



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



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The Wonder & Awe of Winter

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Submitted Photo

Tricia Mangan is a two-time Olympian and elite alpine ski racer from Buffalo, New York, who grew up skiing at HoliMont and Holiday Valley in Ellicottville. **Read her inspiring story on page 2.**

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FROM WNY TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE, LOCAL CONNECTIONS TO THE 2026 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES



Editor-in-Chief

Katrina Fuller

The Winter Olympics can feel impossibly distant, held in snow-dusted venues half a world away, with athletes participating at altitudes and intensities most will never experience. The 2026 Winter Olympics are being held in Milan

and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy this year, from Feb. 6 through Feb. 22. The highly anticipated event will feature various winter sports that fans know and love, as well as a new feature: ski mountaineering. Viewers can watch these elite feats of winter excellence on NBC and Peacock here in the States.

While Chautauqua County and Western New York residents will be watching

from their electronic devices and televisions, the regional connections to the beloved Winter Olympics run closer than many people realize.

One of those people is Jay Kearney, former Olympic athlete and Olympic performance physiologist.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

CELEBRATING OUR "HALL OF FAME" ATHLETES

Featured Writer

Randy Anderson

President, Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame

On February 16, eight individuals will be enshrined in the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame at the organization's 44th annual Induction Banquet

held at the Lakewood Rod & Gun Club. The Class of 2026 inductees are Kenny Betts, Jennifer Giebner Donato, Karl Englert Jr., Brianne Prince Hazelton, Trevor Hitchcock, Brian Hull, Kerry Kellogg and Dan Wolfe. The latest group brings the total number of inductees to 257 since the formation of the CSHOF in 1981.

The mission of the CSHOF is to honor and preserve the sports history of Chautauqua County. We honor the sports history by inducting deserving individuals who have lived in Chautauqua County for a significant portion of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

SECOND ANNUAL

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THIS WEEK AROUND TOWN

TUESDAY JANUARY 27

Cinema Series: Rental Family 7:30 PM

1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

YWCA Jamestown Annual Meeting | 5:30 PM

YWCA Lake Lodge | Lakewood
For Info: kmcmaster@ywcajamestown.com

Movies at The Reg: Bugonia 7 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

The WISE Program: Aging Sensitivity | 1 PM-3 PM

Methodist Gardens | Falconer
For Info: 716-753-4582

FRIDAY JANUARY 30

1A Day | 9 AM-1 PM

Robert H. Jackson Center | Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org

Nuremberg Movie Screening and Author Talk-Back | 6 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

Cassadaga Winter Festival 6:30 PM-9:30 PM

Cassadaga
For Info: Citizens for a Better Cassadaga Facebook Page

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Cassadaga Winter Festival 1 PM-3 PM

Cassadaga
For Info: Citizens for a Better Cassadaga Facebook Page

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Winter Walk | 12 PM

Long Point State Park | Bemus Point
For Info: kayla.giunta@parks.ny.gov

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 1

Cassadaga Winter Festival 1 PM-3 PM

Cassadaga
For Info: Citizens for a Better Cassadaga Facebook Page

Guest Speaker: CBA Vision Rehabilitation Services 10:30 AM

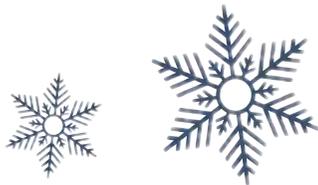
Executive Director Megan Maynard
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown
For Info: uujamestown.org

Love Is In The Air Wedding Show | 12 PM-3 PM

Northwest Arena | Jamestown
For Info: 716-488-7227

First Sunday Story Time 12:30 PM

Audubon Community Nature Center
From Info Info:
AudubonCNC.org/February-First-Sunday



Missing The Olympics ...but Still Progressing

Tricia Mangan is a two-time Olympian and elite alpine ski racer from Buffalo, New York, who grew up skiing at HoliMont and Holiday Valley in Ellicottville. She went on to compete internationally on the FIS Alpine World Cup circuit, representing Team USA at the 2018 PyeongChang and 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics. Balancing elite ski racing with earning a degree in mechanical engineering from Dartmouth College, Mangan has become one of the most inspiring figures in U.S. ski racing and continues to empower young athletes while redefining success on and off the slopes. While she narrowly missed qualifying for the 2026 Olympic team, a disappointment she candidly reflected on in a blog post written just days after learning the news, Mangan's career remains a testament to perseverance at the highest level of sport. With her permission, we are proud to feature her story, which speaks to the often unseen agony of defeat and the resilience and pride required to compete on the world's biggest stage.

In a blog post on her personal Substack titled "missing the Olympics," Tricia Mangan wrote about the disappointment of not being named to the 2026 U.S. Olympic team while reflecting on her growth and gratitude as an athlete. (Tricia Mangan, Missing the Olympics, triciamangan.substack.com, Jan. 22, 2026)



Submitted Photos

Featured Writer

Tricia Mangan

The 2026 Olympic team will be named later today, and I unfortunately did not qualify despite having my strongest World Cup season to date, which just goes to show you how strong the U.S. women's team is right now!

Unfortunately, the third Super-G of the season in Zauchensee was cancelled two weeks ago, and I was not able to perform last weekend in Tarvisio for the last Olympic qualifier, which was on a very flat and open slope (not suited to my strengths at all).

I am obviously very disappointed, especially when I think back to how close I was to having a top-15 run in both of the Super-Gs in December. But there is no way to go back and change my skiing, and ultimately, I am really proud of my approach and execution so far this year.

I think part of the reason it stings a lot not to qualify is because I am skiing by far the best I have ever been skiing (and leagues better than the last two Olympics that I did qualify for). But to people who don't follow ski racing or quite understand what World Cup racing is, not qualifying for the Olympics seems like a very big failure. I'm trying not to look at it like that.

I re-read my blog from four years ago when I did qualify, and I wrote: "I've said many times that this season wasn't just about making the Olympics. It was

about giving myself the opportunity to show myself how fast I could be on the World Cup and to continue to push myself to keep getting faster. And I really do mean this. But the Olympics will be a really incredible reward for a lot of hard work, and I think it will be even more rewarding for me to share that with all of you."

And this is still very true! The Olympics are so incredible and a very unique opportunity to enjoy the fruits of a lot of hard work. But I feel incredibly grateful to have gone to two Olympics already, and I am also so glad that we still have a lot of the World Cup season to go (more than half of our races still!).

I am so unbelievably lucky to be racing in the World Cup, still chasing my dream of getting faster every day and continuing to challenge myself and grow through the setbacks and breakthroughs. And even in the past few days since not making the team, I've been able to feel this overwhelming sense of gratitude and calm (which is not always the easiest for me after bad races).

So here's to continuing to push my limits, and also a friendly reminder that external validation (qualifying for the Olympics) isn't the only metric of success!

Thank you so much for all the support, and I hope everyone cheers just as loud for all my amazing teammates who will be competing in Cortina.

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Editorial with Lori Cornell

The Wonder and Awe of Winter



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

enjoy the wonder and awe of our continued winter and the inspiration of both the dedicated athletes on our global stage and the cherished efforts of our current and past Hall of Fame inductees, carefully enshrined for your due homage right down on Third Street in Jamestown, ready for your visit anytime

But most of all, as the forever-beloved Alpine skier Tricia Mangan's story so well depicts, remember the precious lesson of the "Man in the Arena". Our favorite athletes not only teach us about the value of dedicated hard work and the impressive feat of accomplishment, but arguably (and maybe even more importantly), they teach us about the grace and fortitude necessary to move forward from defeat. When I connected with Tricia's mother last week, she spoke of her daughter's agony after learning just days ago that she did not make the U.S. Alpine Team for the Olympics next month. After competing in the 2018 and 2022 Olympics and recording her highest rankings yet this year, 25th in the world, she missed the admission mark by 0.03 seconds. Heartbreaking. The agony of defeat, her strength, and our steadfast support for our WNY hometown skiing heroine who deserves to be so proud, may just be more important than any applause we lend to the well-earned victors next month.

Beyond the blustery, beautiful snowflakes that have abounded en masse this winter, 2026 features something extra special: the XXV Winter Olympic Games in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, beginning next week! This edition, we salute the winter wonder of these exceptional role models on the international stage, while simultaneously recognizing Chautauqua's most renowned athletes with our annual Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet this February. Please see our centerfold spread in this edition for a detailed biography of each inductee and information on how to obtain tickets to this exciting banquet on February 16. President Randy Anderson and his entire board at the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame deserve much credit for their dedicated efforts to honor the accomplishments of our local best and to preserve their exemplary memory for future generations.

So, as we launch into February, Congratulations to all!

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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 Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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The Man In The Arena

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

- Theodore Roosevelt

SECOND ANNUAL FRIENDS OF THE GAZETTE CAMPAIGN

HOW TO JOIN/RENEW

Online: Visit CHQgazette.com to join or renew.

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Pay all at once or spread your support throughout the year by signing up for a monthly credit card autopay.



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WINTER OLYMPICS

Trivia

1. Who is the most decorated Winter Olympian of all time?
2. Which country has won the most Winter Olympic medals overall?
3. What Winter Olympic sport uses a stone and brooms?
4. Which sport includes events like moguls and aerials?
5. What was the first Winter Olympic sport for women?
6. Which country hosted the first Winter Olympics?
7. What sport combines skiing and rifle shooting?
8. Which athlete won Olympic gold medals in both Summer and Winter Games?
9. Which sport uses skis but no poles in competition?

1. Marit Bjørgen 2. Norway 3. Curling 4. Freestyle skiing 5. Figure skating 6. France 7. Biathlon 8. Eddie Eagan 10. Equestrian Skijoring

Submitted Photos



Sunday Service at the Slopes with Pastor Luke Fodor.

Join him in Holiday Valley at 2pm, Cindy's Warming Hut.



Pastor Luke Fodor will be in Italy during the Winter Olympics, leading another pilgrimage to the Vatican and arriving on Ash Wednesday.

Pictured here are last year's St. Luke pilgrims.

Faith Matters

Winter Olympics and a Life on the Edge



Featured Writer

Rev. Luke Fodor
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Many of us avoid life on the edge for fear of falling off. From the time we are young, our parents hover close, telling us to be careful, to slow down, to avoid risks that might lead to injury or regret. Caution is taught as wisdom and survival as success.

Yet every four years, we gather to watch the Winter Olympics, where the edge is precisely where life happens. Skiers launch themselves off sheer drops. Skaters carve thin blades into unforgiving ice. Athletes move at terrifying speeds, knowing that one miscalculation can send them tumbling. What astounds us is not their recklessness, but their discipline—the countless hours of practice that allow them to live at the boundary without being consumed by it.

