



CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE




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Back to School

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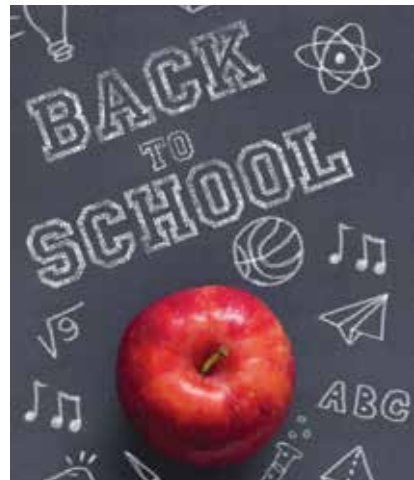


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Lori Cornell

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New Year. Fresh Chapter.

Featured Writer

Jenny McPherson

Library Media Specialist
Chautauqua Lake Central School

As summer winds down and the school doors open once again, I can't help but feel excited for the fresh start that a new school year brings. In my experience as both a teacher and a parent, it's natural for students and families to feel excitement and jitters simultaneously. A new school year is filled with new opportunities, as classmates and teachers eagerly welcome students back.

I am thrilled to enter my ninth year as librarian at Chautauqua Lake Central School (CLCS), where we're not just sharpening pencils and organizing desks, we're also preparing our library spaces to be welcoming, inspiring places for every student from pre-kindergarten through high school. My goal has always been to help children fall in love with reading from the very beginning. This is accomplished



Submitted Photo

Jenny McPherson

through partnership with parents who can foster a love of reading at home.

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Our Shared Passion for Education



Featured Writer

Carol Hay

lifelong educator

It is August: Labor Day is only a week away and "back to school" is a topic of many conversations. I have been retired for fifteen years, but friends and neighbors still ask me how I feel this time of year.

When I was a teacher, I was often

asked that same question. Many folks commented on my two-month vacation and how it was time teachers got back to work. I sometimes bit my tongue and smiled politely, but other times, I pointed out that when I left my classroom at the end of the last school year, I loaded up my car with boxes of materials I wanted to sort through and professional development books I needed to read. During the summer, I used my library card to check out children's books to decide what new books to add to my classroom library, I developed new centers for classroom activities, explored a variety of methods for reaching the struggling students and looked at different ways to organize my classroom and teaching day. July was my time to rejuvenate and plan. Then, August arrived and I was back in the classroom to systematize

"I feel grateful that I can say I loved being a teacher, a principal and a superintendent. I loved learning new ways to reach students and providing a variety of resources within the classroom."

files, create those new centers and organize the classroom. I shopped for the materials the school didn't have money to provide - including those new classroom books. Teachers may not be in the school during the summer, but many are preparing for the new school year way before anyone asks if they are ready to get back to school.

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This Week Around Town

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

Gong Sound Bath | 6 PM - 8 PM
Bemus-Stow Ferry | Stow
For Info: suzy-woo.com

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

Music at The Point Sunset Series | 6 PM - 8 PM
Point Gratiot Park | Dunkirk
For Info: 716-366-9886

Movies at The Reg: The Life of Chuck | 7 PM
Reg Lenna Center for The Arts
Jamestown
For Info: reglenna.com

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Cardio Drumming | 9 AM
Dunkirk Senior Center | Dunkirk
For Info: 716-467-5306

Music on the Pier | 6 PM
Dunkirk City Pier | Dunkirk
For Info: 716-366-9886

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Shot In The Dark - Glow In The Dark Golf Tournament 7:30 PM
The Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House | Bemus Point
For Info: 716-386-2893

Jolyon Pegis | 7:30 PM
1981 Fredonia Opera House
Performing Arts Center | Fredonia
For Info: fredopera.org



FRIDAY, AUGUST 29 & SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Whirlybird Music & Arts Festival
Downtown Jamestown
For Info: facebook.com/whirlybirdfest

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Labor Day Food Drive 12 PM - 2 PM
Hotel Lenhart | Bemus Point
For Info: 716-664-2253

10th Annual CHRIC Classic Golf Tournament | 8 AM
Chautauqua Golf Club
Chautauqua
For Info: chric.org

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30 & SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

North Shore Arts Alliance's Art Trail | 10 AM - 5 PM
Chautauqua County
For Info: facebook.com/northshorearts

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Jamestown Coin Club Show 10 AM - 3:30 PM
Celeron American Lodge | Celeron
For Info: 716-720-1591

Labor Day Food Drive 12 PM - 2 PM
Hotel Lenhart | Bemus Point
For Info: 716-664-2253

Jamestown Labor Day Festival 12 PM - 9 PM
Bergman Park | Jamestown
For Info: 716-499-4065

What's New for School in New York State

2025-26 State Education Policies in Review

Contributed by
**Chautauqua Gazette
Research Team**

The start of the 2025-26 school year brings with it new policies and education standards across New York State.

The most notable change is the “Distraction-Free Schools Law” pushed by Gov. Kathy Hochul and which goes into effect this September.

The statewide policy bans the use of smartphones and other internet-enabled personal devices by students on K-12 school grounds for the entire school day. It applies to school districts, charter schools, and boards of cooperative services (BOCES).

Other provisions of the new policy include: allowing schools to develop their own plans for storing internet-enabled devices during the day; requiring schools to give parents a way to contact their children during the day when necessary; requiring teachers, parents, and students to be consulted in developing the local policy; and requiring schools to annually publish a report detailing the enforcement of the policy they adopted.

The policy states that schools cannot suspend students solely for violating the cellphone rule. By September 2026, districts will be required to publish a report summarizing the enforcement of their policies during the previous school year.

Under the policy, students will still have authorized access to internet-enabled devices provided by their schools for classroom instruction, including laptops and tablets, used as part

of lesson plans.

Further, the policy includes several exemptions to the restriction of phones: students who require smartphones to manage a medical condition; students who have an Individualized Education Program; and for deemed legitimate purposes, such as translation, family caregiving, and emergencies.

