



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE



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Agriculture on Display

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THE 145TH ANNUAL CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FAIR

Featured Writer

Dennis Webster

The 145th Chautauqua County Fair will open Tuesday, July 21st and run through Sunday, July 26th at the fairgrounds on Central Ave. in Dunkirk. The chair of the fair's Board of Directors, Linda Lanphere, says there'll be excitement and fun for everyone including a midway filled with carnival rides, delicious 'fair food' and a grand assortment of grandstand shows. In the midst of all the hustle and bustle though, some poignant moments will unfold.

One of them will be at Noon on Wednesday, July 22nd in the Four-H Building when 16-year-old Kiah Dean of Irving will present a quilt she has made to her brother, Staff Sergeant Kory Irish (Ret.). Kiah sewed the quilt as a member of the Silver Creek Grape Stompers 4-H Club. The presentation is being made under auspices of Quilts of Valor of the Chautauqua Region. Sgt. Irish served four years as a Marine and five

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

Editor's Note: We are especially honored to feature Dennis Webster as a contributing writer. Dennis is a retired WJTN radio announcer who broadcast the "Farm Bureau Radio Show" for more than four decades, always including extensive coverage of the Chautauqua County Fair. His longtime advocacy for the agricultural community and his deep connection to the people and traditions of Chautauqua County agriculture make his perspective especially meaningful.

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PROUD TO BE A FARM KID

Featured Writer

Heather Woodis

What is it like to be a farmer's daughter, or son? To wear the label of "farm kid"? Being one myself, I can tell you it changes throughout your life time.

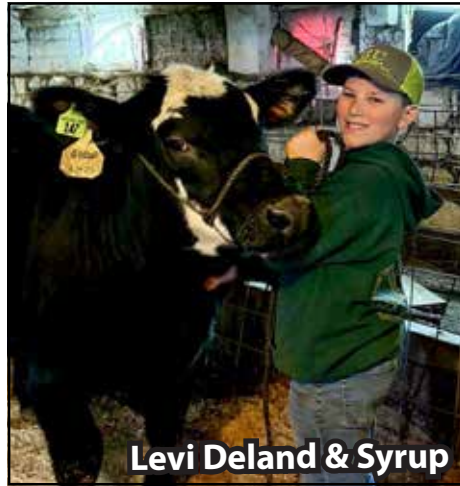
Your first memories will be of cows and tractors. You will know the sweet smell of the milk the calf eagerly drinks, the softness of their hair as you push your face into their necks and the roughness of their tongues as they mistake for fingers for nipples. You will know the smell of diesel fuel and soil, often as it's owned combined fragrance and be able to recall the vibration of the tractor seat

you share with your dad while he lets you steer. There will be memories of tires on plastic as you "help" cover the silage pile. Meals brought to fields. The first time you see a calf be born. You will wonder why everyone doesn't have a cow in their yard or a tractor in their driveway. The early years will be full of all that is special about being a farm kid.

And then you will realize the sacrifice that comes from your family's chosen profession. You will notice your dad (or mom) doesn't always make it to dinner, games or Christmas morning. You will notice the hushed conversations of adults talking about things like weather, milk prices, fuel prices and other bills and feel the worry. Because you are a teenager the sacrifice will be a burden and may breed resentment, even in the most resilient of farm kids. Who wants to toss hay on a warm summer day when their friends are at the lake? Who wants to try to hide the smell of cow manure with perfume or cologne because they had to work before they went to the basketball game with their friends? Why can't their parents just leave the barn and not worry about a sick cow, whether the rain is coming, the payment that is due?

But then something magical will happen. You will be able to see all the

farm gave you, all the experiences that are unique only to farm kids. You will hear the compliments on your work ethic in school, in sports, in 4H. You will see the farm through the eyes of visitors, friends, teachers and hear



Levi Deland & Syrup

their astonishment at what your family does, see the excitement for the cows and tractors. You will find other farm kids and compare stories, realizing that you are not alone. You will be able to listen to the hard conversations and know the stories of how your family business survived the hard times. You will work beside grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, siblings. You

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Braelynn Mistretta & Dottie



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This Week Around Town

MONDAY, JULY 20

- Splash Bemus - Live Music w/ Shawn | 6-8 PM**
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com
- Wicked Warren's - Trivia w/ Brewer Drew 6 PM**
119 W. 3rd St. | Jamestown
For Info: wickedwarrens.com
- Sunset Bay Beach Club - Line Dancing | 7 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

TUESDAY, JULY 21

- Mental Health Association Annual BBQ 1-2 PM**
Jamestown Recovery Center • 31 Water St. | Jamestown
For Info: MHACHQ.org/bbq
- Southern Tier Brewing Co - Zeke's Music Trivia 6 PM**
The Empty Pint • 2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com/events
- Tarp Skunks vs. Niagara Ironbacks 6:30 PM**
Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park | Jamestown
For Info: tarpskunks.com
- Brazil - Crystal Tree Making Workshop 6:30-8PM**
12 E. 4th St. | Jamestown
For Info: labpressco.com
- Lecture: Four Wars, Four Branches: The Extraordinary Service of Lloyd Peters | 7-8 PM**
Fenton History Center | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org/events2
- Beach Dog Grill - Open Mic w/ Don | 6-9 PM**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Facebook@Beach Dog Grill

- Sunset Bay Beach Club - Tennessee Whiskey 7 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

TUESDAY, JULY 21 TO SUNDAY, JULY 26

- Chautauqua County Fair | 9 AM -11 PM**
Chautauqua County Fairgrounds | Dunkirk
For Info: chautauquacofair.org

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

- Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House - Ladies Golf Clinic | 5-7:30 PM**
72 Main St | Bemus Point
For Info: bemustaphouse.com
- Splash Bemus - Live Music w/ Shawn | 6-8 PM**
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com
- Brazil - Music on the Stoop: Drew & Lena | 6-8:30PM**
12 E. 4th St. | Jamestown
For Info: labpressco.com
- CHQ County Legislature Meeting | 6:30 PM**
Robert H. Jackson Center Theater | Jamestown
For Info: chautauquacountyny.gov/legislature/legislature
- Positive Path for Spiritual Living free workshop: Accept or Except, Which?" | 6:30-7:30 PM**
Turner Community/Athletic Center | Chautauqua
For Info: unitychq.org
- Movie Night : Elf | 7 PM**
Village Sunset Park | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspointny.org/calendar.html
- Movies at the Reg: Power Ballad | 7 PM**
Reg Lenna Center for the Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com
- Beach Dog Grill - Trivia | 7:30-9 PM**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Facebook@Beach Dog Grill
- Wicked Warren's - Comedy Open Mic | 7-9 PM**
119 W. 3rd St. | Jamestown
For Info: wickedwarrens.com

THURSDAY, JULY 23

- Southern Tier Brewing Co - Trivia | 6 PM**
The Empty Pint • 2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com/events
- Splash Bemus - Live Music w/ Shawn | 6-8 PM**
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com
- Pearl City Hops - Karaoke Night | 7 PM**
150 W. 4th St. | Jamestown
For Info: pearlcityhops.com
- Sunset Bay Beach Club - Brad Band | 7 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com
- The Village Casino - Jamie Smith | 7-10 PM**
1 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspointcasino.com
- The Wine Cellar - Open Mic Night| 9 PM - 12 AM**
309 N. Main St. | Jamestown
For Info: Facebook/jamestownwinecellar

FRIDAY, JULY 24

- 54th Annual Westfield YWCA Arts & Crafts Festival | 9 AM-5 PM**
Moore Park | Westfield
For Info: ywcawestfield.org
- "25 Years of Asking Questions: Who Decides What Justice Looks Like?" | 6-7 PM**
Robert H. Jackson Center | Jamestown
For Info: roberthjackson.org/events
- Pearl City Hops - Mike Bruncini | 6-8 PM**
150 W. 4th St. | Jamestown
For Info: pearlcityhops.com
- Southern Tier Brewing Co - Uncaged | 6-9 PM**
The Empty Pint • 2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com/events
- The Wine Cellar - Jerod Eggleston| 6-9 PM**
309 N. Main St. | Jamestown
For Info: Facebook/jamestownwinecellar
- Splash Bemus - Live Music w/ Nicholas Nasibyan | 6:30-9:30 PM**
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com
- Movies at the Reg: Leviticus | 7 PM**
Reg Lenna Center for the Arts | Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com
- Beach Dog Grill - DTO| 7-10 PM**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Facebook@Beach Dog Grill

- Wicked Warren's - Country Line Dance Party 7-10 PM**
119 W. 3rd St. | Jamestown
For Info: wickedwarrens.com

- Sunset Bay Beach Club - Aces & Eights 8:30 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

- Shawbucks - Karaoke | 9 PM**
212 W. 2nd St. | Jamestown
For Info: shawbucks.com

- The Village Casino - Black Widow 9:30-1:30 PM**
1 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspointcasino.com

SATURDAY, JULY 25

- Beach Dog Grill - Beach Bash | All Day**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Facebook@Beach Dog Grill
- 54th Annual Westfield YWCA Arts & Crafts Festival | 9 AM-4 PM**
Moore Park | Westfield
For Info: ywcawestfield.org

- Fenton History Center - Historic Tour: Allen Park | 10 AM - 12 PM**
Allen Park Band Shell | Jamestown
For Info: fentonhistorycenter.org/events2

- 4-H Meat Animal Sale | 11 AM**
Warren Brown Show Arena - Chautauqua County Fairgrounds | Dunkirk
For Info: See page 15

- Southern Tier Brewing Co - The Floyd Concept w/ Slim Red | 3-11 PM**
The Empty Pint • 2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com/events

- Tarp Skunks vs. Geneva Red Wings: XMAS in July Fireworks | 6:30 PM**
Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park | Jamestown
For Info: tarpskunks.com

- Splash Bemus - Live Music w/ Nicholas Nasibyan | 6:30-9:30 PM**
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com

- Wicked Warren's - Pat Hackett - Live 6:30 - 9 PM**
119 W. 3rd St. | Jamestown
For Info: wickedwarrens.com

- Group Ther-Happy- Earl Wallace Band 8-11 PM**
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: groupther-happy.com

- Sunset Bay Beach Club - DJ Felony XMAS in July | 8:30 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com

- The Wine Cellar - Qwister | 9 PM -1 AM**
309 N. Main St. | Jamestown
For Info: Facebook/jamestownwinecellar

- Shawbucks - DJ Xcite | 10 PM**
212 W. 2nd St. | Jamestown
For Info: shawbucks.com

- The Village Casino - Hollywood Mafia | 10 PM-2AM**
1 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: bemuspointcasino.com

SUNDAY, JULY 26

- 59th Annual Rotary Fly-In Breakfast 8 AM - 12 PM**
Chautauqua County/Dunkirk Airport | Dunkirk
For Info: tinyurl.com/2026FIB
- Unity of Chautauqua - “What Does it Mean to Be a Conscious Evolutionary?” | 9:30 AM**
Hall of Misions | Chautauqua Institution
For Info: unitychq.org
- Sunset Bay Beach Club - Cornhole Tournament 12 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com
- Beach Dog Grill - Unknown Legends | 3-6 PM**
Wright Park | Dunkirk
For Info: Facebook@Beach Dog Grill
- Southern Tier Brewing Co - Crush | 4-7 PM**
The Empty Pint • 2072 Stoneman Circle | Lakewood
For Info: lakewood.stbcbeer.com/events
- Group Ther-Happy - Paul Hunter | 5-8 PM**
103 Chautauqua Ave. | Lakewood
For Info: groupther-happy.com
- Splash Bemus - Live Music w/ Shawn | 6-8 PM**
60 Lakeside Dr. | Bemus Point
For Info: splashbemus.com
- Sunset Bay Beach Club - Screaming Pineapples | 7 PM**
1028 South Shore Dr. | Irving
For Info: sunsetbayusa.com
- Raven & Thorn - Trivia w/ Chris | 7-9 PM**
26 Water St. | Fredonia
For Info: ravenandthorn.com

CHQ COUNTY
FAIR SCHEDULE
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Editorial with Lori Cornell

THE FAIR IS 4-H



Publisher
Lori Cornell

I first fell in love with the 4-H Program as a Chautauqua County Legislator. Growing up in Dunkirk, I attended the Fair every July like clockwork - but my memories as a kid were more about the midway and fried dough than they were about the true strength behind the Chautauqua County Fair.