The edge, it turns out, is not simply a place of danger. It is also a place of attention, commitment, and trust. To live there well requires more than courage; it requires formation. These athletes are not careless—they are deeply attuned to their bodies, their limits, and the forces acting upon them.

Perhaps the problem is not that we fear the edge, but that we mistake safety for fullness of life. In avoiding all risk, we may also avoid the places where joy, transformation, and meaning are found.

On Sunday afternoons during the ski season, at the top of the hill at Holiday Valley, I lead a simple ecumenical prayer service in Cindy's warming hut. I am always struck by how many families—who have already spent the day pushing themselves on the slopes—are willing to pause for a few minutes and expand their discipline beyond the physical into the spiritual. They come still in their ski boots and helmets, carrying that same attentiveness and trust, and offer it to God. It is a small act, but a telling one: a reminder that the habits that help us live well on the edge of the mountain can also form us for life on the deeper edges of faith.

Of course, finding life on the edge does not mean chasing adrenaline. It can also mean choosing a slow, deliberate, and mindful walk. Every few years, the aggregated confirmation class of St. Luke's Episcopal Church goes on pilgrimage during the February break. This year, that pilgrimage will take place in Italy, where we will walk more than seventy-five miles from the medieval city of Viterbo to the Vatican, arriving on Ash Wednesday.

At that very same time, the Winter Olympics will be wrapping up in northern Italy, amid alpine peaks and high-speed competition, while we walk much farther south, through fields, villages, and ancient roads. It is a striking contrast: athletes in the north pushing their bodies to the limits in moments measured by seconds, and pilgrims in the center of the country moving slowly, measuring the journey one step at a time. Yet both, in their own ways, are living at the edge—formed by discipline, attention, and trust in the path set before them.

I wonder where you might find your spiritual edge this season.

Faithfully,
Luke

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Jamestown Area YMCA, SUNY JCC To Launch First Phase of "The JAY" Wellness Center

Contributed by

Jamestown Area YMCA

The Jamestown Area YMCA and SUNY Jamestown Community College (JCC) have announced the next step in their long-term partnership: the launch of Phase One of The JAY Wellness Center in May 2026.

Following careful planning and the approval of the YMCA's 2026 budget, this first phase of the YMCA-JCC partnership will transition YMCA membership-based wellness activities in downtown Jamestown to the JCC campus, utilizing the athletic facilities currently known as Total Fitness beginning in May 2026. The move allows the YMCA to continue providing high-quality wellness services while planning for a fully outfitted, modern wellness center in the future.

"This step moves us closer to a shared vision of expanded, accessible wellness opportunities for our entire community," said George Panbianco, President of the Jamestown YMCA Board of Directors. "Our goal to develop a new, shared YMCA in partnership with JCC remains unchanged and undeterred. This move allows us to begin that collaboration immediately to strengthen our long-term impact, while also remaining fiscally responsible."

"The JAY represents an important step forward for our campus and our community," said JCC president Daniel DeMarte. "This partnership allows us to expand access to wellness resources while building a sustainable model that benefits students, employees, and community members alike."

Importantly, public members of Total Fitness will continue to have access to the campus facility through April 30, 2026, allowing additional time for coordination and a seamless transition. Total Fitness members will then be invited to join the YMCA at regular Total Fitness rates for one year, gaining access to YMCA programs and services both on

campus and at the Lakewood YMCA. "The downtown Jamestown YMCA facility has served the community for generations," said John Barber, Interim CEO of the Jamestown Area YMCA. "As the building continues to age, maintaining key systems — particularly aquatics infrastructure — has required increasing resources. Transitioning wellness membership activities to the JCC campus allows the YMCA to provide updated facilities while ensuring long-term financial sustainability."

The YMCA-JCC partnership will continue in two phases. In addition to the YMCA's May transition to the Jamestown campus, **Phase I** also focuses on upgrades to JCC's athletic fields and Physical Education Complex, laying the groundwork for more collaboration in Phase two.

Phase II will center on the development of a fully integrated, modern JAY Wellness Center designed to serve generations to come.

The downtown YMCA will remain open and active, continuing to serve the community through vital programs, including: The Teen Center, day and holiday camps, administrative offices, youth basketball leagues, and select adult sports and activities.

As part of the transition, downtown wellness amenities — including pools, locker rooms, and fitness spaces — will be retired. Planning will begin for new uses of available space within the building, including opportunities for future partners that align with the YMCA's mission and programming.

Both organizations are committed to a smooth transition and look forward to working together to bring the first phase of their partnership to life.

For questions regarding Total Fitness memberships, community members may contact the JCC Faculty Student Association at (716) 338-1413 or facultystudentassoc@sunyjcc.edu. Questions related to Jamestown Area YMCA membership can be directed to (716) 664-2802 or membership@jamestownymca.org.



Love Is in the Air Wedding Show Returns to Northwest Arena on February 1



Contributed by Northwest Arena



Engaged couples and wedding enthusiasts are invited to experience the region's premier bridal event, the **Love Is in the Air Wedding Show**, on **Saturday, February 1, 2026, from 12:00–3:00 p.m. at the Northwest Arena** in downtown Jamestown.

The annual event brings together top wedding professionals from across Western New York to help couples plan every detail of their big day—all in one location. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet talented vendors, view the latest trends in décor and fashion, sample delicious catering options, and discover creative ideas for venues, photography, entertainment, florals, and more.

Whether couples are just beginning the planning process or putting the finishing touches on their celebration, the Love Is in the Air Wedding Show offers inspiration, exclusive promotions, and expert advice to make wedding dreams a reality.

Event Highlights Include:

- Access to dozens of trusted local wedding vendors
- Prize giveaways and special show-only offers
- Interactive displays and décor inspiration
- Ideas for weddings of every style and budget

Tickets are available now, with affordable group pricing so couples can bring their entire support crew to enjoy the day. The Northwest Arena provides a spacious and welcoming setting for guests to explore, connect, and get excited about their upcoming celebrations.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Northwest Arena or go online to the event page.

Event Details

What: Love Is in the Air Wedding Show
When: Saturday, February 1 12:00–3:00 p.m.
Where: Northwest Arena, Jamestown, NY



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U.S. Attorney General, 1940

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2026 Theme: Playing by the Rules - Fairness and Justice in Sports and Society



Go to roberthjackson.org/ehmke or scan here for more information about eligibility, prompts, and deadlines.

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Student Essay Contest "Playing by the Rules: Fairness and Justice in Sports & Society"

Contributed by

Robert H. Jackson Center

The Robert H. Jackson Center, in partnership with Ehmke Manufacturing Company, Inc., developed an essay contest series to engage middle and high school students in civic education while connecting the values of athletics. Each year, students will be invited to reflect on a different theme related to civic responsibility, leadership, fairness, and rule of law. The 2026 theme is **Playing by the Rules: Fairness and Justice in Sports and Society**

The contest emphasizes teamwork, fairness, and courage, values athletes practice daily and encourages students to apply those lessons to citizenship and democracy. It intends to foster critical thinking, leadership development, and thoughtful writing, helping students see the connections between being a good teammate and being an engaged citizen.

The program is designed for middle and high school students in Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania - specifically Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Warren Counties. The goal is to connect with students in and around the area where Howard Ehmke spent his formative years - with targeted outreach to athletic programs, coaches, and student athletes.

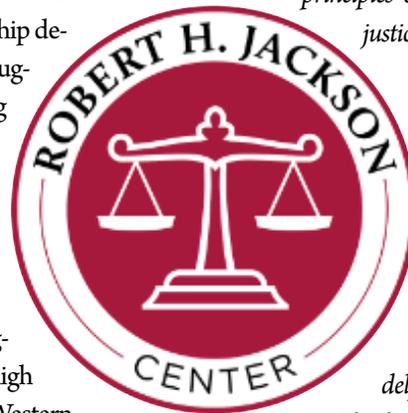
Essays must be submitted via our website by March 27. More information including prompts, eligibility requirements, and judging rubric can be found at: <https://www.roberthjackson.org/ehmke>

Winners will be celebrated at an awards ceremony on May 14 at 6 p.m. at the Jackson Center. First place winners will receive an engraved plaque, a Jackson Center and Ehmke swag bag, and public recognition, along with a \$1,000 stipend for educational use (high school division) or \$500 stipend (middle school division).

Second and third place finishers will be honored with a swag bag, printed certificate, and public recognition. All participants will receive a commemorative bookmark and digital certificate.

About The Robert H. Jackson Center

To learn more about the extraordinary local, national, and international contributions of Robert H. Jackson, the public is invited to visit the Center from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday for free tours at 305 East 4th Street in Jamestown, NY. Donations are welcome to support the free programs the Center provides to all ages throughout the year. The Robert H. Jackson Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the legacy of Robert H. Jackson and our vision of a global society where the universal principles of equality, fairness and justice prevail.



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Howard Ehmke was a professional baseball player born in Silver Creek, NY. He spent 15 years in the MLB playing for the Buffalo Blues, the Detroit Tigers, the Boston Red Sox, and the Philadelphia Athletics. He is best known for his surprise start in Game 1 of the 1929 World Series, which his team, the Philadelphia Athletics, won as well as taking the series. Ehmke hung up his pitching glove in 1930.

Before he even retired, in 1925, Ehmke had developed a large canvas tarp that could cover sports fields when there was inclement weather. Credited as the inventor of field tarps, Ehmke created his company to manufacture them and sold his first tarp to the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1925.

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JANUARY 25-31, 2026

COLUMBUS HALL: A 157-YEAR LEGACY WORTH PRESERVING

Celebrating Faith, Learning, and Community at Northern Chautauqua Catholic School

Contributed by

Northern Chautauqua Catholic School

Built in 1869, Columbus Hall is the original home of Northern Chautauqua Catholic School (NCCS) and one of the oldest elementary school buildings in New York State still in continuous educational use. For 157 years, it has served the children and families of Dunkirk as a place of learning, faith formation, and community life—never once ceasing to function as a school.

In recognition of this extraordinary legacy, Northern Chautauqua Catholic School today announced the launch of Campaign 157, an initiative designed to strengthen and sustain Catholic education in Chautauqua County while honoring the school’s historic roots. The campaign coincides with the 157th anniversary of the completion of Columbus Hall and looks ahead to ensuring faith-based education remains accessible for generations to come.

Unlike many historic school buildings that have been closed or repurposed, Columbus Hall has remained an active educational institution since its founding. Generations of students have passed through its doors—educated within the same walls, grounded in the same values, and shaped by the same mission.