‘PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE’

In July, the Board of Regents officially adopted the state’s “Portrait of a Graduate” initiative to serve as a new framework for the state’s education system and create a shared understanding of the skills and knowledge students will be expected to demonstrate upon high school graduation.

Specifically, it offers new guidelines as to what it should take for students to earn a high school diploma. The new framework comes as New York State plans to phase out Regents exams as a graduation requirement starting in the 2027-28 school year. The state’s “Portrait of a Graduate” lists six core attributes expected of high school graduates to ensure they are ready to succeed. It aims to have graduates be academically prepared, be creative innovators, be critical thinkers, effective communicators, global citizens, and reflective and future-focused.

The initiative will not change the current graduation requirements that are still in place. At present, students in New York can obtain a local diploma, a Regents diploma, or a Regents diploma with advanced designation.

To earn a high school diploma,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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Birdie

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY PETS OF THE WEEK

Birdie is a one-year-old black-and-white tuxedo cat, dressed to impress and ready to steal your heart. She loves people - she will follow you around, chirp for attention, and happily accept head scratches and pets. Birdie is super curious and loves exploring every corner of the room (and probably your cabinets too). Birdie likes humans a lot. Other cats? Dogs? Not so much. She would rather have her kingdom and your affection to herself. Shelter No. RR179.

Maggie is a delicate little cloud with a heart as soft as her fluffy white fur. Life's big sounds and fast movements can make her nervous, so she takes her time getting to know new people and places. But with a gentle touch, a quiet space, and a little patience, Maggie starts to show her true colors - sweet, sensitive, and full of love. She's looking for a calm, understanding home where she can feel safe and bloom at her own pace. Shelter No. RR179.



Maggie

Editorial with Lori Cornell

Portrait of an Educator



Owner & Publisher
Lori Cornell

At this point in motherhood - with now four nearly grown sons - I've had the pleasure (mostly) and pain (on occasion!) of partnering with scores teachers and school administrators through the years in my quest to provide my kids with the best education possible. So many of our educators in Chautauqua County's schools are talented and hardworking role models for their students, and they deserve our gratitude as we send our kids off to school once again.

When I think about this long line of impactful educators, those most memorable and stand-out to me are the ones that have not only so brilliantly molded my children's minds, but those that have also held their hearts. Oft-used to describe such educators are the beautiful words of poet Maya Angelou:

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

One such shining example for my family, has been Mrs. Julie Verdonik, particularly in her role as the former principal of Maple Grove Jr.-Sr. High School. She is as much a professional as she is a trusted advocate to students, teachers and parents alike. As principal, she ran the school with a well-recognized loving pride and a strong, but gentle spirit.

A key memory of her ability to touch both our hearts and minds came for my family when our eldest son, Ben, took his first Regents exam back in 8th grade. Under his 504 Plan with Type I Diabetes, he was allowed additional time and starts/stops to address any blood sugar anomalies. However, during the exam, he became so nervous that his adrenaline skyrocketed his blood sugar to a dangerously high level. Rather than take the easy route and send my son home to retake his test at another time over the summer, then-Principal Verdonik got on the phone with Albany. She jumped through New York State Regents hoops with careful, well-honed know-how and gleaned legal approval to allow him the several hour hiatus necessary to get his blood sugar down and resume his test, well after his classmates had finished. She even walked the outdoor track with him to help him regain metabolic control.

This personal kindness, high-level aptitude and strong professional commitment toward ensuring academic opportunity for my son - while at the same time making him feel empowered and at-ease with his special situation - is what ranks her, in my mind, as one of the best. I will forever hold Mrs. Verdonik and "Maya-esque" educators like her in the highest esteem.

As parents, we send our children to school in hopes that they will receive a quality education, yes; but we also trust that they will be cared for beyond academic instruction, nurtured and upheld as the fragile and developing, special humans they are. We applaud those educators in Chautauqua County and beyond that truly support our children and partner with parents to make an incredible difference every day.

Welcome Back School. Here we come!

*I've learned that people will forget
what you said, people will forget what
you did, but people will never forget
how you made them feel.*

Maya Angelou

CHAUTAUQUA GAZETTE

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SUBMISSION DEADLINES
Thursdays at 5:00 pm

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Labor Day Food Drive at The Hotel Lenhart

The rockers are back—one last time in 2025!



Join us for our first ever food drive
this Labor Day weekend

Saturday from 12pm – 2pm
& Sunday from 1pm - 3pm
on the front veranda

Take a seat in a Lenhart rocking chair and snap a photo with your donation of either 1 canned item or \$5. If coming in a group, please bring multiple cans or donations. All proceeds support the St. Susan Center in Jamestown, NY and the Bemus Point Methodist Church Food Pantry.

Every donation earns a ticket for Monday's 12pm prize drawing to include 2 VIP passes to the Grand Opening of "Bemus Sky", our new rooftop lounge, in Spring of 2026! (Extra tickets for every additional \$5.)

Proceeds will be distributed by our favorite shuttle service in Bemus Point, Miss Joanie's Shuttle!

Can't make it during event hours? Donations are welcome anytime throughout the weekend.



Let's rock together this Labor Day
and help feed our community!

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August 17

Richard J. “Rick” Romaniuk, 67

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August 18

Gary W. Winger, 81

Ashville

Lind Funeral Home

August 19

David Eriksen, 53

Frewsburg

Lind Funeral Home

August 20

Marilyn J. Wilcox, 85

Jamestown

Lind Funeral Home

August 16

Jennifer L. Eaker, 40

Gerry

Falconer Funeral Home

August 17

Robert J. Guarnieri, 88

Jamestown

Riccardi’s Family Funeral Home

August 18

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Dunkirk


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August 19

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Faith Matters

Caring for the Soul in a Back-to-School World



Featured Writer
Pastor Adam Rohler

Licensed Mental Health Counselor

Every August, the school supply aisles fill up with the buzz of fresh notebooks, sharpened pencils, and new backpacks. Teachers are arranging classrooms, parents are bracing for packed schedules, and students are brimming with a mix of excitement and anxiety. Back-to-school season is a reminder that learning is not just about facts and formulas, it’s also about shaping minds, hearts, and, ultimately, souls.

