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Caps, Gowns & Congrats

Volume 2 • Issue 23 | Week of June 23, 2025

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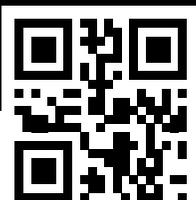
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Congrats TO THE CLASS OF 2025!

One Chapter Ends, A Whole Library Begins



submitted photo

Eleven JHS graduates earned the NYS Seal of Biliteracy. Pictured L to R: Mwamini Pascal, Mpendo Pascal, Antonio Zuriel Cruz Vazquez, Xavier Cruz Jr Felix, Lesyren Santos Lopez, Yabey Guzman Morales, Hubert Mulenda, Zoey Haskins, Julyash Rodriguez Roman, Ashley Nazario Santiago, Kalina Garcia Martinez Faith Graham-ENL Teacher, Allyson Smith-Principal, Korrin Mundo-ENL Teacher

Contributing Editor

Katrina Fuller

The folding chairs are set up. The tassels are ready to be flipped. Caps will soon lie forgotten in the grass and across gymnasium floors in every high school across the area. Graduation season is here in

Chautauqua County, captivating proud families, exhilarating seniors, and leaving some with a swirl of big feelings about what comes next.

For Jamestown High School graduate Maggie Monn, finishing high school feels like reaching the end of a very long, if occasionally chaotic, book series.

"High school was like a really long book series, but one where each book strays further and further away from the plot, and you keep picking up the next book thinking, 'Maybe this one will make sense?'" Monn said. "I was relieved when I graduated, finishing up that book

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



GRADUATION 2025



Notes on the Great Leap Into Citizenship

Contributing Writer

Jordan Nicholson

Commencement. The very word hangs heavy with pomp and pastel ceremony, with folding chairs lined up like tombstones on a soggy football field and speeches so bloated with metaphor you could float them from Mayville to Bemus. But behind the speeches and pulled pork parties and the weeping aunts, there is something real happening. Something old. Something big.

It is the most polite form of social catapult we have left in America. One moment you're a kid, asking to use the bathroom and eating pizza boats in a fluorescent-lit cafeteria. The next, you're a "graduate," a newly-minted member of the Republic, eligible for military service, jury duty, and the grim theater of student loan payments.

That's the trick of it. Graduation isn't just the end of something—it's the beginning of being held accountable. You're a citizen now, baby. You get to vote, get to be blamed, get to suffer the fools and the noise and still keep walking.

They don't tell you that in the program.

But this isn't just about hardship. No, there's something beautiful—almost sacred—about what this ceremony represents. It is a moment when a community pauses and acknowledges the passage of its young people into the front lines of American life. That's no small thing in a country stitched together by ambition and mythology. In America, graduation is more than tassels and applause. It's the collective hope that the next generation might just do better than we did.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Live CHQ. Love CHQ. Read CHQ.

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This Week Around Town

TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Film: *The Accountant 2*

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

CHQ Chamber Business

Workshop | 1 PM - 3 PM

Lake Shore Center for the Arts
Westfield
For Info: chqchamber.org

Movies at The Reg: *Sinners*

7 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-7070

Jamestown Municipal Band

Welcome Back Concert | 7 PM

Goranson Band Shell (Allen Park)
Jamestown
For Info: facebook.com/
JamestownMunicipalBand

Movie Night: *Despicable Me*

Dusk

Bemus Point Village Park
For Info: facebook.com/
VisitBemusPoint

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Cardio Drumming: A Fun-

Filled Exercise Event | 9 AM

Dunkirk Senior Center | Dunkirk
For Info: 716-366-7530



FRIDAY, JUNE 27

Service of Lament:

Observance of World Refugee

Day | 5 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Jamestown
For Info: momina@
stlukesjamestown.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Community Block Party

11 AM - 2 PM

James Prendergast Library
Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-7135

Military Tour | 1 PM - 2:30 PM

Lake View Cemetery | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org/
mec-events

Movies at The Reg: *A*

Minecraft Movie | 2 PM

Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: 716-484-7070

Gender Diversity Walk

3 PM - 4:30 PM

Audubon Community Nature
Center | Jamestown
For Info: auduboncnc.org

EveryBODY OUTside

6 PM - 8 PM

Rappole Barn | Bemus Point
For Info:
chautauquawatershed.org/events

MONDAY, JUNE 30

ISA Golf Scramble | 7:30 AM

Cable Hollow Golf Course
Russell, PA
For Info: isasports.org/golf



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Editorial with Katrina Fuller

Graduate Every Day



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

that startle you. I hope you feel things you've never felt before. I hope you meet people who have a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of, and if you're not, I hope you have the courage to start over again."

True, this week we are proud to celebrate the graduations of our many aspiring Chautauqua County high school students. We are thrilled to wish them the best and uphold them with all our community's love and support as they embark upon well-deserved exciting futures. Oh, the places they will go! We dream and applaud.

But maybe life is more about chapters than it is about beginnings and ends, kindergartens and graduations. Maybe it is about the constant ebb and flow of life - less about landmarks and milestones than the glimmers of hope and change we find in each step we take. If there is any wisdom I can impart to those young folks taking their well-earned walk across THE stage and those readers who may happen to be at a different stage, it is this: your life is what you make of it at any given time. There is no deadline for whimsy, for achievement, for fun or success. You can start today. You can restart in ten years. You can even start over again more than once. It's all in what you make of it.

This week, while we wholeheartedly wish our high school graduates our most sincere congratulations; we also cheer for every reader in whatever point in life they may be. Seize the opportunity and start your next chapter today. You're always off to great places. Soar to high heights.

When I was younger, one of my favorite inspirational messages was the classic Dr. Suess poem often imparted to graduates. An excerpt goes like this:

"OH! THE PLACES YOU'LL GO! You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights! You'll join the high fliers, who soar to high heights...."

No doubt, this passage is fun, happy and can't help but make young aspiring graduates and their adult mentors alike feel warm, fuzzy and hopeful for our future generations. I love - and will always love - this beautifully true and inspiring message. Who can't help but adore Dr. Suess?!

But as I approach middle age, the words of F. Scott Fitzgerald seem suddenly much more relevant. With increasing years of wisdom and experience now between me and my graduation ceremonies, more mature perspectives prevail. I have a feeling the same may be true for many of our readers.

Fitzgerald stated: "For what it's worth... it's never too late, or in my case too early, to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit. Start whenever you want. You can change or stay the same. There are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. I hope you see things

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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June 12

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Ellington
Falconer Funeral Home

Ann P. Elliott, 82
Buffalo
Lind Funeral Home

June 16

Dennis R. Eggleston, 77
Randolph
Lind Funeral Home

Harris Goldstein, 79
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

June 17

Thomas Swanson, 67
Sugar Grove, PA
Lind Funeral Home

Robert Turner, 55
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

June 13

Joyce M. Lusk, 94
Ashville
Falconer Funeral Home

Clifton Lee "Clif" Darling, 74
Clymer
Lind Funeral Home

Paul Higbee, 77
Busti
Lind Funeral Home

June 18

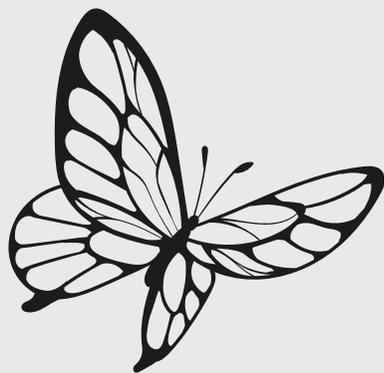
June 14

Clarence Braley, 83
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

Calvin Douglas Fain, 69
Jamestown
Lind Funeral Home

June 15

Paula C. Johnson, 77
Brookdale
Peterson Funeral Home



JPS Mourns Loss of Jefferson Middle School Student

Contributed by
Jamestown Public Schools

The Jamestown Public Schools family is mourning the loss of a Jefferson Middle School fifth-grade student who was fatally injured. The student, who passed away on Wednesday evening, was a beloved member of the Jefferson and previously the Lincoln Elementary school communities.