Architecturally, Columbus Hall reflects Romanesque Revival influences that emphasize permanence, balance, and strength. One historic account described the building as “a diminutive version of the fifteenth-century Italian Renaissance palaces,” a remarkable distinction for a regional school and a testament to the vision of its builders.

Columbus Hall stands in rare company alongside the Oliver Hazard Perry School (P.S. 34) in Brooklyn, built in 1867 and now a designated historic landmark. Both buildings share construction in the post-Civil War era, uninterrupted use as elementary schools, and deep integration into the life of their communities. While Oliver Hazard Perry School has received formal historic recognition, Columbus Hall represents its Western New York counterpart—a living educational landmark whose story continues to unfold.



“For 157 years, Columbus Hall has been a cornerstone of Dunkirk’s civic and educational life,” said Edmund Schober, Architect at LaBella Associates, D.P.C. “Its continuous use as a school and its architectural integrity place it among New York State’s most significant educational buildings, deserving recognition comparable to the Oliver Hazard Perry School in Brooklyn.”

Honoring Tradition, Building the Future

Campaign 157 celebrates this legacy while advancing a vision for the future. As part of the initiative, NCCS will rename the school building in honor of a major benefactor, acknowledging the philanthropic support that has sustained the institution for more than a century and a half.

“The Northern Chautauqua Catholic School has been a cornerstone of faith and education for generations,” said Principal Paul Pinto. “Campaign 157 is both a celebration of our legacy and a call to action—to ensure that Catholic education continues to thrive in our community for generations to come.”

The campaign launches with its first \$25,000 leadership donation, signaling early momentum toward its dual goals of increasing enrollment and expanding philanthropic support.

A Regional Asset and Community Treasure

Since 1854, private Catholic, faith-centered, academically excellent education has been available to families in Chautauqua County and beyond. NCCS and its historic downtown Dunkirk campus represent both the

resilience of Catholic education and the enduring spirit of the community. The school welcomes students of all religious affiliations.

The public rollout of Campaign 157 will include media coverage, feature stories and television news segments, social media storytelling, and community events celebrating 157 years of Catholic education.

For donors and supporters, Columbus Hall is not only a building, but a legacy

still at work.

Join the Legacy

Campaign 157 invites alumni, parishioners, and community members to share in NCCS’s mission of providing exceptional Catholic education rooted in faith, service, and academic excellence available to all.

For more information, contact:

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Northern Chautauqua Catholic School
336 Washington Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048
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Website: <https://www.nccschool.us/>

About Northern Chautauqua Catholic School

Northern Chautauqua Catholic School provides high-quality, faith-based education for students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Located in Dunkirk, NY, NCCS continues to nurture hearts, minds, and spirits in a program that began in 1854.



The Kindergarten Class of 2025 learned and grew so much. All were so proud of their hard work, kindness and curiosity!



The 8th Grade Class of 2024 stood driven with courage and commitment at the Hope Ribbon Ceremony. School chaplains, Fr. Dan Walsh and Fr. Robert Owczarczak, are pictured here on the left and right, respectively.



Students and parents alike of the Class of 2024 were grateful for their memories at NCCS. The friends they made and the teachers who inspired them will be the strong foundation for their future.



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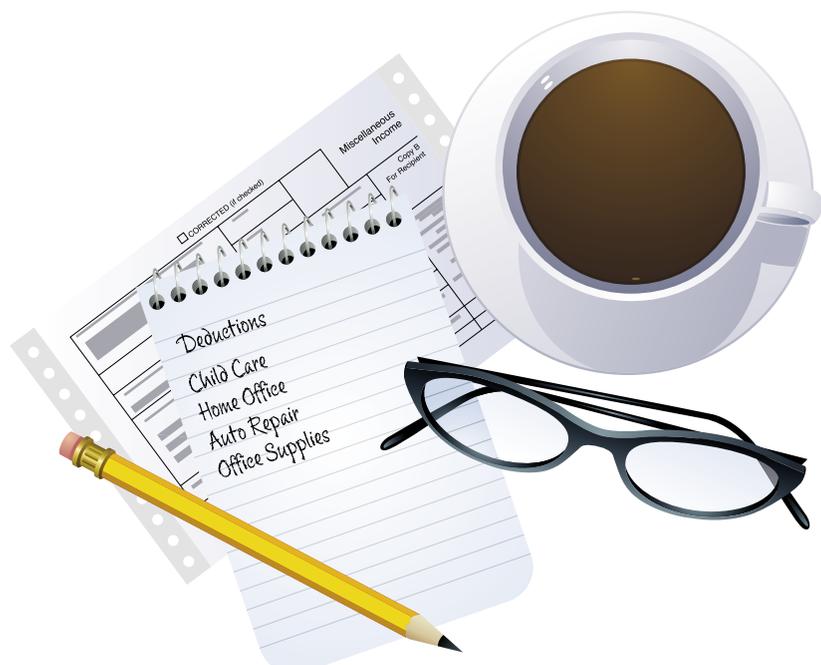
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What to Know Before Filing Your 2025 Income Tax Return

Contributed by

John Morgante, CPA

As the calendar flips to the new year, it means tax day will be here before you know it. What should everyone know before filing their taxes?

A new federal tax law enacted in 2025 made several major changes. Among these changes, the law created new deductions for seniors, qualified tip income, overtime premium pay, and certain auto loan interest.

These deductions are subject to income limitations, which are not discussed below.

Deduction for seniors

This is a \$6,000 deduction for individuals over 65. If you are married and both qualify, your deduction will be \$12,000.

Deduction for Qualified Tip Income

Employees in jobs that “customarily and regularly” receive tips can deduct qualified tips up to \$25,000. If you have qualified tips, they will be reported on your W-2.

Deduction for Overtime Premium Pay

Employees who work overtime can deduct a portion of the overtime pay. The maximum deduction is \$12,500 for single taxpayers and \$25,000 for joint filers. It is important to emphasize that the deduction is limited to one and a half times the normal hourly pay, regardless of the actual overtime rate paid. The deduction is equal to the premium (half) portion. This may be reported on your W-2 as OT Premium, or something similar, in box 14. If this is not included, then use your pay stub for the calculation, or ask your employer for further information.

Deduction for Interest on New Auto Loans

This is a deduction for interest paid

on loans used to purchase new cars. The maximum deduction is \$10,000. The car must be new, used personally, and its “final assembly” must have been in the US. Your bank or dealership should provide you with a 1098 with the required information on it.

There are also a few other new things to know

The IRS is phasing out paper refund checks. Be prepared to provide bank account information when you file your tax return, or expect to wait a long time for your refund.

The State and Local Tax deduction limitation increased from \$10,000 to \$40,000.

100% bonus depreciation has been restored for qualified property acquired and placed in service after January 19, 2025.

One last new item I’ll discuss. If you have a child under 18, they are eligible for a new type of retirement-style savings account, referred to as “Trump accounts”. If your child was born after January 1, 2025 they will be eligible for a free \$1,000 contribution. You can open the account for your child by filing Form 4547 on your 2025 income tax return.

While the new law has more to it, these are the major highlights.

Here are two other items to keep in mind before you file your tax return:

Up until April 15th, 2026, you can still contribute to Traditional and Roth IRAs and have it be effective for 2025.

If you own a small business, rental, or farm, make sure your bookkeeping is correct. This sounds simple, but if it’s not done correctly, it can create large headaches at tax time and can increase preparer fees.

This year, more than ever, there is so much to know before filing your tax return. Staying informed can help you approach the 2025 filing season with confidence.

Dunkirk Walleye Festival Slated at City Pier



Submitted Photos

Registration is now available for the 6th Annual WNY Walleye Classic presented by Primitive Patriot Outdoors. Pictured above is last year's Dunkirk Walleye Festival tournament weigh in show on the Dunkirk Pier.

Contributed by Festivals Fredonia

The City of Dunkirk and Primitive Patriot Outdoors are proud to announce the third annual Dunkirk Walleye Festival taking place on June 5 through June 7 on the Dunkirk City Pier. The event is open to the public.

Professional walleye anglers will compete in the 6th Annual WNY Walleye Classic directed by Josh Larsen, tournament director, while the festival portion will be directed by Scott Mekus, Dunkirk Festivals event specialist.

The Primitive Patriot Outdoors WNY Walleye Classic, celebrating 6 years in operation with registration now available, will be the highlight of the festival.

New this year, Big Fish Friday is eliminated to make the event two days (Day 1 - Friday, June 5 and Day 2 - Saturday, June 6) of anglers catching 6 fish each day for a total of 12 fish over a two-day period with fishing from 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anglers can now launch out of any port and fish on any U.S. waters of Lake Erie as long as coolers are returned to the Dunkirk Boat Launch check-in area by 3:30 p.m. sharp.

Presented by title sponsors Doc's Tackle LLC and Lime Lake Marine & RV, the tournament weather determinant make-up date is Sunday, June 8. The host hotel is the Clarion Hotel Conference Center.

Pro angler and National Walleye Tour Championship finalist, Craig Sleeman, will also conduct a free kid's fishing clinic and tournament Sunday, June 8 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Dunkirk Pier. The winner of the tournament

will win a guided fishing trip with Sleeman and also a winner's plaque.

Last year, 45 teams were registered with over 250 anglers and over \$47,7600 was given in prize money. Sponsorship, vendor and volunteer opportunities are currently being accepted.

The mission of the tournament is to bring the outdoor community together through hosted events and various media sources in hopes to give our area an amazing weekend focusing on Lake Erie's most sought-after species, walleye.

After the 5 p.m. weigh-in shows, both days will also feature live music on the stage from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Food, craft and fishing gear vendors will be on site both Friday (2 p.m. - 7 p.m.) and Saturday (11 a.m. - 7 p.m.).

"This event has grown into one of the best tournaments on the eastern basin of Lake Erie and the goal is to give anglers a fun, yet competitive tournament, that promotes the sport, our city, and the entire community," said Larsen.

"We strive to give the anglers what they want and show the public the best of our area's walleye fisherman. We take pride that our fleet can trust us by having 100% transparency."

To register for the upcoming WNY Walleye Classic as an angler, visit www.primitivepatriotoutdoors.com or call Larsen at (716) 490-4226. Sponsorship, vendor and/or volunteer questions can be referred to Mekus at (716) 366-9848 or smekus@cityofdunkirk.com.