That word *soul* is worth pausing on. Our modern culture often talks about “mental health” as though it were separate from faith or spirituality, but historically, the two were deeply connected. The word *psychology* itself comes from the Greek *psyche*, meaning “soul” or “life.” The word “psychology” literally means: the study of the soul. That older meaning is important because it reminds us that caring for mental health and caring for the soul are woven together.

Faith communities have long known what modern research increasingly confirms: spiritual practices strengthen mental health. Prayer reduces stress. Gratitude improves resilience. Forgiveness lowers blood pressure. Worship provides social connection and meaning. In a time when rates of anxiety and depression among students are at historic highs, these truths carry weight. If the psyche is the soul, then to neglect faith in conversations about mental health is like trying to treat a body without acknowledging the heart.

Teachers see this firsthand. They don’t just teach algebra or history; they tend to anxious students, notice loneliness,

and help kids navigate self-doubt. And for students, the pressure to perform academically while juggling social challenges can feel overwhelming.

Faith offers all of us, including students and teachers, a lifeline in challenging situations. It offers identity and hope. A student grounded in faith doesn’t just hear “you are valuable because you got an A” or “you belong because you made the team.” Faith whispers a deeper truth: “You are loved, not for your achievements, but because you are a child of God.” That message calms anxious hearts better than any motivational poster on the classroom wall.

The start of a new school year is a chance to remember that true education involves more than the transfer of knowledge. It is the shaping of whole persons body, mind and soul. Schools are not just training workers for the economy; they are cultivating lives that are meant to flourish. That flourishing depends on mental sharpness and spiritual depth. So as the school bells ring this fall, let us remember: mental health and faith are not two competing worlds but two languages describing the same reality. We are creatures of mind and soul, intellect and spirit. When one is neglected, the other limps along. But when both are nourished, life takes root.

For students, that nourishment might come through prayer before a test, or through the quiet confidence of knowing their worth is not on trial with every grade. For teachers, it might mean seeing their work as sacred labor, shaping not just knowledge but character, resilience, and hope. For parents and communities, it may mean creating spaces where honesty about struggles is met not with shame, but with compassion and faith. Back-to-school season reminds us that education is ultimately about formation, not just information. To study the *psyche* is to study the soul. And in the end, perhaps that is the truest curriculum where we all learn how to live wisely, love deeply, and find the meaning that steadies us when life feels uncertain.

Best Summer Memory



Contributing Writer

Ryan
Chambers-Leonard

Unfortunately for me and my fellow students, summer is coming to a painful close, and school is drawing concerningly near. For some people, summer was particularly fruitful: they found work, spent time with friends or enjoyed local events. For others, they simply stayed to themselves and enjoyed their time at home. I certainly wouldn't blame those in the latter group, since the heat has been almost comedically miserable this year. On one of the nicer days in August, however, I had the privilege of attending a concert of an artist I never expected to see live.

When I found out that the musician Laufey was visiting Chautauqua for her set of "Bewitched: The Goddess Tour" shows, I was really excited that such a popular musician was coming to the place I grew up in. Shortly after that, I realized I was very late getting tickets. So when Laufey announced that she was adding another show in Chautauqua to her tour, it's probably not super hard to imagine my excitement. Once I got my hands on a ticket, it was a very painful few months' wait until my show, which finally rolled around early this month. Surprisingly, I hadn't actually been to the venue before: Chautauqua Institution's Amphitheater. What an

experience! It was a very different part of our county than the experience I had grown up in, but still had that familiar feel. Even still, it was weird seeing my little corner of the world so busy. It was understandable busyness, considering the accolades that Laufey has received. In 2024, Laufey received a Grammy Award for her album *Bewitched*, as well as several Icelandic music awards that same year. In 2025, Laufey was recognized as one of Time's Women of the Year. Considering that her Spotify "About" section pins her social media audience at 25 million, it's not a surprise that so many people flock to wherever Laufey is playing.

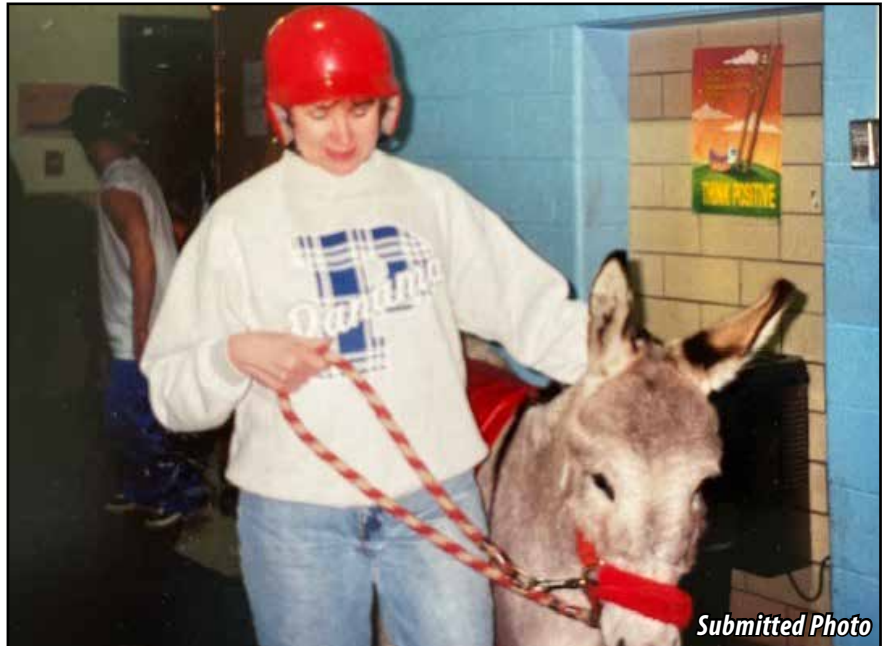
What were her Chautauqua shows like? Well, starting with her August 2 performance, I can't tell you, since I wasn't there. (Haha.) For her show on August 3, however, I can definitely give you an idea of why I enjoyed it so much. Considering that she was touring for the aforementioned album, *Bewitched* (particularly the Goddess Edition), it makes sense that she opened the show with the song "Dreamer," the song that opens the album itself. After that, Laufey clarified what is probably the biggest misconception about her: the pronunciation of her name. Rather than "Loo-fee," or even "Luf-fee," she told the audience that it is pronounced "Lay-vay." Somewhat unsurprisingly, though, the pronunciation of her name is also a mistake I made when I first became a fan of hers.