As a legislator, I sat in awe every year at budget time when Cornell Cooperative Extension led its large 4-H contingent of students into our Mayville Chamber. This 124-year-old national program raises up future generations of farmers and helps support local agricultural heritage and continued progress.

The presenting kids typically ranged in age from middle to high school and attended the budget hearing to invariably advocate for our county's number one industry: Agriculture. They well-represented their next-generation significance, as the "boots on the ground" in what may effectively be described as a critical economic retention effort. Back then, 4-Hers like Cassie Skal - now grown up and featured on page 4 - would stand confidently and present the inarguable case as to why county funding for the

Extension should continue.

As the skillful advocates they were, their relationship-building between policymakers and constituents didn't stop with budget time. County officials were invited to the Farmer Neighbor dinners, the meat auctions and most especially, the big kahuna of the year: the Chautauqua County Fair, where our community's hardest working kids put their time and talents on full display. The cannon would sound, kicking off the fair each year, and the barn tours would begin. I've spent scores of hours within those barns - listening to 4-H-ers tell their story; admiring parents overnighting on cots with crockpots; and taking in the sights, smells and sounds of cows, pigs, chickens, horses, rabbits, goats and handmade 4-H-er milkshakes.

More than a decade has gone by since I left the County Legislature, but the firsthand example of the 4-H-ers commitment to local agriculture has stuck with this "city girl" and helped foster my deeper sense of appreciation for the faces and families behind the Fair. It's the reason why this dedicated edition means such a great deal to me and why I hope to share that excitement and true passion behind the County Fair with you. We offer a sincere thank you to the Chautauqua County Fair Board for providing for this special opportunity.

So now, go grab your tickets and enjoy the week! Ride the rides, savor the fair food, appreciate the exhibits, take in the shows, but please, don't forget to thank a farmer. Especially a 4-H-er!

CHAUTAUQUA
GAZETTE

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START WITH A BANG



Submitted Photo

Featured Writer

Henry Leworthy

The opening ceremony of the Chautauqua County Fair starts with a loud bang of the cannon. There is a significant history that surrounds the cannon with its connection to the county.

After the Civil War, Dunkirk's iconic Brooks Locomotive Works (1869-1901) cast four brass cannons. They were brought and displayed at the fairgrounds on Central Ave. The cannons remained on display until WWII. During the war, brass was a precious metal in high demand. Three of the four cannons were sacrificed to the scrap yard. The lone remaining one stayed on the fairgrounds until the 1960's. A gentleman from Fredonia by the name of Al Vercant took

interest in the piece. He was a member of the North South Skirmish Association (a Civil War shooting and preservation based in Winchester Virginia.) Vercant rebuilt the carriage that it sits on today. Throughout the 1960's -1970's the cannon traveled back and forth where it won numerous national awards.

Today, you can see and hear the cannon kick off local events. It will begin the opening ceremony at its home at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds. The ceremony begins on Tuesday at 10:30am. Let's start the fair off with a bang.

Henry Leworthy is a past president and current honorary member of the Chautauqua County Fair Board. He is a third-generation Fair vendor and remains active in the Conservation and Education Center which was built and opened last year in memory of his late father, Renny Leworthy.



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For the Love of Farming



Fair Friendship Flashback "Cass Squared" (Cassie Skal & Cassie Chapman) celebrating the end of 2011 fair week at the Herdsman Awards ice cream social. Skal was named "4-H Queen".

Featured Writer
Cassie Skal

This week, at the Annual Chautauqua County Fair, our agricultural community is showcasing just a glimpse of its year-round hard work. Dedicated, resilient and passionate are all words I would use to describe anyone in the agricultural industry. Chautauqua County is blessed with a robust agricultural community right in our backyards, and this week matters to all of us. At the fair, you will mostly see animals, a huge part of the industry, but back at home we also have row crop farmers, fruit farmers, vegetable farmers, beekeepers, maple producers and so much more.

I was not born into an agricultural family, but agriculture is where I found myself. I grew up in the city of Erie, PA, where I could have cats and dogs, but legally, not so much as a chicken. I found my footing when I joined Chautauqua County 4-H at roughly 12 years old. I began with a dog, Ivy, my best friend, and by the time I aged out, it was hard to find me standing still on the fairgrounds — I had simply become too involved.

At some point, my dream of being a ballerina turned into something entirely different. My favorite color went from pinks to greens and yellows, and I wanted nothing more than to contribute to the agricultural industry — most importantly, to Chautauqua County's — though I had no idea what that would look like. In true Cassie fashion, I embraced every experience, learned from every tip and trick shared with me, and counted myself lucky to find a few mentors along the way.

Back in 2011, I was aging out of 4-H and wondering where this journey would take me. I did not yet realize the mentors I had gained, the friendships that would last a lifetime, the experiences that would shape my future, or the foundation I was laying for the person I am today. I am not a big farmer — at this point, I am barely a hobby farmer — but my blood runs as green as the day I aged out of 4-H, or the day I graduated college with an agricultural degree.

Today, I represent Chautauqua County as a proud Farm Bureau Director, chair of the Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Promotion and Engagement Committee, chair of the Farmer-Neighbor Committee, a New York State Farm Bureau Promotion and Engagement Committee member, a Farm Credit East employee, a 4-H volunteer, the Open Clerk for the Chautauqua County Fair, and an occasional agricultural advocate writing for the Chautauqua Gazette. Looking at where I am today, I feel proud to represent and stand up for agriculture.

People often ask me why I do what I do, and whether it's all worth it. When I reflect, I think of people like me — the ones who work hard before the sun rises until long after most are asleep, the 1% who make sure we all have food on our tables and clothes on our backs, produced through their own grit, determination and resilience. I find real pride in helping expose youth and adults to agriculture, in whatever way I can. At the end of the day, I am just one person doing my best to support the people who inspire me daily, and every night. I hope I have made them proud.

From Pen to Plate, Stall to Pasture: The Grit, Heart, and Growth Behind a Local Youth's Livestock Journey



Photo Credit: Tara Lynn Photography

Featured Writer
Addison Damcott

When you walk through the county fair this summer and look at the market animals, it is easy to just see livestock in a pen. But, behind those clean gates is a story of intense commitment. For me, the fair is the ultimate finish line—a place where I can proudly present months of hard work dedicated to producing the absolute best quality meat for someone's dinner table, while also celebrating the deep roots I have planted in the agricultural community.

The Swine Project: Winter Grit and Heat Management

This journey does not start in the summer sun; it begins in the chilly days of autumn. It is a nearly year-long cycle of preparation, grueling work and emotional highs and lows.

The project kicks off the previous fall when I officially sign up for the swine project. As winter sets in, the foundational work begins. I am required to attend four mandatory project meetings throughout the cold months to learn about animal husbandry, ethics and safety. During this time, I also hunt for the right breeder. Finding a producer with trusted genetics is essential to raising a healthy, structurally sound market hog that will eventually yield top-tier food.

By late February and early March, it is time to start farm preparation. Before I can bring a hog home, I must ensure its environment is safe and flawless. I spend hours prepping pens built on three strict non-negotiables:

- **Warmth:** A heavily bedded, draft-free area where the pig can escape freezing winter chills.
- **Fresh Water:** A reliable, clean water system that will not freeze over.

- **Nutrition:** A steady supply of high-quality feed tailored to a young grower.

Once my pen is secure and comfortable, I head to the breeder, hand-pick my pig and officially bring it home.

When the spring weather finally breaks, the true test of patience begins with training my hog to "drive." This means using a show brush and whip to guide the pig through subtle touches, teaching it to walk gracefully with its head held high to catch the judge's eye. While this process is rewarding, it can also be deeply frustrating. Pigs have bad days just like humans, and some days they simply refuse to drive well. On top of that, winter weather brings a near-guarantee that a pig will get sick at some point, requiring constant monitoring, medication, and extra care.

A major spring milestone is hauling the hogs to the fairgrounds for the official spring weigh-in. This step is critical because it is where the animals are officially registered and tagged with their mandatory 4-H identification tags.

A Strong Foundation and New Horizons

I could never handle this massive undertaking alone. Behind every youth exhibitor is a strong support system, and my family has always been super supportive of me. From hauling heavy feed bags in the freezing cold to cheering me on during frustrating training sessions, their encouragement is the real backbone of my project. They are right there with me for the heavy lifting, including the logistics of hauling the animals to and from the fairgrounds.

But my agricultural journey does not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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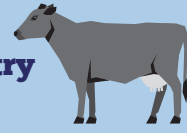
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Events / Weddings / Catering

Chautauqua County Legislature to Hold July Meeting at Robert H. Jackson Center

Special meeting recognizes 25th anniversary of Jackson Center and 80th anniversary of Nuremberg Trials



Contributed by
Chautauqua County

The Chautauqua County Legislature will hold its monthly meeting at a special off-site location next week in recognition of the historic connection between Chautauqua County and one of its most internationally recognized figures, Robert H. Jackson.

The Legislature's meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Robert H. Jackson Center Theater, located at 305 E. Fourth St., Jamestown, NY. The meeting remains open to the public and will also be livestreamed on the Chautauqua County Government YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@ChautauquaCounty.

The special meeting location coincides with two significant milestones being celebrated this year: the 25th anniversary of the Robert H. Jackson Center and the 80th anniversary of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, where Robert H. Jackson served as chief United States prosecutor and played a pivotal role in shaping the foundation of modern international criminal justice.

"This was a great opportunity for the Legislature to recognize the incredible work being done by the Robert H. Jackson Center and celebrate its lasting impact locally, nationally, and internationally," said Chautauqua County Legislature Chairman Pierre Chagnon. "The Jackson Center approached us about the possibility of holding one of our meetings there, and

we were pleased to make this happen."

"The Robert H. Jackson Center is celebrating its 25th year as a national and international nonprofit with deep roots and commitment to Chautauqua County," Chagnon continued. "The Center works to be a strong community partner with Chautauqua County organizations, schools, government, and residents. This year also marks the 80th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials, where Robert Jackson helped create the international criminal justice system under which the world operates today, as well as the 85th anniversary of Jackson's appointment to the United States Supreme Court."

The Robert H. Jackson Center, located in Jamestown, NY, works to advance Justice Robert H. Jackson's legacy through education, including live presentations, exhibits, available media, research, and scholarship. These efforts demonstrate the relevance and applicability of Justice Jackson's ideas to present and future generations. Particular emphasis is placed on educating youth on critical justice issues and the rule of law. The center's efforts are based on Jackson's views on international law, constitutional law, and human and civil rights.

Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting in person or watch the livestream online.

For more information about Chautauqua County Legislature meetings, visit chautauquacountyny.gov/legislature/legislature.

From Pen to Plate, Stall to Pasture: The Grit, Heart, and Growth Behind a Local Youth's Livestock Journey

Continued from Page 5

stop at the pig pen. In fact, every great journey starts with a single step, or in my case, a single sheep. Years ago, it was my deep fascination with these animals that first drew me into the 4-H program. What started as a simple curiosity quickly blossomed into a life-long passion, ultimately inspiring me to build upon my market animal experiences and take the leap into starting my very own breeding flock.

This year, that sheep project came full circle with a major milestone on my farm. After carefully managing my breeding program, I bred my two-year-old ewe. The anticipation built for months during her five-month gestation period—roughly 147 days of careful monitoring, extra feeding and anxious waiting. That long wait culminated in the proudest moment of my farming experience so far: the birth of the very first lamb born on my farm.