MHA Planning Fundraiser, Has Opening for Bilingual Peer in Dunkirk



Submitted Photos

Staff members at the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County's January recovery luncheon included Finance Director Jill Marsh, left, and Bilingual Peer Support Specialist Miguel Evangelista. Marsh is planning the February 21st fundraiser at the Frewsburg American Legion. Evangelista was introduced as the MHA's newest staff member and is full-time at the Jamestown recovery center. The MHA has an opening for a part-time bilingual peer (Spanish and English) in Dunkirk. On Sundays, Conduit Ministries, which provided the lunch, gives out free to-go meals from their van in the parking lot at the Riverwalk Medical Center in Brooklyn Square/15 South Main Street in Jamestown from 3-4:30 p.m., or until the meals are gone. The MHA is a peer recovery center offering support groups and individual coaching for people looking to improve their lives, deepen wellness, thrive in recovery, or support those on a recovery path. For more information, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or [Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua).



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From Chautauqua County to the Olympic Stage: Area Connections to the Winter Olympics

Continued from Front Page

Kearney grew up in Busti, New York, graduated from Southwestern High School, and later attended SUNY Brockport, where he competed in football and track. He's now a member of both the Chautauqua County and SUNY Brockport Halls of Fame.

He first arrived on the world stage as an athlete, competing in flat water canoe sprint in 1980, a demanding discipline raced on straight regatta courses, with competitors kneeling low in narrow boats built for one purpose only: speed.

"You're paddling on one side, in a high kneeling position," Kearney explained. "Those boats are designed to go fast and that's the only thing they're good for."

After his competitive career, Kearney took a deeply influential role, working for decades with the United States Olympic Committee as a performance physiologist.

"It's been an absolutely extraordinary experience," Kearney said. "You're working with world-class athletes and you're working with coaches who are extremely well educated. They were very well-versed on what the physiological demands of their sports were. They were an absolute joy to work with."

Of the hundreds of staff members at the Olympic Committee during his tenure, only a handful had also been Olympians themselves. Kearney was part of that rare group, the less than one percent that return to help behind the podiums.

Different sports, and even different positions within the same sport, require different physical capacities: cardiovascular endurance, oxygen uptake and muscular strength. Kearney said the performance physiologist's job is to: identify the specific physiological demands of a sport or event, assess where an athlete currently stands and help coaches design training.

Kearney said one big misconception about the Olympic Athletes is that they make a split-second decision and are suddenly on their way to the Olympics.

"Most people don't recognize the career of someone who performs," he said. "They see figure skaters or any athlete across any of the sports and don't realize there are very few of them that have been training for less than 10 years."

Kearney said many might see the young gymnasts, for example, and think it could not be possible that they have been training for 10 years. However, he noted that many begin training for the Olympics by the time they are seven or eight years old.

"This isn't something that they just happen to be good at in their gym class and they decided to go to the Olympics," he said. "These people have, in almost all cases, modified their life history to enable them to be able to focus on their



training."

Although Kearney officially retired from the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee in 2010, with the Vancouver Games marking his final Olympics as a staff member, his involvement hasn't slowed.

Today, he chairs the International Competition Committee for U.S. Biathlon.

"We have the responsibility of working with the high-performance team that involves the high-performance director of coaches on team nominations to the various World Cups, IVU Cups and then in every quad, including this year, the Olympic team," Kearney said.

That process can be brutally precise.

This year, Kearney said the final two spots on the women's biathlon Olympic team were decided after three races by nine-hundredths of one percent.

When asked who viewers should keep an eye on this Olympic cycle, Kearney didn't hesitate: Ilia Malinin in Men's Figure Skating; Mikaela Shiffrin, continuing to redefine excellence in alpine skiing; Lindsey Vonn, returning to podium finishes after years away from the sport and a partial titanium knee implant; Elana Meyers Taylor, a four-time Olympian competing in women's bobsled; and Jessie Diggins, leading the World Cup standings in cross-country skiing.

Kearney noted for those locally who would like to feel just a bit more involved in the process that the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee is funded entirely by donations, not federal funding. The U.S. and Italy are the only two countries that fund their committees this way.

"The USOC is unique in that way," he said. "Americans send the team and support the team, not 'America.'"

For those interested in donating, Kearney said they can visit www.USOPC.org/donate.

The Winter Olympics may unfold on snow-covered mountains and international stages, but they're built on years of unseen work, often by people from areas just like ours. Sometimes, the road from Chautauqua County leads all the way to the Games.



Nick Langworthy

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Congressman Langworthy Introduces Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Efficiency Act to Close Jurisdictional Loopholes and Strengthen Public Safety

Congressman Nick Langworthy announced the introduction of the Seneca Nation Law Enforcement Efficiency Act, legislation designed to address long-standing jurisdictional confusion that has undermined effective law enforcement coordination on and around Seneca Nation lands in Western New York.

In 1948, Congress enacted a federal statute granting New York State criminal and civil jurisdiction over offenses occurring on the reservations of the Seneca Nation of Indians. While the federal government retained certain criminal authority, the law established a framework in which the State became the primary law enforcement authority on Seneca lands. Over time, that structure has resulted in overlapping responsibilities between federal, state, and tribal authorities, with no single entity clearly responsible for coordinated enforcement.

"This outdated jurisdictional framework has created real-world public safety problems," said Congressman Nick Langworthy. "Our men and women in law enforcement are doing the best they can under challenging circumstances, but when authority is fragmented and accountability is unclear, resourceful criminals exploit the gaps and that's exactly what we've seen happen. This legislation provides a targeted solution that respects tribal sovereignty, preserves federal oversight, and ensures that any change occurs only with mutual agreement. Most importantly, it will make our communities safer, and that is a goal we all share."

Seneca Nation President J. Conrad Seneca said, "During the Indian Termination Era 80 years ago, Congress gave New York State criminal jurisdiction to prosecute and incarcerate the Seneca people. The Termination Era is over, but this law remains on the books. We

are thankful to Congressman Langworthy for introducing this legislation and working with us to improve the Seneca Nation's public safety priorities. Our goal with this legislation is to restore the federal government's treaty responsibility to work with the Seneca Nation to provide law enforcement services. Through cooperative law enforcement agreements, we can maximize our working relationship with outside governments to address the drug trafficking on our lands and other threats to the Seneca people, and create a pathway for the development of our own Seneca Nation law enforcement capabilities."

Law enforcement officials and Seneca Nation leadership have raised serious concerns that this patchwork system has complicated investigations, limited coordination, and allowed non-Indian criminal actors to exploit jurisdictional uncertainty to engage in drug trafficking on and around Seneca territories, including nearby communities such as the City of Salamanca. Divided authority has often led to inconsistent enforcement and reduced risk for traffickers operating across jurisdictional lines.

The bill removes New York State's automatic criminal and civil jurisdiction over Seneca Nation lands established under the 1948 law, but only if both the Seneca Nation and the U.S. Attorney General agree in writing to such a change. The legislation does not mandate any immediate action; instead, it creates a clear legal mechanism to resolve jurisdictional confusion when all parties determine it is appropriate. By clarifying jurisdiction and enabling a more coordinated law enforcement framework, the legislation strengthens accountability, improves cooperation among authorities, and reduces opportunities for drug trafficking and other criminal activity to flourish due to legal uncertainty.



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YWCA Jamestown Announces 2026 Annual Meeting

Contributed by
Jamestown YWCA



Crystal Surdyk,
Director of Development for the
City of Jamestown

The 2026 Annual Meeting of YWCA Jamestown will be held Wednesday January 28th at the YWCA Lake Lodge, 185 East Terrace Avenue, Lakewood. The dinner and program will begin at 5:30pm.

Crystal Surdyk, Director of Development for the City of Jamestown, will be the evening's guest speaker. Ms. Surdyk has served as the Director of Development for the City of Jamestown since January of 2020. Prior to her current role, she served as the Principal Planner for the City and has more than 30 years management experience with a background in architecture, urban planning, community development, and placemaking. In her current role, she oversees the City's Department of Development, Urban Renewal Agency and Local Development Corporation, which include planning and development, policy development, building code administration, and economic & business development.

Reflecting on her professional journey, Ms. Surdyk will speak on Leadership, Humility and Hope through Uncertainty, sharing her personal and profes-

sional commitment to our shared responsibility as members of a community and her respect for systems that provide safety and dignity.

The evening will also feature the introduction of new board members including Janet Chew, Indo Quinones, Krysta Rives, Melissa Pollino, Cindi Manocchio, Carissa Bentley, and Chandra Davis. New trustees will also be welcomed including Kelly Haaksma, and Sue Davis-Gillis. Community members can RSVP for the evening by email at kmcmaster@ywcajamestown.com

Audubon's Free First Sunday Story Time is This Sunday, February 1



Submitted Photos

Bring your favorite 2-8-year-old(s) and go on nature reading adventures this Sunday at Audubon Community Nature Center's First Sunday Story Time, 12:30-1 p.m. Then, indoors and out, visit Audubon's live animals and enjoy the Nature Play Areas. Don't miss the Simpson Bird Room, a historic collection of over 150 birds that dates back 100 years or more to a time when bird collections, rather than field guides, were an important resource to learn more about birds. Story Time and Sunday building admission are both free. To reserve your space, call (716) 569-2345 or go online to AudubonCNC.org/February-First-Sunday. The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.



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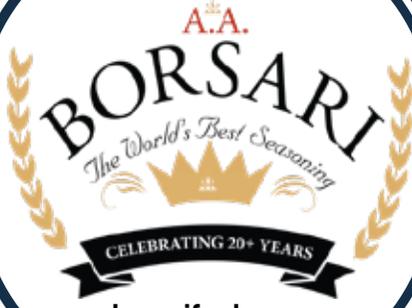
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CHAUTAUQUA SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES | 2026



ABOUT THE CSHOF

The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 1980 to honor Chautauqua County, New York area sports celebrities.

The CSHOF is an all-volunteer group governed by a thirty-member Board of Directors elected annually.

Nominations for induction are continually accepted and reviewed by the Board of Directors. Information on the nomination criteria and the process is available at www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org

The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame welcomes new members and encourages them to be involved.

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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CSHOF Celebrating Chautauqua County's Finest

Continued from Front Page

their lives and who have made a name in the world of sports. He or she must also meet one of the following criteria: is or was an outstanding athlete in high school, college, amateur, or professional sports, is or was a coach, manager, official or administrator who has made a significant contribution to sports, or is an individual who is performing or has performed an unusual or distinguished service in fostering, developing or effectively helping sports to prosper. Nominations are received from the public and selected by the 30 members of the CSHOF Board of Directors.

Within the website www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org, web pages for each of the inductees displaying photographs, publications, memorabilia, videos and web links have been created and are continually updated.

The CSHOF preserves the sports history of Chautauqua County by maintaining a museum where the county's sports memorabilia is received, cataloged and displayed. The public is encouraged to contribute significant historical sports

items to be displayed.