A short amount of time after the show started, Laufey told the audience that her twin sister Junia (pronounced Yu-nia) was actually

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

Our Shared Passion for Education

Continued from Front Page



Mrs. Hay loved attending as many school activities and events as possible, case and point: Donkey Basketball!

When I went into administration, summer meant finishing up one school year's paperwork and prepping for the new year. The summer was a time for hiring staff, reviewing curriculum changes, reading new state regulations, creating schedules, dealing with contractors and staying out of the custodian's way. When August rolled around, sports practices started and the voices of students once again filled the hallways. As teachers came in looking for curriculum materials that had been ordered, sharing ideas for new projects and preparing their classrooms, fresh energy filled the school. I couldn't wait for September!

So back to that question, "How do you feel this time of year?" I feel grateful that I can say I loved being a teacher, a principal and a superintendent. I loved learning new ways to reach students and providing a variety of resources within the classroom. During my years as an administrator, I was confronted with mandates that I didn't agree with, but also had staff members who were willing to work with and around what had to be done. This time of year, I am excited for those who get to do those things and hope they love it as much as I did.

and emotional well-being. We need to see greater responsibility on the part of parents to be partners in their children's education. We need to have students come to school each year, ready to absorb ideas and skills while respecting each other and their teachers.

We need to use relationships in the home, community and school to understand how to listen, resolve conflicts and learn from situations and each other. We need agreement on what it means to be engaged in learning – not just to meet a mandate or pass a test, but to explore and satisfy curiosity. We need to love to learn and share what we learn at all levels.

This is the time of year when we all talk about "back to school" topics from clothes shopping to setting new bed times. It's a time of pleasant memories for me – the joy of setting up the classroom and feeling the energy of students and staff. I hope parents are ready to be educational partners by offering encouragement and support to their children and to the teachers in their schools. I hope those going back to school are excited and eager to teach and to learn.

Are staff and students returning to a perfect educational system? No, far from it. Change is needed in all areas and by all group – staff, students and parents. The world of technology opened a new way of learning just as it changed how we do business.

We need to reevaluate the school calendar, the curriculum, the daily schedule, the facilities and the training we provide teachers. We need to share the task of educating students with the business and industry sector and communicate about what graduating students should learn to be successful. We need to understand and be able to address the whole child from their mental and physical health to social

Carol Hay is a lifelong educator. She is a retired school superintendent, principal, and teacher - having served in three school districts in Chautauqua County during her dedicated career: Dunkirk, Panama and Sherman. During her tenure, she also served as president of both the Chautauqua County Principals' Association and the Far West Council of School Superintendents. She is a past board member of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation and past recipient of the foundation's prestigious John D. Hamilton Community Service Award. She actively volunteers for many organizations and continues finding new ways to support the community and those around her.

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JAMESTOWN DANCE FESTIVAL

SEPT 4-7 • REG LENNA & SCHARMANN THEATER

Contributed by
Sukanya Burman Dance

The Jamestown Dance Festival (JDF), presented by Sukanya Burman Dance, returns this fall for its second year with an expanded lineup of performances, workshops, and special events that celebrate the power of movement, culture, and community. Running September 4–7, 2025, the festival brings world-class artists and regional voices together across Chautauqua County and, for the first time, into Buffalo.

Headline Performance

The centerpiece of the festival is the Works & Process-commissioned production *New York Is Burning* by the acclaimed Les Ballet Afrik, led by Guggenheim Fellow and international

dance icon Omari Wiles. Presented on Friday, September 5 at 7:30 PM at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, this electrifying work fuses ballroom, house, and African diasporic traditions into a celebration of queerness, resilience, and joy, paying homage to the legacy of *Paris Is Burning*.

Beyond his work with Les Ballet Afrik, Omari Wiles (a.k.a. Legendary Omari NiNa Oricci) is one of the most celebrated figures in the ballroom community and the creator of the “AfrikFusion” style. He is the founding father of the House of NiNa Oricci and has collaborated with some of the biggest names in entertainment, including Beyoncé, Janet Jackson, John Legend, and Naomi Campbell. His choreography and performance work has been featured at the MET, The Joyce Theater, the Guggenheim, and British Vogue, solidifying his place as a leading



voice in contemporary dance and ballroom culture.

A Vogueing workshop with Wiles at Jamestown Community College on Sept. 4 at 5 PM gives local audiences the rare opportunity to learn directly from one of today’s most influential choreographers.

Dunham technique with Megan A. Evans-Rakeepile (Sept. 7)

Film screening & mixer:
Paris Is Burning (Sept. 7)

Community engagements supporting Jamestown Pride, highlighting the deep ties between ballroom culture, voguing, and LGBTQ+ performance history

Festival Performances

Indian Classical Night

Thursday, September 4 @ 7:30 PM, Scharmann Theater, JCC. Featuring Sri Thina Dance (NYC) and Sukanya Burman (Jamestown), the evening showcases Bharatanatyam and Odissi, two timeless Indian dance forms, reimagined through themes of identity, migration, and cultural hybridity.

Regional Artist Showcase

Saturday, September 6 @ 2:00 PM, Scharmann Theater, JCC. Celebrating local and regional voices, the showcase features Megan A. Evans-Rakeepile’s MahataMmoho Collective (Buffalo, Afro-Caribbean/Afro-Fusion), alongside Grace Gibbons (Jamestown, ballet/contemporary) and Star Larson (Sugar Grove, modern/contemporary).