A Full Circle Journey

Watching that newborn lamb take its first shaky steps was an incredibly rewarding experience. The immediate, natural connection between the two animals—the ewe fiercely protecting her baby, and the lamb finding its feet to follow her—brought my entire livestock journey into sharp focus. It represented not just the physical growth of my flock, but my own growth as an agriculturalist. Through 4-H, I have learned the invaluable, hands-on skills of livestock management, genetics and daily animal husbandry required to navigate lambing season safely.

Once summer arrives, time flies, and the demands of both projects merge. My primary daily battle with the hogs becomes heat management. Pigs cannot sweat, so I spend hours keeping them as cool as possible, so they don't lose weight or fail to gain muscle before the show.

Meanwhile, I am also busy preparing to bring my breeding flock right alongside my market hogs to the fairgrounds. Showing my own flock requires a whole different set of skills and a grueling daily routine. Every single day, I work with the sheep to condition them for the judge's evaluation. I spend hours washing, conditioning, and protecting their leg shag so they look flawless and full in the ring. At the same time, we practice getting their brace down to a T—teaching them to drive their hindquarters back and stand structurally sound against

my leg the exact moment the judge handles them.

Finally, fair week arrives. It is an incredibly exciting time to show off all sides of my hard work in the ring, but it is also deeply bittersweet. At the end of the week, I have to say goodbye to the market swine. During the livestock auction, I sell my market hog to a local buyer.

It is incredibly sad to see them go, especially when you have worked with them every single day and they have become completely friendly and trusting. But knowing that I poured my heart into raising a healthy, top-quality product for a family's table makes every ounce of frustration and heartbreak entirely worth it. As the fair winds down, I am comforted knowing that my breeding flock will be heading right back home with me. My flock is growing, my skills are sharpening and my dedication to Chautauqua County agriculture is growing right along with it.

The Ultimate Harvest: Lessons for a Lifetime

Looking back on my entire time in 4-H, I realize that the most important things I have grown on my farm aren't just market hogs or a breeding flock. The true harvest has been my own personal growth.

When I first started in this program, I was driven by a simple curiosity for animals. Today, I stand as a young producer who understands the weight of responsibility that comes with livestock care. 4-H has taught me the true definition of hard work—the kind that requires you to haul heavy feed bags through frozen winter mornings and stay up late into the night during lambing season. It has taught me resilience in the face of heartbreak, patience during frustrating training sessions, and the critical importance of time management and ethical sportsmanship.

Every scar, every early morning and every bittersweet auction has shaped who I am. The lessons of responsibility, perseverance, and dedication are things I will carry with me long after I step out of the show ring for the last time. My flock is growing, my swine project continues to challenge me, and my passion for agriculture is deeper than ever. Through the grit and the heart of 4-H, I haven't just learned how to raise livestock—I have learned how to build a life.



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Featured Writer

Debra Meeder



1950's aerial picture of the Runge Family Farm.

The below excerpt is taken from a portion of my recent book, "The Front Porch Promise". The first part of the book recounts my life as a little girl growing up on my family farm in Cassadaga NY until tragedy struck our family and the farm was auctioned and our lives were changed forever. It is my hope that this submission will capture the hearts of readers and perhaps bring back precious memories of times gone by on family farms such as ours.

It was haying season on our family farm in the summer of 1959, the season of endless hard labor, profuse sweating, stinging sunburn, and persistent sneezing. No one was exempt from paying the physical price demanded by haying season. As hard as it was it was worth it. At the end of the day the reward was the sweet smell of fresh cut hay hovering over the farm like a freshly washed Irish lace curtain floating in a gentle breeze. Commercial air fresheners have never been able to duplicate the smell of a freshly filled haymow.

I was eight years old in 1959. I watched my father drive the Farmall H Tractor and fully loaded hay wagon up to the haymow ramp on the top of the hill. The hay bale elevator was stationed on the ramp. It was elevated to the highest point, indicating that the haymow was almost full. Daddy backed the hay wagon up to the ramp, positioning the wagon close to the elevator alongside the haying crew which included my two older sisters. Together, with the hired help and cousins, they formed the infamous hay bale processing line.

In retrospect, farm help during haying season bore a striking resemblance to a chain gang on a prison work release program. However, instead of wearing striped prison suits, they wore faded blue dungarees, calf-high work boots, white tee shirts with yellow perspiration stains under the arms and sweat-stained blue or red farmer's bandanas tied around their foreheads.

They topped off the outfits with gray striped canvas work gloves that shrouded their hands and wrists up to and including their forearms. Even my sisters were chain-gang fashion savvy, forgoing the bandana in favor of pulling their hair back in tight ponytails and wearing loose-fitting cotton blouses in place of white tee shirts. I watched as the chain gang moved the hay bales off the wagon passing each bale down the line like a finely choreographed ballet performance, each bale gracefully floating from one person to another despite weighing between seventy and a hundred pounds each.

The bale would then be placed on the hay elevator to be carried upward like an escalator to the haymow. From there the final person in line would remove the bale from the elevator and pitch it to the unlucky sucker that was stuck with the shit-sandwich job of stacking the bales in the mow. This person was known as the "Stacking Sucker."

The Stacking Sucker held an honorary degree in advanced engineering and organizational management and was intimately acquainted with proactive strategic planning long before strategic planning became an overused buzzword in the business world. There were three, possibly four, hay cuttings per season: early spring, early summer, late summer, and if

CONTINUED Page 13

Finding Your Voice in the Quiet: How 4-H and the County Fair Teach Shy Kids to Do Hard Things



Julia with her fair cow nearly 20 years ago

Featured Writer

Julia Olmstead

For a shy child, the world can often feel like a stage where they forgot their lines. The thought of raising a hand in class, let alone speaking to a stranger, can send a wave of panic through their chest. Yet, walk into a 4-H dairy barn on any given afternoon, and you will often find those exact same quiet kids doing things that would terrify many adults. Through the hands-on world of 4-H and agriculture, shy kids are discovering a profound truth: you do not have to stop being shy to do hard things.

In traditional youth activities, success is often measured by outward charisma—who can speak the loudest or capture the room's attention. But agriculture operates on a different wavelength. A dairy heifer does not care if you are an introvert or extrovert. She cares about consistency, patience and the gentle, steady hand of someone she trusts. For a quiet child, a dairy project is both a shield and a bridge. When a shy kid stands in front of a judge in the show ring, they do not have to sell themselves; they simply have to showcase their animal. The heifer becomes a comfortable partner, giving them focus and purpose when words feel hard to find.

There is no better testing ground for this quiet courage than the county fair. At the Chautauqua County Fair in Dunkirk, months of quiet preparation culminate in a bustling, high-energy week. For a shy youth, stepping into the show arena clad in clean white pants and a white shirt is an act of sheer bravery. It is one thing to lead a growing calf in the quiet of an evening pasture; it is entirely another to walk a high spirited Holstein heifer through a crowded ring while maintaining constant eye contact with the judge.

Yet, year after year, quiet kids grip their leather halters, take a deep breath and step into the arena. Their hearts might be racing, and their hands might be shaking, but they do it anyway. They learn that courage is not the absence of fear, but the decision that their commitment to their animal is more important.

This courage to face the ring is built entirely on the relentless work ethic that dairy farming demands. Agriculture does not accommodate sleeping in or taking a day off. There are no days off when taking care of livestock. The kids are cleaning stalls, measuring out grain, washing coats to a pristine shine and spending hours training their heifers to lead smoothly. When a heifer is stubborn or a feeding routine must be meticulously adjusted, they must research, adapt and keep trying.

To the quiet kid standing at the edge of the barn, looking at the older, confident exhibitors and wondering if they will ever fit in: keep your chin up. True confidence is not a loud, overnight switch. It is a quiet ladder built slowly over time, rung by rung, out of the knowledge you acquire and the small successes you stack up day by day. Every early morning you spend learning the nutritional needs of your heifer, and every time you successfully guide her through a difficult training session, you are building an unshakeable foundation.

We often try to "cure" shyness in children, treating it as a hurdle to be overcome. But 4-H and the dairy barn teach a far better lesson. They show quiet kids that their quietness is actually a strength—allowing them to be keen observers, deep thinkers and incredibly patient caretakers. Through the grit of agricultural life and the challenge of the Chautauqua County Fair, these young people learn that they can do some of the hardest things imaginable—even if it is done quietly.

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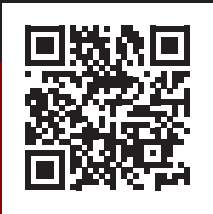
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AWAY

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14 ELM 6:30pm 4:00pm	15	16 @NEW	17 OLN 6:30pm	18 NF 6:30pm	19 NIA 6:30pm	20
21	22	23 @NF	24	25 BAT 6:30pm	26	27 NF 6:30pm
28 @NF	29	30 @NF				

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 @BAT	2 @OLN	3 OLN 6:30pm	4 @NIA
5 @ELM	6	7 NEW 6:30pm	8	9	10 BAT 6:30pm	11 @GEN
12 AUB 6:30pm 4:00pm	13 @BAT	14	15 BAT 6:30pm	16 @NF	17 NEW 6:30pm	18
19 GEN 4:00pm	20	21 NIA 6:30pm	22	23 @OLN	24 @OLN	25 GEN 6:30pm

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

Sunday, June 14th - 4:00pm & 6:30pm
Wednesday, June 17th - 6:30pm
Thursday, June 18th - 6:30 pm
First Responders Night - Buyout Night - All Tickets FREE
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Friday, June 19th - 6:30 pm
Youth Baseball/Softball Night • Presented by: Logistics
Thursday, June 25th - 6:30 pm
Free Ticket Night • Presented by: Logistics
Saturday, June 27th - 6:30 pm
Kids Camp Day/Night
Presented by:
Builders Exchange of the So. Tier and Univera Healthcare
Saturday, July 3rd - 7:00 pm
Fireworks Night • Presented by: Jamestown Mattress
Tuesday, July 7th - 6:30 pm
\$2 Night & FREE tickets
Presented by: Cattaraugus County Bank
Friday, July 10th - 6:30 pm
FREE Ticket Night -Presented by: Wegmans
Sunday, July 12th - 4:00 pm & 6:30 pm
FREE Ticket Night - Presented by: Greater Chautauqua FCU
Wednesday, June 15th - 6:30pm
Wednesday, June 17th - 6:30pm
Strike Out Cancer Night
Sunday, July 19th - 4:00 pm
United Way Night
Tuesday, July 21st - 6:30 pm
\$2 Night
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Saturday, July 25th - 6:30 pm
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TUESDAY, JULY 21

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

NYRican Project 7pm

THURSDAY, JULY 23

Empire State Truck & Tractor Pull 7pm

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Bull Riding 7pm

SATURDAY, JULY 25

Monter Truck Show 7pm

SUNDAY, JULY 26

Demolition Derby 4pm



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SUDOKU

5	1	6			8	3	7	4
		3				6	8	1
	8							
			5					
8						9	1	
1	4		9			2		
	2			6			5	3
6					5	1	9	7
4	5	1					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			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Listen to

5. Presents

10. A type of guitar

14. Actor Idris

15. A citizen of Iran

16. Pretentiously artistic

17. Harness

18. Diamond weight measurement

19. "Better Call ___"

20. Fervent support

22. Male cat

23. Jewish spiritual leader

24. Disposed to venture or take risks

27. A way to nail

30. Cool!

31. Women's ___ movement

32. "Losing My Religion" rockers

35. Step-shaped recess

37. A princess can detect it

38. Tractor-trailer

39. Leslie and Leon are two

40. Color at the end of the spectrum
41. Lines where fabrics are sewn

42. Dodgers great Hershiser

43. Floor covering

44. Traveled aimlessly

45. Rocker Stewart

46. Body art

47. Congressman (abbr.)

48. No seats available

49. Breaks apart

52. Hand gesture

55. Ballplayer's tool

56. Sword

60. Baseball team

61. Upper bract of floret of grass

63. Italian Seaport

64. Mars crater

65. Tube on a shoelace

66. U. of Miami mascot

67. South American nation

68. Video game series "Max ___"

69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. German courtesy title

2. Ancient Greek personification of mercy

3. Jewish calendar month

4. Family of long-legged frogs

5. Photo

6. Delivered a speech

7. Lute used in Indian music

8. Decorated

9. Cease to stand

10. The bottom layer

11. Member of a Semitic people

12. Part of a ticket

13. Defunct monetary unit

21. Challenges

23. Body part

25. Tell on

26. By way of

27. Shady green alcove

28. Egyptian city

29. ___ and flowed

32. Widens a hole
33. Eurasian wheat

34. Act incorrectly

36. "Be back later"

37. Al Bundy's wife

38. Ocean

40. Large root eaten as a vegetable

41. Units of subjective loudness

43. Music genre

44. A way to drench

46. Popular hot beverage

47. Silk-like cotton fabric

49. Rumanian city

50. Come back

51. Vaccine developer

52. Canadian law enforcers

53. Wings

54. Observational comedian Bill

57. Small fry

58. ___ Clapton, musician

59. Take a chance

61. Semi-liquid food for babies

62. Consumed food

54th Annual Westfield YWCA Arts & Crafts Festival

Contributed by
YWCA Westfield

The 54th Annual YWCA Arts & Crafts Festival returns to Moore Park in the Village of Westfield on July 24 and 25, 2026.

