so be sure to 'know before you go' and adapt to conditions as necessary."

Before leaving shore, ice anglers

are advised to check the thickness of ice.

Four inches of solid, clear ice is usually safe for anglers accessing ice on foot.

However, ice thickness can vary between waterbodies and even within the same waterbody, increasing the need to ensure thickness.

Anglers should be particularly cautious of areas of moving water and around boat docks and houses where bubblers may be installed to reduce ice from forming. Checking the ice can easily be done.

With an auger or "spud bar" (a long, metal tool with a chisel on one end) at various spots.

Local bait and tackle shops are a great resource for finding out where there is safe ice and what anglers are catching. In addition, fishing with family and friends is also encouraged for safety.

Those interested in trying ice fishing for the first time should

mark the weekend of February 15-16, 2025, on their calendars. As a designated free freshwater fishing weekend, the freshwater fishing license requirement is waived during these days.

Free Fishing Days are also a great opportunity for experienced anglers to introduce someone new to fishing.

For some fish species, ice fishing can be more productive than open-water fishing.

Given good ice conditions, anglers normally limited to shore fishing can access an entire waterbody.

Beginner ice anglers can download the Ice Fishing Chapter of DEC's I FISH NY Beginners Guide to Freshwater Fishing for helpful information on how to get started.

DEC reminds anglers to make sure that they have a valid fishing license before heading out on the ice. Fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from the date of purchase.

Winter time in St. Lawrence County offers local residents many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and take in scenic views along the way. Anyone looking to cross-country ski, can check out many of the following areas to ski locally.

BRASHER STATE FOREST, off County Road 50, Brasher Falls, or Rt. 11 at St. Lawrence Central School, free, www.dec.ny.gov/lands/7999.html.

SUNY CANTON COLLEGE, 15 km of trails, accessed from Parking Lot 6 across from French Hall, bear left at the Y, free.

CATAMOUNT FOREST, 9 miles south of South Colton on the East side of State Route 56. Limited parking at Catamount Mountain trailhead, just South of the lodge driveway. Groomed trails open to the public, www.catamountlodge.com/abouttheforest.html.

CLARKSON UNIVERSITY, five miles of trails, accessible from parking lot on hill campus by Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP) by big green water tower, free, people.clarkson.edu/~outdoors/trails.html.

DILLABOUGH STATE FOREST, off Russell-Pierrepont Rd., 7 km of trails, free.

FORT JACKSON PARK, Hopkinton.

GLENMEAL STATE FOREST, Town of Pierrepont, off County Road 24, accessed from Rt. 68, www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91697.html, 1.9 miles of trails, free.

HIGLEY FLOW STATE PARK, off Rt. 56, 2 miles east of South Colton, 262-2880, <http://higleyfriends.org/> or nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/58/details.aspx, 23 km of groomed and ungroomed trails, free.

HIGH FLATS STATE FOREST, Parishville, from County Road 58, right on Rodwell Mill Road, left jog to Crowley Road, 4.5 miles of trails, 2.6 miles of unplowed road used to complete the loop, free. [https://www.stlawco.org/data/files/Departments/Planning/HighFlats.pdf](http://www.stlawco.org/data/files/Departments/Planning/HighFlats.pdf)

FLATS.pdf, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/104007.html>.

LENNY ROAD, Parishville, 7 km of trails, free.

POSTWOOD PARK AND COUNTY FOREST, Hannawa Falls, 13 km of trails starting at parking lot, 1.6-mile loop and 4.1 mile loop, free.

REMINGTON RECREATION TRAIL AT PARTRIDGE RUN GOLF COURSE, Outer State Street, Canton, several miles of groomed trails, warm-up building, free; <http://www.cantonnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/trails.pdf>.

RIVER HILL, begins on Southville-West Stockholm Road, off Rt. 11B, 5 miles northeast of Potsdam, 2.3 miles of trails, free; <https://www.stlawco.org/data/files/Departments/Planning/RiverHill.pdf>.

ROBERT MOSES STATE PARK/NICANDRI NATURE CENTER, off Rt. 37, 3 miles north of Massena, 6+ miles of groomed trails, free, trails managed by Nicandri Nature Center; trails open dawn to dusk daily; free equipment loans at the center; www.nicandri-naturecenter.org.

ST. LAWRENCE GOLF/COUNTRY CLUB, off Rt. 11, Canton, access behind Best Western, from Pike/Russell Roads, 25 miles of groomed trails, free.

THE LODGE @ DREAMING TREE RANCH, 185 Wilkinson Rd. Potsdam, NY 13676, several miles of groomed trails, free. helpsamikickcancer.org.

WILSON HILL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Louisville, from State Route 37, turn onto State Route 131 to Willard Road, turn north and follow the road, 1.6 miles of trails, www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9324.html.

SWAMPER DOME, Louisville Arena. The trail is approx 2 miles in length running from behind the Arena through the woods skirting a 90 acre meadow and back into the woods down along the Grasse River and back to the arena.

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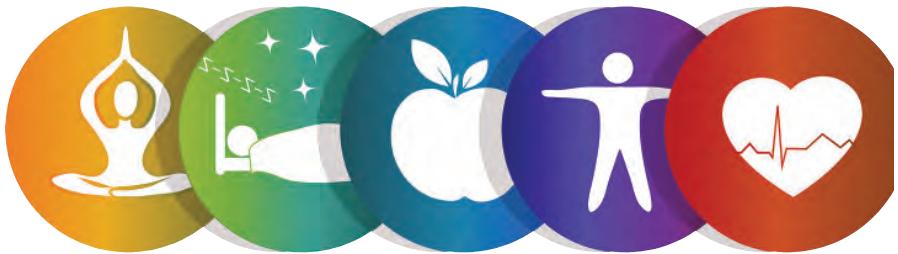


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What you should know about inflammatory bowel syndrome

It may not be something you like to talk about, but if you have gastrointestinal (GI) problems, your symptoms may be far more common than you think. According to data from the

American Gastroenterological Association, 60-70 million people living in the United States have gut health concerns.

Two common conditions are irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and

inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). They're often confused for one another, but these are actually two different GI disorders.

IBS is a syndrome; it is defined by

a group of symptoms, does not cause inflammation and rarely requires hospitalization or surgery. IBD, on the other hand, is an umbrella term used to describe disorders that cause chronic inflammation of your GI tract.

Because it poses serious health risks and can cause permanent damage to your intestines, it's important to be aware of what IBD is and recognize the symptoms. Your primary care doctor or gastroenterologist can help if you have concerns about these symptoms:

- Intense, crampy pain that doesn't go away in a day or two or has been present on and off for weeks or longer
- A notable change in bowel movement frequency, whether more or less often
- Frequent diarrhea over several weeks, or loose stools multiple times a day
- Frequent constipation, or constipation alternating with diarrhea
- Urgency on a regular basis or inability to hold back the bowel movement before reaching the bathroom
- Blood with bowel movements
- Mucus in your stool regularly or paired with pain or other symptoms
- Always feeling as though you aren't fully emptying your bowels

Other symptoms that may have a variety of causes but need extra attention especially if you notice them along with any of the symptoms above include pain outside of the gut, fatigue, loss of appetite and weight loss. In addition, children with IBD may have delays in growth and the onset of

puberty.

No single test can confirm a Crohn's or ulcerative colitis diagnosis. Your medical history and information obtained from diagnostic testing can exclude other potential causes of your symptoms, since gastrointestinal symptoms are common and can have a variety of causes.

Your first tests will likely include blood and stool laboratory tests. Further testing could include imaging studies of your gastrointestinal tract or a look inside your GI tract through an endoscope.

Once an IBD diagnosis is confirmed, you can partner with your doctor to manage your disease. Treatment plans are highly personalized, as what works for one person may not for another.

Medication and managing your diet and nutrition are two common treatment recommendations. In some cases, surgery can help improve your quality of life.

Clinical trials may also be an option for treating your IBD. Through clinical trials, researchers find new ways to improve treatments and quality of life. In fact, clinical trials represent the final stages of a long and careful research process to make new and improved treatment options for patients available.

However, an important part of clinical trials for IBD is patient participation. Without the enrollment of patients in clinical trials, new treatment options for IBD can be delayed or never become available.



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NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY

JANUARY 4-10, 2025 | NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK | MASSENA-OGDENSBURG, NY

| 13

WHAT'S GOING ON

SATURDAY, JAN. 4

Contemporary dance

CANTON -- Contemporary Dance for Teens/Tweens with Sophia DeGaetano at Canton Yoga Loft, 21 Miner St., Saturdays, 10:45-11:45 a.m., Jan 4 thru Feb 22. 8 weeks, \$100 for the series Register at www.yoga-loft.org Contemporary Dance for ages 11-18 emphasizes musicality, self-expression, release techniques, traveling sequences, and strength training. It is a beginning level class, but is open to all level dancers. \$100. 315-605-8637.

Jazz Dance class

CANTON -- Jazz Dance for kids aged 7-10 with Sophia DeGaetano at Canton Yoga Loft, 21 Miner St., Saturdays 9:30-10:30am, Jan 4 thru Feb 22. 8 weeks, \$100 for the series Register at www.yoga-loft.org Jazz dance is a blended American style, with its roots in African dance, African American culture, and European dance styles. In this class we will focus on basic jazz technique, rhythmic dancing, and having fun. \$100. canton.yoga.loft@gmail.com, 315-605-8637.

Used book sale

BRASHER FALLS - Friends of the Badenhausen Public Library will hold their monthly used book sale on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Badenhausen Library, 897 Main St. Featured this month will be a selection of self-help books. If your new year resolution is to work on yourself, you'll find a number of titles on topics such as healthy eating, exercise and mental health. All other book genres will also be available. Book prices: Adult Hardcover \$2, Adult Paperback \$1, Children's Hardcover \$1, and Children's Paperback and Board Books 2/\$1. Children and young adults can select one free book at each monthly book sale. Funds raised will benefit the Badenhausen Public Library. Book sales will continue to be held on the first Saturday of each month as an on-going fund raiser.