Additional Festival Highlights

Buffalo debut performance for Les Ballet Afrik presented by Jamestown Dance Festival at Torn Space Theater

Community workshops, including Indian Classical dance (Sept. 6) and

Community Impact

With performances restructured to run 60–75 minutes, student/group discounts, free tickets through Arts Access supported by Arts Services Inc of WNY and special outreach efforts, the festival is dedicated to making world-class dance accessible and inclusive for all audiences. By bridging global artistry with local voices, JDF is quickly becoming a cultural anchor for Western New York.

Support

The Jamestown Dance Festival is made possible through generous support from the New York State DanceForce, New York State Council on the Arts, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, Jamestown Community College, Evergreen Health, Live CHQ, Wegmans, and additional community partners.

Full schedule, artist bios, and tickets: www.sukanyaburman.com/jamestown-dance-festival

JAMESTOWN DANCE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 4-7
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What's New for School in New York State

Continued from Page 2

students must meet both credit and assessment requirements.

For "Portrait of a Graduate", the state Education Department plans to release additional guidance to school districts by the summer of 2027. While districts may begin to examine their local practices, the statewide requirement for instruction to be aligned to the portrait will begin with students entering 9th grade during the 2029-2030 school year.

'BACK TO BASICS' READING PLAN

Also new this year is Hochul's "Back to Basics" reading proficiency plan, first announced in January 2024 as part of her State of the State.

Its mission is to ensure students are taught foundational skills to become proficient readers through an improved curriculum.

By this September, school districts were required to certify with the New York State Department of Education that their curriculum, instructional strategies, and teacher professional development align with all elements of the evidence-based reading instruction.

The push included allocating \$10 million to train 20,000 teachers in Science of Reading instructional best practices, in addition to an expansion of SUNY and CUNY's microcredential programs for teachers focused on the Science of Reading.

WNY P-TECH Students Enjoy Week of Summer Activities



WNY P-TECH Principal Jeffrey Teluk is pictured with students and staff at Peek'n Peak Resort.

Contributed by
WNY P-TECH

New and returning students to WNY P-TECH recently enjoyed a sun-soaked summer adventure at Peek'n Peak Resort.

The annual trek is part of the weeklong Summer Bridge program through Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, and includes a host of activities highlighting the school's different pathways. CAM P-TECH in Springville recently concluded its Summer Bridge program, capped off with a pathway signing ceremony.

On Aug. 7 at Peek'n Peak, dozens of students took part in several outdoor challenges, including the Aerial Adventure Course, Giant Zipline, Soaring Eagle, and mini golf. Among the students to participate were Audiyanna Cheverez, Gautier Delgado, and Myah Benjamin of Dunkirk, Thomas Keele of Holland, James McCrory of Lake Shore, and Trista Dunlap of Jamestown.

A handful of faculty and staff from WNY P-TECH also participated in the daylong fun.

"We all felt that the 2025 Summer Bridge program went extremely well," WNY P-TECH Principal Jeffrey Teluk said. "While some previous activities remained, many changed this year and were geared



Audyanna Cheverez of Dunkirk is pictured on the Aerial Adventure Course at Peek'n Peak. Cheverez was among dozens of students participating in the Summer Bridge program through Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES.

"awesome attitudes" ahead of the new school year that begins Sept. 2.

"The interaction between new and existing students was friendly and helpful," Teluk said of Summer Bridge.

Regarding Peek'n Peak, the principal said the event "went perfectly this year." In addition to the great weather, he noted that almost every incoming freshman participated.

For more information on P-TECH at E2CCB, visit <https://www.e2ccb.org/programs/p-tech/>

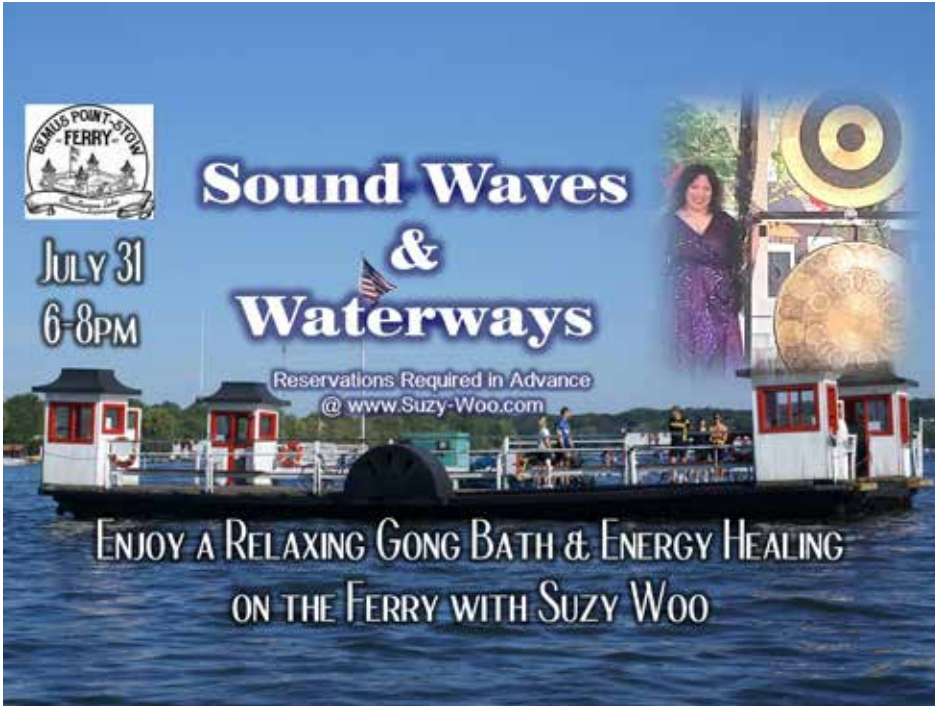


Submitted Photo

Sheriff's Department Provides MHA Recovery Luncheon

The meal for the Mental Health Association in Chautauqua County (MHA) August recovery luncheon was provided and served by members of the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department: from left, Deputies Truman Purslow, Phil Lombardo, Joel Walsh, Sheriff Jim Quattrone and Sergeant Matt Gustafson. Everyone is welcome to these luncheons at 1 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Like all MHA services, including Narcan and fentanyl test kits, the luncheons are free. The MHA is a peer recovery center offering support groups and individual coaching for people looking to improve their lives, deepen wellness, thrive in recovery, or support those on a recovery path.