The CSHOF is located at 15 West Third St. in Jamestown, and is open, free of charge, Monday through Friday, 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Another important goal of the CSHOF is recognize outstanding high school, collegiate or community athletes who have won state or national championships or who have earned 1st Team All-New York State or 1st Team All-American status. The recognition of these individuals occurs at the annual induction banquet or the organization's summer picnic. The CSHOF is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization operated exclusively by volunteers with no paid employees. The public can support the mission and work of the CSHOF by purchasing an annual \$40 membership on our website: www.chautauquasportshalloffame.org/getinvolved.php#membership.

The CSHOF will be a participating attraction in Doors Open Jamestown on Saturday, January 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

CHAUTAUQUA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES | 2026

BRIAN HULL

One of the very best runners in Chautauqua County history, a New York State champion in both cross-country and track and field, and the record holder for the fastest two-mile run in county history, Brian Hull, has been selected as a 2026 inductee of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, taking his rightful place beside other outstanding distance runners such as Brad Rendell (1982) and Nolan Swanson (2003).



Hull was a 1974 graduate of Southwestern Central where he was coached by Tom Priester (CSHOF 2014). He was a 4-year letterman in both cross-country and track for the Trojans.

Hull was undefeated in league cross-country competition in both his junior and senior years while setting 11 course records.

He was the County and Section 6 champion in both 1972 and 1973. As a junior he placed third at the New York State meet and as a senior he was the Class C NYS champion at Binghamton with the fastest time of all runners regardless of classification.

Other highlights of Brian's senior season were winning Class A at both the McQuaid and Baldwinsville Invitationals and winning Class C at the Eastern States Championships.

In his final high school XC race, he finished 4th in the National AAU Championships.

Hull was equally impressive for the track team during his years at Southwestern. He was a 3-time County champ and 4-time Section 6 titlist in both the 1-mile and 2-mile races. In his senior year, he placed his name in the Southwestern record book in 3 individual events and 4 relays.

He set the County and Section 6 record of 9:06 for the 2-mile run, a time that is still a standard, even if converted to a time in the 3200 meter race that is now the regulation distance.

Hull won his second New York State championship of the school year when he broke the tape first in the 2-mile race. It is believed that Brian was the first Chautauqua County athlete to win two individual state titles in two different sports in the same year.

Upon graduation from SWCS, Brian initially enrolled at Miami of Ohio, but then transferred to Cedarville University, a private, Christian school in southwest Ohio.



BRIANNE PRINCE HAZELTON

The inspiring journey from a decorated high school pitcher, through a life-threatening illness, a courageous recovery and a comeback to Division 1 college competition, to a successful high school coach, earned Brianne Prince Hazelton induction into the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame as a member of its Class of 2026.



Prince Hazelton, a 1998 graduate of Frewsburg Central School, was a two-sport athlete for the Bears. She was a 6-year swimmer for coach Bruce Johnson (CSHOF 2023), primarily in the freestyle and butterfly events. She was a two-time victor in the 100-yard butterfly at the Chautauqua/Cattaraugus County Championships.

But it was on the softball diamond where Brianne really excelled. She was a five-year starter on the Frewsburg varsity squads that won 4 Section 6 titles and the 1997 Far West Regional.

Over her 5-year career her pitching record was 83-25, but over her sophomore, junior and senior years, she posted a spectacular 60-9 won/loss mark. Her career ERA was a miniscule 0.65. She struck out 902 batters in 695 innings and threw 8 no-hitters.

Prince Hazelton was a 4-time CCAC Division II First Team All-star and a 3-time CCAC Division II Player of the Year.

She was selected as a First Team All-Western New York All-star 3 times and was named the Post-Journal Player-of-the-Year in her sophomore, junior and senior years. In 1997 she was named All-WNY Pitcher of the Year

In her senior season, Brianne whiffed 204 hitters in 142 innings, had a microscopic 0.39 ERA, allowed only eight earned runs all season and held opponents to a measly .136 batting average for coach Jon Blanchard's Bears. The New York State Sportswriters Association named her to its First Team All-New York State Class C team. Frewsburg retired Prince's no. 21 softball jersey.

Her outstanding high school record earned Prince Hazelton an athletic scholarship to Division I St. Bonaventure. By the end of the first fall season on the Olean campus, she was 3-1 with a 1.50 ERA as the team's No. 2 pitcher and was eagerly looking forward to the spring schedule. However an unexplained growth on her shoulder halted her plan when the mass was diagnosed as Hodgkin's cancer.



CHAUTAUQUA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES | 2026

DAN WOLFE

Who's the greatest?"

That question is almost sure to elicit a debate – maybe even a heated argument – unless the question is “Who is the greatest all-around athlete in the history of Cardinal Mindszenty High School in Dunkirk, NY?”

Mindszenty, which opened in 1952 and closed in 1979, has claimed many outstanding athletes as alumni; but there is nearly universal agreement that the greatest all-around player was Dan Wolfe.

Legendary CMHS coach, Bob Muscato, a 1999 Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee, wrote, “Because of his versatility, Dan was the best the school ever produced. His multiple skills, statistical achievements and numerous awards evidence this. He has no peers that could match all his accomplishments completely.”

Wolfe wore the Monarchs' colors from September 1965 to his graduation in June 1969. He earned 15 varsity letters: 4 in football, 4 in baseball, 4 in track and field and 3 in basketball.

On the gridiron, Dan played wherever the team needed his skills: running back, wide receiver, quarterback, linebacker and defensive back. He scored 27 touchdowns and converted 24 extra points. The Monarchs record during the Wolfe era was 24-5-3. He was a 3-time All-Catholic Bishop Smith League All-Star. Following his senior season, he was selected All-Western New York and, most impressively, was named a National Catholic High School All-American. Villanova University offered a football scholarship.

On the baseball diamond, he was a 4-year pitcher winning 26 games, 12 of them were shutouts, while striking out 376 batters in 251 innings. When not on the mound, he patrolled the outfield. Mindszenty won 48 games and two league titles during his high school career. He was chosen as an All-Catholic Bishop Smith League All-Star three times. He was a draft choice of the Washington



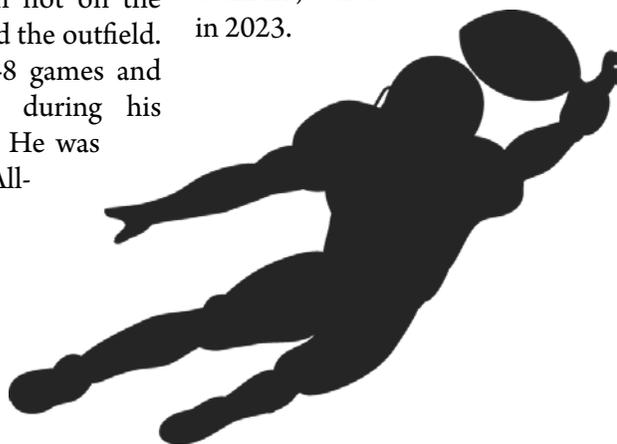
Senators.

After playing junior varsity basketball as a freshman, Wolfe was elevated to the varsity for the next three years. He scored 436 points and was selected as a 2-time All-Catholic Smith League All-Star.

The speedy Wolfe was also a force on the Mindszenty track and field squad. He competed in the 100, 220, long jump, 440 and 880 relay. Post-season honors included League All-Star selections in both his junior and senior years. Bob Palcic, a CMHS alum and 2019 inductee of the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame, who coached football at the NCAA Division 1 and National Football League levels for more than 40 years, had this to say about Dan Wolfe:

“Dan was not only a great athlete, he was a ‘star’ in every way. He was the guy the coach wanted to have the ball in crucial situations. Not only did the coach want him to have the ball, Dan wanted to have the ball. He was the type of athlete who could carry a team on his shoulders. Evaluating athletes was a major focus of my career. I can assure you that Dan Wolfe was one of the greatest athletes to have ever played sports in Chautauqua County.”

Dan Wolfe, a life-long resident of Dunkirk, died in 2023.



DR. KARL ENGLERT JR.

With 15 golf courses in Chautauqua County and many more within easy commute, it's no wonder that the sport of golf has played and continues to play a huge role in the sports history of Chautauqua County. Ben Bishop, Dick Cole, Bob Gunnell, Stan Marshaus, Cindy Miller and Dan O'Neill are a few of the names associated with golfing excellence in the county.

The late Lakewood dentist, Dr. Karl J Englert Jr., is another golfer with an impressive resume on the links.

Englert has won the Buffalo District Golf Association Junior Championship, the BDGA Individual Championship, the BDGA Father/Son Championship and the BDGA Team Championship.

Furthermore, he has qualified for the US Junior Amateur, the US Amateur and the US Senior Open.

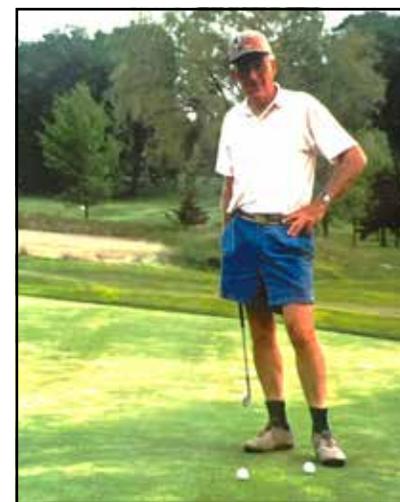
Englert was born in Buffalo in 1935. He attended Bishop Timon High School, the University of Buffalo and UB Dental School. He was an outstanding golfer and basketball player during his high school and collegiate career, captaining his squads at both levels.

While living in Buffalo, Karl won the Buffalo District Golf Association Junior title in 1950, was the WNY Catholic League champion in 1951 and qualified for the USGA National Junior Championship the same year.

Englert defeated his father for the Orchard Park Country Club Championship in 1955, a title he would win two more times. Also in '55, Karl teamed with his father to win the Buffalo District Golf Association Father/Son Championship at Lancaster.

As a member of the UB golf team, he participated in the NCAA National Championships in 1955 and 1956 and in 1958 qualified for the National Amateur Golf Tournament.

Following his graduation from UB Dental School, he



served as a Lieutenant in the US Navy for two years, then opened his practice in Lakewood in 1963.

In 1964, Karl or “Doc,” as he was also known, won the Buffalo District Golf Association Individual Championship and was the runner-up the following year. He won the Western New York Amateur Championship back-to-back in 1965 and 1966. He qualified for and played in the US Amateur Tournament in 1965 at Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Doc was a three-time Maplehurst CC champion and a six-time champ at Moon Brook CC. He also set a new amateur record at Maplehurst with a 66 card.