"We are saddened to receive this terrible news and our sincere condolences are with the student's family and friends," said Dr. Kevin

Whitaker, JPS Superintendent. "This is a tragic loss for the family, the Jefferson and Lincoln staff, and for all of us in the Jamestown Public Schools. A student's passing has a lasting impact on those close to them and our school district stands ready to offer support to students, staff, and families however needed."

"Our Jefferson family is devastated by the loss of this student," said Jefferson Middle School Principal

Katie Zwald. "His presence will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Our sympathy and thoughts are with the student's family, friends, and loved ones."

"The Lincoln Staff would like to express our deepest condolences to the family of this student," said Katie Russo, Principal of Lincoln Elementary School. "We had the privilege and honor of teaching him for 6 years. He was a bright light with a sparkly personality and the staff at Lincoln will miss him tremendously."



JPS recognizes that this may be a difficult time for our students and staff. Jefferson Middle School's Crisis Intervention Team, made up of professionals trained to help with the needs of students, parents, and school personnel at difficult times such as this, will be made available to those who may need it. Additionally, our counselors are available for any student who may need or want help or any type of assistance surrounding this loss.

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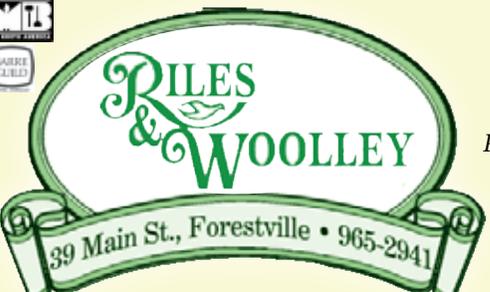
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Veteran Tributes • Preplanning Services Available



Submitted Photo

Volunteers Support Mental Health Association

Mental Health Association volunteers Rod Dorchak, pictured left, and Pete Carcione mounted two large directional signs designed by IT Manager Joseph Vaughn on the Gateway Center building at 31 Water Street. With help from fellow volunteer Christine Redding, Diana Bloom (pictured) has brightened the outdoor area with flowers, including the Serenity Garden by the Chadakoin River. At the Jamestown recovery center's June luncheon, Executive Director Michael Nordin recognized five participants for achieving employment. Two others received certificates for seven and 40 years of sobriety. 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. To learn more, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua.



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Lori Dispenza Returns as Veterans Service Officer in Dunkirk

U.S. Army veteran & Dunkirk native brings over a decade of experience back to hometown office



Greg Carlson (left), Director of the Chautauqua County Veterans Service Agency, welcomes Lori Dispenza (right) back as the Veterans Service Officer for the Dunkirk office.

Contributed by **Chautauqua County Veterans Service Agency**

The Chautauqua County Veterans Service Agency is proud to announce the appointment of Lori Dispenza as the new Veterans Service Officer for the Dunkirk, NY office. A U.S. Army veteran, lifelong Dunkirk resident, and former County and State veterans advocate, Dispenza brings over a decade of frontline experience serving veterans across New York State.

Lori Dispenza served in the United States Army from 1998 to 2010, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. During her military career, she was decorated with numerous honors, including four Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, three Army Good Conduct Medals, and the Iraq Campaign Medal with Service Star. Following her honorable discharge, Dispenza pursued higher education at Fredonia State University, graduating in December 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a minor in Criminal Justice. She went on to earn an Advanced Certificate in Veterans Services from SUNY Empire State College in 2014.

Her career with Chautauqua County's Veterans Service Agency began in 2013 and continued until 2016, when she accepted a position with the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs. Over the past twelve years, Lori has represented hundreds of veterans, filing thousands of claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Coming home to serve in Dunkirk is incredibly meaningful to me," said Dispenza. "This community shaped who I am, and it's an honor to return

and stand beside my fellow veterans as an advocate. My mission has always been to make sure veterans get the support and benefits they've earned, and I look forward to continuing that work right here in my hometown."

Gregory Carlson, Director of the Chautauqua County Veterans Service Agency, expressed his enthusiasm about Lori's return.

"Lori brings a deep level of expertise and a powerful commitment to veteran care," said Carlson. "She knows the VA system inside and out, but more importantly, she knows this community. Veterans in northern Chautauqua County will benefit tremendously from her presence and leadership."

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr., himself the son of a Vietnam Era veteran, welcomed Lori back to the County team.

"We are thrilled to have Lori Dispenza back in our ranks," said Wendel. "Her service to country and community is inspiring, and her dedication to improving the lives of local veterans speaks volumes. As we continue to prioritize support for our veterans, Lori's experience will be a major asset for the County and for those who have served."

The Dunkirk Veterans Service Office is located at 610 Central Avenue. Veterans and their families are encouraged to reach out for assistance with VA claims, benefits, and other support services.

For more information, contact the Chautauqua County Veterans Service Agency at (716) 661-8255 or visit chautauquacountyny.gov/veteran-services/Veteran-Services.

What To Know About Tularemia and Other Vector-Borne Diseases

Two Beavers Tested Positive for Tularemia in Chautauqua County



Contributed by **Chautauqua County Health Department**

The Chautauqua County Health Department (CCHD) has confirmed two beavers in the Sherman area tested positive for tularemia. Cases of tularemia in animals are rarely detected in WNY; the last confirmed case in the region was a beaver identified in Cattaraugus County in 2004.

Tularemia is a bacterial disease associated with animals such as rodents and rabbits and may be transmitted to humans by tick and deer fly bites. It can also be transmitted to humans by direct contact with infected animals and through contaminated water or food. Tularemia can be treated effectively with antibiotics when diagnosed early.

Chautauqua County Director of Environmental Health, Jessica Wuerstle, states "People can protect themselves from tularemia the same way they protect themselves from other diseases such as Lyme disease, West Nile Virus infection, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and rabies. Wear protective clothing and use insect repellent to avoid tick and insect bites. Avoid interacting with wildlife, especially animals that appear sick or injured."

CCHD recommends residents take steps to prevent exposure:

- Wear protective clothing such as pants, long sleeves, and high socks to keep ticks and deer flies off your skin. Use an EPA-registered insect repellent during outdoor activity.
- Avoid contact with wildlife, especially rodents and rabbits.
- Do not feed or entice rodents or rabbits into your yard or patio.
- Eliminate piles of lumber, trash, and weeds which can attract wildlife.
- Avoid touching sick or dead animals. If you must move an animal, use a shovel or wear thick gloves.

- Do not mow over dead animals or known rabbit nesting sites.
- Do not drink untreated surface water (lakes, ponds, rivers).
- Cook all meat thoroughly before eating, especially wild game meat.
- Keep pets on a leash while in areas where contact with wildlife is possible.
- Consult a veterinarian if you are concerned about your pet and provide veterinary care for sick pets.

Individuals concerned about injured or dead wildlife should refer to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) guidance by calling the NYSDEC Region 9 office at 716-851-7010 or 716-372-0645 or visiting the NYSDEC website at dec.ny.gov/nature/wildlife-health. NYSDEC may follow-up on a specific animal report by collecting animals and submitting them for testing.

More information:

- Tularemia: cdc.gov/tularemia/about/index.html
- Lyme Disease: chautauquacounty.ny.gov/environmental-health/lyme-disease
- Prevent Mosquito and Tick Bites: www.cdc.gov/vector-borne-diseases/prevention/

About Chautauqua County Health Department - The Chautauqua County Health Department is the leading Public Health organization in Chautauqua County dedicated to the support of the community's health. The Health Department takes innovative approaches to provide technical assistance to partner organizations, and offers various programs and services in order to help prevent disease, protect the public's health and promote our community's overall health and wellness. For more information visit www.HealthyCHQ.com.