To learn more, call (716) 661-9044 or visit MHACHautauqua.org or [Facebook.com/MHACHautauqua](https://www.facebook.com/MHACHautauqua)



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Coughlan's
3:00 pm - GROSH
Barker Commons Gazebo
5:00 pm - Tommy Z
The White Inn
6:00 pm - Two Towns
Old Main Inn
6:30 pm - Beer Krate Blues Band
Raven & Thorn
7:00 pm - Mark Winsick Band
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7:30 pm - Growlers Blues Band
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Assemblyman Andrew Molitor (R,C-Westfield) joined community members, volunteers and antique equipment enthusiasts at the opening of the 50th Annual Chautauqua County Antique Equipment Association (CCA EA) Show in Stockton. The three-day event, running August 15-17, celebrated five decades of preserving and sharing the region's rich agricultural and mechanical heritage. Hosted on the CCA EA showgrounds on Cemetery Road, the show features live demonstrations of antique engines, sawmill operations, blacksmithing and machine shop tools, along with tractor pulls, antique automobile displays, wagon rides, a flea market and family-friendly activities.

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CHAMBER CORNER

Many Thanks to Our Golfers and Sponsors

Article Contributed by

Daniel J. Heitzenrater

Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce
President and CEO

Each year our CHQ Chamber Golf Tournament seems to get better and better. We have some dedicated golfers who play each time, and then we get new people participating to create new connections and enjoy a day of recreation and camaraderie on the course. With 30 teams on the course this year's tournament was another resounding success!

Congratulations to the first-place team from Allstate Insurance: Bill Farr, Royce Swan, Bud Winkey, and Ted Winkey. Coming in second place was the team from Lake Shore Bank: Josh Hilliker, Jeff Nelson, Tim Kasperek, and Charlie Civileto. The third-place team was from Express Employment Professionals: Peter Brown, Abe Rak, Andrew Schober, and Doug Trolley. Special prizes were awarded to Royce Swan for the men's longest drive and to Andy Proctor for men's closest to the pin.

The CHQ Chamber Golf Tournament is our largest fundraising event of the year, allowing the Chamber to meet its mission to build vital connections, provide professional resources, and champion our local businesses in Chautauqua County. The funds we raise during this – and other – events throughout the year go to create services and programs that are meaningful to local businesses including Business After Hours networking events, Business Builder Workshops, Advocacy events, our ShopLocalCHQ Gift Card, and much more.

None of this would be possible without our tremendous sponsors. Sincere thanks to our Tee Gift Sponsor, the Basil Family of Dealerships, and to our Par Sponsors: A Automotive, Brooks-TLC Hospital System/Kaleida Health, Cattaraugus County Bank, Charle's Auto Center, Chautauqua Patron's Insurance Company, DFT Communications, DoubleTree by Hilton, Great Lakes Insurance Services Group representing Erie Insurance, Jamestown Container Companies, Jamestown Mattress, Koester Associates, LaBella Associates, Lake Shore Bank, National Grid, Nestle Purina PetCare, Shults Auto Group, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, and Westfield Nursery & Landscaping. Our lunch sponsor was M&T Bank, with product donations from Arthur R. Gren Company, Curtze Food Service, Farm Fresh Foods, Jim Pullan, Marra Distribution (Tony Marra), Pepsi, and Tops Friendly Market

in Dunkirk. Tee Talk Sponsors were AHN Westfield Memorial Hospital, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, Peek'n Peak Resort, and West Main Mercantile. Tee Signs were sponsored by Chautauqua Harbor Hotel, Dahlstrom Roll Form, Falconer Power Sports, Jamestown Plastics, Phillips Lytle, Putnam Record Insurance Agency, and Western Division Federal Credit Union.

Our new Bottle Bonanza game on the course was sponsored by Mazza Chautauqua Cellars/Five & 20 Brewery & Spirits and by TW Biggins Wine & Spirits. Raffle prizes for the day were generously donated by Blue June Blooms, Chautauqua Gazette, CK Natural Fruit Juice, Chautauqua Marina, DFT Communications, The Eclectic Bird, Face Paint by Patti, Falconer Power Sports, Full Strength Coffee Company, GG My Love, Ghostfish Brewing, Good Neighbor Bookstore, The Green Door Tavern, Jacks Barcelona Drive In, Jamestown Mattress Company, Merritt Estate Winery, Mulligans on Fairmount, Northwest Arena, Opera House Home & Gifts, Pea Pod & Juniper, Peek'n Peak, ProForma a Trusted Name, Roger Tory Peterson Institute, Southern Chautauqua Federal Credit Union, Sweeterson Farms, Westfield Ag & Turf, Westfield Boatworks, West Main Mercantile, Westfield Nursery & Landscaping, and Whizz-n-Smash.

Sincere thanks to our Golf Committee Chair Jim Pullan of Jamestown Mattress and to Kris Maytum of DFT Communications for their efforts. Carrie and Ken Blitz of Hartson Holdings were spotters for our Shults Auto Group Hole in One. Kathy Kerr and Rich Gray from M&T Bank were spotters for our Ring of Fire. Additional volunteers on the course were Aimee Rogers from Imagine Forestville and Steve Neilans from Panama Rocks. Our staff couldn't do this alone, and their help made the day run smoothly.

We also want to thank Peek'n Peak for hosting our event. Their staff is a pleasure to work with, and they perfectly accommodated our guests throughout the day.

We strive to create events and programs throughout the year that make a difference for our member businesspeople, and we know that participation is the key to getting full value for your membership in the Chamber of Commerce. If you haven't golfed with us in the past, we hope you'll consider it next year. Thank you to all for an outstanding event!