Make it part of your wine trail weekend. This long standing summer tradition offers free admission and a relaxed, walkable setting filled with artisan vendors, local makers, and unique finds.

Browse handcrafted goods including home décor, specialty foods, jewelry, clothing, original art, and more. Grab something to eat from a variety of food vendors and enjoy a full day in the heart of Westfield, just minutes from Lake Erie and the region's wineries.

Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The YWCA Arts & Crafts Festival continues to draw visitors from across the region, featuring both new

artisans and returning favorites each year. Vendor participation directly supports YWCA Westfield and its work in the community.

Plan Your Visit

Parking is available throughout the Village of Westfield, with additional parking at the Westfield Academy and Central School bus garage. Continuous shuttle service will run to and from Moore Park during festival hours.

For vendor registration and event details, visit ywcawestfield.org or contact artsandcrafts@ywcawestfield.org.

About YWCA Westfield

Founded in 1894, YWCA Westfield has a long history of supporting women and families in Westfield and the surrounding communities.

Today, the organization operates as a membership based nonprofit offering a fitness center, community programming, and initiatives that promote leadership, connection, and overall well being, including the Girls Leadership Initiative (GLI), which supports local students in building confidence and leadership skills.

YWCA Westfield also offers on site Airbnb accommodations, inviting visitors to experience the heart of Westfield year-round.

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empowering women
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Chautauqua County Fair Board: Tradition is Their Only Reward



Featured Writer
Henry Leworthy

The tradition begins the moment you walk through the gates of the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds. Every July, roughly 65,000 men, women, and children walk the grounds of the six day event. Many community members donate their services to keep the fair alive.

For a smaller group of individuals the 2026 Chautauqua County Fair began the moment the 2025 fair ended. These people receive no reimbursement of any kind- except the satisfaction of performing a public service. They contribute their time, effort, and often their own money to ensure the fair continues to thrive.

Chautauqua County Agricultural and Fair Association is a not-for-profit, stock-holding corporation that owns the property, maintains the buildings, and presents the fair on behalf of the county. It's the board of directors and volunteers that are dedicated to having the event run smoothly. These public-spirited citizens make endless phone calls, coordinate countless miniscule details, and support the wide variety of events that are held on the grounds.

The fairgrounds themselves provide the largest single gathering place of its kind in the county. Throughout the year, the fair corporation makes some

of these facilities on the grounds available for rental. The cost of the rentals usually only cover basic maintenance needs. Operating the grounds year-round requires the purchases of materials and services, and these expenditures are spread among businesses and industries.

Fair week, of course, brings the greatest activity and the greatest benefit to the community. Many local residents take part-time jobs during the fair week. Concessionaires, show workers, and out-of-town visitors spend money locally. Restaurants, hotels, and shops all share an economic boost that the fair brings to town each summer.

The fair corporation makes no financial profit. It is not intended to be a profit making organization. It simply provides the people of the county to showcase the fruit of their labor in a setting of entertainment and community engagement. Its sole hope is that the men, women, sponsors and the next generation continue this tradition for many years to come.

Henry Leworthy is a past president and current honorary member of the Chautauqua County Fair Board. He is a third-generation Fair vendor and remains active in the Conservation and Education Center which was built and opened last year in memory of his late father, Renny Leworthy.

1959 Farm Chain Gangs, Stacking Suckers, and Hay Boogers

Continued from page 7

lucky, depending on the weather, early fall. Each cutting varied in nutritional content. Some cuttings had more protein and roughage; other cuttings had less. We could ensure that each cow on our farm got the proper feeding combination of first, second, third or fourth hay cuttings, in part due to the brilliance of the Stacking Sucker who strategically stacked each bale in a designated area of the haymow according to the prescribed cutting time.

The Stacking Sucker was confined to a small crawl space the size of a tiny suitcase in a one-thousand-degree inferno inhaling thick hay dust with every breath, resulting in an overabundance of sticky hay boogers the size of boulders. If OSHA had existed in the 1950s, a visit by an OSHA inspector to the family farm would have culminated in an order to immediately cease operations. The working conditions bordered on inhumane, but farm kids never gave

it a second thought. Their motto from birth was "Just do it" long before a famous shoe company claimed it as their advertising hook. During haying season, farm kids just did it, my sisters included—one bale at a time.

As I replay the scene in my adult mind, remembering that day in 1959, I have concluded that the only thing missing when the hay was off-loaded from the wagon was the sound of a full orchestra playing Swan Lake in the background with the hay bale chain gang dressed in pink tutus and wearing matching ballerina slippers. Not only was it a thing of beauty to observe, it was absolute confirmation that farm work and teamwork are not mutually exclusive and it was proof positive that on the ninth day God created "the family farm." As a little girl I came to know in my heart that God looked down and observed the Runge family farm that day in 1959, now known as The Front Porch Promise Farm, and He declared it good—very, very good.



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Jackson Center Announces Lineup of Events Featuring Nuremberg Legacy and Modern International Law

Contributed by

Robert H. Jackson Center

The Robert H. Jackson Center is highlighting a series of public programs this week while marking the final months of its yearlong observance of the 80th anniversary of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg.

On July 24 at 6 p.m., the Center will host “25 Years of Asking Questions: Who Decides What Justice Looks Like?” featuring Jessica H. Kim, former U.S. Special Prosecutor for the Crime of Aggression. The free public program will examine prosecutorial discretion through the lens of Justice Robert H. Jackson’s landmark speech, “The Federal Prosecutor,” and is part of the Center’s ongoing series exploring law, justice, accountability, and civic responsibility.

Three days later, 3:30 p.m. on July 27, distinguished legal scholar Michael R. Dreeben will deliver the 22nd Annual Robert H. Jackson Lecture on the Supreme Court of the United

States at Chautauqua Institution. Dreeben, who served as counselor to Special Counsels Robert S. Mueller III and Jack Smith, is regarded as one of the nation’s leading Supreme Court advocates, having argued more than 100 cases before the Court during his career in the U.S. Department of Justice. This event is free, but a Chautauqua Gate Pass is required to access the institution.

Additional information and registration details for upcoming programs are available through the Robert H. Jackson Center’s events calendar, roberthjackson.org/events.

The Center is also approaching the conclusion of its Nuremberg Trial Daily Digest project, an ambitious effort launched on the 80th anniversary of the trial’s opening in November 2025. Published daily across the Center’s social media channels, the digest follows the historic proceedings one session day at a time using original trial transcripts, audio, and film from the Center’s archives. Now entering the final weeks of the 218-session-day tribunal, the project has helped bring renewed public attention to the enduring lessons and legacy of Nuremberg.



Power Ballad and Leviticus to show at Reg Lenna Center for The Arts



Contributed by

Reg Lenna Center for the Arts

Paul Rudd and Nick Jonas star in **Power Ballad** - showing Wed., July 22 at 7 p.m. When Rick (Rudd), a past-his-prime wedding singer, meets fading boy-band star Danny (Jonas) during a gig, the two bond over music and a late-night jam session. But when Danny turns one of Rick’s songs into the hit that reignites his career, Rick sets out to reclaim the recognition he believes he deserves - even if it means risking everything he cares about. **Power Ballad** is rated R and is 99 minutes long.

In **Leviticus**, showing Fri., July 24 at 7 p.m., two teenage boys must escape a violent entity that takes the form

of the person they desire most - each other. **Leviticus** is rated R and is 88 minutes long.

Upcoming Movies at The Reg include Hayley Kiyoko’s film adaptation of her book, *Girls Like Girls* (July 29 at 7 p.m.) and Steven Spielberg’s science fiction thriller *Disclosure Day* (July 31 at 7 p.m.)

Tickets for most Movies at The Reg are \$8 in-person at the box office and \$10 online (reglenna.com) & by phone - 716.484.7070. Family showings are \$7 in-person at the box office and \$9 online & by phone. Special engagements are priced differently. The theater and box office at The Reg are located at 116 E. 3rd St. in Jamestown, NY. The box office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 12 - 5 p.m. and one hour before movies and events.



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Proud to be a Farm Kid

Continued from Front Page

But then something magical will happen. You will be able to see all the farm gave you, all the experiences that are unique only to farm kids. You will hear the compliments on your work ethic in school, in sports, in 4H. You will see the farm through the eyes of visitors, friends, teachers and hear their astonishment at what your family does, see the excitement for the cows and tractors. You will find other farm kids and compare stories, realizing that you are not alone. You will be able to listen to the hard conversations and know the stories of how your family business survived the hard times. You will work beside grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, siblings. You will share the laughter and the tears. And even if you don’t make the farm your full time occupation, even if the farm is no lon-



Heather Woodis pictured with her grandson, Braxton.

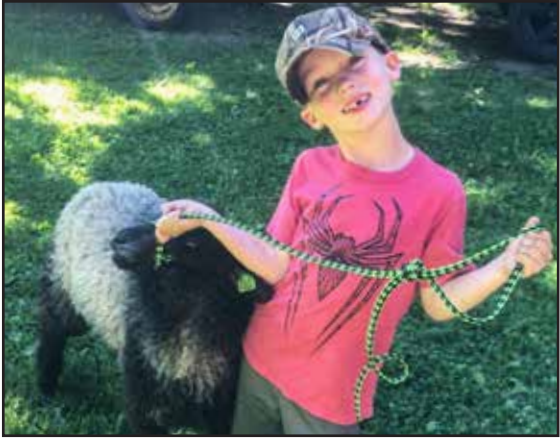
ger there, your heart will still be that of a farm kid. It will swell with a love and pride that only a farm kid knows when you talk of your days doing chores, of your time spent with family, of the precious lessons learned that shaped you into the person you are today. And you will realize the greatest gift is getting to be a farm kid.

Heather Woodis owns *Country Ayre Farms, LLC* in Dewittville with her husband, parents and brother. She manages the calves and the finances and loves working daily with her family.

Chautauqua County's
**4-H MEAT
ANIMAL SALE**
*Helping make 4-Her's dreams
come true since 1964*

Chautauqua County Fairgrounds, Dunkirk, NY.
Cornell Cooperative Extension

Friday, July 24, 2026
11:30 Intro • 12:00 p.m. auction



SALE ORDER

- Hog
- Goat
- Chicken
- Dairy Cooler
- Lamb Steer

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Why buy at the meat animal sale?

Buying at the meat animal sale is more than getting meat for the freezer.