Nick Langworthy

CONGRESS DISTRICT 23

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Congressman Nick Langworthy Announces \$143,172 Grant for Rehabilitation at Dunkirk Airport

Today, Congressman Nick Langworthy (NY-23) announced Chautauqua County has been awarded \$143,172 by the Department of Transportation for the Dunkirk Airport.

"As the chairman of the House Aviation Safety Caucus, I am pleased that the FAA is investing in small local airports such as the Dunkirk Airport," said Congressman Langworthy. "This funding will be used to ensure that the runways at Dunkirk Airport are of the highest standard – because when it comes to aviation safety, we must ensure the absolute best."

Specifically, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) awarded this grant for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for the design and rehabilitation of Taxiway A West at the Dunkirk Airport.



Zonta Loves Comedy

Submitted Photo

The Zonta Club of Jamestown brought a wave of red hair and fun to downtown with the area's first-ever Mrs. Roper Romp. The event held on Saturday, June 14, attracted 77 participants dressed in vibrant caftans and retro glam, inspired by the iconic TV character Helen Roper.

The group made stops at Sully's at Northwest Arena, The National Comedy Center, Brazil Craft Beer & Wine Lounge, and Wicked Warren's, spreading cheer and laughter at every location.

The event wasn't just about fun. Together, participants raised \$770 in support of the Zonta Club's mission to build a better world for women and girls.

The Zonta Club of Jamestown thanks all who participated, supported, and helped organize the event.

For more information about the Zonta Club of Jamestown and upcoming events, visit www.zontajamestown.org or reach out to the club at P.O. Box 913, Jamestown, NY, 14702.



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Graduation2025: Notes on the Great Leap Into Citizenship

Continued from Front page

We romanticize it because we have to. The future is a storm cloud we can't predict, so we clap our hands and hand over diplomas like they're life rafts or used cars.

And maybe they are.

Because for all the absurdity of it—the gold cords, the last-minute dress shoes from Walmart, the salutation quoting Taylor Swift with a straight face—graduation is one of the last rituals we have that links education with citizenship. It's the handshake between the individual and the collective. It says: "You made it through the gauntlet. Now what will you do with that mind of yours?"

Here's the catch: nobody's coming to tell you what to do next. There's no roadmap, no syllabus. You are now expected to think for yourself and act with consequence. That's citizenship. And it is terrifying.

But it's also your best shot at meaning. Because while the system may be cracked and cynical, it is still ours. And the work of citizenship—the voting, the organizing, the listening, the showing up—is not some extracurricular activity. It's the job.

In a placelike Chautauqua County you don't just graduate into "the world." You graduate into a community. That means you're accountable. It means you matter.

So what do you do now?

You vote. You argue. You go to town halls even when the coffee is bad and the room smells like linoleum and disappointment. You speak up. You volunteer, even if it's just once. You question authority but you don't sneer at it. You write letters. You pick up trash. You attend funerals. You

show up for people when they lose jobs or have babies or get old.

Because citizenship is not sexy, and it doesn't get you likes. But it's how the wheels turn. It's how you build a life that means something beyond yourself.

They won't tell you that from the podium. They'll tell you to follow your dreams, to shoot for the stars, to live your truth. Which is fine. But they should also tell you this:

We need you. Desperately.

We need your decency, your brain, your weirdness. We need your courage to tell the truth in a culture that rewards lying. We need you to read the fine print. To hold power accountable. To walk your neighbor's dog when they're too sick to move. To resist cruelty even when it's popular.

Graduation is not a finish line. It's the point where the training wheels come off and the real road begins. And it's a long road, full of detours and potholes and, if you're lucky, a few ecstatic miracles. It's yours now. No one's coming to save you.

But you can save each other.

So take your diploma and your weird little hat and your dreams, and hit the ground running. Get involved. Get angry. Stay kind. Ask dumb questions. Build something better.

And when you're unsure, as you will be—when the country seems broken or your town seems tired or your own flame feels dim—remember this:

The most dangerous thing they ever did was teach you to think. Now go use it.

Welcome to the show.



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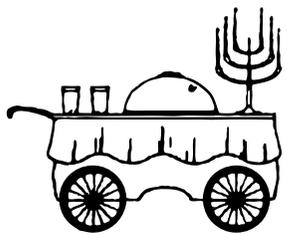


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County Executive Wendel Seeks Answers for High Local Gas Prices



Submitted Photo

Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel is urging state and federal officials to investigate consistently high fuel prices in the region. He is calling for greater transparency and accountability on behalf of local residents and businesses.

Contributed by

Paul M. Wendel Jr.

Chautauqua County Executive

Chautauqua County Executive Paul M. Wendel Jr. is calling on both state and federal authorities to investigate persistently high gasoline prices in Chautauqua County, which continue to outpace both the New York State and national averages.

In a formal letter last week, County Executive Wendel addressed New York State Attorney General Letitia James and U.S. Attorney Joel Violanti of the Western District of New York, urging their offices to examine whether legal or regulatory action is warranted regarding the inflated fuel costs that continue to burden county residents.

“Chautauqua County families, small businesses, and commuters are paying more at the pump than their neighbors in surrounding counties,” said Wendel. “This disparity demands answers and, if necessary, action to protect the economic well-being of our community.”

According to data from the American Automobile Association (AAA), the average cost of regular gasoline in Chautauqua County stood at \$3.289 per gallon as of June 9—well above the state average of \$3.104 and the national average of \$3.124. Counties in the

surrounding region, including Erie, Cattaraugus, and Chemung, are all seeing notably lower prices, even while some counties have higher sales tax rates.

The letter follows up on previous work that County Executive Wendel has undertaken to find answers for Chautauqua County’s high gas prices and is a testament to Wendel’s commitment to provide financial relief to county residents.

Wendel’s request includes a call for the U.S. Attorney’s Office to consider whether any violations of federal law—such as anti-competitive practices—may be influencing fuel prices locally. He also asked the State Attorney General’s Office to evaluate potential breaches of consumer protection laws.

“Our residents deserve transparency, fairness, and relief,” Wendel stated in the letter. “We must ensure that no market manipulation or price gouging is taking place at the expense of working families.”

Wendel expressed appreciation for both offices’ commitment to justice and consumer rights, and invited their cooperation in investigating the issue further.

FROM HOOPS TO HIGH TOPS: HOW TWO FRIENDS TURNED A YMCA BOND INTO A BUSINESS AND A MISSION



Contributed by

Cameron Hurst

Jamestown Area YMCA

When Chris Saldarriaga moved from New York City to Jamestown, he didn’t know anyone. But it didn’t take long for the Jamestown YMCA Teen Center to become his home base — and for Roberto Martir Rosado to become his closest friend.

“It was just a warm welcome,” Chris said. “Genuine from the beginning. If everyone could have a Roberto on their team, that’s blessing.”

The pair first connected at the Y’s Teen Center, bonded over basketball in the Y Basketball League, and built a friendship rooted in respect and resilience. Through trials and tribulations that each has faced, they’ve always been there for each other.

Even after Chris graduated and moved out of town for a few years, the friendship never faded. Roberto kept in touch, checking in with a simple, “How are you doing?” — no strings attached. When Chris returned to Jamestown and started selling

sneakers, he knew exactly who he wanted as a partner.

“Roberto had the people skills, the drive, the mindset,” he said. “We both had the foundation to build something bigger.”

That “something” became UpTwn Kix, a vintage sneaker and streetwear shop with a mission that goes far beyond retail. Launched from humble beginnings — selling basketball shorts and keychains — the duo opened their first storefront on East Second Street, overcoming obstacles and forming a commitment to giving back.

Their grand opening? Free haircuts and meals for the first 200 guests.

“Our motto from the start was to give back to the community that took care of us,” Roberto said.

In March 2025, the pair relocated UpTwn Kix to 117 West Fourth Street, just steps from the YMCA that first brought them together. Business is thriving — and so is their passion for impact.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

FIND YOUR REASON TO GIVE. FIND YOUR Y.