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Submitted Photo

Chautauqua Striders held their Summer STEAM Camp from August 4-8th. This year, they welcomed 31 amazing students from across Chautauqua County to this free opportunity, made possible through a generous sponsorship by **UPMC Chautauqua**.

Students explored science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics through engaging activities and special guest sessions. Many generous community volunteers joined the fun, including Kyle Jordan from UPMC Chautauqua Laboratories, Todd Trantum from **Dream It Do It Western New York**, and Taylor and Catherine from **National Fuel**. Their time, expertise, and enthusiasm helped make this year's camp a truly memorable experience for each student.

Chautauqua Striders would like to thank everyone who helped make Summer STEAM Camp 2025 a success. We're already looking forward to next year!

Currently registering
students for the fall!



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Western New York's Finest Artists, Studios, and Galleries North Shore Arts Alliance Art Trail

Contributed by

North Shore Art Alliance

Hit the road this Labor Day weekend and experience the North Shore Arts Alliance's Art Trail—a self-guided tour of Western New York's most inspiring studios, galleries, and artist hubs.

Meet the Artists – Step inside working studios and chat with painters, potters, illustrators, and mixed media creators about their inspirations, techniques, and creative journeys.

Explore the Art – Discover an eclectic mix of original works, from fine paintings and ceramics to innovative mixed media pieces—

each with its own story.

Enjoy the Scenery – Travel through the picturesque landscapes of Chautauqua County while uncovering hidden gems in our vibrant arts community.

Be Inspired – Bring your children! They become inspired to draw, paint, photograph or get dirty with clay!

Whether you're a seasoned art lover or just looking for a fresh spark of inspiration, the Art Trail offers a perfect blend of art, nature, and community. Bring friends, bring family—make it a weekend to remember!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

- Hub #1** Thomas Annear Art Studio (Fredonia):
Thomas Annear & Tom Janik
- Hub #2** Waldo Latimer Studio (Fredonia): Wally Latimer
- Hub #3** Kniti Griti Works Studio (Fredonia):
Marcia Merrins & June Burns
- Hub #4** 21 Brix Winery (Portland): Patrick Stokes, Seri Beeson,
Sarah Brown, Brian Millspaw, Carrie Sheffield,
Lisa Eppolito & Karen Taverna
- Hub #5** Portage Hill Art Gallery (Westfield):
Audrey Kay Dowling, Myriam Mayshark,
David Gregor, & Tim Sivertsen
- Hub #6** Reno Pottery (Dewittville): Jim & Pat Reno
- Hub #7** The Sheep Barn Gallery (Mayville): John Gerber,
Nancy Wehr, & Denise de la Cerda
- Hub #8** Cynthia Norton Studio (CHQ Inst.): Cynthia Norton
- Hub #9** LMNOP Gallery (Sherman): Peter Hamilton
- Hub #10** 12 Main Street Bemus Point: Lisa Summerfield
- Hub #11** Bemus Point Library (Bemus Point): Jackie Damore
- Hub #12** Janet Mandel Art Studio (Kennedy): Janet Mandel
- Hub #13** Edgewater Art House (Jamestown):
Susan Gutierrez & Susan Simmons
- Hub #14** Nancy Nixon Ensign Studio (Jamestown):
Nancy Nixon Ensign

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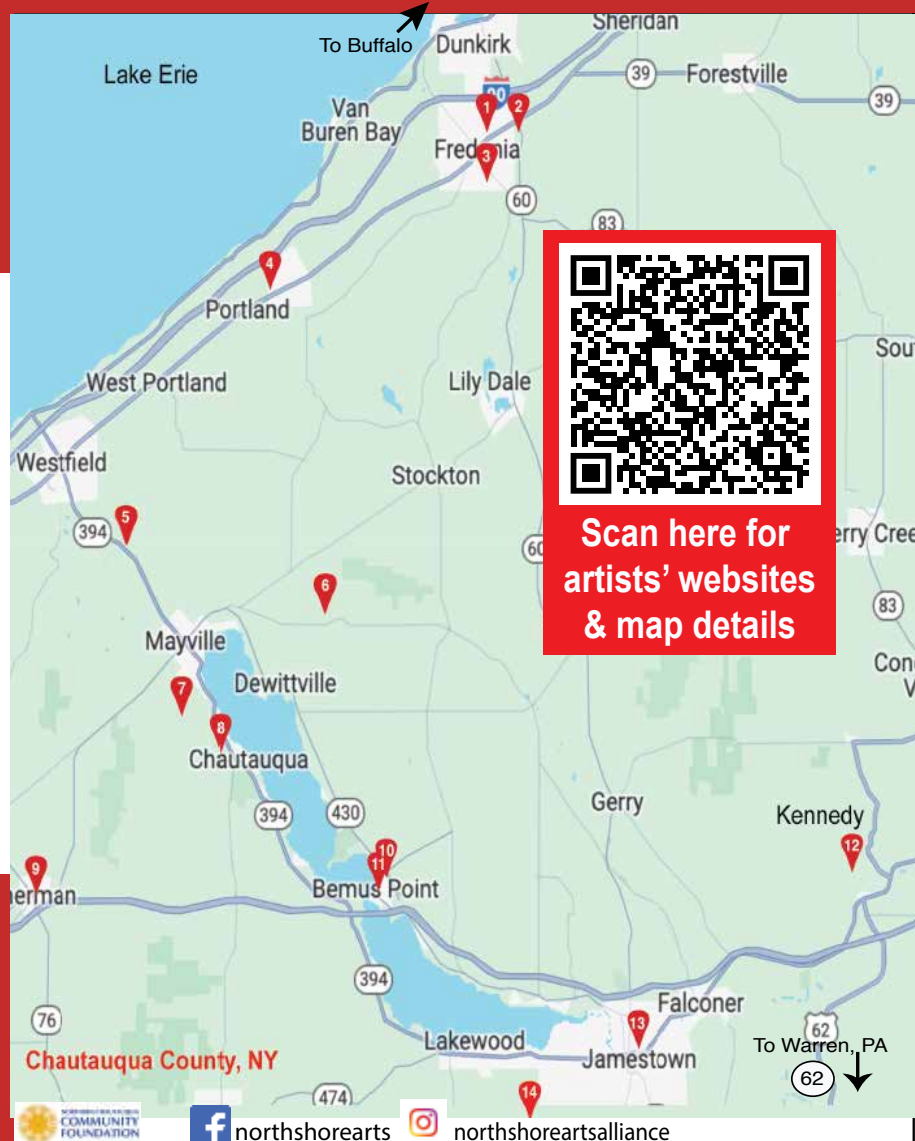