SUNDAY, JAN. 5

Free family swim

OGDENSBURG -- 'Family Swim' is back at Ogdensburg Free Academy. The free swimming sessions will be offered every Sunday from January 5 through February 9 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Ogdensburg Free Academy is located at 1100 State St., Ogdensburg. For more information call Jeremy at 315-393-1980 or jmcDonald@ogdensburg.org.

Safe driving course

OGDENSBURG - The Ogdensburg City School District is offering a 5-hour safe driving course Sunday, Jan. 5. Call Mrs. O'Grady at 315-393-0900 x31920 to register.

Snowflake garlands

POTSDAM -- Make snowflake garlands with the Potsdam Public Library's Kids Art Club in the mezzanine classroom Sunday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m. for children ages 6-10. Supplies will be provided. Only 8 seats are available, so please book a seat by emailing: mpameil@potsdamlibrary.org Walk-ins are not guaranteed a seat.

WEDS., JAN. 8

Amvets meeting

HEUVELTON - The Amvets Post 1997, 107 State St., will meet Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Down Syndrome meeting

CANTON -- The Down Syndrome Association of St. Lawrence County will hold monthly meetings every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at Park Bros. on Main St., Canton. Contact Keri Caracciolo at 315-854-2480 or email at kericaracciolo@gmail.com.

Raymondville bridge info

NORFOLK -- On Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, an informational kick-off meeting will be held at 6 p.m. at Bregg Winery, located at 56 West Main St., Norfolk. The meeting is open to all persons interested in saving this structure. In 1886 a lenticular truss parabolic bridge was constructed to span the Raquette River in Raymondville NY. Approximately 50 years ago the bridge was closed to all foot and car traffic. The bridge, listed as a National Historic Landmark, is a North Country treasure worth saving as a walking park. Questions regarding the meeting can be directed to Martin Bregg, 315-600-0253 or breggma@icloud.com.

Norwood Lake meeting

NORWOOD - The Norwood Lake Association will meet Jan. 8, April 9, July 9 and October 8 at the Norwood American Legion at 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 9

Figure Drawing Guild

POTSDAM -- SLC Arts will host meetings of a figure drawing guild on Dec. 12, and Jan. 9 and 23 at SLC Arts Creative Spirit Community Arts Center, 6-8 Raymond St.. A figure drawing guild is a community of artists who come together to hone their skills by drawing live models. These gatherings are typically open to artists of all skill levels, providing an opportunity to practice anatomy, proportion, and creative interpretation. Sessions are often informal, with short warm-up poses and longer sittings, allowing participants to experiment with different techniques and mediums. Whether you're a seasoned professional or a beginner looking to improve, a figure drawing guild offers a supportive environment to grow and connect with fellow artists. There will be new models in the new year. These sessions will feature a live, nude model, which is not suitable for all audiences. Registrants must be ages 18+. Signup at <https://slc-arts-council.myshopify.com/products/figure-drawing>. \$10 each.

Ham radio club meeting

POTSDAM -- The North Country Amateur Radio Club will meet Jan. 9 at 6 p.m. in the Potsdam Community Room above the police station. Meetings will continue on the second Thursday of each month thereafter. Anyone interested in learning about ham radio is invited to attend.

Weekly walk

POTSDAM - The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) will host its weekly walk on the Red Sandstone Access Roads on Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, at 7:30 a.m. The group will walk the dirt access roads for approximately 2 miles, 1 hour round trip, easy. Meet at the Red Sandstone trailhead, north entrance parking lot off Back Hannawa Road (CR59) between Potsdam and Hannawa Falls. Marianne Hebert, hebertm@potsdam.edu or 315-265-0756.

FRIDAY, JAN. 10

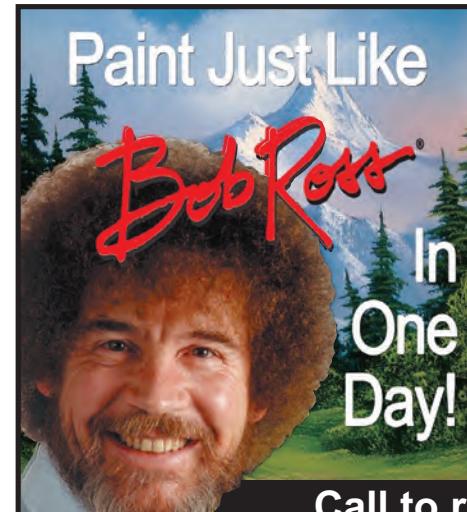
Board game night

NORFOLK -- Are you a BORED board gamer? Do you love board games? Bring your favorite board game to the Hepburn Library of Norfolk, 1 Hepburn St., tonight and hang out with other board game enthusiasts. (An All-Ages Event). Free. noflib@ncls.org, 315-384-3052.

KC Karaoke, DJ

HEUVELTON - The Amvets Post 1997, 107 State St., will host its Friday night KC Karaoke and DJ from 6-9 p.m. on Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. A Queen of Hearts drawing will be held at 7 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR ON 18.



NCNow photo

Free skating at Massena Arena

Lennon Leaf, of Akwesasne, skates with her dad, Kenny Leaf, during public skating Dec. 30 at Massena Arena. Several free sessions were available over the holiday vacation, thanks to sponsors Seacomm, Northside Community Church, Massena Sons of Amvets, Massena Amvets, Mike Hazelton Foundation and Warren's Custom and Vinyl.



ATTENTION, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY: DRIVERS WANTED!



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Canton Central School

The Canton Central School Board of Education is seeking a

SUPERINTENDENT

Canton Central School is a 1,050 pupil pre-K through Grade 12 district. The Board seeks a passionate leader who is deeply committed to the success of all students in achieving a high level of excellence, and is a knowledgeable, collaborative and compassionate individual. The Board is offering a three-year contract, with a minimum salary of \$150,000, commensurate with experience and qualifications.

The on-line application can be obtained at www.sllboces.org or www.ccsdk12.org. Please forward a letter of interest, current resume, SDA/SDL certification, three current letters of recommendation and transcripts by **Friday, February 7, 2025** to:

Mr. Thomas R. Burns, District Superintendent

St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

PO Box 231

Canton, New York 13617

315-386-4504 ext. 10150

EOE



Human Services &
Community-Based Programs

Seeking a DEDICATED THERAPIST to Make a Difference!

*Are you passionate about
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IN THE LIVES OF
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Foster Care Clinical Coordinator

The **FOSTER CARE CLINICAL COORDINATOR** position at CHJC offers the opportunity to lead and provide essential mental and behavioral health services for children in foster care. Under the direction of the Foster Care Program Manager, you will oversee the provision of treatment planning and services, ensuring the highest standard of care for each youth.

REQUIRED EDUCATION:

- NYS Licensure as an LMSW, LCSW, LMHC, LCAT or LMFT

EXPERIENCE:

- Preferred experience working with youth and families involved in Foster Care

BENEFITS:

- Full-time/37.5 hours per week • 401K with Employer Match • Vacation and Sick Time
- 12 paid Holidays • Medical (CHJC pays 82% of premium) • Dental
- Vision (free coverage for all employees) • Tuition Reimbursement/Loan Repayment Options

SALARY: \$70,000

As a CHJC employee, the Foster Care Clinical Coordinator (Clinical Coordinator) is committed to "creating opportunities to enhance lives one relationship at a time." Additionally, the Clinical Coordinator places focus and emphasis on the following values: **safety and permanency** for each client served, **respect and compassion** at the forefront of every interaction, **integrity** threaded through every decision made, **excellence** as an expectation and standard that will never be lowered, and **stewardship** carried out for the benefit of our clients and community.

For a detailed job description, please visit

www.chjc.org



Construction Management: Field Superintendent (FS)

Watchdog Building Partners is seeking a highly qualified individual(s) to act as Owners Representative starting in the Spring of 2025. This individual will be responsible for managing various prime contracts associated with public work projects in the Potsdam, New York area. The FS will oversee and manage the day-to-day coordination and operations of the project site. The FS will work closely with all Prime Contractors and assigned Project Manager to ensure a safe and quality project that is completed on time and within budget. Maintaining a work environment that values planning, collaboration, communication and being solution oriented is essential.

SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- Minimum of 10 years of experience in a construction environment. Experience in HVAC preferred, but not required
- Possess at least 5 year's supervisory experience
- Proven ability to read and fully understand construction drawings
- Strong working knowledge of contracts, subcontracts, purchase orders and other agreements to ensure that the scope, terms and conditions are consistently and proactively being met
- Must be able to develop entire job schedules, 90 day schedules and 2 week schedules
- Familiar with Wicks Law and Public Work Projects in NY State

SALARY AND BENEFITS

- Salary range \$75k-\$105k (based on experience)
- Offer health and dental insurance
- Paid time off
- Mileage reimbursement
- 401k option

Qualified and interested applicants, please send an email to jclingerman@watchdogbp.com or call (585) 760-7855 to speak with Jeramy Clingerman.



Canton Central School

The District is currently accepting applications for a

Bus Monitor

Teaching Assistant (anticipated vacancy)

12:1:1 Middle School Special Education Teacher

Accepting applications until the positions are filled.

Applications can be found at:

<https://www.ccsdk12.org/employment>

Applications can be sent to:

CANTON CENTRAL SCHOOL

Attention: Sarah Smith, District Office

99 State St. Canton, NY 13617

Phone: 315-386-8561

EOE



Potters Industries, LLC

Production Technician

We are looking for full-time **GENERAL PRODUCTION WORKERS** at our Potsdam Plant.

You will be trained to operate production equipment in our glass bead manufacturing plant following the high safety, quality, and environmental standards of Potters. As part of the job, you will operate mobile equipment including forklifts and front-end loaders. You will be trained to perform in-process quality checks and recognize when equipment adjustments are required.