Macey

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PETS OF THE WEEK

Macey is as sweet as honey and gentle as a summer breeze. She’s looking for a quiet home, a place where she can relax and show you just how much love she has to give. Meet Macey soon at CCHS. Shelter No. RR179.

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Carbon

Hands-On-History Camp in July



Contributed by
Busti Historical Society

The Busti Historical Society, with a generous grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and funds from the annual Busti Apple Harvest Festival has hired an education director. Ms. Victoria Parker started her new position June 2. Ms. Parker has been a volunteer at the Society for a few years. "We are really excited to add Victoria to the part-time staff at the Busti Historical Society," said Director Joni Blackman, "this has been in the works for a while. Victoria has many years of museum and museum education experience."

Ms. Parker said, "with board members and Society volunteers help, we will be holding a summer camp called Hands-On-History camp for students in grades 1st through 3rd grade the week of July 14-18 from 9 a.m. to noon, followed by a similar camp the next week for 4th -6th grade students,

July 20-24, again 9 a.m. to noon. The camps will be held at the Busti Historical Society grounds on Lawson Rd, south of Jamestown. The students will learn how the 1839 restored grist mill works, how grain becomes flour, and why the mill was so important to the people of the Busti hamlet. The students will also tour the Busti museum, the restored miller's house, make historic inspired crafts, play period appropriate games, and learn about life in the mid-1800s."

Details are available at www.busti-historical-society.weebly.com. The camp is by reservation only. The fee for each camper is \$150 per week. Applications are available emailing bustihistorical.edu@gmail.com or calling 716-483-3670.

Ms. Parker and the Busti Historical Society members are planning to have a Hands-On-Historic Crafts series in the fall for all ages. They plan to teach how to make baskets, soap, candles, cook on a wood stove and other daily skills that were necessary in the mid-1800s.

Fenton History Center to host Military Tours at Lake View Cemetary

The Fenton History Center's Military Tour at Lake View Cemetery is Saturday, June 28 at 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.

The tours will be led by Barbara Cessna, Vets Finding Vets Coordinator and Researcher. The tours begin at the Cemetery office at the corner of Buffalo St. and Lakeview Ave. The tour tells the stories of soldiers from The Civil War through WWII.

Reservations are appreciated and can be made at www.fentonhistorycenter.org/mec-events. The tours will be held rain or shine. For more information call 716-664-6256.



Mark T. Willson, 112th NYVI



Hands On History Camp

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- » Learn about daily life in the 1800s

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Per Week

9 AM - Noon
July 14-18 2025
1st through 3rd grades
July 21-25 2025
4th through 6th grades

The Busti Historical Society
3443 Lawson Rd
Jamestown NY, 14701

To Register
716-483-3570
bustihistorical@gmail.com



Unitarian Church Gives Away Books

Upwards of 200 books were given away by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Jamestown (UUCJ) during Jamestown's Memorial Day Parade. This Memorial Day tradition began when the parade route went by the church's building at 1255 Prendergast Avenue. With the route this year and last being on Lakeview Avenue, Christ First Methodist Church welcomed their neighbor to use their front yard. Adults and children who watched or participated in the parade stopped by, chose a book to take home, and had a snack. Anyone is welcome to take books any time from the book boxes, one for adults and one for children, at the Prendergast Avenue location. Information about the UUCJ is at UUJamestown.org or on their Facebook page, [Facebook.com/JamestownUU](https://www.facebook.com/JamestownUU).

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2025 Graduation: One Chapter Ends, A Whole Library Begins

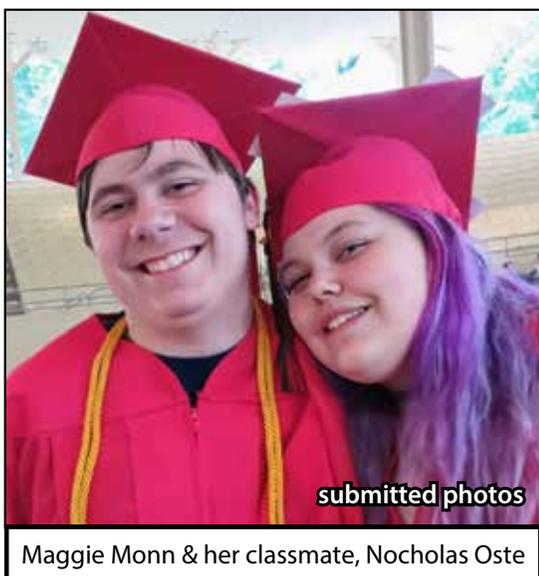
Continued from Front page

series- until I realized that I still have a whole library to get through. It's scary, but also exciting to know that I'll get to experience more stories, genres and characters than what that first series gave me. I just hope the library has a good selection of books."

Her words capture something many young people in the area are feeling: graduation isn't a tidy conclusion. It's the turning of a page into a new, sprawling chapter, one filled with uncertainty, opportunity, and more questions than answers.

Across Chautauqua County, public schools are seeing graduation rates that largely hold steady with statewide trends. The county average, according to the New York State Department of Education, is 83%, which is very close to New York's 86% average. A closer look at the data shows that female students have a graduation rate of 85%, followed by a close 81% rate of graduation for male students in the county.

While the numbers may be straightforward, the path through and beyond high school often looks different for each individual student. Some students are headed to college. Others are entering the workforce, training for trades or taking time to figure things out. And for many, like Maggie, the sense of stepping into the



submitted photos
Maggie Monn & her classmate, Nicholas Oste

unknown is just as real as the sense of relief.

In small towns, villages and cities like those here in Chautauqua County, graduation is more than a ceremony. It's a rite of passage that binds communities together. Neighbors cheer from the stands. Churches hold receptions. Senior photos fill social media feeds. For a moment, the spotlight shines bright on the future. But behind the scenes, there's the quiet reality of growing up, letting go and navigating whatever comes next.

Maybe that's why Monn's metaphor resonates so deeply. Life after high school isn't just about closing a book, it's about choosing what to read next, even when the titles are unfamiliar and the pages blank.

Here's hoping this year's graduates find stories worth living. And here's hoping the library ahead is full of wonder.



photo credit: Alexis Singleton



CHAMBER CORNER

Testing the Waters with New Programming

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

Associates, National Grid, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and UPMC Chautauqua.

It's been quite a week for the CHQ Chamber as we unveiled some new programs focused on the numerous ways we support local businesses.

Tuesday night was the CHQ Chamber's inaugural Official Introductions event. Set at the spectacular Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, we were proud to host a broad variety of local elected officials along with a number of businesspeople from many economic sectors. Our goal was simple: encourage people to talk amongst themselves about some of the issues facing local businesses that our elected officials can help with at all levels of government.

Often, we think about the overriding issues of tax policy or federal and state directives that can impact businesses, but we don't always think about some issues at the local level such as signage policies or permitting. One way we like to look at it is what we call the "hotdog test." If your business sells hotdogs, how many hotdogs do you have to sell just to cover a special permit fee or the basic costs of doing business, even before breaking a profit? This is the type of question many of our smallest businesses often ask themselves as they are establishing a business plan and considering where to locate their business.

With over 90 people in the room, we were happy to have a mix of about 40% elected officials and 60% businesspeople. The conversation flowed, and as the evening ended, we encouraged feedback through an online survey customized for the event and so far have received some constructive input so we can work on our plans for next year.

Sincere thanks to all who attended, and to our sponsors for Official Introductions: Brooks-TLC Hospital System/Kaleida Health, County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency, DFT Communications, LaBella

Wednesday night and Thursday night also took us in slightly new directions, but both were impacted by less than favorable weather.

Music in the Green Wednesday was designed as a free outdoor concert in the Village Green at the intersection of Routes 394 and 430. Just as our band, OsbornNash, started to set up sound equipment on the stage the rain began. With the quick approval of a local business we were able to move the band undercover on the patio at Music For Your Mouth and didn't have to cancel the event. Nearby businesses remained open through the evening and we did note there was foot traffic for many of them. Kudos to all the local businesses in uptown Mayville working with us to make this event successful. Our next two are set for July 16 with the band Dirty Shirley, and August 16 with Charity Nuse (And Her Band.)