He won the amateur division at the Zippo Open at Bradford in 1966, captured the Lakewood Open twice and won the Higgens Memorial Best-Ball Tourney at Bartlett CC in '76.

Englert was a member of the Moon Brook team that won the BDGA Team Championship in 1967, 1975 and 1976.

In 1989, Doc qualified for the US Senior Open at Niagara Falls Country Club.

After 37 years of serving patients at his Lakewood dental practice, Karl and his wife, Marlene, parents of four children, retired to Florida in 2000. Still competing in the sport he loved, he won the Senior Division Tiger Point Golf Club Championship.

Dr. Karl J. Englert Jr. died in 2013 in Greenville, SC.



CHAUTAUQUA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES | 2026

JENNIFER GIEBNER DONATO

The accomplishments of a girl who hated running as a basketball and softball player at Dunkirk High School to a woman who competes in long distance races on the world stage has landed Jennifer Giebner Donato a place of honor in the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame.

Giebner Donato was the first woman in the world to complete 4 Abbott World Marathon Majors. The Abbott World Marathon Major consists of six-26.2 mile races held in Tokyo, Boston, London, Chicago, Berlin and New York City. She accomplished those six-star feats in 2017, 2018, 2023 and 2025.

She was also the first woman in the world to complete all six Abbott World Marathon Majors in a single calendar year.

Jennifer Giebner Donato is a 1992 graduate of Dunkirk High. During her high school career she competed on the Marauders' basketball and softball teams. Although she was a successful player, she did not not enjoy running as part of the conditioning program for those sports.

That all changed at the age of 35 when she started running for exercise. She found that she enjoyed running and decided to enter a marathon in Las Vegas just to see what she could do. Although she fully expected to never run another marathon, she found that she enjoyed the experience and became motivated to improve her time.

Now, 16 years later and with 61 marathons to her credit, she says that she now "craves long distance



races."

She has competed in the Tokyo Marathon 4 times, the Boston Marathon 11 times, the London Marathon 7 times, the Berlin Marathon 4 times, the Chicago Marathon 8 times and the New York City Marathon 11 times.

In 2023 she became the second woman in the world to complete all 6 Abbott World Marathons for the third time after previously accomplishing the feat in 2017 and 2018.

Giebner Donato became the first woman in the world to complete a 4th Abbott World Marathon Majors, finishing her sixth leg in 2025.

She also set a new standard in 2018 when she became the first woman in the world to run all 6 Abbott races in a single calendar year.

Giebner Donato had the honor of representing the United States at the Sydney (Australia) Marathon in 2024. That race, coupled with the 6 Abbott races, earned her membership in the Seven Stars Hall of Fame.

What is next for Jennifer?

"I'm just going to focus on staying healthy, making sure I get in my workouts, eating right, getting enough rest and staying positive. This is a chance of a lifetime for me to go and travel to these places and experience the things I'm experiencing, so I don't want to take anything for granted."

Jennifer is teacher at the Pine Valley Central Schools and resides in Fredonia.



KENNY BETTS

Chautauqua County has a long and storied history of outstanding wrestling. The Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame has recognized the importance of wrestling in this county by previously inducting Joe Annarella, Jim Beichner, Alex Conti, Bill Davenport, Marty Nichols, Flash Olson, Carlene Sluberski and Walt Thurnau.

Joining that illustrious group is the most successful high school wrestler in county history, Kenny Betts.

Betts won two New York State championships, was runner-up two more times, and at the time of his graduation held the NYS record for career wins and was second in state history for career pins.

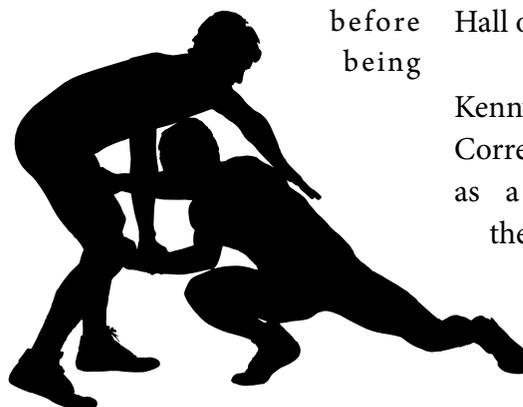
Born in 1990, Kenny began wrestling at the age of 4. He came under the tutelage of coach Alex Conti as a seventh grader at Fredonia Central. Competing in the 96-pound weight class at the varsity level, he recorded a 31-10 record with 15 pins.

As an eighth grader, Betts wrestled at 103 pounds, compiling a 40-6 record with 29 pins. He qualified for the NYS tournament and scored a runner-up podium finish in the first of his five consecutive appearances at the state tourney.

Kenny moved up to the 119-pound class as a freshman, going 43-9 with 26 pins before bowing out at the state finals.

He won his first NYS title in 2007. The 10th grader went 48-6 with 39 pins while capturing the top prize.

Betts had another big year as a junior for the Fredonia Hillbillies. Wrestling at 145 pounds, he compiled a 50-3 ledger, including 38 pins, before being



decided in the state's final match to earn his second runner-up podium finish.

Kenny's senior year was a monster. He established a 57-3 record, pinned 39 opponents, and captured the 2009 NYS Championship in the 152-pound class.

He was named an All-American Honorable Mention following his senior season. Betts' overall high school record is remarkable. He won 269 matches while losing just 34. Of his 269 wins, 186 were by pins. His 269 wins was a New York State record, while his 186 pins was second-best in state history at the time.

He was a Section 6 champion every year from eighth grade to twelfth. Of the five times he qualified for the state tournament, he won twice and finished second two other times.

Kenny not only excelled on the mats for the Hillbillies, he was also an outstanding football player and pole vaulter. As a 5'7" nose tackle, he was Section 6 Class B South Defensive Player of the Year and 3rd Team All-New York State Football in 2008. He also was a 3-time Section 6 qualifier in the pole vault.

Betts was inducted into the Western New York Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2017.

Kenny Betts is a NYS Corrections Officer, serves as a volunteer coach with the Wolfpack Wrestling Club and resides in Fredonia with his wife and 2 children.

CHAUTAUQUA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES | 2026

KERRY KELLOGG

In a lifetime of involvement in the game of baseball, Kerry Kellogg found success as both a player and coach. As a player he competed at all levels - from Little League to professional baseball. Likewise, as a coach across many levels, he gave his players a chance to be successful and to establish careers of their own.

Kellogg's baseball journey began on the Little League and American Legion ball fields in the Lakewood area. He exhibited promising skills as a pitcher tossing several no-hitters and playing on championship winning teams from 1965-1970.

As a student-athlete at Southwestern Central from 1970-1973. Kerry was a four-year letterman on both the baseball and football squads. As a pitcher and middle-infielder for the Trojans' nine, he was a two-time league all-star.

Following graduation from SWCS in '73, Kellogg continued his baseball journey by playing in the Chautauqua County Grape Belt league where he was a league all-star on the mound.

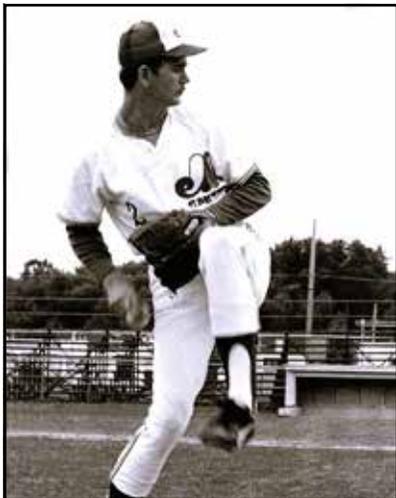
Kerry's next stop was at St. Petersburg Junior College from 1976-1977. He set a school record with 17 career wins against only 4 losses. His ERA of 1.70 lead the conference in '77 and he was named to the all-conference team.

Kellogg transferred to Division 1 University of Florida. In 1978 he was used as a reliever going 2-0 with 3 saves and a 2.02 ERA in 15 appearances and 23 innings. The Gators named him "Fireman-of-the-Year."

The next year he was moved into the starting rotation where he recorded an 8-3 record in 16 starts with 3 complete games. He fanned 50 batters in 107 innings. He was selected to the SEC All-Tournament team after tossing a 3-hitter against LSU. His Gators were SEC East Division champions both of his years in Gainesville.

After college, he was signed as a free-agent by the Montreal Expos in August of 1979. He played for manager Pat Daugherty of the Jamestown Expos in the Class A New York-Pennsylvania League in 1979 and 1980.

He had 4 saves, an ERA of 1.71 and struck out 20 batters in 21 innings his first season. His first professional win came against the Oneonta Yankees in a game in which he threw 6.1 innings, allowed just 2 hits while striking out 10 including future NY Yankee great Don Mattingly. The following season,



Kellogg pitched 32 innings in 19 games, striking out 24 and earning 2 saves with a 1-2 record.

Kellogg next enlisted in the US Air Force and served 14 years reaching the rank of staff sergeant. He continued playing sports in the military on the competitive base teams wherever he was assigned.

After receiving an "early-out" from the USAF, Kerry was hired as the head baseball coach at Jamestown Community College in 1995, a position he held until 2005. During his tenure as manager, the Jayhawks earned playoff positions 5 times including a berth in the regional final four in 2003.

The following season, 2004, the Kellogg-led squad won JCC's first-ever Region III title and competed in the NJCAA Division III World Series. He was named the American Baseball Coaches Association's Region III Coach-of-the-Year.

After earning his 200th win at JCC in just 10 years, Kellogg switched roles with his assistant coach Anthony Barone, a 2025 Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame inductee. Barone became the head coach and Kellogg the assistant for the next four years.

Other highlights from his career were having 4 of his JCC players sign professional contracts, serving as the assistant coach on a SUNY all-star team that played in a tournament in Moscow in 2002, and serving as the bullpen coach for the 2001 Jamestown Jammers for manager Jim Saul.

Over his career as both a player and coach, Kerry Kellogg has carved out a notable niche in the rich tradition of baseball in Chautauqua County.

Kellogg is retired and lives in Lakewood. He and his wife are parents of three grown children.

TREVOR HITCHCOCK

A three-sport all-star in high school, an All-American in college and a respected coach and official - those impressive credentials led to a place in the Chautauqua Sports Hall of Fame's Wall of Honor for 2026 inductee Trevor Hitchcock.

A 1991 graduate of Falconer Central School, Hitchcock excelled in three sports for the Golden Falcons: football, basketball and track & field. At 6-foot-4, 225-pounds, Hitchcock used his size, strength and agility to become a Post-Journal First Team All-Star in all three sports. Also an exceptional student and respected leader, he was selected for the 1990 American Legion Boys' State program.