YOU SUPPORT:

- **Hard Work:** The 4-H'er that raised that animal has tended that animal for most of its life.
- **Youth Entrepreneurship:** 4-H members keep records and budgets and learn marketing skills.
- **Problem Solving:** Something always goes wrong when you are raising an animal. 4-H'ers learn to spot and solve problems as they arise.
- **Big Dreams:** The money that 4-H'ers make in the sale goes towards cars, college, savings funds, next year's animals for the sale and their future.

What do you get out of it?

- **Some of the best meat** you may ever taste.
- **Tax deduction** for every penny you spend over market value for you or your business.
- **The satisfaction** of seeing the joy on a 4-H'ers face as they realize that their hard work is rewarded.

Here's what you need to know:

1. **All animals sell at public auction at 12:00 Noon, Friday, July 24, 2026** at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds, Dunkirk, NY in the order listed on the front of this booklet.
2. **Only cash and check are accepted, immediately after the sale.** Market Hogs, Lambs and Steers sell by the pound liveweight. Goats sell by the head. Dairy products sold by the lot. Chickens sell by the pair.
3. **You will also pay all slaughter and processing fees when you pick up your meat.** Don't worry, we have transportation and places to send them lined up, all you have to do is choose one. (Or you can arrange your own transportation for Sunday before noon.) You will pick up your meat from the meat processor later in the summer.
4. **Don't want a whole animal?** Split the animal with a friend, the auction is more fun with friends anyway. You can also donate part to St. Susan's Center or another agency.
5. **Animals can be donated back for resale during the auction to raise extra money for 4-H.** You tell us where you want the money to go in 4-H and any money raised from the resale goes to that 4-H fund. The 4-H'er gets the original sale price.
6. **The sale is in the Warren Brown Show Arena** behind the hog barn at the fair. Auction books can be picked up in the 4-H building at 11:00 a.m. The sale is free to attend.

The 145 Annual County Fair

Continued from Front Page

years in the U.S. Army with a total of three overseas tours. He now works as a maintenance supervisor at the Collins Correctional Facility. Kiah Dean said, "I'm very, very excited to make this presentation to my brother. We are very close. This is my first quilt. It took me over 30 hours to make it."

Quilts of Valor is a national organization that makes quilts for veterans. Cindy Connor, the Quilts of Valor of the Chautauqua Region Coordinator, says Kiah's quilt is one of more than 60 the local group has presented since it was founded 2½ years ago.

The 62nd annual 4-H Meat Animal Sale on Friday, July 24th will have its own moments of high emotion. 4-H members will take 27 beef steer, 59 hogs, 13 goats, 20 lambs and 42 pairs of chickens into the ring. The driving rhythm of the auctioneers generates thrills for the audience... and, hopefully, good returns for the 4-Hers who've invested time, money and energy in the raising of their animals. Dave Schauman, the 4-H Meat Animal Chairman, said, "Chautauqua County has always had a strong sale. We hope this year's will be another one as we have many younger children participating and the cost of raising an animal has gone up." The moment the bidding ends and the gavel falls can be one of profound mixed emotions, particularly for the youngest 4-Hers: They've successfully raised and sold an animal... and now must let it go. The 4-H Meat Animal Sale officially starts at noon on Friday, with preliminaries and introductions at 11:30 AM.

4-H puts an emphasis on public presentation, and not just in the show arena. Public speaking is a fundamental component of the 4-H program and a number of the 4-H members participating in this year's fair will 'step to the front of the stage' in the 4-H building and make a speech on a topic of their choice. It can be nerve wracking to for a young person to speak to an audience that will include a couple of evaluators listening for every word and noting every gesture.



Silver Creek Grape Stompers 4-H Member Kiah Dean with the Quilt of Valor for her brother

Two hundred fifty 4-H members from 16 clubs around Chautauqua County will have a part in this year's Chautauqua County Fair. A total of 1204 exhibits will be on display in the 4-H building and there will be animal shows all week long in the Warren K. Brown and Mooney Harrington Show Arenas. 4-H is the Youth Development Program of Cornell Cooperative Extension. The Executive Director of Extension in Chautauqua County, Emily Reynolds, said, "We are very grateful to the fair for the opportunity it gives 4-H members to 'show and grow' every summer."

The Chautauqua County Fair might offer some poignant moments for fairgoers as well, as it is one of the only times in the year when members of the non-farm community can talk one on one with a farmer, not to mention go eye to eye with a real cow. Chautauqua County has a robust and vibrant agricultural industry, filled with joys and challenges most of the community has no knowledge of. A little time in the barns or at the show arenas can be memorable and enlightening.

This year's grandstand shows include demolition derbies on Tuesday and Saturday, the band NYRican Project on Wednesday, the Empire State Truck and Tractor Pull on Thursday, Cross Over the Line Bull Riding on Friday and a Monster Truck Show on Saturday. Long-time fair board member Dave Wilson says everything on the fairgrounds is ready, adding, "Just pray for good weather... all week long." More information on all the events at the Chautauqua County Fair is available at chautauquacofair.org.

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Rooted in Chautauqua County



Featured Writer
Heather Lesch

As we celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary, I find myself wondering what brought my husband’s ancestors, the Lesch family (originally spelled Loesch), to Dunkirk. Why did they decide this was where they wanted to build their lives?

Perhaps they followed family or friends from the old country. But I also believe the land itself played a role. Chautauqua County’s fertile soil, moderate summers and wet winters created ideal conditions for farming, and agriculture has always been at the heart of the Lesch family.

My husband, John, and I live on his Uncle James Lesch’s former farm in Fredonia. His parents, Dave and Irene Lesch, farmed in Cassadaga after purchasing their farm in the 1970s. Agriculture was a way of life throughout the family. Bill and Flossie Lesch raised cows and corn, Mary Ellen and Harry Center grew grapes and Gertrude “Boots” and Leonard Aldrich operated a dairy farm before opening Aldrich’s Beef and Dairy restaurant. Farming wasn’t just an occupation; it was their life.

That tradition was strengthened by William and Henrietta (Miller) Lesch. In 1936, Henrietta founded the Canadaway 4-H Club, which has remained active for nearly 90 years. I have had the privilege of serving as its leader for the past 18 years.

Generations of Lesch family members have participated in the Canadaway 4-H Club and the Chautauqua County Fair. They’ve exhibited dairy and beef cattle, hogs and poultry and earned awards for sewing, gardening, wood-working and public presentations. More importantly, they learned the values of hard work, perseverance and giving back to their community.

John and I have four sons, all of whom have been active in 4-H. Three have aged out and are now either working in agriculture or pursuing agricultural degrees. Our youngest is preparing for his next-to-last year as a 4-H member. Through the fair, our boys have experienced the excitement of competition, the pride of earning a blue ribbon, the disappointment of losing, the heartbreak of saying goodbye to a favorite market animal and the satisfaction that comes from a year’s worth of hard work coming together in one unforgettable week each July.

I hope our family’s story encourages you to visit the Chautauqua County Fair and support the young people who make it so special. Take a moment to appreciate not only the exhibitors, but also the parents, grandparents, volunteers and community members whose countless hours make the fair possible. It truly is a team effort.

Maybe there isn’t just one answer to why the Lesch family chose to settle here. Perhaps it wasn’t only the fertile land or familiar faces. Maybe they found what so many of us still find today: a place where a family could grow, put down roots and become part of a community that would help those roots flourish.

Heather Lesch grew up on a grain farm in southern Ohio and met her husband, John, while attending The Ohio State University. She married into the Lesch family in 1998, and they moved to Fredonia in 2001, where they are raising their four sons and continuing the family’s agricultural tradition.

Marauder Trotter Celebrates 12th Year



Submitted Photo

Dunkirk High School Class of 1989 are represented at the 2026 Marauder Trotter 5k Run/Walk finish line at Dunkirk’s Wright Park in honor of their pictured deceased classmates. Class members include race director DJ Wilson kneeling in front with Domingo Torres Jr., Patty Berdyck, Terri Vasquez, Jennifer Ellman, Scott Mekus, Jackie Bunting, Dan Mets, Ken Mekus and Benjamin Miller standing left to right. Missing from photo was Molly Pagan.

Contributed by
Chautauqua Striders

The 12th annual Marauder Trotter 5k Run/Walk, hosted by the Dunkirk High School Class of 1989 for the last time and a part of the Chautauqua Striders Runner of the Year Series, was held this past Saturday at Wright Park with a crowd of over 400 people.

The event was in memoriam to their deceased classmates Paula Kuschel, Jennifer Styborski, Jody Wdowiasz, Michael Koch, Robert Pierce, James Kulpa, Susan Butts, Elizabeth Barnes, Tony Quiles, Susan Stoye (Gorka), Scott Roesler, Todd Iskra, Paul Szach, Joe Pieszak, John Gizowski, Tammy Crawford, Corey Marshall, Jodie Wickham (Santiago), David Lukasik, Tom Wickham, Gloria Fred, Blanca Nieves, Conley Coleman, Gilberto Rosas, Magdalena Hazelton, James Jaffray, Kevin Kuzdzal and Kevin Wasmund.

With 180 finishers timed by Race Management Solutions, Inc., the pre-race announcements from D.J. Wilson, race director, and Scott Mekus, event manager, included handing off the Marauder Trotter event to the Stride Society of Dunkirk managed by Gabby Hart, Jericha Petrella and Devin Eddy. The Stride Society started in June 2025 as a way to bring the running community in the local area together. The group runs once a week and has a mix of runners and walkers of all paces

and ages, and even some furry friends. Their goal is to always be community driven through service and fund raisers in order to give back as a group.

Avid runner Anthony Ruiz of Dunkirk finished this year’s run in first place with a time of 18:06 followed by second place runner Jakob McDaniel of Falconer (18:42) and Miranda Gatto of Niagara Falls (18:47) who captured the third-place victory and overall female first place finish. In the 5k walking event, the top male and female finish line crossers were Melissa Congdon of Fredonia (41:22) and Riley Smith Mallon of Dunkirk (41:29). To view race results online, visit <https://maraudertrotter.itsyourrace.com/Results.aspx?id=17277>.

The Dunkirk High School Class of 1989 Memorial Scholarship, which was established in 2014 in memory of their deceased classmates and awarded annually to a graduating DHS senior, has increased a \$2,600 award. The scholarship is managed through NCCF who has been given over \$85,000 from Marauder Trotter past race proceeds so far.

Anyone interested in donating to the fund may mail donations to Jennifer Ellman at 3705 New Road, Dunkirk, NY 14048 or online at <http://www.nccfoundation.org/classof89>. Next year’s Marauder Trotter event will take place on Saturday, July 3, 2027 in Dunkirk.





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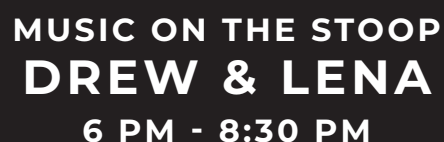
PUZZLE
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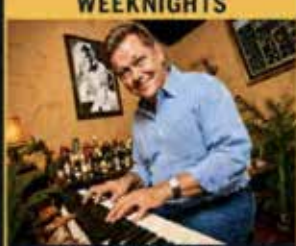
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Friday, July 24 County Line Dance Party 7-10 PM

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A photograph of an outdoor patio area at Pearl City Hops. A large red umbrella is in the foreground, with a wooden table and chairs underneath. In the background, there are more tables and chairs, and a building. The text "LIVE MUSIC" is prominently displayed in the center. The DoubleTree by Hilton Jamestown logo is in the top left, and the Pearl City Hops logo is in the top right. The event details are in the center, and the address is at the bottom. There are also illustrations of musical instruments (trumpet, guitar, violin) on the right side.