The following afternoon, Jumpstart to Third Thursday in Jamestown was hampered by the weather when thunderstorms rolled in during event setup shortly before 4 o'clock. Our street entertainers also had to move indoors with Wicked Warren's hosting Adam McKillip and Bill's Place at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts hosting Nu Juice. Face Painting by Patti moved into the CHQ Chamber office for the event. Despite the weather, the Roger Tory Peterson Institute was able to do a very nice ribbon cutting for its brand-new five-story mural on the Pearl City Arts building in Foundry Alley and Jamestown Young Professionals held a small business crawl.

Planning outdoor events always presents some unknowns. We cannot be responsible for the whims of Mother Nature, but we are working to be as flexible as possible with the planning and delivery of the programs we are offering.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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Ava Thompson

Salutatorian

Lauren Jagoda



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Valedictorian

Charlotte Couchman

Salutatorian

Ariana Main



Chautauqua Lake Secondary School



Valedictorian

Lincoln Smith

Salutatorian

Logan Ludwig



Clymer Central School



Valedictorian

Joseph Michael Beckerink

Salutatorian

Janelle Elizabeth Burchanowski



Dunkirk Senior High School



Valedictorian

Riley Smith Mallon

Salutatorian

Aleah Dloniak-Kucmierz



Falconer Middle/High School



Valedictorian

Isabella Anderson

Salutatorian

Joshua Erickson



Forestville Central High School



Valedictorian

Benjamin Richard Bock

Salutatorian

Kaitie Rose LoManto



Fredonia High School



Valedictorian

Benjamin Feit

Salutatorian

Andrew Cowan



Frewsburg Junior/Senior High School



Valedictorian

Elayna Pitts

Salutatorian

Alexandra Waid



Jamestown High School



Valedictorian

Belle Johnson

Salutatorian

Leonardo Tehan



2025 Graduates!

Maple Grove Junior/Senior High School



Valedictorian

Claire Price

Salutatorian

Emma Reagle



Panama High School

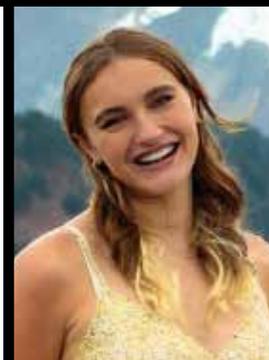


Valedictorian

Deidre Green

Salutatorian

Lillian Borowski



Pine Valley Central Junior/Senior High School



Valedictorian

Trent Ivett

Salutatorian

Julianna Yasurek



Sherman High School



Valedictorian

Kelsey Wagner

Salutatorian

Max Guzman



Silver Creek High School



Valedictorian

Karissa Buchanan

Salutatorian

Bennett Pomroy



Southwestern Senior High School



Valedictorian

Emma Malmstrom
-Jouannet

Salutatorian

Annabella Sirianni



Westfield High School



Valedictorian

Addison Luce

Salutatorian

Mason Maring



The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;*

*Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,*

*And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*





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Chamber Corner

Continued from page 10

All CHQ Chamber events are designed with our mission in mind: to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County.

Business Builder Workshop: Presentation Matters is Wednesday

The next CHQ Chamber Business Builder Workshop will be held Wednesday, June 25 from 1-3pm at Lake Shore Center for the Arts, 49 South Portage Street, Westfield. The topic will be Presentation Matters. Join us for a look at the importance of how you present your business image – inside and outside your building, online, and in print. We'll look at ways to positively show off your business through images, product labels, merchandising, and more. This workshop is for any businessperson or employee that may be interested in some tips to boost your visual marketing.

Our presenters will be a powerhouse trio that brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the visual experience of business sales and marketing: Beth Margolis from Liberty Vineyards on labeling products and storefront design; Blair Koss, owner of Rosie's Workshop in Westfield on storefront display and merchandising; and Carrie

Swanson of Sweeterson Farms on merchandising online and for pop-up events and vendor spaces. The workshop is free to all, but registration is required. Sign up through our web calendar at www.chqchamber.org.

CHQ Chamber at the Fairgrounds is July 10

Come one, come all to the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds before the Fair begins, for a free business expo and networking event which will be held Thursday, July 10 from 5-7pm.

Dunkirk and Fredonia area businesses are invited to table at this event to show off their products and services, while the general public is invited to network and enjoy the business expo. Food and beverages may be purchased from vendors on site.

Businesses that want to table at the event must register with the CHQ Chamber in advance. Registration is open now through the Chamber's web calendar at www.chqchamber.org. You must bring your own table and materials. This event is not designed for craft vendors, but rather for local Chamber member businesses. Questions about this event can be directed to Director of Events Staunzie Grady at sgrady@chqchamber.org.

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

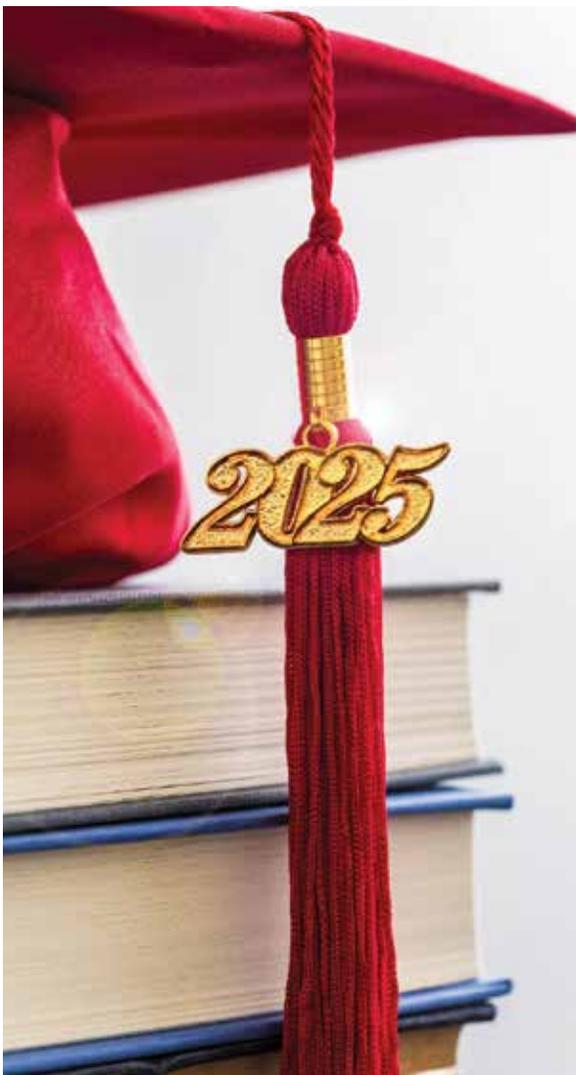
1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12			13				14	
15							16				17	
	18					19					21	
					22	23				24		
25	26	27	28	29								
30								31				
32										33	34	35
					38	39	40		41	42		
						43			44			
47	48								50	51	52	53
55										57		
59										61		
62											64	

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Computer manufacturer
- 5. Noted space station
- 8. Kurt Russell film "Captain"
- 11. Automaton
- 13. Everyone has one
- 14. Incline from the vertical
- 15. Fights
- 16. Dunn & Bradstreet (abbr.)
- 17. Finishes off
- 18. Places to store things
- 20. Dutch painter Gerard ___
- 21. Smaller quantity
- 22. There's a North, South and Central of these
- 25. In an early way
- 30. More spacious
- 31. Short-term memory
- 32. One who possesses
- 33. Sesame
- 38. Forbid
- 41. A way to explain
- 43. Not around
- 45. Evoke or suggest
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Dekameter
- 50. Fencing sword
- 55. "Luther" actor Idris
- 56. Affirmative (slang)
- 57. Afflicted
- 59. One point north of northeast
- 60. Born of
- 61. Arabic name
- 62. Hong Kong food stall: ___ pai dong
- 63. Not the start
- 64. Post