In 1989, 1990 and 1991, Trevor won both the Division II discus and shot put throws at the Chautauqua County Track & Field Championships. He was also the Section 6 discus champ in '90 and '91 and as a result qualified for the New York State Championships. He finished 6th in the state for the discus in 1990 and improved to 5th place in 1991.

Hitchcock enrolled at SUNY Fredonia and was taken under the tutelage of legendary track & field coach Jim Ulrich Sr., a 2016 CSHOF inductee. Over the next four years, 1992-1995, Trevor became a force to be reckoned with across the state and nationally.

He was a nine-time State University of New York Athletic Conference champion. He won the 35-pound weight throw in 1993, 1994 and 1995. He also captured the hammer throw title in 1993, 1994 and 1995. Hitchcock was the SUNYAC discus king in 1993 and took the shot put crown in 1993 and 1994.

Trevor was a six-time New York State Track & Field champion. He earned the indoor 35-pound



weight throw crowns in 1993, 1994 and 1995. He was the NYST&F outdoor hammer throw king in 1993 and 1994 and captured the discus title in 1993.

Hitchcock competed successfully at the NCAA Division III Track & Field Championships during his Fredonia career. He was the 1994 indoor 35-pound weight champion and finished second the following year. He was runner-up in the hammer throw in 1994 and was fifth in '95. Those four podium finishes earned All-American status for him.

Trevor established SUNY Fredonia records of 189' 7" in the hammer toss and 62' 10.5" in the 35-pound weight throw.

He was inducted into the SUNY Fredonia Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

Hitchcock began his coaching career in the Jamestown Public Schools. He was the freshman football coach at Jamestown High School from 1996-2012. He was the assistant track coach at JHS in '96, the head track coach at Frewsburg, 1997-1998, and an assistant track coach at SUNY Fredonia 1998-1999.

He worked as a basketball official for 7 seasons before becoming a certified track official in 2013, a position he still holds. He was elected President of the Southwestern Chapter of the New York State Track Officials Association in 2022.

Trevor Hitchcock is an elementary teacher in the Jamestown Public Schools and resides in Dunkirk. He and his wife are parents of two children.





CHAMBER CORNER

Brand Your Business Through CHQ Chamber Sponsorship

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

Are you ready to align your brand with the largest business association in Chautauqua County? Consider becoming a Chamber Champion by sponsoring CHQ Chamber events throughout the year. Your investment will leverage our brand to demonstrate your commitment to our community and will make you part of an extensive network of local businesses where visibility has meaning.

As a not-for profit, these are not just transactional dollars out of your marketing budget. In addition to company recognition and promotion, Chamber sponsorships provide important support for our team's work throughout the year, supporting the programs and services we provide Chautauqua County on a daily basis. Chamber Champions receive their company name and/or logo included in marketing for sponsored events, their logo prominently displayed as a sponsor on our website, recognition at sponsored events, recognition in the Chamber Membership Handbook, and (depending on the event) tickets to sponsored events.

The CHQ Chamber runs a series of advocacy events throughout the year. Your business can be aligned with those efforts through sponsorship of the upcoming State of Business breakfast, the State of the County Event, the State of the State Event, or Official Introductions.

If peer networking is what you're interested in the CHQ Chamber is offering a full series of Business After Hours events at venues throughout the county this year. Or maybe our series of Business Builder Workshops would better suit your brand value proposition. Local engagement events such as First Fridays in Westfield or Made in Falconer may be better suited to your sponsorship investment. In addition, the CHQ Chamber has scheduled its signature annual events this year including our Golf Tournament in August, Business Awards Banquet in October, and Annual Meeting in December. Each of these events is an opportunity for your business to gain recognition among peers and customers.

Chamber Champion sponsorships offer a wide range of options to suit your

needs. The prestigious Keystone Level is a \$10,000 annual investment. The Leader Level is a \$7,500 investment. The Partner Level is offered for a \$5,000 investment, the Peer Level at \$2,500, and the Connector Level at \$1,250. Individual event sponsorships are also available and may be a better fit for some businesses.

CHQ Chamber events would not be possible without the help of our sponsors. We are grateful for their financial support, and also grateful for the partnerships we have been able to build to help these vital local organizations get the recognition they deserve.

To learn more about CHQ Chamber sponsorships, please reach out to our Director of Membership Development, Bob Lingle, at rlingle@chqchamber.org.

CHQ Chamber Presents the State of Business

As a countywide business association, the CHQ Chamber convenes local businesspeople in a variety of ways throughout the year. For the second year in a row, we are proud to present the State of Business Breakfast. This event will be held Friday, January 30 at 8am at The White Inn, 52 East Main Street, Fredonia. Our goal this year is to bring together knowledgeable active professionals from a variety of economic sectors in Chautauqua County.

Our speakers are, Jennifer Phillips Russo, Cornell Viticulture Senior Extension Specialist and Team Leader of the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program with Cornell Cooperative Extension in Chautauqua County; Ken Morris, President/CEO of Brooks-TLC Hospital for the Healthcare sector; Brad Walters, Director of the Builders Exchange of the Southern Tier for the Construction & Trades sector; and Cathy Kerr, M&T Bank Vice President/Senior Branch Manager, from the Finance sector. Each speaker will provide an overview and there will be time for a question-and-answer period.

The State of Business breakfast is sponsored by the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, Gullo Law Office, Media One Radio Group, the State University of New York at Fredonia, and The

Chautauqua County Health & Aging Officials Urge Older Adults, Caregivers to Take Precautions Amid High Respiratory Illness Activity

Contributed by

**Chautauqua County Office
for Aging Services**

Chautauqua County officials are urging older adults and caregivers to take extra precautions as respiratory illnesses remain highly active early in 2026. Preventive measures such as staying up to date on vaccinations, practicing frequent handwashing, ensuring good indoor air circulation, and staying home when sick remain the best ways to reduce the risk of illness.

To help avoid unnecessary emergency room visits, older adults and caregivers should contact their healthcare provider for guidance if symptoms appear, unless symptoms are severe or life-threatening.

"The flu is more than a seasonal inconvenience – it can pose serious risks, especially for older adults," said Dana Corwin, Director, Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services. "Being aware of symptoms, monitoring your health, and reporting concerns early are key steps to preventing complications and protecting our community."

In addition to influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and pneumonia are circulating locally. While flu activity is among the highest in recent years, preventive measures help reduce the spread of all respiratory illnesses.

Local Respiratory Illness Data (Jan. 1–14, 2026)

- Flu A – 159
- Flu B – 4
- COVID – 42
- RSV – 11

The County's communicable disease dashboard is monitored regularly and provides ongoing surveillance data and trends for respiratory illnesses.

"With the recent increase in flu cases in our community, it's important to remember that vaccination, good hygiene, and staying home when sick remain our strongest defenses against the flu and other respiratory illnesses," said Lacey Wilson, Chautauqua County Public Health Director. "Residents who are feeling ill are encouraged to contact their trusted health care provider for guidance rather than going directly to the emergency room, helping to keep emergency services available for those who need them most."

Monitoring Health at Home

Older adults and caregivers can take an active role in managing mild to moderate illness at home by monitoring key health indicators:

- **Temperature** – track fever patterns
- **Blood pressure** – important for cardiovascular stability
- **Heart rate** – may increase with fever, dehydration, or respiratory distress
- **Oxygen levels (SpO₂)** – using a pulse oximeter to detect low blood oxygen

Seek medical attention immediately if symptoms worsen or new warning signs appear, such as difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, or persistently low oxygen levels.

Free Wellness Kits for Older Adults and Caregivers

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services is offering free wellness kits to help older adults and caregivers monitor these key health measures. Each kit includes a thermometer, a wrist blood pressure cuff, and a pulse oximeter.

Kits are available at all three of Office for Aging Services locations, on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. Individuals receiving a kit will be asked to provide contact information and will have the opportunity to enroll in the County's automated messaging system for programs, community opportunities, resources, updates, and notifications.

We encourage residents who are experiencing mild to moderate respiratory illness to actively monitor key health indicators at home, particularly if they have underlying medical conditions or are at higher risk for complications. If you're ill, contact your healthcare provider for guidance before visiting the ER unless symptoms are severe. Health officials emphasize that early recognition of symptom changes and timely communication with healthcare providers can help prevent complications and reduce unnecessary emergency department visits.

Link to Chautauqua County's communicable disease dashboard: chautauquacountyny.gov/public-health/communicable-disease-dashboard.

CHQAging
LEADERS IN AGING WELL AT HOME

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



FY 2027 New York State Executive Budget: Key Figures and Priorities

Governor Kathy Hochul has proposed a \$260 billion Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2027, reflecting a 0.7 percent increase over the prior year's enacted plan. The budget is balanced without raising personal income tax rates and sets aside \$14.6 billion in state reserves, maintaining New York's AA+ credit rating, its highest since 1972. Federal aid is projected at approximately \$84.4 billion, a decrease of more than \$10 billion compared to the

previous fiscal year, a key factor shaping the state's cautious spending approach.

A central focus of the budget is affordability for working families. The proposal includes \$4.5 billion in additional funding for child care, aimed at expanding access, supporting providers, and advancing long-term plans for universal child care. Education funding reaches a record high, with \$39.3 billion in total school aid, and the budget continues universally free school meals statewide. Health care accounts for the largest share of spending, with \$122.9 billion allocated to Medicaid and the Essential Plan, in part to offset anticipated federal funding reductions affecting medical and mental health services.

The budget also prioritizes housing, infrastructure, and economic development. It includes \$250 million for affordable housing construction, \$750 million for water infrastructure, and continued

investment in transportation and public works projects. Revenue actions in the proposal include eliminating state income taxes on tipped wages up to \$25,000, expanding taxes on vaping and smokeless nicotine products, and granting a sales tax exemption for electric vehicle charging, measures designed to support workers while promoting public health and clean energy goals. Because 2026 is a gubernatorial election year, the budget emphasizes fiscal stability and widely supported services rather than major tax or structural changes. The administration has framed the proposal around protecting key programs, limiting spending growth, and preparing for uncertainty in federal policy. Legislative budget negotiations with the Assembly and Senate will continue through March, with a final state budget due by April 1, 2026.

Senator George Borrello Responds



same time, Medicaid spending is set to increase by more than 11 percent, roughly four times the rate of inflation, largely because the governor is choosing to use state dollars to extend spending for inappropriate and inefficient programs no longer supported by the federal government. Despite the major increase in Medicaid funding, there was no serious discussion of rooting out wasteful spending in programs like Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) or certain adult day care programs, which are known magnets for fraud and abuse.