- Inspect machinery to determine the need for repairs and guarantee safety by performing regular maintenance will be required.
- You will be expected to participate in safety programs and other employee driven projects which is part of the Potters continuous improvement philosophy.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

High school diploma or GED required, Technical/trade school education is preferred.

Must have basic computer literacy to include email use and quality check data entry.

One plus years of experience working with various industrial equipment.

One plus years of experience working in a manufacturing environment.

Demonstrated safe operation of mobile equipment.

Must be willing to work any shifts/hours and overtime, holidays, and weekends.

Competitive pay at \$26.42 /hr. Comprehensive Benefits and Health Care that take effect 1st of the month after 30 days of employment.

We are an EOE employer.

Send Resume to PotsdamResumes@PottersIndustries.com

Please do not call or visit the plant

Registered Nurse: The Registered Nurse plays a crucial role in developing and implementing care plans for patients with complex chronic illnesses or significant social determinants of health, guiding them towards their health goals. Additionally, the Registered Nurse provides navigation support to patients, their families, and caregivers, helping them navigate the healthcare system and address any obstacles to receiving care. Status: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, Permanent Salary: \$27.29 - \$41.03 Deadline: February 5, 2025. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at: www.srmt-nsn.gov

Dental Hygienist: The Dental Hygienist will provide high quality dental care to patients from all ages under the direction of the Supervising Dentist. Status: Full-time, Permanent, Non-Exempt Salary: \$27.84 - \$43.13 Deadline: January 8, 2025. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at: www.srmt-nsn.gov

Procurement Specialist: Under the direction of the Procurement Manager, the Procurement Specialist is responsible to assist in all aspects of the procurement process of goods, equipment and services for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal programs. In addition to the guidelines of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe policies and procedures, internal controls and objectives. Status: Full-time, Non-exempt Salary: \$17.09 - \$23.98 Deadline: January 8, 2025. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at: www.srmt-nsn.gov

Mental Health Director: The Mental Health Director, requiring advanced degrees and licensure, will provide supervision of the day-to-day operations of the Mental Health program. The Mental Health Director will work within the guidelines of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Mental Health Services policies and procedures, internal control standards, New York State Office of Mental Health regulations and standards of care. Status: Full-time, Permanent, Exempt Salary: \$33,820.80-\$119,704.00 Deadline: January 8, 2025. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at www.srmt-nsn.gov

Licensed Practical Nurse - Hospice of St Lawrence Valley has openings for full-time, part-time, and per diem LPNs to carry out assigned nursing functions under the supervision of a Registered Nurse. Must have a current LPN license in NYS; the ability to maintain confidentiality and function as a member of an interdisciplinary team; a basic understanding and commitment to the Hospice concept of care for the terminally ill; and a valid NYS Driver's license. On-call and travel throughout St Lawrence County is required. Applications are available at hospiceslv.org or by calling Hospice at 315-265-3105.

Bronson Service Corp./Roto - Rooter Plumbing Service is looking for a head plumbing technician. Wages and benefits to be discussed at interview. Email resume to pbronson@nnymail.com or pick up an application at 7585 US Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676.



DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley seeks a creative **Director of Development and Community Relations** to join the Hospice team. Working closely with the CEO, Board and staff, the successful candidate will be responsible for planning, organizing, and directing Hospice's fundraising and community relations initiatives including the major gifts program, planned giving, and special events.

If you are a motivated self-starter with development experience looking to make a difference in the lives of county residents, please send a detailed cover letter and resume via email to rfishbeck@hospiceslv.org. Full position description posted on hospiceslv.org.

Join our Team!



**St. Lawrence
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- Adult Psychiatrist 1 or 2 (Ogdensburg)
- Associate Director of Human Resources
 - Certified Peer Specialist
- Children's Licensed Master Social Worker (Ogdensburg)
- Children's Psychiatrist 1 or 2 (Gouverneur, Massena)
 - Dental Assistant
 - Dental Hygienist
 - Dentist 1 or 2
 - Dietitian 2, part time
- Facility Operations Assistant 1, Grounds
 - Licensed Practical Nurse
- Licensed Master Social Worker (Ogdensburg, Massena)
 - Maintenance Assistant
 - Mental Health Therapy Aide (Adult, Children)
 - Maintenance Supervisor 1, Motor Equipment
 - Maintenance Supervisor 2
- Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatry (Ogdensburg, Massena)
 - Principal Psychologist
- Registered Nurse 1 (Adult, Children)
 - Registered Nurse 3, Educator
 - Transportation Supervisor 1

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315.541.2179 or slpc.humanresources@ombh.ny.gov



Cybersecurity Assistant Professor Tenure Track

Department: Cybersecurity
Salary Range: \$70,000-\$75,000

The State University of New York (SUNY) College at Canton invites qualified applicants for a Full-time, Visiting Assistant Professor position in the Cybersecurity Department beginning September 1, 2025.

Required Qualifications:

- Ph.D. in Computer Science or equivalent.

Duties:

- Engage in scholarly activities that contribute to the dissemination of knowledge in the discipline.
- Continually develop and improve skills and knowledge in the discipline through professional development.
- Teach courses as assigned in the program in a variety of instructional modalities (face-to-face, online, and flex) and implements assessment and use of data for continuous improvement in course and program student learning outcomes.
- Active in research, peer-reviewed publications, and secure external funds.
- Participate in faculty committees, student advisement, and other activities related to university service.

Please submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, statement of research, unofficial transcripts, statement of diversity, equity, and inclusion, a sample of peer-reviewed publication, and three professional references to Human Resources.

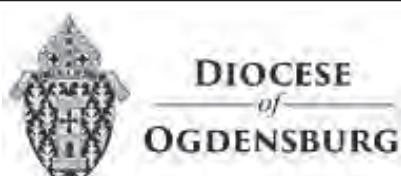
Persons interested in the above position should apply online at <https://employment.canton.edu/>

Prior to 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.

Application Deadline: open until filled; application review begins immediately.

SUNY Canton, a unit of the State University of New York, is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. SUNY Canton is building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty and strongly encourages applications from minority and women candidates.

The college is located in Canton, a village in the St. Lawrence River valley of northern New York. Located 20 miles from the St. Lawrence River and the Adirondack Park, and 70 miles from the Canadian capital city of Ottawa, Ontario, Canton holds excellent opportunities for the outdoor or cultural enthusiast. SUNY Canton is a member of the Associated Colleges, a consortium of four colleges.



Claims Representative

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg is seeking a **Claims Representative**. The position is responsible for processing Workers Compensation claims with the Third-Party Administrator, maintaining records and producing necessary reports. The position also supports the administration of property/liability and auto insurance. An associate's degree in business is preferred. Experience with NYS Workers Compensation and other insurance is preferred. Candidates should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, have the ability to work independently and manage/establish priorities to meet deadlines. Proficiency with Microsoft Office including Word and Excel is required. Candidates should have the ability to learn new software.

Starting Pay Range: \$44,815 - \$54,581. Submit letter of interest, resume and three professional references to: Human Resources Office, Diocese of Ogdensburg, P.O. Box 369, Ogdensburg, NY 13669 or e-mail ksnover@rcdony.org.

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Cybersecurity Visiting Assistant Professor PRODiG+ Fellow

Department: Cybersecurity
Salary Range: \$70,000-\$75,000

The State University of New York (SUNY) College at Canton invites qualified applicants for a Full-time, Visiting Assistant Professor position in the Cybersecurity Department beginning September 1, 2025.

The PRODiG+ Fellowship is open to any and all prospective candidates regardless of race, color, national origin, or sex, and is consistent with all current governing federal and state nondiscrimination law. All application submissions will be assessed and evaluated in accordance with the required eligibility criteria.

Required Qualifications:

- Ph.D. or relevant terminal degree from an accredited institution completed prior to start date in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or related field.
- Eligible to work in the United States without visa sponsorship.
- Demonstrate personal, academic, and/or work experience engaging with diversity, equity, and inclusion and/or commitment to facilitating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the campus community. Such experience may include, but is not limited to, an academic/scholarly track record focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion; work, volunteer/unpaid/community service; or related experience/expertise in serving underserved or vulnerable areas and/or populations.

Preferred Qualifications:

Preference will be given to candidates who are:

- Current SUNY students, alumni, and/or Fellows.
- From a low-income background (e.g., Pell-eligible as undergraduates), were first-generation college students (students whose parents have not earned a bachelor's degree), have overcome adversity, are AmeriCorps alumni, or are veterans. Please submit a curriculum vitae; cover letter; statement of teaching philosophy; statement of research; statement of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and three professional references to Human Resources.

Duties:

- Engage in scholarly activities that contribute to the dissemination of knowledge in the discipline.
- Continually develop and improve skills and knowledge in the discipline through professional development.
- Teach courses as assigned in the program in a variety of instructional modalities (face-to-face, online, and

flex) and implements assessment and use of data for continuous improvement in course and program student learning outcomes.

- Active in research, peer-reviewed publications, and secure external funds.
- Participate in faculty committees, student advisement, and other activities related to university service.

Application materials must include a response, in 750 words or less, to the following essay prompt:

Please describe how you've engaged, facilitated, and/or enhanced diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the campus community. Examples could include personal, academic, and/or work experience and may include, but is not limited to, and academic/scholarly track record focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion; work, volunteer/unpaid/community service; or related experience/expertise in serving underserved or vulnerable areas and/or populations.

Please submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, 750-word response to the essay prompt, statement of teaching philosophy, statement of research, unofficial transcripts, and three professional references to Human Resources.

Persons interested in the above position should apply online at <https://employment.canton.edu/>.

Prior to 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.

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Sudoku

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

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.