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Creative expression
- 2. Fiber from the outer husk of a coconut
- 3. City in ancient Syria
- 4. College army
- 5. More disturbed
- 6. Pays no attention to
- 7. Restored
- 8. Competitions
- 9. Lyric poems
- 10. Famed American lawman
- 12. Expression of disappointment
- 14. Scars
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Central European river
- 24. Brass instrument
- 25. One who gets paid to perform
- 26. Propel with oars
- 27. Long period of time
- 28. Woman (French)
- 29. Type of plane
- 34. Pitching stat
- 35. Pointed end of a pen
- 36. Pro sports league
- 37. Body part
- 39. Inoffensive
- 40. Yellowish cotton cloth
- 41. Feline
- 42. Does not tell the truth
- 44. Set out to attract
- 45. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
- 47. Repair
- 48. Genus of flowering plants
- 51. Tributary of the High Rhine
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. C. European river
- 54. Restrain
- 58. Father



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Wednesday, June 25
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Thursday, June 26
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Friday, June 27
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CHQgazette.com



JHS Students and Rotary Club Dedicate Peace Pole



Submitted Photo

Rotary Club of Jamestown President Marion Beckerink dedicates the new peace pole at Jamestown High School.

Contributed by Jamestown Public Schools

Students, staff, and community members gathered on the campus of Jamestown High School to dedicate a new Peace Pole on June 13 — a gift from the Rotary Club of Jamestown that bears the message



JHS student Andre Graham ties a ribbon around the new peace pole to symbolize his commitment to peace across the community.

“May peace prevail on Earth” in multiple languages. “In honor of the unyielding spirit of unity and understanding, we the Rotary Club of Jamestown dedicate this peace pole to the students and faculty of Jamestown High School,” said Rotary Club President Marion Beckerink during the ceremony. “May it be seen as a symbol of our commitment to fostering peace, to fostering peace, respect and compassion within our community and beyond.”

Several JHS students involved in the “Justice for All” course at the school, as well as the My Brother’s

Keeper and Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership programs also offered reflections, poetry, and music during the ceremony on the corner of Chandler Street and Foote Avenue, just above the JHS student parking lot.

“With disagreements and division being more normal than ever in my life, it’s often difficult for me to look on the bright side and think about what peace may mean or look like to me,” said JHS student Tommy Gessey. “If you choose peace, peace will follow you, not just when you walk away from this ceremony today, but for the rest of your lives, and it will infect the people around you to choose peace as well.”

Geovany Brown, a junior and member of both My Brother’s Keeper and Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership, spoke about the role of education and communication in achieving peace.

“We live in a very diverse community where many conflicts arise due to differences in ideas and beliefs,” he said. “However, I think that with education and communication, we can improve and achieve peace in our community.”

Kayamara Strudwick, a senior at JHS, emphasized that peace is an active choice.

“This Peace Pole stands as a reminder, symbolizing that peace is not passive — rather a choice we make daily,” she said. “May peace prevail on Earth, and may it begin with us.”

Allysen Petteys recited a self-written poem “The Forgotten Sanctuary,”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

From Hoops to High Tops: How Two Friends Turned a YMCA Bond into a Business and a Mission

Continued from page 8

“We believe in bringing the big city to a small town,” Chris said. “But we also believe that the grass isn’t greener on the other side — it’s where you water it.” Both Chris and Roberto credit mentors like John Barber at the YMCA for instilling values that shaped their paths — from structure and discipline to compassion and responsibility. “I didn’t have a father figure growing up and both Roberto and I come from single mother households,” Chris said. “But John’s moral compass, his advice, his belief in us — that mattered. Even if I didn’t realize it at the time.”

“Chris and Roberto are the perfect example of what happens when young people are given a safe space, a strong support system, and the belief that they matter,” said Barber, who now serves as the Y’s Interim CEO. “Their

journey from the Teen Center to becoming business owners in the heart of Jamestown is exactly why the YMCA exists. During our Partner with Youth Campaign, we celebrate stories like theirs — because when you invest in the Y, you invest in potential, in purpose, and in the future of our community.”

Today, Chris and Roberto are not just entrepreneurs. They’re role models for the next generation — proof that because of support systems like the Y, even a kid walking into a teen center alone can grow into a community leader. By supporting the YMCA, they say, you’re investing in stories like theirs.

“You’re not just supporting a gym,” Roberto added. “You’re supporting the future of your community.”



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Business of the Week

Celebrating Local Businesses & Giving them the Spotlight!



Contributing Editor

Katrina Fuller

I While Bob Lingle didn't set out to own a bookstore in Chautauqua County, he has provided a warm and welcoming book-loving haven for area residents to get their literary needs met. Good Neighbor Bookstore, located at 124 Chautauqua Ave. in Lakewood, has been under the ownership of Lingle and his wife, Shannon, since 2018. He said the decision to purchase the store, then known as Off the Beaten Path Bookstore, was "very much an impulse decision."

"In 2016, we moved down to Chautauqua County and I became a stay-at-home dad to our two children," he said, clarifying the family has expanded to three children now. "Towards the end of 2017 I was considering going back to school to become a teacher. I was in the middle of the enrollment process when Shannon noticed that our local bookstore was for sale. It took me about 10 seconds to decide between taking out more student loans or taking out a business loan to buy the store."

However, this wasn't his first foray into bookselling. Lingle previously worked at Barnes & Nobles, and managed both the Canisius College Bookstore and the Medaille College Bookstore. While he worked at Barnes & Nobles, he met his wife, a fellow bookseller, who currently runs the store during the week.

Lingle said there are many reasons why he enjoys owning and operating Good Neighbor Bookstore with his wife, such as seeing families come in and share their love for books. However, some are farther reaching experiences that stick with him over time.

"Having the right book for the right customer at the right time is a powerful transaction," Lingle said. "I once had an older man come into the store and pick up a memoir about a transgender individual. Because of general stereotypes, I was anticipating a difficult conversation about why we had that book on our shelves. But instead he put it on the counter and said, 'I know someone who could use this.' And he bought the book. It was a powerful moment, and one that reminded me to not prejudge people."

The bookstore has evolved over

the years, moving from one location on Chautauqua Ave. to a spot closer to the beloved clocktower. The name has also changed to more reflect the values Lingle holds near and dear.

"The tagline for Good Neighbor Bookstore is an abbreviated quote from Kurt Vonnegut, 'You've got to be kind,'" Lingle said. "Promoting kindness, empathy, curiosity and community are the values we hold close to and what we try to promote through our store."

Lingle has also increased the store's offerings of author events and other engagement for the community to enjoy.

"I try to provide a platform for our local authors to spotlight their work," he said. "I also work to connect larger authors to our small town. We've hosted live virtual author events with best-selling authors, Matthew Quick, JD Barker, and Matthew Cordell. We've hosted conversations about mental health, systemic racism and immigration among others with authors like Andrew Katz, Dax Devlon-Ross and Toufah Jallow. It's important for me to have a space where we are building up our local authors, and connecting our small community to the larger world around us."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

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Bob Lingle with family



Bob & Shannon Lingle



Good Neighbor Bookstore



Submitted Photo

Conner Dean receives the 2025 Stanley A. Weeks Braw Caddie Clan Award for Excellence

This year's Stanley A. Weeks Braw Caddie Clan Award for Excellence at Moonbrook Country Club on June 12 was a resounding success. Conner Dean, the recipient, graduated 3rd at JHS, and established numerous JHS and county swimming records. He will attend New York University, where he plans to major in architecture and participate in swimming.

Zachary Eklum, a past awardee and dedicated Jamestown Family Physician, graced us with his words during the presentation. Joining him in spirit were five past awardees, now honored brothers, who participated in the selection committee. Our near century-old legacy is not only enduring but flourishing, bolstered by the passion of new enthusiasts.