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A blue and white advertisement for Smith Boys Chautauqua. The top section features the company name in a large, stylized font. Below the name is a photo of a pontoon boat on a lake. To the right of the photo is a blue box with white text stating "OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK MEMORIAL DAY - LABOR DAY". Below the photo is a list of boat brands. The bottom section features the company's services and contact information in a large, bold font, with a Facebook logo in the bottom right corner.

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\$10.00 cash, cc plus current cc fees
Monday June 15 - Monday July 20

Fair week Gate Admission

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cc fees

Available only at the gate

3 and under are free

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grandstand*

Parking - \$5.00 Cash only

Gates open at 9:00am

Midway Hours

Tues. – Thurs 1pm – 10:00pm

Fri. – Sun.at 1:00 – 11:00pm

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inspection on Tuesday. Midway operator may suspend ride
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Phone: 716-366-4752

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Schedule of Events

SUNDAY JULY 19

[Warren K Brown Show Arena](#)

3:00pm – Open Class Swine Show

MONDAY JULY 20

[Budweiser Grandstand](#)

12:00pm – 4-H Education Class on Harness
Racing

2:00pm – Horse Harness Racing

[Warren K Brown Show Arena](#)

10:00am - Open Class Market Steer & Beef
Breeding Show

10:00am – Chautauqua Born & Bred Steer &
Heifer Classes

3:00pm – 4-H Swine Showmanship & 4-H
Market Swine Show

[Rabbit & Poultry Barn](#)

TBD – Open Poultry Show

10:00am – 4-H Rabbit Show

TUESDAY JULY 21

Midway opens at 1:00PM or after

state inspection

[Budweiser Grandstand](#)

7:00 pm – Demolition Derby

[Warren K Brown Show Arena](#)

10:00am – 4-H Market Steer Showmanship,
4-H Beef Heifer Showmanship, 4-H Beef
Breeding Show, 4-H Steer Show

4:00pm – Open Class Market Lamb & Sheep
Show

[Mooney Harrington Show Arena](#)

9:00am – 4-H Poultry Showmanship, 4-H
Poultry Judging Contest to Follow

6:30pm – 4-H Goat Showmanship clinic

[Rabbit & Poultry Barn](#)

Following showmanship 4-H Poultry Show

[Arthur R. Maytum Family Theater](#)

12:30pm – Kids Tractor Pull Registration

1:00pm – Kids Tractor Pull

2:30pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

3:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

5:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

5:30pm – The Family Martial Arts Center

6:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

7:00pm – Stray Kat Karaoke

WEDNESDAY JULY 22

Midway opens at 1:00 pm

[Budweiser Grandstand](#)

7:00pm NYRican Project

[Warren K. Brown Show Arena](#)

9:00am – Open Class Dairy Show

4:00pm – 4-H & Cloverbud Sheep
Showmanship & Market Lamb Class, 4-H

Sheep Breeding Show to Follow

[Mooney Harrington Show Arena](#)

9:00am – 4-H Dairy Goat and Meat Goat Show

[Rabbit & Goat Poultry Barn](#)

10:00am – Open ARBA Rabbit Show

[Horse Show Arena](#)

10:00 – 4-H English/Mini Equine Show

[Arthur R. Maytum Family Theater](#)

1:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

1:30pm – Junior Demo Derby Registration

2:30pm – Junior Demolition Derby

3:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

4:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

5:00pm – Collage Performing Arts

6:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

8:00pm – Justin Willams music

THURSDAY JULY 23

Midway opens at 1:00pm

[Budweiser Grandstand](#)

7:00PM – Empire State Truck and Tractor Pull

[Warren K. Brown Show Arena](#)

9:00am – 4-H Dairy showmanship

11:00am – 4-H Dairy Cattle Show

5:00pm – Livestock Judging Contest

7:00pm – 4-H Sheep Lead Line

[Mooney Harrington Show Arena](#)

3:00pm – Harness & Pack Goat Show

[Rabbit & Poultry Barn](#)

1:00pm – 4-H Rabbit Showmanship

[Horse Show Arena](#)

10:00am – 4-H Western/Driving Show

[Arthur R. Maytum Family Theater](#)

12:30pm – Baby Parade Registration

1:00pm – Baby Parade

2:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

2:30pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

5:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

5:30pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

6:00pm – Danza Performing Arts Academy

FRIDAY JULY 24

Midway opens a 1:00pm

[Budweiser Grandstand:](#)

7:00pm – Cross Over the Line Bull Riding

[Warren K Brown Show Arena](#)

8:45am – 4-H & FFA Dairy Judging Contest

10:00am – FFA Field and Forage Contest

12:00pm – Meat Animal Sale

[Horse Show Arena](#)

9:30am – 4-H Dressage Horse Show

1:00pm – Mounted Games

[Arthur R Maytum Family Theater](#)

1:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

1:00pm – Kids Tractor Race Registration

1:30pm – Kids Tractor Race

3:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

3:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

3:30pm – Italian Dancers

5:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

6:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

7:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

8:00pm – Stray Kat Karaoke

SATURDAY JULY 25

Midway opens at 1:00

[Budweiser Grandstand:](#)

7:00pm – Monster Truck Show

[Warren K Brown Show Arena](#)

9:00am – Holstein Show

3:00pm – 4-H All Animal Fun Show

4:30 pm – Herdsman Award Ceremony

[Mooney Harrington Show Arena](#)

1:00pm – 4-H Dog Fun Show & Demo

TBA – Goat Costume & Halter Show

[Horse Show Arena](#)

10:00am – 4-H Gymkhana Showmanship &
Show

[Arthur R Maytum Family Theater](#)

1:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

2:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

3:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

3:00pm – Down Home Cloggers

5:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

6:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

7:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

8:00pm – Band

SUNDAY JULY 26

Midway opens at 1:00pm

[Budweiser Grandstand](#)

4:00pm – Demolition Derby

[Horse Show Arena](#)

10:00am – 4-H County Fair Fun Horse Show

[Arthur R. Maytum Family Theater](#)

10:00am - Non-Denominational Church

Service

1:00pm – 96 Highlanders

1:00pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

2:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic

2:30pm – Circus Incredible (Front Walkway)

3:00 -3:45pm – NuJuice Solo

4:00pm – Unbelievable Comedy Magic



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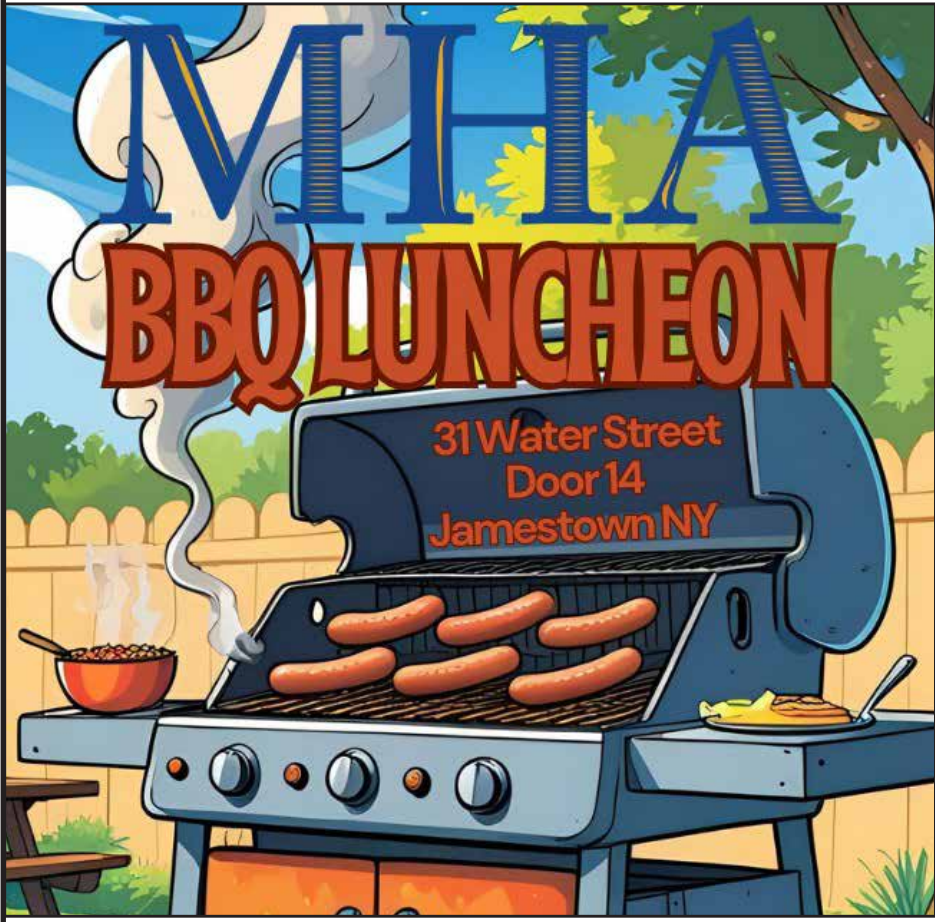
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Mental Health Association

Annual BBQ on Tuesday, July 21



**31 Water Street
Door 14
Jamestown NY**

The Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County invites the community to its Annual BBQ, 1–2 p.m. this Tuesday, July 21. Staff will serve hot dogs, beverages, sides, popcorn, and more outdoors behind the Jamestown recovery center in the rear of the Gateway Center at 31 Water Street. The event is free and happens rain or shine. Registration is appreciated at MHACHQ.org/bbq, where there is more information. For locations, hours and services of the MHA's Jamestown and Dunkirk recovery centers, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or [Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua).



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Dunkirk-Fredonia Rotary's
59th Annual

FLY-IN BREAKFAST

Featuring *Whiskey 7* the historic WWII C-47 from
the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, NY



Tours available for free; rides for a fee

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 8 a.m. to Noon
or until sold out

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Tickets will also be
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Dunkirk Airport to Host 59th
Annual Rotary Fly-In Breakfast
Featuring Historic D-Day Aircraft



Visitors will once again gather at the Chautauqua County/Dunkirk Airport on Sunday, July 26, for the 59th Annual Rotary Fly-In Breakfast, featuring dozens of aircraft, family activities, and the historic World War II C-47 aircraft "Whiskey 7," which participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy.)

Contributed by
Rotary Club of Dunkirk-
Fredonia

Aviation enthusiasts, families, and breakfast lovers are invited to the 59th Annual Rotary Fly-In Breakfast on Sunday, July 26, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Chautauqua County/Dunkirk Airport, 3389 Middle Road, Dunkirk.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Dunkirk-Fredonia, the longtime community tradition welcomes pilots and visitors from across the region for a morning of aviation, history, and family-friendly activities while raising funds to support Rotary's local service projects.

This year's featured attraction is "Whiskey 7," a historic World War II-era Douglas C-47 aircraft that is coming from the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, NY. Now restored to its World War II operating condition, "Whiskey 7" served as the lead plane in the second wave of Allied aircraft carrying paratroopers into Normandy during the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.

Visitors will have the opportunity to see the legendary aircraft up close while learning about its important role in one of history's most significant military operations. Rides will be available, for a fee, from the museum.

In addition to "Whiskey 7," guests can enjoy free Civil Air Patrol flight simulator demonstrations, browse a vendor

fair, participate in the popular basket raffle and 50-50 drawing, and purchase Discovery Flights to experience general aviation firsthand.

Rotary volunteers will serve an all-you-can-eat breakfast featuring pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, coffee, milk, and juice.

Breakfast admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 12 and under, and free for children ages 2 and younger. Free parking is available.

"The Rotary Fly-In Breakfast has become one of Chautauqua County's signature summer events," said John Machemer, Deputy Director of Public Facilities - Airports. "Whether you're an aviation enthusiast, a history buff, or simply looking for a great family outing, this event offers something for everyone while supporting the Rotary Club's outstanding service to our community."

The event is made possible through the support of its main sponsors: Cattaraugus County Bank, DFT Communications, and Brooks-TLC Hospital System, Inc. Sponsorship of the featured "Whiskey 7" aircraft is provided by Gugino & Ryel Financial.