Hospice seeks a full-time Social Worker to provide support to patients and families at end-of-life. Primary responsibilities: caregiver support, end of life counseling for patients and families, and developing and updating care plans based on individual need. Must demonstrate flexibility, knowledge of community resources, the ability to work with a team, strong time management skills and experience in the health care field. Candidates must possess either a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Social Work (LMSW) with NYS licensure. Driver's license and vehicle required. Salary Range is \$24-\$28/hr plus competitive benefits. Send resume to Mary Jones, Hospice of St. Lawrence Valley, 6805 US Highway 11, Potsdam NY, 13676 or mjones@hospiceslv.org. Application deadline is January 10, 2025.

The Town of Colton is currently seeking qualified applicants to fill the vacant elected position of Town Board Councilperson through the remainder of the term of December 2025. Applicants must be a resident of the Town of Colton. Letters of interest and/or resumes due by January 31, 2025, at the Colton Town Clerks office, 94 Main St. Colton, NY 13625. This position will be on the ballot in November of 2025, any interested candidate should contact the St. Law. Co. Board of Elections at 315-379-2202 for details.

The Town of Colton is currently seeking qualified applicants to fill the vacant elected position of Town Justice through the remainder of the term of December 2025. Applicants must be a resident of the Town of Colton. Required justice training will take place in April of 2025 at which time the selected qualified applicant will need to present a certificate of completion for the final steps to acquire the position. Salary dependent upon previous experience. Applications available at the town clerk's office. Applications and/or resumes due by January 31, 2025, at the Colton Town Clerks office, 94 Main St. Colton, NY 13625. The Town Justice position will be



Vice President for Advancement

The State University of New York College of Technology at Canton (SUNY Canton) invites nominations and applications for the position of Vice President of Advancement. The Vice President is the chief advancement officer of the College, reports directly to the President, and serves on the Canton College Foundation. The Vice President also serves as a voting member on the College's Executive Cabinet. Pending Canton College Foundation Board approval, the Vice President for Advancement serves as the Executive Director of the Canton College Foundation.

Salary: \$140,000 - \$160,000

Job Requirements and Essential Functions of the Job

The College seeks an individual with a record of accomplishment as an advancement leader, development officer, and a fundraiser. A strong background in alumni relations is a major plus. The Vice President will provide leadership, vision, and direction for Advancement and Alumni Affairs activities and personnel. They will actively participate in identifying, cultivating, and nurturing the relationships that lead to development of major and planned gifts. The Vice President will work with all constituencies of the College and Foundation to understand the mission and priorities of the college and to develop strategies to provide support for those priorities. They will have an effective leadership style conducive to establishing collegial relationships with community and industry leaders.

Required Qualifications

- An earned bachelor's degree from an accredited college is required.
- At least seven years of successful experience in fundraising in positions of increasing authority including a history of strong staff management skills.
- Ability to work and communicate effectively with faculty, staff, and foundation to translate College priorities into compelling cases for support.
- A strong record of developing and cultivating

relationships with alumni and prospective donors from industry and foundations.

- A successful background in most of the following areas of solicitation: major gifts, estates, planned gifts, and developing annual giving.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in launching and leading a capital campaign and other successful fundraising activities.
- An earned master's degree from an accredited college.
- A successful record of writing and winning competitive grants.
- Experience engaging with a broad range of potential donors and supporters from diverse backgrounds, ensuring that fundraising strategies are inclusive and accessible to all.

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 a criminal background check.

Application Deadline: Open until filled; application review begins immediately.

Persons interested in the above position should apply online at: <https://employment.canton.edu>

SUNY Canton, a unit of the State University of New York, is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. SUNY Canton is building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty.

The college is in Canton, a village in the St. Lawrence River valley of northern New York. Located 20 miles from the St. Lawrence River and the Adirondack Park, and 70 miles from the Canadian capital city of Ottawa, Ontario, Canton holds excellent opportunities for outdoor or cultural enthusiasts. SUNY Canton is a member of the Associated Colleges, a consortium of four colleges.



Clinical Instructor (Adjunct) Nursing

The State University of New York (SUNY) College at Canton is seeking clinical adjuncts for their RN and PN programs. Come join our team of qualified instructors for a rewarding position teaching our future nurses with an attractive pay scale!

Salary: \$52.00/hr-\$62.00/hr (pay based on level of education and experience)

Contact Kimberly Davies DNP, RN for more information.
Email: ferreek@canton.edu
Phone: 315-386-7172

Responsibilities: Clinical instruction using criterion referenced methods of evaluation; collaboration on course content, implementation, and evaluation; maintain an effective relationship with clinical sites.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree required and Master's Degree preferred.
- Must possess a valid, unencumbered RN license in New York State, and the American Heart Association Healthcare Provider BLS for Adults, Infant, and Child.

Application Deadline: open until filled; application review begins immediately.

Persons interested in the above position should send their resume to hr@canton.edu

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 a criminal background check.

SUNY Canton, a unit of the State University of New York, is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. SUNY Canton is building a culturally diverse and pluralistic faculty.

The college is in Canton, a village in the St. Lawrence River valley of northern New York. Located 20 miles from the St. Lawrence River and the Adirondack Park, and 70 miles from the Canadian capital city of Ottawa, Ontario, Canton holds excellent opportunities for outdoor or cultural enthusiasts. SUNY Canton is a member of the Associated Colleges, a consortium of four colleges.

on the ballot in November 2025, if you are interested in running for that position, please contact the St. Law. Co. Board of Elections at 315-379-2202 for details.

A local accounting firm is seeking a full-time Seasonal Receptionist (Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM) from January through April 2025. Responsibilities include answering calls, greeting clients, scheduling appointments, and providing administrative support. Pay is based on experience. Qualifications: Strong communication and organizational skills; Proficiency in Microsoft Office; Previous receptionist experience preferred. To apply, please send your resume to ryan@parcellcpa.com or by mail to PO Box 133, Canton, NY 13617.

BILL'S TOTAL SERVICE IS HIRING: Full time Auto Technician needed for fast paced total service garage. Primary duties include: oil/filter changes, tire rotations/changes, Air filter changes and wiper changes, Brake diagnosis and repairs, Suspension diagnosis and repairs, Electrical diagnosis and repair etc. ASE Certification preferred but not required. Please stop in with resume to Bill Vielhauer, Owner, 1000 Paterson St. Ogdensburg, NY, 13676 or Email: billstire@ymail.com. No phone calls please.

LOOKING FOR OFFICE HELP: Full or Parttime Office Assistant needed for busy total service garage. Primary duties include: answering phones, scheduling appointments, filing, invoicing, and collecting payments. Must be able to lift at least 40 lbs. Salary based on experience. Please stop in with resume to Bill Vielhauer, Owner, 1000 Paterson St., Ogdensburg, NY, 13669 or Email: billstire@ymail.com. No phone calls please.

FAST-PACED DENTAL OFFICE IS SEEKING a temporary position, January to July 2025, an energetic and motivated FRONT OFFICE COORDINATOR to join our team. This position requires an assertive, yet warm and friendly person to assist us in creating and caring for our patients. Coordinator must be detail-oriented and accurate in record keeping and updating patient insurance information. We are a busy office that is expanding and growing rapidly. Hours are 7:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Thursday. Responsibilities: • Provide excellent customer service to all patients and visitors • Coordinating patient check in/check out • Scheduling appointments and identifying/addressing schedule needs • Conducting insurance verification • Providing any additional assistance or support in daily operations • Handle multi-lined phones

• Process basic accounting needs. Requirements: • A minimum of one year experience in a fast-paced dental office • Ability to multi-task • Impeccable attendance and punctuality • Ability to be self-directed and motivated, while being a team player • Excellent phone and computer skills • Experience with dental software (Patterson EagleSoft) preferred. Mail or drop off resumé to Adirondack Dental, 145 1/2 Market Street, Suite A, Potsdam, NY 13676.



Program Coordinator for our new Visitor Center

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Massena, NY

View complete posting on www.usajobs.gov (search on Massena, NY).

Closing date is 03/11/2025 with early consideration date of 01/01/2025
For guidance please watch 'How to Apply for Federal Jobs', among other informational videos, on www.youtube.com/user/usajobsapp. For additional questions email U.S. Department of Transportation's Automated Staffing Office -TRANSJOBS@dot.gov.



Financial Technician Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Massena, NY

View complete posting on www.usajobs.gov (search on Massena, NY). This vacancy **closing date is 03/04/205** with early consideration **12/24/2024**.

For guidance please watch 'How to Apply for Federal Jobs', among other informational videos, on www.youtube.com/user/usajobsapp. For additional questions email U.S. Department of Transportation's Automated Staffing Office -TRANSJOBS@dot.gov.



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855.281.6439

ments: • A minimum of one year experience in a fast-paced dental office • Ability to multi-task • Impeccable attendance and punctuality • Ability to be self-directed and motivated, while being a team player • Excellent phone and computer skills • Experience with dental software (Patterson EagleSoft) preferred. Mail or drop off resumé to Adirondack Dental, 145 1/2 Market Street, Suite A, Potsdam, NY 13676.

MAXFIELD'S Kitchen hiring Day Line Cooks, Evening Kitchen Sautee and Line Cooks. Call Larry for interview 315 212 2707

JobsRUs.com is a service-oriented staffing/recruiting company dedicated to working closely with our clients. We are currently hiring for Facility Maintenance Mechanic, Facility Cleaners, and various other positions with salaries ranging from \$15.00/hr to \$30.00/hr. We also have several other positions available at this time. For more information please apply at www.jobsrus.com or

Contact our office at (315)265-8860.

Registered Nurse/Behavioral Health Coordinator: Under the direction of the Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, the RN/Care Coordinator will assist the Mental Health therapists, Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, and the Outpatient Alcohol and Chemical Dependency Program staff with meeting the client's needs. The RN/Care Coordinator will work within guidelines of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Health Services policies and procedures, including Mental Health and A/CDP, and under standards of care according to New York State Office of Mental Health and New York State Office of Substance Abuse and Alcohol Services. Status: Exempt, Full-time Salary: \$56,763.20 - \$85,342.40 Deadline: Open Until Filled. Complete announcement and application instructions are available online at: www.srmt-nsn.gov



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Photo submitted

Seaway Valley Senior Citizens Club of Louisville President Anna Campbell presents a rose to a past club president Laura McGrath on her new position as the 2025 president of the St. Lawrence County Office of the Aging.