The photograph captured the moment, showcasing Conner's proud parents, two devoted coaches, a loyal teammate, BCC brothers, and members of the CRCF administration.

We took the opportunity to share the rich history of the Clan, highlighting Stanley's remarkable achievements as its BCC founder and community philanthropist. In like manner, we celebrated the unwavering commitment of the Braw Caddie brothers to their scholarship fund, which has thrived through reunions and correspondence.

Remarkably, brothers from across the nation have quadrupled the scholarship fund over the past decade, and we are poised to reach our goal of awarding \$2,500 by 2030 as part of our 100th Anniversary.

These achievements resonate deeply, especially in light of the JHS School Board's ban on fraternities in 1974. For more than 50 years, the Braw Caddie Clan brothers have kept the flame of camaraderie and community service alive. Perhaps it's true that we have all taken on the spirit of the Scots, embodying a feisty and steadfast nature. Truly remarkable!

Thank you to everyone who joined us, whether in person or spirit.

Rappelez-vous La Race.i

James D. Colby, Selection Committee Chair and Corresponding Secretary

You've Got to Be Kind": Inside Good Neighbor Bookstore with Owner Bob Lingle

Continued from page 17

The shop has a carefully curated collection of titles. Lingle said the store has been ordering directly from publishers on a seasonable basis for the past two years. Generally, publishers have around 1,000 titles per season, which Lingle said leaves him anywhere from 6,000 to 7,000 titles to go through.

"The season I'm buying for also makes a difference. I'm more willing to take risks in the Summer and Winter because I know we'll have heavy traffic in the store and more diverse audience," he said. "It allows us to take chances, learn what will work and what won't work for our community of readers. For example, the store never had a romance section until three years ago. Now romance is taking over the store and we have had to build out areas to carry different subgenres of romance."

When asked what he is currently reading, Lingle said he's reading "Wreck" by Catherine Newman, an Oct. 2025 release.

"It's a follow-up novel to Sandwich that came out last year and was our top-selling novel," he said. "If I haven't already sold you a copy of 'Sandwich', pick it up in paperback now. It's a heart-warming, laugh-out-loud story of a multi-generational family that is spending a week at their vacation home in Sandwich, MA."

While some might assume that larger booksellers and discount

businesses pose a significant threat to smaller bookstores like Good Neighbor Bookstore, Lingle said he hasn't found that is the case for his store or others like it.

"The obituary for independent bookstores has been written and rewritten several times," he said. "Big box stores were supposed to kill us. E-books were supposed to kill us. Amazon is supposed to kill us. But like cockroaches we continue to not only survive but many of us are thriving. There is a renewed effort that is inspired by many things; the pandemic, social unrest, and even social trends that have made shopping local not just a cool thing to do, but a necessary thing to do to find a sense of community and to have a 'third place' to find comfort in."

Lingle said those who own local businesses here and across the country have often had to deal with larger national companies that are supposed threats.

"It's just that independent booksellers have stood on the front lines battling extinction before, and we proudly raise the 'Shop Local' flag and continue to be one of the loudest voices in this fight," he said.

The store is located at 124 Chautauqua Ave. in Lakewood, and is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday. To find out more about Good Neighbor Bookstore, visit www.GoodNeighborBooks.com or follow them on Instagram, Facebook or TikTok under "goodneighborbooks."

JHS Students and Rotary Club Dedicate Peace Pole

Continued from page 16

while JHS senior Jolee Schultz and junior Amaya Thompson performed a rendition of "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King. Program artwork was created by Alexa Holmes. Dalana Jackson, Makaelyn Piotrowski, Bianca Rojas Nieves, Nadeisha Solero Gonzalez, Andre Graham, Gracia Slagle, and Heath Bounday also offered reflections.

The ceremony concluded by having students and community members tie a ribbon around the pole to symbolize their efforts toward peace

throughout the world.

In closing, Betsy Rowe-Baehr, JHS English teacher and organizer, thanked supporters and student leaders.

"We hear you," she said. "We are here with you in this work. I'm so proud to be beside you; it is through our collective commitment to be courageous, compassionate, and community focussed in the face of conflict that we do this work together."



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2 @BAT	3	4 OLN 6:30pm	5	6 NIA 6:30pm	7 @GEN	8
9 @NF	10	11 NF 11:00am	12 BUF 6:30pm	13 @NEW	14 GEN 6:30pm	15 @BAT
16 @AUB	17	18	19 @NF	20 NF 6:30pm	21 @BAT	22 BAT 6:30pm
23 ELM 4:00pm & 6:00pm Buyout	24 BAT 6:30pm	25	26 @NIA	26	27 NF 6:30pm	28 @NF
29 AUB 4:00pm & 6:00pm Buyout	30					

AUB - Auburn Doubledays
 BAT - Batavia Muckdogs
 BUF - Buffalo Diesel

ELM - Elmira Pioneers
 GEN - Geneva Red Wings
 NEW - Newark Pilots

NF - Niagara Falls Americans
 NIA - Niagara Ironbacks
 OLN - OLN Oilers

Thursday, May 29 - 6:30pm

Opening Night & Tailgate Festival Concert
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Tuesday, June 3 - 6:30pm

\$2 Night - \$2 Hotdogs, Beer & Bleacher Tickets

Thursday, June 5 - 6:30pm

Tuesday, June 10th - 11:00am

Wednesday, June 11th - 6:30pm

Friday, June 13th - 6:30pm

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Thursday, June 19th - 6:30pm

Saturday, June 21st - 6:30 pm

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 Presented by: Univera Healthcare
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Sunday, June 22nd - 4:00pm & 6:30 pm

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Monday, June 23rd - 6:30 pm

\$2 Night - \$2 Hotdogs, Beer & Bleacher Tickets

Friday, June 27th - 6:30 pm

Youth Baseball/Softball Night
 Presented by: Logistics

Sunday, June 29th - 4:30pm & 6:30 pm

Jamestown Community College
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St. Luke's to Host Interfaith Service of Lament in Recognition of the Millions of Displaced Peoples Worldwide



Submitted Photo

Contributed by St. Luke's Episcopal Church

On Friday, June 27 at 5pm, the New Neighbors Coalition program at St. Luke's Episcopal Church will host a Service of Lament in observance of World Refugee Day. The United Nation has designated June 20th as World Refugee Day in honor of the millions of refugees around the globe who have been forced to flee their homes. While the Coalition's commemorations in the past have been celebratory, this year with the Federal Government's termination of the US Refugee resettlement program and indiscriminate immigration enforcement, it seemed more appropriate to create time and space for public lament.

The program will consist of an interfaith service, led by the Rev. Luke Fodor and Mr. Sam Qadri, followed by an opportunity to write letters to local elected officials advocating for those who have been displaced both worldwide and in our own communities. This event will take place at St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 410 N Main Street in Jamestown.

The United Nations has commemorated World Refugee Day on June 20th every year since 2001, the fifty-year anniversary of the 1951 Status of Refugees Convention. World Refugee Day is meant to recognize and bring global attention to the plights and resilience of those who have been forced to flee their homes due to violence and oppression. This day is not just about bringing

awareness to human rights violations in other countries, but to shed light on the struggles of immigrants locally as they navigate their new communities.

New Neighbors Coalition Program Manager, Momina Di Blasio asserts the importance of this event especially in light of the termination of the federal refugee resettlement program and more recently the travel bans on twelve different countries, and restrictions on an additional seven. "Those from many of the listed nations have experienced or are currently experiencing life-threatening conditions worldwide. A significant number of those who have been resettled in recent years hail from these countries. This travel ban only makes the already difficult process of seeking safety even harder."

This event is free and open to the public. The interfaith service will take place in the St. Luke's Chapel (assessable via the Courtyard), last about 35 minutes, with letter writing to follow in the Undercroft. Necessary materials for letter writing will be provided.