Advance sale tickets for the breakfast and for rides on "Whiskey 7" are available online at tinyurl.com/2026FIB. For additional information about the Rotary Fly-In Breakfast, contact the Dunkirk-Fredonia Rotary Club at (716) 672-9688 or email dunkirkfredoniarotaryclub@gmail.com.

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Congratulations to this year's Jamestown
YWCA Women of Achievement recipients:

Diana Scott – Dorothy Height Award

Crystal Surdyk – Shattered Ceiling Award

Briana Postle – Catalyst for Change Award

Makayla Santiago-Froebel – Power the Future Award

Leishya Rios Perez – Rising Star Award

Join us for the 2026 Women of Achievement Awards Celebration on Friday, July 31, at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, as we recognize this year's recipients and celebrate all of the inspiring women who were nominated. Tickets are available now and can be purchased here:

<https://www.ywcajamestown.com/2026-woa>.



Proud to be a part of
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Historic Walking Tour of Allen Park

Contributed by
Fenton History Center

The Fenton History Center will continue its historic walking tours of Jamestown. The next tour is on Saturday, July 25 at 10 AM and is about Jamestown's Allen Park. Beginning at the Allen Park Bandshell, located at the corner of West Virginia Boulevard and Elizabeth Avenue, this guided walk will explore the history of the Allen family and the WPA projects completed throughout the park. Allen Park Women's Club member Carrie Wolfgang will share the club's history, followed by local historian Gregory Peterson, who will discuss the park's ice-skating and baseball traditions.



The program will conclude at the wading pool and will be led by Fenton Trustee Janet Wahlberg.

The cost is \$8 for members and \$12 for non-members. Participants can pre-register online, in person at the Fenton, or by phone at 716-664-6256. There is a limit of 20 people for each tour. Thank you to our sponsors Rodgers Land Surveying, Ahls-trom Schaeffer, and Weber Knapp.

The remaining tours throughout the summer are the Lucy Downtown, Churches, Jamestown's Hidden Alleys, Jamestown's Industrial Past, and a Military Tour at Lake View Cemetery. To see the full list and times, visit www.fentonhistorycenter.org/events.



HOURS:

Monday & Tuesday - Closed
Wednesday & Thursday - 5 pm – 12 am
Friday & Saturday - 5 pm – 12 am
Sunday - 6 pm – 11 pm

SPECIALS & EVENTS

Wednesdays – \$1 Off Select Draft Beers
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Fridays & Saturdays– \$3 Blue Devil Shots
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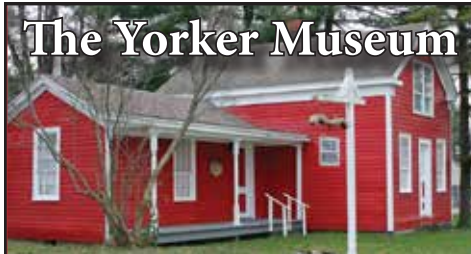
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BPU Announces 27th Annual "Cents for St. Susan's" Campaign Sets Record



Submitted Photos

Jamestown BPU staff and sponsors for the Cents for St. Susan Campaign celebrate a record amount collected through the annual fundraiser with a ceremonial check presentation to St. Susan Executive Director Cherie Rowland.

Contributed by Jamestown BPU

Sponsors of the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) "Cents for St. Susan's" campaign recently met to celebrate a record \$42,386 raised in contributions to help St. Susan Center through this year's two-month campaign. In 2025 \$36,330.22 was raised during a similar period.

The 2026 fund drive signifies the 27th annual campaign led by the BPU. Since the year 2000, when the first drive was held, the BPU's effort has raised over \$474,000 - nearly a half million - for the local soup kitchen and its guests.

Contributions in 2026 again included coins, dollars and checks collected in 50 canisters placed around our community, redeemable can and bottle donations, checks mailed to the utility and major donors who contributed \$500 or greater sponsorships.

This year's sponsors include Judy and Steve McAllaster, Chautauqua Chemicals Company, the Robinson Law Office PLLC, Asplundh, Boyles Motor Sales, Cattaraugus County Bank, Century 21/Turner Brokers, Dan & Connie Evans, Falconer Printing & Design, Inc., Inscale, Inc., Invoice Cloud, Kwik Fill, The Legend Group with Lou Deppas, National Fuel, Northwest Bank, Robbins & Johnson Attorneys, ServPro, Shults Auto Group, Slone-Melhuish Insurance, Sprypoint, Store-N-Lock, Weinberg Financial Group, and Wright, Calimeri PLLC Attorneys. The Jamestown Post-Journal and the Glenora Radio Network donated time and space to the campaign.

BPU General Manager Kristofor Sellstrom spoke in support of the

utility's annual campaign for St. Susan Center.

"We are grateful to our major sponsors and to members of the community who donated gifts through our campaign," stated Sellstrom. "The BPU organizes this drive every year, and each and every year our community generously supports the campaign to provide significant assistance for St. Susan Center and its guests."

BPU employee volunteers donated their lunch breaks to hold a June hot dog sale outside the utility Customer Service Office. The group ultimately raised \$1,748 for the drive, by cooking and selling hot dogs, chips, water and soda.

Local residents donated redeemable cans and bottles at Don's Car Wash in the amount of \$353.55.

"I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities, this year's 'Cents for St. Susan's' sponsors and the entire community for their incredible support during this year's 'Cents for St. Susan's' campaign," said St. Susan Center Executive Director Cherie Rowland. "The funds raised will make a significant impact on our ability to provide essential services and meals to those in need. It is truly inspiring to see how our community comes together to support one another, ensuring that no one goes hungry."

"Your generosity not only sustains our mission but also reinforces the spirit of compassion that defines the Greater Jamestown Area," continued Rowland. "Thank you for standing with us and for those we serve," Rowland concluded.

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Chautauqua Region Quilts of Valor and Chautauqua Region Quilt Guild

The Chautauqua Region Quilts of Valor group will be on hand in the 4-H sewing barn for the duration of the Chautauqua County Fair: Tuesday, July 21 - Sunday, July 26, with a presentation of a Quilt of Valor to a local veteran on Wednesday. Ten quilts were also recently presented at Brocton Tri-Parish Church. Information about the foundation and quilt request forms will be available at their fair booth.

The group welcomes any interested new members. Their next meeting will be September 11 at Quilters' Haven and Yarn Shop in Lakewood.

Quilters' Haven & Yarn Shop

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Community is always welcome.
Sunday gate entry and parking until 5 pm are free of charge.

WEEK FOUR THEME:
WASTED: OUR ERA OF DISPOSABILITY

Special highlights this week:

- World Premiere of Chautauqua Theater Company Commission *Best For Baby* | 7/18, 7/19, 7/21-7/26 at various times
- Lecture: David Wallace-Wells | Monday, 7/20 at 10:45 am
- Unscripted! An Evening of Musical Improv
At the Roe Green Theater Center | Monday, 7/20 at 10:00 pm
Concessions will be available*
- Chautauqua Opera Company Presents *The Music Shop / A.E. Reverie / Ida by Lamplight* on the Ampitheater stage | Wednesday, 7/22 at 8:00 pm
- Lecture: Rainn Wilson | Friday, 7/24 at 10:45 am
- Alison Krauss and Union Station Featuring Jerry Douglas
Friday, 7/24 at 7:30 pm | Concessions will be available*
- Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra: *Carmina Burana* with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus | Saturday, 7/25 at 8:00 pm



*Food and beverages purchased at the Amphitheater may be enjoyed within Odland Plaza. Inside the Amphitheater, only water bottles and Chautauqua souvenir cups are permitted. Outside food and beverages are not allowed. Water bottles must be empty upon entry.
A “clear container” policy will be utilized at the Amphitheater and all other venues all summer. For more information visit: clear.chq.org

WEEK 4 SCHEDULE

SUNDAY 7/19	MONDAY 7/20	TUESDAY 7/21	WEDNESDAY 7/22	THURSDAY 7/23	FRIDAY 7/24	SATURDAY 7/25	SUNDAY 7/26
						Week Five Begins	
10:45am Worship and Sermon. Cantor Olivia Brodsky , cantor and Co-Clergy, East End Temple	9:15am Cantor Olivia Brodsky 10:45am David Wallace-Wells , columnist and staff writer, <i>The New York Times</i> 2:00pm Bill McKibben , author, activist, educator, co-founder Third Act 4:00pm Chautauqua Chamber Music: Quarter Del Sol 8:00pm Music School Festival Orchestra. Timothy Muffitt , conductor. 10:00pm <i>Unscripted! An Evening of Musical Improv</i> at the Roe Green Theater Center	9:15am Cantor Olivia Brodsky 10:45am Aja Barber , author, <i>Consumed: The Need for Collective Change: Colonialism, Climate Change, and Consumerism</i> 2:00pm Interfaith Lecture 5:00pm Opera Conservatory presents: <i>The Magic Flute</i> 7:30pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 8:00pm Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra: Beethoven's <i>Eroica</i> . Timothy Muffitt , conductor.	9:15am Cantor Olivia Brodsky 10:45am Ron Gonen , founder and CEO, Closed Loop Partners 2:00pm Rita Nakashima Brock , theologian, moral injury expert; co-author <i>Saving Paradise</i> 6:00pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 8:00pm Chautauqua Opera Company presents: <i>The Music Shop / A.E. Reverie / Ida by Lamplight</i> . Steven Osgood , conductor. Ned Canty , stage director	9:15am Faith Journeys Service. Cantor Olivia Brodsky 10:45am Katharine K. Wilkinson , author, <i>Climate Wayfinding</i> 2:00pm Leah Naomi Green , contributor, <i>Climate Wayfinding</i> , writer-in-residence, Washington & Lee University 2:00pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 7:30pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 8:00pm Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra: Hovhanness and Shostakovich. Rossen Milanov , conductor.	9:15am Ecumenical Communion Service 10:45am Rainn Wilson , founding director, Climate Basecamp; author, <i>Soul Boom Workbook: Spiritual Tools for Modern Living</i> 2:00pm CLSC Author Presentation. Mary Alice Monroe , <i>Where the Rivers Merge: A Novel</i> 2:00pm Theater: Lab 2: ERASERS 4:00pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 7:30pm Alison Krauss & Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas	2:00pm Theater: Lab 2: ERASERS 3:00pm Contemporary Issues Forum. Pedro Reis , founder and production & artistry strategist, The Circus Arts Conservatory 4:00pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 6:00pm Theater: Lab 2: ERASERS 8:00pm Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra: <i>Carmina Burana</i> with the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus . Rossen Milanov , conductor.	10:45am Worship and Sermon. The Rev. Zina Jacque , pres. and chair of the board, National Senior Communities 2:00pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 3:00pm School of Music: Piano Program Showcase 3:30pm WCR. Jim Daniels (poetry) and Kristin Kovacic (prose) 6:00pm Theater: Lab 2: ERASERS 7:30pm Theater: <i>Best for Baby</i> 8:00pm Sacred Song Service



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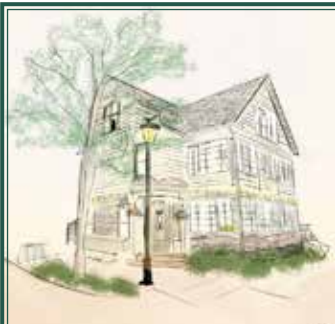
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Submitted Photo -
Rev. Russell Heiland

Join us and spend an inspirational Sunday on the beautiful grounds of The Chautauqua Institute!

This Sunday, July 26th at 9:30 am we welcome **Rev. Russell Heiland, Senior Minister at Unity of Fairfax in Oakton, VA, a suburb of Washington, D.C.,** presenting:

"What Does it Mean to Be a Conscious Evolutionary?"

The spiritual life is both an individual and collective experience. Rev. Heiland invites us to journey into the awesome creative potential for spiritual awakening found by exploring what it means to be a conscious evolutionary.