Seniors group holds Winter Wonderland holiday lunch

MADRID — The Seaway Valley Senior Citizens Club of Louisville, Madrid, and Waddington held their second annual Winter Wonderland holiday luncheon Dec. 10 at the Madrid Community Center.

Members enjoyed food prepared by club members, Amanda Barkley and the Madrid Hotel.

Music was provided by the Bloom Brothers (Brian Hammond and Bobby Domean) with a surprise appearance by Elvis (Michael Welch).

A highlight of the day was a pre-

sentation by President Anna Campbell of a "One Rose" ceremony to a past club president Laura McGrath on her new position as the 2025 president of the St. Lawrence County Office of the Aging.

The past year for the club was filled with many fun, different, interesting and unusual events which included road trips, workshops, picnics, new club committees and themed luncheons with speakers.

For further information call Anna Campbell at 315-265-2047.

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Seaway visitor center nearing 35,000 visitors since May

Visitors from all 50 states, 20 countries have descended on Massena

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI

North Country This Week

MASSENA — Since its grand opening in May the new St. Lawrence Seaway Visitor's Center has seen nearly 35,000 visitors walk through its doors.

According to GLS Administrator Adam Tindall-Schlitz, those visitors have come from all 50 states and over 20 countries.

"The numbers have gone up and we are incredibly happy and proud to see just how many people have visited this year since opening," Tindall-Schlitz said.

He commented that a great deal of the success comes down to Director Amy Stark, who has overseen the center since it opened.

Though shipping continues until Jan. 5 for the 2024 navigation season, Stark said the visitor's center is coming into a slower season based on the number of visitors.

That doesn't mean that work isn't continuing though.

"We don't have any programming firmed up yet but we'll be doing some virtual things I think, doing a few things online. We'll be showcasing some of the exhibits and things like that," she said.

Preparations are also in the works as field trip season draws closer, she said.

"That will probably kick back in in March, once the ships start coming back through. I think we'll pick right up with field trips, planning for some events, maybe have some retirees come through," she said.

Stark noted that an event will be held for recent seaway retirees to maintain or reestablish connections.

"We'll continue our collaborations with universities, like we did with the St. Lawrence University archivist, who came and did a presentation on the university's archives this year," Stark said.

WPBS was also on site recently, filming for a documentary that will highlight the attractions that can be found around the North Country.

"I don't know when specifically but that was tentatively scheduled to launch in January, so we'll see," Tindall-Schlitz said.

He said one of his goals is to see the visitor center be linked into the numerous maritime museums and historical societies throughout the region in an effort to share the history of maritime activity in the United States.

Stark said one thing that sets the center apart is the new futuristic and modern look, something that has exceeded expectations since the May opening.

"The exhibits are very modern. I think driving the ship into the lock was probably the premier exhibit, so far. Also, the video game experience and then the tip of the ship, everybody absolutely loves it," Stark said.

The visitor center also highlights the work that is conducted by North Country residents, many of whom play a crucial role in the various day-to-day operations.

Deputy Administrator Anthony Fisher said, seaway officials hope to build opportunities for people in the North Country to come to the seaway and other federal careers in the near future.

"I use the term career on purpose, not just federal jobs. I want these to be federal careers. I want people to come work for the Seaway and be able to grow in those roles. And eventually, I want people to be able to start at the Seaway, move up through the Seaway system and eventually replace me," Fisher said.

For more information regarding the visitor center, visit www.seawaydot.gov/explore/seaway-visitor-center.

To learn more about careers on the seaway, visit usajobs.gov.

BRIEFLY

Family Swim at Ogdensburg

OGDENSBURG — 'Family Swim' is back at Ogdensburg Free Academy. The free swimming sessions will be offered every Sunday from Jan. 5 through Feb. 9 from 1-3 p.m. Ogdensburg Free Academy is located at 1100 State St., Ogdensburg. Info: Jeremy at 315-393-1980 or jmcDonald@ogdensburg.org.

Snowflake garlands

POTSDAM — Make snowflake garlands with the Potsdam Public Library's Kids Art Club in the mezzanine classroom Jan. 5 at 2 p.m. for children ages 6-10. Supplies provided. Only 8 seats are available, so please book a seat by emailing: mpamell@potsdamlibrary.org. Walk-ins not guaranteed a seat.

CALENDAR . . .

[Continued from page 13]

SAT., JAN. 11

Bob Ross paint class

NORFOLK — The class "Paint Just Like Bob Ross in One Day" will be held Sat., Jan. 11, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Norfolk Rescue Squad Building with certified Bob Ross instructor Aaron William Markel. Instructor supplies everything you need to complete your very own painting. Class Fee: \$65. Call to reserve your spot at 315-514-5616.

Frozen Foote race

CANTON — The 2024-2025 Frozen Foote Race Series will be held at 10:30 a.m.

On Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Feb. 8 and March 8. Registration at 9:30 a.m. at SLU's Newell Field House atrium. Races start from the circle by Newell Field House. \$10 for the series, \$4 for individual race. Walkers should start early so everyone is done before noon. For all ages and abilities. 4-mile out-and-back route along Miner Street Road. Complete at least 3 of the 4 to receive a long-sleeved T-shirt. Info: Suna Stone at smcmasters@stlawu.edu or (315) 229-5105.

Moonlight ski, snowshoe

MASSENA — Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe, weather permitting, at Nicandri Nature Center on Saturday, Jan. 11, with guided groups heading out at 6 and 7 p.m. promptly. All ages and abilities are welcome. You must go with the guided

Nature Center with free ski, snowshoe rentals and lessons

MASSENA — Guided snow and ski lessons, and moonlight ski and snowshoeing are among the free activities offered in January at Nicandri Nature Center.

The nature center is open Wednesdays-Sundays from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Robert Moses State Park, 23 Robinson Bay Rd, Massena.

Free cross-country skis and snowshoes are available to rent until 4 p.m. on the days the center is open.

The outdoor groomed trails are open every day.

Activities include:

Jan. 2 - Nature craft 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 3 - Owl pellet dissection 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 4 - Winter track walk 2 p.m., Jan. 5 - Nature crafts 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.; Jan. 8 - Furs 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 9 Bird calls 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 10 - Winter tree ID 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 11 - Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe 6/7 p.m.; Jan. 12 - Guided snowshoe walk 10 a.m. and Guided Ski 2 p.m.; Jan. 15 Pinecone bird feeders 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 16 - Snowshoeing fun 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 17 - Bird calls 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 18 - Photography club 9:30 a.m. and Guided Snowshoe 2 p.m.; Jan. 19 - Snowshoeing 101 at 10 a.m. and Skiing for beginners all ages 2 p.m.; Jan. 20 - Skiing and snowshoeing all day; Jan. 22 - Snow painting 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 23 - Tracking walk on snowshoes 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 24 - Intro to skiing for beginners all ages 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 25 - Skiing tips and tricks for up and down hills 2 p.m.; Jan. 26 - Guided ski 10 a.m. and Bite, skulls and teeth program 2 p.m.; Jan. 29 - Book club 6 p.m.; Jan. 30 - Winter adaptations 3:30 p.m.; Jan. 31 - Spidey senses 3:30 p.m.

Sons of the Legion hosts breakfast

WINTHROP — The Sons Of The American Legion Breakfast will be Sunday, Jan. 19, from 8-11 a.m. at the Daniel L. Crowley American Legion Post 514, 675 State Highway 11C.

The cost is \$8, for a choice of two eggs any style, ham and cheese omelette, pancakes with sides of bacon and/or sausage, home fried potatoes.

Drinks include orange, apple or cranberry juice, water, coffee or milk.

groups. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the start to get free equipment loans. The center is open 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. for warming up, restrooms and hot cocoa around the fire. Call or check Facebook for up to date information on weather conditions.

Stone Valley shoe or hike

COLTON - The Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) welcomes the public Sat., Jan. 11 to a Stone Valley snowshoe or hike. Alternate date in case of bad weather, Sunday, January 12. Approximately 3.3 miles, fairly easy. Depending on trail conditions, snowshoes or microspikes may be needed. Contact Jane Khondker, janekhondker@gmail.com or Marianne Hebert, hebertm@potsdam.edu or 315-265-0756.

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Submitted Photo

Money for Meals on Wheels

The Massena Sons of Amvets recently made a \$500 donation to the Massena Meals on Wheels program. Pictured above are Son Gary Paller, Meals director Stacie Hawkins and Son Andy LaPointe.

On a Roll Deli in Massena sold to Stewart's Shops

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI
North Country This Week

MASSENA -- On a Roll Deli and Meats, located at the corner of North Main and Maple Streets, is in a period of transition as owners Mary and Jim Venier plan to retire.

The couple announced their intention on Facebook, saying that they had been contemplating how to phase in their retirement plan "for quite some time."

With Stewart's Shops moving forward with a plan to take over the space, the Veniers said the time was right to move on.

"Purely by coincidence, we were approached by Stewart's Shops about purchasing our property at the corner of North Main and Maple Streets in Massena. As you know, Stewart's Shops is a mainstay in Northern New York and has been in business since 1945," they wrote.

The Veniers said they met with Stewart's representatives and accepted their offer to purchase the property.

"The legacy of this corner has been one of convenience stores for as long as many can remember. We anticipate this to be a seamless transition with Stewart's ongoing commitment to Massena. The Stewart's team has been terrific both professionally and personally," they wrote.

They also extended their thanks and gratitude to their many regular customers, from those in the Massena community, to the surrounding communities, Canadian customers and tourists who enjoyed seasonal experiences on the St. Lawrence River.

"It has been our privilege and honor to call those customers friends," they wrote.