New Neighbors Coalition is a community-based immigration support effort housed at St. Luke's Episcopal Church and funded through a NYS Office of New American grant. For general inquiry, to volunteer and to stay connected, follow [facebook.com/NewNeighborsCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/NewNeighborsCoalition), email Momina Di Blasio at momina@stlukesjamestown.org or call the St. Luke's office at (716) 483-6405.

Jamestown Rotary Supports Project in Macatabo, Philippines



Submitted Photo

Marissa and David Troxell meet with some of the young children of the Macatabo School over Zoom.

Contributed by Rotary Club of Jamestown

David Troxell joined the Rotary Club of Jamestown 12 years ago. He and his wife, Marissa, live half of the year in Jamestown and half the year in Thailand. Participating in international projects for the Rotary Club of Jamestown have been a perfect fit for them. They have always enjoyed traveling to new and unique destinations in the world. The opportunity to serve needy communities around the globe is the best of both worlds for them.

Recently, David gave an overview of the international projects that have been undertaken financially, by the local club with oversight by the Troxell's.

In 2013 a women's weaving cooperative was created in Nepal. In 2014 the first of four Cambodia Academy projects began. In 2014 playground grass was installed and white boards were purchased for classrooms in the school. In 2015 a school-wide, eye screening program was initiated, along with having a book drive and shipping them to the students. The third project was to install a clean water filtration system for the Cambodia Academy. And lastly in 2018 hand washing sinks were installed. In 2016 David and Marissa assisted in polio immunization of children in India. In 2017 new toilets, sinks and a clean water cistern were completed in Pagan, North Myanmar with the Yangon Rotary Club.

In 2019, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia the clubs constructed a school lunch cafeteria. In 2019/2020 toilets were retrofitted, and handwashing stations were installed in Moshi,

Tanzania with a partnership with the Camberwell Australia Rotary and in 2022, David and Marissa assisted in a Polio Project in Pakistan, where they were guarded by armed soldiers. In 2024, along with the Rotary Club of Singapore Sentosa 1,171 bicycles were distributed to provide children with transportation to school.

The newest project is in the Philippines. It is to refurbish the Macatabo Child Development Center. This Center serves both as a daycare for children aged 3-5 and serves as a pathway to public school. The Rotary Club of Wellington, Ontario and the Jamestown Club are partnering to fix the roof, improve the kitchen, retrofit the toilets, and improve the outdoor stage and add new playground equipment. It's a \$10,000 project with each club providing \$5,000. David and Marissa have traveled thousands of miles on behalf of Rotary, doing the humanitarian work previously listed.

The Troxell's have had the privilege of seeing smiles as eyesight was restored, as clean water was provided, as books and play-yards were built and used, and as bicycles were provided in order that children could go to school and bring all their experiences home to the Jamestown Rotary Club members. The Troxell's bring prospective projects to the Club to fund and then allow the members to see the lives of those that are the benefactors of Rotary's outreach. The Club is eternally grateful for their generosity and love of people who have so little. The Troxell's have benefited the local club in ways that would have been impossible without them.

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Submitted Photo

Audubon Has "Gender Diversity" Walk Photo Contest Deadline June 30

Take an afternoon (3–4:30 p.m.) walk this Saturday, June 28 at Audubon Community Nature Center and learn about nature's gender diversity. This "Baltimore Oriole amongst the Cherry Blossoms" can be identified as a male by its bright coloring. It was photographed by Mark Evans of Warren, Pa., for Audubon's 2023 Nature Photography Contest. With \$1,600 in prize money, next Monday, June 30 is the deadline to submit your photos—or vote for your favorites—in this year's contest. Visit AudubonCNC.org/Photo-Contest for all the details. Learn more about the Walk at AudubonCNC.org or (716) 569-2345. The Nature Center is at 1600 Riverside Road, one-quarter mile east of Route 62 between Jamestown and Warren.

International Sports Academy Announces Golf Scramble



Submitted Photo

The proceeds from this year's ISA Golf Scramble will help to build a school for girls escaping FGM and childhood marriage among the Maasai tribe in Kenya, and help to build a church and sports complex on the Kenyan coast.

Contributed by International Sports Academy

The International Sports Academy is hosting their sixth-annual ISA Golf Scramble benefiting local and international youth sports. This year's event has a new date and location of Monday, June 30, 2025, at Cable Hollow Golf Course in Russell, PA.

The top teams with the lowest gross scores will receive their share of \$1,000 in cash prizes. There will be three flights: scratch, net, and senior teams with all four players over 60. In addition, there will be multiple opportunities to win other great prizes from local businesses.

Registration will begin at 7:30 AM with a shotgun start at 8:30 AM. The 4-person scramble will include on-course food and a buffet lunch. Golfers can register for \$80 each.

The International Sports Academy is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization based in Russell, PA, that partners with local churches all over the world to set up organized sports programs as a means of reaching young people in their regions.

In the poorest areas of the developing nations where ISA works, there are no youth sports facilities, programs, or equipment—not even a public park in which to play. When there's nothing to do, kids get into trouble, with many children ending up in gangs, kidnapped by human traffickers, or recruited by terrorists. Many more turn to drugs and alcohol. Donations to the ISA keep these kids off the streets, changing the course of their lives, and giving them hope for the future.

Businesses can connect with the ISA's engaged local audience through sponsorship of the Golf Scramble. Several unique and innovative sponsorship marketing opportunities are available for this tournament. Businesses can also gain exposure and interact with the ISA's audience by donating prize items such as gift certificates, products, gift baskets, etc.

To sponsor the golf scramble or to enter a team, please visit <http://ISAsports.org/golf>. If you have any questions or would like to talk about a personalized sponsorship opportunity, please contact info@isasports.org or call 814-688-4478.



Andrew Molitor
 ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 150
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 MOLITOR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV

End of Session Statement from Assemblyman Andrew Molitor

"As my first legislative session in the New York State Assembly comes to a close, I want to thank the people of Chautauqua County for the honor of serving as your representative. It has been a privilege to bring your voices to Albany and fight for the values we share.

"From day one, I've focused on delivering real solutions, making our communities safer, lowering the cost of living and ensuring rural voices are heard in state government. While this

is just the beginning, I'm proud of the progress we've made and more determined than ever to keep pushing for public safety, economic growth and common-sense policies that work for working families.

"I look forward to continuing this important work on behalf of the 150th Assembly District."

Assemblyman Molitor represents the 150th Assembly District, encompassing all of Chautauqua County. For more information on Assemblyman Molitor, please follow him on Facebook.

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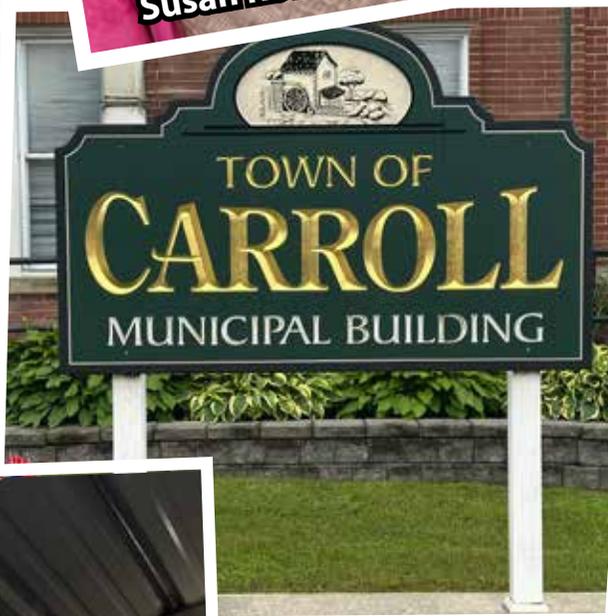
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June 16th - Oliver Burdo
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June 30th - Gavin Paterniti

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

May 29th
June 12th
June 26th
July 10th
July 24th
August 7th
August 21st
September 4th

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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Thursday, August 7th - Ryan Melquist
Friday, August 8th - Kyle Jordan
Saturday, August 9th - SON

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

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