And despite all the rhetoric about 'affordability', this budget contains no broad-based tax relief that would actually help families, seniors, and small businesses keep up with the cost of living. What New Yorkers can safely expect is that this budget will only grow larger as it moves through the Legislature, with the Democrat majorities in the Senate and Assembly sure to add billions more in spending, and possibly even new taxes, to satisfy their newly-emboldened DSA allies.

Once again, Albany is betting that bigger government and higher spending will somehow fix the problems caused by bigger government and higher spending.

In the weeks ahead, I will be working with my Republican colleagues to fight for a budget that reins in spending, delivers real relief, and puts New York on a more sustainable path."

"While our conference and fiscal staffs will be analyzing Governor Hochul's budget proposal in detail in the coming days, some things are already clear.

After several years of massive spending increases, this budget once again grows government to an irresponsible level. At \$260 billion, it is \$6 billion larger than last year's enacted budget, with state operating spending at \$157 billion, nearly 6 percent higher than last year, approximately twice the rate of inflation. New Yorkers were spared a deep budget hole this year not because of fiscal discipline in Albany, but because of the continued strength of Wall Street and higher-than-expected tax revenues driven by the national economy. While Governor Hochul repeatedly criticized our federal leaders in Washington during her budget address, it is the pro-growth agenda of our president and congressional leaders that has saved New York from having to make spending cuts.

The Governor is also proposing, for the second time, to extend what was supposed to be a temporary, COVID-era corporate tax. At the

Assemblyman Andrew Molitor Responds



proposal does nothing to make it easier for families to get by.

There is no real plan to lower property taxes. There is no plan to bring down energy bills. And there is no serious effort to attract and grow high-quality jobs here in New York State.

If we want people to be able to raise a family here, and if we want to stop losing residents to other states, Albany needs to start focusing on practical, measurable relief that actually makes New York more affordable."

"Our state leaders in Albany, unfortunately, don't live in reality. New York is already one of the least affordable states to live in, and this year's budget

Contact Your State Legislators

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borrello@nysenate.gov



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molitor@nyassembly.gov



Celebrate Winter in Beautiful Cassadaga



Submitted Photos

See ice sculpture carving taking place Saturday afternoon at the Cassadaga Beach on Park Avenue in the village Saturday afternoon. It is part of this year's Cassadaga Winter Festival.

Contributed by Citizens for a Better Cassadaga

The Citizens for a Better Cassadaga will be holding the community's Winter Festival on Friday-Sunday, Jan. 30-Feb. 1. There will be something for everyone.

FRIDAY

To kick off the festival, The Untouchables will be performing at the American Legion Post 1280, located at 228 Maple Ave., from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Dance the night away. There is no cost to enter. The Legion will have pizza and drinks for sale. This is sponsored by the Legion.

SATURDAY

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will be a vendor show at the American Legion, which is sponsoring the event. A light lunch will be available.

From noon to 2 p.m. will be fun on the beach, located on Park Avenue. There will be a tether ball, fire pits and S'mores. There will also be an ice sculpture carving taking place. Chili and hot chocolate will be provided by Park Church.

At 1 p.m. will be the annual Ice SCREAM Polar Dip in Cassadaga Lakes, weather permitting. Cost is \$20 and there will be T-shirts for dippers. Prizes will be available. Proceeds will be going toward the reconstruction of the Gazebo. This is sponsored by the RED HOUSE for Youth.

From 2-4 p.m. will be "Tonya and her chickens" at the Cassadaga Library, located at 18 Maple Ave. There will be live chickens, stories, treats and a craft at the library, which is sponsoring this event. This is for both children and adults.

At 5 p.m. will be the "Soup-er Bowl" at Park Church, located at 25 Maple Ave. This is like a chili cook-off, only involving soup. Bring your best homemade soup and see if you can win a prize. No cost to enter or attend. Register for the contest by calling 716-962-2265. If you don't have a soup recipe, bring a hungry appetite and try all the soups and help judge which is the best. Park Church, which is sponsoring the event, will provide salad and bread as well.

SUNDAY

From 1-3 p.m. there will be sledding at the Cassadaga Country Club, 55 Frisbee Road. Bring your own sleds and brave the big hill. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available. This is sponsored by the Cassadaga Country Club and the Cassadaga Library.

At 1:30 p.m. will be a corn hole tournament at the American Legion Post 1280, which is sponsoring the event. Registration is from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. Cost is \$15 per player, round robin style, with a guaranteed minimum of three games. Chili and soup dinner is available for \$15. This event will benefit American Music Abroad Kids of CVCS.

At 5:30 p.m. will be a Snow Moon ski/snowshoe hike at Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park on 8131 Route 60. Meet there at 5:20 p.m. This will be a guided tour. Attendees must provide their own skis/snowshoes. Parking is limited, so carpool if possible. This event is sponsored by Cassadaga Lakes Association and Chautauqua County Watershed Conservancy.

Follow Citizens for a Better Cassadaga on Facebook for updates as well as future events.

Chamber Corner

Continued from Page 18

White Inn. We strongly encourage local businesspeople to attend this breakfast event and come with questions for our panelists. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$30 per person. Check-in will open at 7:30, with a buffet breakfast planned. The program will begin shortly after 8am. Registration is open now through the Chamber's web calendar at www.chqchamber.org/events.

Small Business Sit-Downs Begin for 2026

At the CHQ Chamber our mission is to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. One of the newest ways we are making a difference for our businesses is through a series of informal, locally based conversational meetings we call Small Business Sit-Downs.

These meetings are designed to connect local businesspeople, foster collaboration, and encourage meaningful discussions that support the local business community. This is an open forum for business owners,

company representatives, and non-profit leaders to discuss successes, challenges, share insights, and explore strategies to strengthen the local economy.

Here's the schedule for Small Business Sit-Downs over the next few weeks: Westfield, Tuesday, January 27 from 4-5pm at Community Bank, 70 East Main Street; Falconer, Wednesday, January 28 from 4-5pm at 17-19 West Main Mercantile; Mayville, Thursday, January 29 from 4-5pm at 34 South Erie Street; Jamestown, Tuesday, February 3 from 9:30-10:30am at the CHQ Chamber Jamestown office, 300 North Main Street; Dunkirk & Fredonia, Wednesday February 4 from 9:30-11am at the SUNY Fredonia Center for Innovation and Economic Development, 214 Central Avenue. Additional dates will be scheduled.

There is no cost to attend. Enjoy complimentary coffee while connecting with fellow Chamber members. RSVP's are appreciated for planning purposes. Please email Staunzie Grady at sgrady@chqchamber.org.

The Chautauqua Gazette is committed to supporting nonprofit organizations across Chautauqua County that strengthen our communities and enrich local life. From community services and arts initiatives to education, health, and advocacy, the many organizations of Chautauqua are the backbone of our county and their impact deserves to be seen, celebrated, and supported.

Think of the Gazette as your partner in amplifying your mission by raising awareness, promoting upcoming events, and sharing your latest news with a broad local audience. Our mission is to shine a spotlight on the organizations that give so much to our community. To learn more about customizable collaboration opportunities, contact cornell@chqgazette.com or call 716-720-1845.

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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PUZZLES ON PAGE 19

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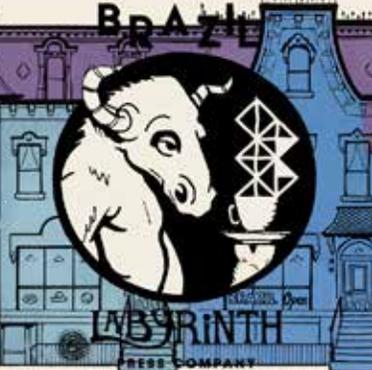


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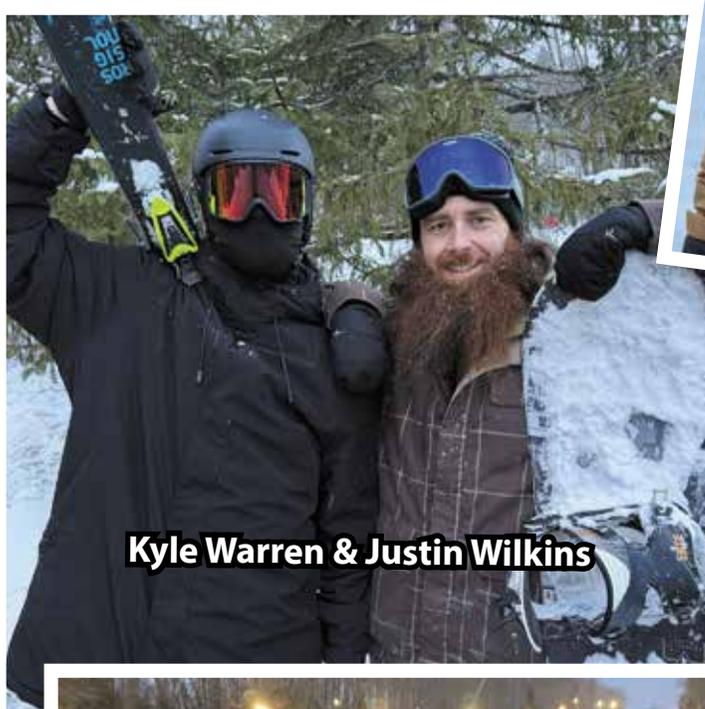
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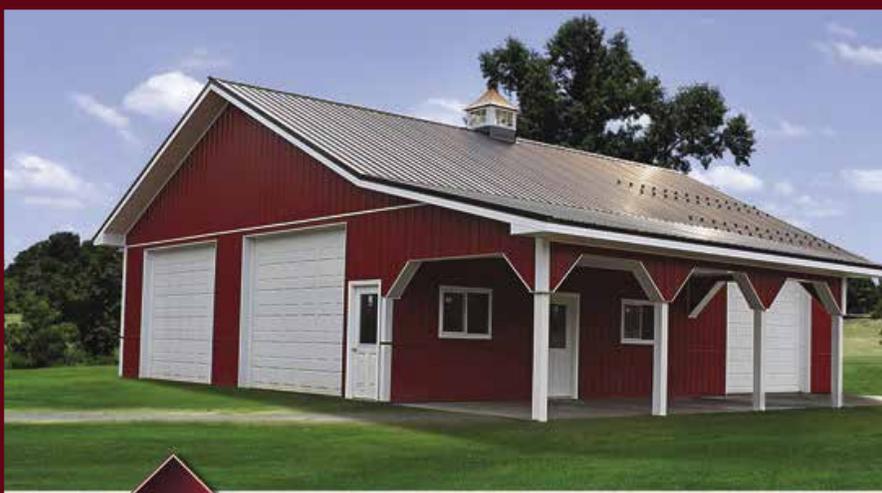
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