"We want to take a moment to thank the many vendors and suppliers over the years who have supported us in many ways. How-

ever, most importantly, we want to thank our current and past employees who have tirelessly met the demands of long hours, high volume customer traffic for meals, ice cream, deli items, pizzas, groceries and catered events. We couldn't have done it without their efforts and loyalty," they continued.

Between now and the first of the new year numerous food and grocery products will be on sale, followed by the sale of the many furnishings and equipment in the store, they said.

"Thank you endlessly for all that you have meant to us, and it's time for us to take time to see our grandchildren as they grow up, maybe snooze through some well-deserved naps and even embark on a vacation or two," they said.

The news comes shortly after Stewart's Shops received approval from the Village of Massena Planning Board, which included four binding conditions as required by the County Planning Board.

Among them will be a Knox Box, access points that are permitted through state Department of Transportation processes, snow removal plans and variances for a canopy and free-standing signage.

The planned 4,500 square foot store will have six gas pumps on 0.81 acres and will operate from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Stewart's officials have also indicated they are already seeking alternatives for their current location on North Main Street to ensure it remains in good condition, though no plans have been announced as of yet.

Stewart's spokesman Robin Cooper previously said the company would like to re-lease the location or put the building on the market if that option fails.

"We would certainly keep it up. We don't have properties that are run down and disheveled," he said.

Fate of Massena, Potsdam Big Lots stores remains unclear

BY JEFF CHUDZINSKI

North Country This Week

Just one week after announcing that they would close all stores in the near future, Big Lots officials say they have struck a deal with Gordon Brother Retail Partners.

"We are pleased to reach this strategic agreement with Big Lots and partner with Variety Wholesalers to achieve a path forward that allows Big Lots to continue to serve customers with extreme bargains and an outstanding shopping experience," Gordon Brothers Head of North America Retail Rick Edwards said.

The Boston-based firm will then sell assets to other retailers and companies, including Variety Wholesalers, who said they intend to purchase 200 to 400 stores and one or two distribution centers.

"We are excited to partner with Gordon Brothers to provide a path forward for the Big Lots brand and hundreds of its stores. We look forward to working with members of the Big Lots team to realize the exciting opportunities ahead," Lisa Seigies, Variety Wholesalers' President and CEO, said.

What that means for the Potsdam and Massena locations isn't quite clear yet.

Large "Closing" banners were placed at the Potsdam and Massena stores and remain in place as of press time.

Big Lots officials said the company is continuing to serve customers in-store and online, and will provide updates as available.

In a previous announcement from September, Big Lots officials announced the company was filing for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection, with plans to close around 250 stores.

But the latest news marks the end of months of speculation as the company attempted to restructure exist-

ing debt and sell assets earlier this year.

Today's announcement comes on the heels of an announcement earlier this year in which officials commented they would be closing 35-45 stores.

Spared in the initial cuts were the Potsdam and Massena stores, however the Plattsburgh location was closed.

Big Lots also operated branches in Malone and Watertown locally.

At the time Big Lots officials announced the nationwide retailer was closing, around 1,389 locations were still in operation.

According to Big Lots officials, Gordon Brothers will have access to Big Lots assets, which includes stores, distribution centers and intellectual property, allowing them to transfer to other retailers and companies.

Variety Wholesalers is a North Carolina based firm that operates more than 400 retail stores in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic under the Roses, Roses Express, Maxway, Bill's Dollar Stores, Super 10, Super Dollar, and Bargain Town banners.

"The strategic sale to Gordon Brothers and the transfer to Variety Wholesalers is a favorable and significant achievement for Big Lots that reflects the tireless work and collective effort of our team. This sale agreement and transfer present the strongest opportunity to preserve jobs, maximize value for the estate and ensure continuity of the Big Lots brand. We are grateful to our associates nationwide for their grit and resilience throughout this process," Big Lots President and CEO Bruce Thorn said.

The deal between Gordon Brothers and Big Lots is subject to approval by the Bankruptcy Court and other customary closing conditions.

No timeline has been given by officials from either company for the transfer of assets.

Childcare toolkits available for employers

Gov. Hochul announces childcare toolkit for employers

Governor Kathy Hochul has launched a new program to assist employers who aim to help employees secure quality, affordable child care services.

According to a release from the Governor's Office, the state has launched a Business Child Care toolkit designed to help employers navigate the services.

The toolkit was developed by the Early Care & Learning Council using \$1 million in funding allocated by the Governor in last year's state budget.

The governor announced the initiative during last year's State of the

State address.

The toolkit will provide employers with a single source of up-to-date information on child care, aiming to connect working families with support resources so they do not have to make a decision between childcare and advancing careers.

More than 800,000 children in New York under the age of six have working parents, underscoring the critical importance of safe and nurturing child care environments both for children's development and parents' ability to work, state officials said.

A toolkit has been established in each of the state's ten Regional

Economic Development Council regions, officials said.

The 56-page toolkit is being introduced at workshops for businesses in each of the 10 economic development regions with support from local Child Care Resource Centers. The first workshop was held today in the Capital Region at the Landing Hotel at Rivers Casino and Resort in Schenectady. This was held in partnership with Brightside Up, the Capital Region Chamber and the Center for Economic Growth. The remaining nine workshops will be held at various dates and locations statewide in January and February.

BRIEFLY

Massena FD donation

MASSENA — SeaComm recently donated \$1,000 to the Massena Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD).

The funds will assist the department in continuing to protect, serve, and provide assistance to the community. Through rigorous training, the volunteers of the MVFD have expertise in fire, medical, and other emergencies. With a strong and united team, the MVFD are ready and willing to be called upon when needed.

Lights on the River donation

LISBON — SeaComm recently donated \$1,000 in support of the 15th Annual Lights On The River event taking place December 14-23 at the Lisbon Beach. All proceeds from the event will help provide monetary donations and physical supplies to St. Lawrence County food pantries, furthering their ability to help local families in need this holiday season.



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The top St. Lawrence County stories of 2024

rence Psychiatric Center as former employees were investigated.

At this time there have been no charges directly related to those investigations, but a former Ivy Ridge employee who gave several interviews was charged for murder in the weeks that followed after he allegedly bludgeoned a longtime friend John Barr to death. Free has not yet faced trial for the charge.

John Free, 51, of Ogdensburg, was arrested by state police for second-degree murder, according to St.

Lawrence County District Attorney Gary Pasqua.

Free was charged with allegedly killing John Barr, 58, a Rensselaer Falls man found dead late last week in his home at 12 Heuvelton St., Rensselaer Falls, according to a press release from Pasqua's office. Before the body was found, but after the killing took place, Free was interviewed about his time and actions as an employee at Ivy Ridge for a podcast hosted by two former students.

Now closed, Ivy Ridge has come under nationwide attention following the release of "The Program: Cons, Cults and Kidnapping" on Netflix, which alleges abuses and atrocities carried out at the Academy at Ivy Ridge between 2001 and 2009."

Man accused of killing his mother

Another murder, in which a Massena man allegedly killed his own mother, also gained local attention.

In May Richard T. Billings was charged with killing his mother Mary Billings, a motive for the crime was not revealed. Billings has not yet faced trial on the matter.

Police say the incident occurred on March 30, 2024 at 23 Kennedy Court, but details on her death were not provided as the investigation is ongoing.

Mary was said to be a lover of music and dancing whose "patience and love was limitless" according to her obituary.

She was a 1952 graduate of Massena schools and married her husband Richard in 1954. They had three sons, Richard, Michael, who predeceased her, and Mark. She was also a grandmother.

Ivy Ridge documentary hits

Although the murder that occurred in the wake of the documentary's release gained more traction, the original story regarding the 'The Program' put Ogdensburg in the national spotlight for months.

The story shocked locals, many of whom never even knew about Ivy Ridge Academy, which was essentially a reform school where a

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that a license, number pending, for liquor, wine, and beer has been applied for by the undersigned* to sell liquor, wine, and beer at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 6 Elm St., Potsdam, NY 13676 in St. Lawrence county for on premises consumption.

MASSENA LEGAL NOTICE VILLAGE OF MASSENA PLANNING BOARD 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE

January 8	July 9
January 22	July 23
Feb 12	August 13
Feb 26	August 27
March 12	Sept 10
March 26	Sept 24
April 9	Oct 8
April 23	Oct 22
May 14	Nov 5 *
May 28	Nov 19 *
June 11	Dec 3 *
June 25	Dec 17 *

*** Please note *** The board is scheduled to meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each Month. Meetings are scheduled at 5:00 P.M. If you do not receive an agenda before the meeting date, there will not be a meeting.
* Note, November & December schedules are one week earlier due to holidays.

SIPPINGSOCIETY ENTERPRISES INC. DBA PENDING
6 Elm St, Potsdam, NY 13676

Massena Movieplex
116 Harte Haven Plaza • 315-769-0117
JANUARY 3 - 9

Nosferatu
6:50, 9:30 pm Nightly R
Sat, Sun 12:20, 3:00

A Complete Unknown
6:45, 9:30 pm Nightly R
Sat, Sun 12:20, 3:00

Sonic The Hedgehog 3
7:00, 9:20 pm Nightly PG
Sat, Sun 12:45, 3:00

Mufasa: The Lion King
6:50, 9:20 pm Nightly PG
Sat, Sun 12:30, 3:00

Homestead
6:50 pm Nightly PG-13
Sat, Sun 12:30

Baby Girl
9:15 pm Nightly PG-13
Sat, Sun 3:00

Moana 2
7:00, 9:10 pm Nightly PG
Sat, Sun 12:45, 3:00

Wicked
7:00 pm Nightly PG
Sat, Sun 1:00

number of abuses were reported to have occurred.

In the wake of the documentary's release no immediate arrests were made, but investigations by the county District attorney's office remain active. In the weeks that followed the report of the documentary, local rallies were held, some former employees of Ivy Ridge lost their jobs and some were suspended temporarily.

The three-part documentary series that details numerous allegations of abuse of teenage girls at the Academy at Ivy Ridge in Ogdensburg is now available on Netflix.