Other Services:

Sundays: Denominational services begin at 9:30 am followed at 11 by a renowned speaker in the amphitheater. Sunday activities run from 6/28 through 8/30 and are free. Parking is free on Sundays until 5 p.m. Our Unity Sunday Celebration services are held in the beautiful Hall of Missions, adjacent to the Hall of Philosophy, Sundays at 9:30 am.

Wednesdays: Wednesdays: On Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm the visiting Unity minister presents a Positive Path for Spiritual Living free workshop, held at the Turner Community/Athletic Center (across from Andriaccio's Restaurant on NY-394) with easy parking at the entrance. This Wednesday Rev. Heiland will present: **"Accept or Except, Which?"**



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Summer Season

Ames Commons, Cassadaga

Enjoy both local vendors and those from the Fredonia Farmers Market in the ideal spot to enjoy a quiet Sunday afternoon before heading to the concert on the lake series on the locally famous Cassadaga Floating Stage, which runs select Sundays beginning at 5 p.m.

Accepts: SNAP, FMNP, Fresh Connect
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Falconer Farmers & Artisans Market

Every Other Sunday
11 AM–2 PM

June 14–September 20

32 W Main St, Falconer

A reborn market which serves as the foundation of several community events, including the season closing FALLconerFEST on September 20 th . Enjoy weekly staples and a rotating selection of vendors.

716-665-4400

clerk@falconerny.gov

Bestor Fresh Market

Tuesdays, 9 AM - 1 PM

During the 9-week
Summer Season

Chautauqua Institution

Vendors are set up on the Pratt Ave side of Bestor Plaza. Featuring fresh fruit, vegetables, flowers, baked goods.

Dunkirk Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 9 AM–2 PM
June 10 - October 14

45 Cliffstar Court, Dunkirk

A bustling market that serves as yet another reason to enjoy Chautauqua County's hub on Lake Erie this summer, the Dunkirk Farmers Market offers local meat, eggs, and produce as well as craftspeople and live music.

Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect, FMNP
dunkirkfarmersmarket@gmail.com
716-338-2460

Forestville Farmers Market

Thursdays, 1 PM-5 PM

May 28 - October 15

Main Street, Forestville

A growing market in a quaint, walkable community featuring farmers from Forestville, offering local meats, fresh produce, artisan bread, poultry and eggs and handcrafted items.

Accepts: SNAP,
Fresh Connect checks
716-934-8534

Lakewood Farmers Market

Thursdays, 9 AM–2 PM

June 18 – September 3

Chautauqua Avenue & Alta Way, Lakewood

A close-knit community market with fresh local meat, produce, and craft vendors, as well as special guests each Thursday.

Accepts: FMNP
lakewoodny.gov/farmers-artisans-market | 716-763-8557

Bemus Point Farmers and Artisans Market

Fridays, 9 AM - 3 PM

May 29–September 4

Lakeside Dr., Bemus Point

A market offered in the lakeside Village Park featuring local meat, produce, baked goods, as well as special events and activities such as live music and face painting. Enjoy the adjoining shops and restaurants or use the boat ramp for a day on the lake.

bemuspointny.org/farmers-market
716-338-2460

Fredonia Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9 AM–1 PM

year-round

Baker Commons, Fredonia

Each Saturday morning, the historic village square opens on Church Street for the entire community to come together to purchase locally grown vegetables, fruits, meats and dairy products. Barker Commons has long been associated with our county's rich agricultural heritage and a bustling tribute to local entrepreneurial spirit. Several summer vendors accept EBT, NYS Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks, WIC Vegetables and Fruit checks. Market patrons can also purchase \$5.00 gift certificates and credit card tokens from the Market Manager.

Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect,
FMNP checks
fredoniafarmersmarket.org

Jamestown Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9 AM–1 PM
June 6–November 21

Third Street & Pine Street, Jamestown

More than just a place to shop, the Jamestown Farmers Market is a community hub to connect with local farms and artisans. Located in the heart of downtown Jamestown. Visit the website for special events and themed weeks.

Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect,
FMNP coupons | www.jfmony.org

Westfield Farmers & Artisans Market

Saturdays, 9 AM–2 PM

May 23–September 26

Moore Park, Westfield

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westfieldmkt@gmail.com
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22nd Annual Lakeshore Humane Society Giant Yard Sale August 14-16, 2026

Contributed by
Lakeshore Humane Society

The Lakeshore Humane Society's 22nd Annual Giant Yard Sale will be held Friday, August 14 from 9 am to 4 pm (a day of early bird shopping, with a \$3 entrance fee for this day only); Saturday, August 15 from 9 am to 4 pm; and Sunday, August 16 from 9 am to 3 pm in Floral Hall at the Chautauqua County Fairgrounds, located at 1089 Central Avenue in Dunkirk.

The Yard Sale is LHS's biggest fundraiser of the year, as the organization works to help companion animals be safe, healthy, and find permanent, loving homes.

All three days of the event, there will also be a bake sale, basket drawings, special drawings for two chairs hand-painted by local artist Janie Wagner (a dog & cat chair and a Buffalo Bills chair), and hot dogs and drinks for sale.

Gently used items to be contributed to the Yard Sale can be dropped off at Floral

Hall Tuesday, August 11 and Wednesday, August 12 from 10 am to 5:30 pm each day. (Drop-offs of donated items will not be accepted on Thursday, August 13.) Please do NOT bring items to the LHS Adoption Center.

LHS respectfully asks that donated objects be in saleable condition. Please, no dirty, broken, or unusable items. Also, no large appliances, microwaves, metal bed springs, mattresses, pillows, tires, car mats, skis, magazines, encyclopedias, textbooks, clothing, shoes, suitcases, DVDs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes, vinyl record albums, electronics (TVs, computer monitors, towers, printers), or outdoor plants. (Due to NYS regulations involving invasive species

LHS appreciates the community's support of this major fundraiser. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist in the work at the Yard Sale, please call the LHS Adoption Center at 716-672-1991 and leave a message. For more information, please see www.lakeshorehumanesociety.org or call 716-672-1991.



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CHAMBER CORNER

Summer of Networking & Advocacy

Article Contributed by
Daniel J. Heitzenrater
Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

Summers in Chautauqua County always go by too fast as we try to squeeze in as many events as we can. To help with your decision-making process, here are the top CHQ Chamber events to put on your calendar for the second half of Summer.

at a venue in the Jamestown area. Venue details will be emailed to registered attendees a few days prior to the event.

The plated lunch will be Pick Two: Fresh-baked Italian flatbread sandwich, salad, or soup. Gluten-free and vegetarian options are available. Check-in will begin at 11:30 am. The program will begin at 12 pm.

Golf With the CHQ Chamber

Networking doesn't get much better than on the golf course, and the CHQ Chamber tournament is always a fabulous day of golf and camaraderie. Get your foursome together and spend a great day on the golf course with the CHQ Chamber! The annual CHQ Chamber Golf Tournament is Thursday, **August 13** at the beautiful Peek'n Peak Resort.

We begin the day with a shotgun start at 10am. Lunch is served on the course, and after a great day of golf we end with dinner. The total prize purse is \$1,000 payable in ShopLocalCHQ Gift Cards.

Remember to add your golfer's special Super Pack for \$30 per player. The Super Pack includes two mulligans, the Ring of Fire, Play with the Pro, raffle prize drawings, and the 50/50 drawing. Please purchase your Super Pack online when you register, as prizes are drawn prior to play the day of the tournament.

CHQ Chamber Presents State of NY-23

Join us for the State of NY-23 lunch, featuring Congressman Nick Langworthy on **August 6**.

Our advocacy event series is designed to give attendees the opportunity to engage directly with their elected officials, ask questions about issues that matter to them, and gain insight into current county, state, or federal priorities affecting our region. Congressman Langworthy will give a brief presentation followed by a moderated Q&A session.

As space is limited, registration is currently open to CHQ Chamber members only. The event will be held

Our tee gift sponsor is the Basil Family of Dealerships. Our Par Sponsors are: Brooks-TLC Hospital System, Chautauqua Patrons Insurance Company, DFT Communications, DoubleTree, Jamestown Container Companies, Koester Associates, LaBella Associates, Lake Shore Bank, National Grid, Shutls Auto Group, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union. Our Tee Talk Sponsors are: AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, and Brooks-TLC Hospital. Lunch and Breakfast are sponsored by 3 C's Catering. And our Hole-in-One Sponsor is Shults Auto Group.

It's easy to register online for the CHQ Chamber Golf Tournament when you visit www.chamberrsvp.org.



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Senior Scene with Dana Corwin

Baseball, Volunteers, and Christmas in July



Contributed by
Dana Corwin

Director of Chautauqua County
Office for Aging Services

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services (CCOFAS) has enjoyed a special partnership with our local baseball team over the years, creating opportunities to recognize the remarkable individuals who make a difference in our community.

In 2023, we had the privilege of celebrating one of Chautauqua County's most beloved volunteers, Mr. Russ Diethrick, affectionately known as "Mr. Baseball." Russ was honored as New York State's Volunteer of the Year and received the Governor's Exemplary Service Award in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to our community. It was especially fitting to celebrate him at the ballpark, a place that bears his name and reflects his lasting legacy.

For the past several years, CCOFAS has dedicated the month of July to recognizing the many volunteers who support our contracted agencies and programs throughout Chautauqua County. We are especially grateful for the volunteers who help deliver meals, provide companionship, and support this service that allow older adults to remain healthy, independent, and connected in their communities.

As part of our volunteer appreciation efforts, CCOFAS is pleased to offer two free tickets to the **Saturday, July 25, 2026 baseball game** to any Chautauqua County resident age 60 or older who visits one of our three office locations while supplies last. The game begins at **6:30 p.m.** and features a fun **Christmas in July** theme along with a spectacular **post-game fireworks display**.

This year's event also marks the kickoff of our **2026 Santa for Seniors Campaign**.

Each holiday season, CCOFAS and our community partners provide visits,

gifts, household essentials, and holiday meals to older adults who may otherwise face the holidays alone. Through the generosity of our volunteers, donors, and community organizations, we help ensure that seniors throughout Chautauqua County experience the warmth, joy, and connection of the holiday season.

We are proud to partner with the First Baptist Church of Mayville and Hurlbut Church of Chautauqua to make this program possible. In addition, many senior clubs throughout the county contribute handmade gifts and collect essential items to remind older adults that they are valued members of our community and that no one has to face the holidays alone.

How You Can Help

There are several ways to support the 2026 Santa for Seniors Campaign and help us bring smiles to older adults this holiday season:

- Make a donation to the Reverend J. Paul Womack Christmas Basket Fund through Facebook.
- Purchase items from the First Baptist Church of Mayville's Amazon Wish List for Santa for Seniors.
- Donate books of postage stamps to help encourage letter writing, social connection, and the sharing of stories among older adults.

CCOFAS will have an information table at the July 25 game. We invite you to stop by, learn more about our programs and services, and discover how you can make a difference in the lives of Chautauqua County's older adults through volunteering, advocacy, or supporting the Santa for Seniors Campaign.

Join Us at the Ballpark!

Saturday, July 25, 2026
Game Time: 6:30 p.m.
Christmas in July Theme
Post-Game Fireworks

Free tickets for adults age 60 and older are available on a first-come, first-served basis at any CCOFAS office location while supplies last.

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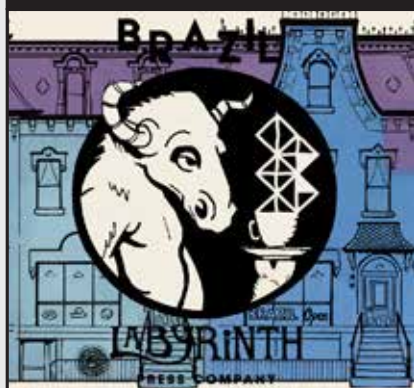
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