"The Program" details years of abuse towards teenage girls at the Academy at Ivy Ridge and how the "school" tricked parents into sending their children there.

The Academy of Ivy Ridge was an independent, privately owned and operated board school that was owned by the Jason G. Finlinson Corporation and the Joseph and Alyn Mitchell Corporation.

Opened in 2001, the school was originally affiliated with World Wide Association of Specialty Programs and Schools (WWASPS) but withdrew from the organization in 2005 due to negative media attention.

Despite the idyllic setting, it was alleged that students on the lower levels were not allowed to look out windows and were required to be "promoted" to upper level status in order to earn the privilege to look outside and be occasionally taken outside to play during a monthly upper level activity.

According to various reports, in 2005, students began a riot that led to four dozen expulsions and 12 arrests, with numerous officers from the Sheriff's Office, State Police, Ogdensburg PD and U.S. Border Patrol being brought in to end the riot. At least 30 runaways were captured, it is alleged.

Allegations began to surface shortly after regarding poor living conditions, unauthorized medical procedures, physiological torture, sexual abuse and physical abuse, according to reports.

The documentary also includes clips of violent restraint tactics being used against students.

Potsdam teen harvests huge bear

A story about a Potsdam teen who harvested a black bear that weighed nearly one-quarter ton this fall drew ire from some readers and support from others.

While many praised the teen for her successful hunt it also prompted controversy from those who were critical of her first bear harvest.

Alexa Livernois, 18, shot the near 600-pound bear in southern St. Lawrence County, according to her father, Brian Livernois.

The massive animal weighed 557 alive and its dress weight was 466. Dress weight refers to the weight of an animal after being partially butchered, removing the internal organs. This was the first bear she harvested, Livernois said of his daughter.

Accidental police shooting

At number 8 was the story of a 17-year-veteran of the Ogdensburg police force who was charged with accidentally shooting another officer while cleaning her firearm inside the police station.

St. Lawrence County Sheriff's Deputies said Jessica B. Rivers, 40,

of Ogdensburg was charged Aug. 16 at 9:30 a.m. following an investigation, which was underway for nearly two months.

"The arrest stemmed from negligence used during the handling of a firearm, during weapons cleaning after range training, which caused physical injury to another person," a statement from the sheriff said.

The incident took place June 20 at the station.

Officer Daniel Hollister was shot and injured. He was transported to a Syracuse Hospital where he was treated and later released and returned home to recover with his family.

An internal investigation also took place in Ogdensburg, the city has not disclosed publicly if Rivers is still employed there.

Dozens of dogs burned

St. Lawrence County residents mourned the deaths of dozens of dogs that perished in a fire at the "No Dogs Left Behind" animal sanctuary. The kennel had been a point of contention among some community members already, but following the fire many people had questions about what actually happened. The investigation into the fire remains open and no cause has been shared publicly at this time.

A passerby spotted the flames and called 911. Canton Fire, Canton Rescue, and County Car 4 were dispatched to the structure fire, according to First Assistant Chief Robert Crowe.

Firefighter Wayne Stripp, who lives less than a mile away from the fire location, advised it was a confirmed working fire.

Chief Shawn McGregor then activated the tanker task force for that zone along with manpower from the Pierrepont Fire Department. The tanker task force would bring tankers from Pierrepont Fire, West Potsdam Fire, Potsdam Fire, Pyrites Fire, and Russell Fire to the scene.

Firefighters were met with heavy fire in the kennel building and unfortunately, due to the volume of fire, the animals housed in the building perished, Crowe reported.

An unconfirmed report indicated 40 or more dogs perished.

Murder-suicide

In early December, a murder suicide left two brothers dead in the town of Massena. The shocking story left more questions than answers as no motive was shared. Troopers said Anthony "Tony" G. Truax, 67, of Massena and Danny R. Truax, 60, Massena, were both found deceased due to gunshot wounds following an "altercation" between the two men.

The Massena Police Department responded to 128 Beach St., where officers located the two deceased males inside the residence.

Investigators say a dispute between Danny and Anthony Truax ended with Danny shooting his brother before killing himself.

According to state police, multiple search warrants were executed and the scene was processed for evidence. It's not clear what locations those may have included.

Forensic Pathologist Doctor Scott F. LaPoint conducted autopsies on the two men. The cause of death for Anthony Truax was ruled a homicide after it was determined he was shot through the torso.

The autopsy on Danny Truax determined cause of death to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the chest, which was determined to be a suicide.

Keep INFORMED!
Read the
LEGAL NOTICES
NORTH COUNTRY THIS WEEK

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
St. Lawrence County applying for FTA Formula Grants for Rural Area Program (Section 5311) to provide public transportation service

Public notice is hereby made that St. Lawrence County is applying for federal financial assistance to provide public transportation service in St. Lawrence County. These services include: Fixed-route bus service with route deviation; First Mile Last Mile to connect bus passengers to and from a bus stop; and mobility management to help improve transportation options in the county. Public notice is further made that St. Lawrence County will apply for federal financial assistance to purchase up to eight, 16-passenger buses that will be used for its fixed-route bus service with route deviation.

The County's public transportation services are available to the general public during all hours of operation. St. Lawrence County's SUNY Canton, SUNY Potsdam and Clarkson University Public Transit routes run every day of the week for extended business hours during the academic year. All other Public Transit routes run Monday thru Friday during extended business hours. Bus operations are either closed or run on limited service schedules during major holidays. A complete list of routes and schedules is available on the County's Public Transit website at: <http://www.slcnypublictransit.com/>

These services are expected to be financed by FTA Section 5311 Rural Program public transportation funds, with additional funds from: State Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) and third party contracts for bus service and bus advertising. For fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the total federal share for operating and capital projects to be requested by the County is up to \$3,000,000.

The County Planning Office and County Mobility Manager will present an overview of the 2024-2025 5311 funding request at a Public Transit Task Force Meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 1:00 pm in the 2nd floor conference room of the County Human Services Center, located at 80 State Highway 310 in Canton. Persons who are unable to attend in person may obtain a link to attend the meeting virtually by calling the County Planning Office at (315) 379-2292 or by emailing mlarson@stlawco.gov

Comments on the proposed application are invited from the general public, private bus and taxi companies, other public transportation providers and human service agencies. Interested parties may comment on the proposal or obtain more details by contacting:

Matilda Larson
St. Lawrence County Planning Office
48 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617
Ph: (315) 379-2292
mlarson@stlawco.gov

Human service agencies that receive assistance from other Federal agencies for non-emergency transportation services are encouraged to participate and coordinate with the provider in the planning, design and delivery of transportation services. Agencies may obtain copies of the service description and submit proposals for service coordination. Private bus and taxi operators may request copies of the project service description from the above named person and may submit comments on the service as described.

If you wish to comment on any aspect of the funding proposal; submit a proposal or a request for service coordination; or to request a public hearing on this proposal, you must make your interest known in writing within fifteen calendar days of the date of this publication and provide your comments within fifteen calendar days of your receipt of the project service description. Your requests and/or comments must be forwarded to the above person.

**POTSDAM
PUBLIC NOTICE**

At their Annual Meeting Held on December 3, 2024, the Village of Potsdam Board of Trustees passed a resolution setting the Board's meeting dates for 2025 as follows:

January 6	May 19	September 2
January 21		September 15
February 3	June 16	October 6
February 18		October 20
March 3	July 21	November 3
March 17		November 17
April 7	August 18	December 3 Annual
April 21		December 15

Regular meetings, apart from May, June, July and August are scheduled to begin at 6:00 pm. May, June, July and August meetings are scheduled to begin at 4:30 pm. If there is a public hearing scheduled prior to any of the regular meetings, the regular meeting will begin immediately following the adjournment of the public hearing. All meetings will be held in the Civic Center Board Room. Further directing the Village Clerk to post and publish the schedule in accordance with the open meetings law requirements. All board meeting will be livestreamed on the Village of Potsdam's Facebook page whenever possible,

<https://www.facebook.com/potsdamvillage/>.

**MASSENA
LEGAL NOTICE**

Please be advised that the Massena Town Board will hold two Public Hearings on Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, at 4:30 PM in Room 30 of the Massena Town Hall. The purpose of the Public Hearings will be:

1. Passing a Local Law Repealing Section 204-(C) of the Town Code of the Town of Massena.
2. Passing a Local Law: Notice of Defects Law. A Local Law providing for written notification of defects and obstructions on Town Highways, Bridges, Streets, Sidewalks, Crosswalks and Culverts in the Town of Massena.

**LEGAL NOTICE
COLTON FIRE DISTRICT**

The organizational meeting of the Colton Fire District will be held on Tuesday, January 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Colton Fire Station. The regular January meeting will follow.

Thereafter, the 2025 regular monthly meetings will be held as follows at 6:00 p.m. at the Colton Fire Station:

February 11	March 11	April	May 13
June 10	July 8	August 12	September 9
October 14	November 11	December 9	

MJ Watson, Secretary
Colton Fire District

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Chair of the Board of Legislators that the Chair and the members of the Board of Legislators of the County of St. Lawrence adopted Resolution No. 401-2024 "Adoption of the 2025 Budget" as follows:

WHEREAS, the 2025 Tentative Budget has been reviewed by the Finance Committee and Board of Legislators, and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2024, the Finance Committee delivered the 2025 Tentative Budget as presented by the Budget Officer on October 28, 2024 to the Board of Legislators, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the 2025 Tentative Budget was held on December 2, 2024,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators hereby adopts the 2025 Tentative Budget with said budget requiring the raising of real property taxes in the amount of \$56,545,493, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Lawrence County 2025 Tentative Budget be distributed in the funds as per Exhibit A and Exhibit B of said Adopted Budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Legislators directs that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators to establish the St. Lawrence County Budget for the year 2025 in the amount of \$304,783,678 with a levy of \$56,545,493.

2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

EXHIBIT A:

CATEGORY APPROPRIATIONS
General Government Support-\$65,939,466
Education-906,500

Public Safety-22,136,884
Health Services-21,341,573
Transportation-32,377,008
Economic Assistance & Opportunity-88,288,450
Culture & Recreation-622,182
Home & Community Services-8,896,732
Employee Benefits-47,259,773
Debt Service-2,501,548
Interfund Transfers-14,513,562
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS-\$304,783,678

EXHIBIT B:

CATEGORY REVENUE
Departmental Revenues-\$50,165,356

Forfeitures-72,000

Intergovernmental Charges-13,612,576

Sale of Property & Comp Loss-2,668,803

State Aid-44,218,996

Inter-fund Revenue-4,420,708

Federal Aid-23,313,446

Inter-fund Transfers-13,842,563

Miscellaneous Local Sources-8,849,811

Amounts Raised by Taxes-56,545,493

Real Property Taxes-360,375

Real Property Tax Items-2,423,310

License & Permits-52,500

Non Property Tax Items-79,675,060

Use of Money & Property-4,262,681

Appropriated Surplus-300,000

TOTAL REVENUE-\$304,783,678

December 4, 2024

Rebekah Zuhlsdorf

St. Lawrence County Deputy Clerk

**ST. LAWRENCE
COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of CROSSROAD CENTER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/14/24. Office location: St. Lawrence County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: JESSE OSHIER, 480 Hardscrabble Rd., Lisbon, NY 13658. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**ST. LAWRENCE
COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of AMR Management Consultants Holdco, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 12/19/24. Office location: St. Lawrence County. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Curran Boyce, 28 Hamilton St., Potsdam, NY 13676, principal business address. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

**Winthrop
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Woodrat Salvage & Sales LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/08/2024. Office location: St. Lawrence County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Garrett Richards: PO BOX 38, Winthrop, NY 13697. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**ST. LAWRENCE
COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of M9 Dairy LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/2024. Office location: St. Lawrence County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to: Benjamin S. Hoffman, 164 Spragueville Road, Gouverneur, NY 13642. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**ST. LAWRENCE
COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of TOFNY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/15/2024. Office location: St. Lawrence County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to: Joshua S. Hayden, 15 Countryside Court Drive, Gouverneur, NY 13642. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**MASSENA
LEGAL NOTICE
VILLAGE OF MASSENA
ZONING BOARD
2025 MEETING
SCHEDULE**

Jan 6 July 7
Jan 20 July 21
February 3 August 4
Feb 17 * August 18
March 3 Sept 1 *
March 17 Sept 15
April 7 Oct 6
April 21 Oct 20
May 5 Nov 3
May 19 Nov 17
June 2 Dec 1
June 16 Dec 15
*** Please note *** The Board is scheduled to meet the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Meetings are scheduled at 5:30 P.M. If you do not receive an agenda before the meeting date, there will not be a meeting.
* Note: Feb 17 and Sep 1 will be cancelled due to holidays.

**SAINT LAWRENCE COUNTY
FORECLOSURE NOTICE**

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE

Massena Savings and Loan, 255 Main Street, Massena, NY 13662 Plaintiff, -against- SCOTT P. SHARPE and ALLISON SHARPE (aka ALLISON M. SHARPE)

Defendant(s). In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered in the above-entitled action on October 10, 2024, I, the undersigned, the referee in said judgment named, will sell at public auction at the St. Lawrence County Courthouse, in the Old Main Entrance Lobby, in the Village of Canton, County of St. Lawrence and State of New York, on the 20th day of January, 2025 at 10:00 in the forenoon on that day, the premises directed by said judgment to be sold and described therein as follows:

591 Brouse Road, Town of Norfolk, County of St. Lawrence, State of New York; Tax Map No.: 16.004-2-15. See attached Exhibit "A". Said premises to be sold subject to assessments and water rates; subject to existing leases and tenancies, if any; subject to zoning restrictions, covenants, easements, conditions, reservations and agreements of record, if any, as they may be enforceable; subject to any state of facts as may appear from an accurate up-to-date survey; subject to facts as to possession and occupancy and subject to whatever the physical conditions of the premises may be; subject to any violations of the zoning and other municipal ordinances and regulations, if any; subject to the right of redemption by the federal government, if any.

Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$123,724.84 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment.

Dated: December, 2024
THOMAS ADAMS, ESQ., Referee

Pease and Gustafson, LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
Office and P.O. Address
40 Main Street
Massena, NY 13662

EXHIBIT "A"

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being situated in Section #55 of the Town of Norfolk, County of St. Lawrence and State of New York, and bounded thus: Beginning in the north bounds of the road running along the line between Sections #55 and #65 at a point located S 70° 30' W 372.2 feet from the intersection of the said north bounds with the east bounds of the Carney farm, and running thence along the north bounds of the road S 70° 30' W 100 feet; thence N 19° 30' W 200 feet; thence N 70° 30' E 100 feet and S 19° 30' E 200 feet to the place of beginning. As surveyed August 1, 1956 by Howard M. Smith, Surveyor #7744.

**FOR ASSISTANCE
PLACING YOUR LLC AD**

Call: 315-265-1000
or Visit: www.quickadcreator.com

NOTICE is hereby given to all potential creditors who may have an interest in the estate of Brian A. Lazore. All creditors must represent their interests to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal court by January 25, 2025. Any creditors shall contact the St. Regis Mohawk Tribal courts at 518-358-6300.

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE**

File No. 2024-55904

SURROGATE'S COURT – ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

CITATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

By the Grace of God Free and Independent

PROBATE CITATION

TO:

Jason Grimes and Matthew Rosenbarker, whose existence, whereabouts, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained; and if they be deceased, to any heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest, whose names, existence, whereabouts, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown; and all other persons in any manner interested, directly or indirectly, who cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained.

A petition having been duly filed by Charles Rosenbarker, who is domiciled at 784 Country Club Road, Gouverneur NY 13642.

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE, before the Surrogate's Court, St. Lawrence County, at the Courthouse, 48 Court Street, Canton, New York 13617, on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon of that day, why a Decree should not be made in the Estate of Mark L. Rosenbarker, deceased, lately domiciled at 784 Country Club Road, Gouverneur, NY 13642, in the County of St. Lawrence, New York, admitting to probate a Will dated June 15, 2023, a true copy of which is on file with this Court, as the Will of Mark L. Rosenbarker, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to Charles Rosenbarker.

Hon. Michelle H. Ladouceur, Surrogate

Dated, Attested and Sealed

November 26, 2024

/s/ Karlene M. Burley

Hon. Karlene M. Burley, Chief Clerk

Henry J. Leader, Esq., Case & Leader LLP

Attorneys for Petitioner

107 East Main Street, PO Box 13, Gouverneur, New York 13642

Address of Attorney

[NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.]

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2010 Chevy 1500 Silverado P/U long bed w/cap & hitch. \$10,000. NEW PARTS: Front calipers/pad/rotors/wheel cylinders/shoes/rear brake lines/drums/rear axle/seals/differential service/new radiator/all-terrain tires/new wipers. Have receipts. Recent NYS inspection. Call 315-323-8192. Or stop 345 Pinkschool House Rd, Canton.

ALSO: 2007 Honda Shadow - 15,617 miles. New rubber (Mint).

VEHICLES WANTED

Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast - FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

We buy 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-403-3374

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-888-251-3135.

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FURNITURE: 3 queen beds w/mattresses (2 years old). 1 poster bed. One metal bed. One white bedroom set. 2 twin beds possibly tiger maple which can be put together (or not) as king bed. Walnut marble topped dresser/commode. White leather living room sectional. 6x9 black and white area carpet. Some bedding. Large wardrobe. Dining room buffet. Large metal and white dining table w/chairs and side piece. Some small end tables. Some lamps. All are in-house, Canton. Can send photos. Call 315-322-1235.

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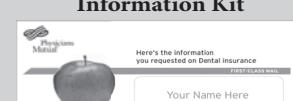
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4	8	1	3	2	7	9</		

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For rent: \$750/mo. Large 2 bed/1 bath apartment in Town of Potsdam. Prime location and newly updated. Heat and garbage included, call 315-244-4984. Available February 1. No pets.

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Trivia Test

- MOVIES: What is the name of the snowman in the animated movie "Frozen"?
- GEOGRAPHY: How many U.S. states does the Mississippi River run through or along?
- ADVERTISING: Which product uses a cartoon character whose first and middle names are Horatio Magellan?
- MUSIC: In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," how many "geese a-laying" are given to the narrator's true love?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of nuts are in a Snickers candy bar?
- BIOLOGY: What is epimorphic regeneration?
- TELEVISION: Who starred in the 1980s exercise video series "Sweatin' to the Oldies"?
- ANATOMY: How much of the human brain is made up of fat?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many cups are in a pint?
- LITERATURE: Which famous author often uses Castle Rock as a setting in his novels?

Answers found elsewhere in this paper.

King Crossword

ACROSS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
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53			54			55				
51	Worry		8	Tripoli's land		33	Cardio-boxing			
52	TV's Longoria		9	Tic-tac-toe		route	routine			
53	Mideast gulf		10	Possess		35	Wager			
54	Belongs		11	Irate		36	Seals and —			
55	Knight's address		12	Wharton's		38	(soft rock duo)			
34	Consumed		35	"House of —"		39	Noble gas			
35	Chignon		36	Arcing tennis		40	Group of			
36	Walking sticks		37	shot		41	eight			
37	Persian king		38	Marvel super-		42	Chopping			
39	Mined-over matter		39	heroes		43	tools			
40	Ordinal suffix		40	24		44	Jeans maker			
41	Blue hue		41	Get lippy		45	Strauss			
45	Hoodlum		42	Deception		46	Romanov ruler			
48	Defeats cleverly		43	Deco artist		47	Transcript no.			
50	Mexican money		44	Computer brand		48	British ref. work			
51			45	Lion's home		49</td				