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Get a Passport at any location and collect stamps. The more stamps you collect, the larger gift certificate you could win, top prize \$100. Redeemable with any artist on the Trail. Drop your card at any Hub to enter to win. Scan QR code for location addresses.



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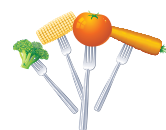
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REAL FOOD



Featured Writer

Sylvia Fiorello

Author of "Food for Change"

When you want pasta, do you run out and buy RAGU or some other jar of sauce? When you want chicken and mashed potatoes, is it take-out? Or do you buy some broth, thicken it, season it, and cook up some Russet potatoes to mash with some milk and butter? If I did a survey, perhaps RAGU and Colonel Sanders would win.

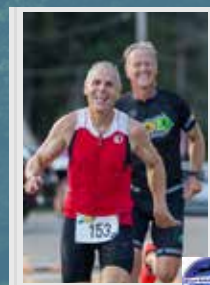
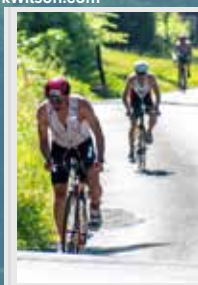
Let's face it: we all love the ease of buying half our food already seasoned and cooked. But by buying processed food, we are losing our health. The worst of it is that processed food has changed. It is now more highly processed than in the past. It is ultra-processed! These foods are made in factories and have ingredients we don't use in home-cooked food. Examples are artificial colors, preservatives, added sugars,

salt and fats. They are also low in nutrients and high in calories. This means they are low in vitamins, minerals and fiber, all necessary for a healthy diet. Here are some examples of ultra-processed foods: sodas, hot dogs, bacon, and some meat from the deli. Others are frozen meals, mass-produced baked goods, breakfast cereals, some protein bars and flavored yogurt. How do you avoid these foods that seem to taste so good?

First, think of the word "healthy": as heal-thy self. Many processed foods can be omitted from your diet or made healthier. Skip sodas and buy 100% juice without added sugar. Buy plain Greek yogurt, which has no added sugars. Add your own fresh or frozen fruit to make a healthy breakfast or snack. If we focus on eating "real food," the way our parents, grandparents and ancestors did, we can improve our health together!



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ATTENTION BICYCLE RIDERS! 42nd Annual Tour of Chautauqua Bicycle Ride Saturday, September 13, 2025



Contributed by
**The Westfield
Recreation Department**

The Westfield Recreation Department is once again sponsoring the Chautauqua Bicycle Ride. The 42nd Annual Tour of Chautauqua Bicycle Ride will take place on Saturday, September 13th. Hundreds of riders are expected to participate in this largest and best Century Ride in Chautauqua County.

Past participant, Steve Cockram, plans to join again this year and said, "I have loved riding the Tour of Chautauqua for nearly 20 years. The organization, support, and rest stops are great. There are different routes each year and a distance for every level of cyclist. I recommend it highly."

Riders have a choice of four distances, 25, 50, 75 and 100 miles. The 25-mile tour follows the Lake Erie plain. Antique shops, restaurants, and wineries are on this tour. The 40-, 75-, and 100-miles tours feature a variety of flat roads, hills, lake views, small towns, and scenic areas of Chautauqua County. All tours begin and end in Westfield, NY. Westfield is located 1.5 miles south of I-90 exit 60. All four of the ride routes start and end at Moore Park in Westfield at the intersection of routes 20 & 394 (Main and Portage Streets).

Check in and registration the day of the ride is between 7:30 and 8:45 am. Registration will be at

the Eason Hall, 23 Elm St. across from the park. All tours begin with a mass start at 9 am. Maps/narratives are provided the day of the ride.

Each rider is responsible for any food they want during the ride. The tours pass through several small towns where food can be purchased. As part of your registration fee, a sit-down meal will be provided at the finish across the street at the Episcopal Church. Water stops (with light refreshments) are provided along all the tours. Sag Wagons and radio people will be on all tour routes and will follow the last riders. Priority will be given to injuries or breakdowns. The rider and bike should be in condition to go the distance you select. Medical Information Stickers will be provided. **THIS IS A RECREATIONAL TOUR – NOT A RACE – BICYCLE HELMET REQUIRED.**

Registration is \$35 and must be received before August 20th to receive our traditional TOUR of CHAUTAUQUA T-shirt. After August 20th, late registration riders will receive a TOUR of CHAUTAUQUA water bottle. For more information contact the Westfield Recreation Dept at 716-753-6842 (Andrew), westfieldny.com/recreation/documents/2025-tour-chautauqua-registration-form



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August is National Wellness Month: A Great Time to Try Quitting Tobacco Products

Contributed by
**Tobacco Free Chautauqua,
Cattaraugus, Allegheny**

August is National Wellness Month, a perfect time to address tobacco use and making a dedicated effort to quit.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in New York State, killing more than 22,000 New York residents annually. Each year an estimated 10,600 New York youth become new regular, daily smokers, and an estimated 280,000 youth currently alive in New York are projected to die early from smoking-related diseases.

When it comes to youth, e-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco product. Over 2 million middle and high school students used e-cigarettes in 2023. This public health crisis of vaping collides with another increasing threat to young people: mental health. Vaping nicotine can intensify symptoms of depression and anxiety and increase stress levels. Current e-cigarette users have double the odds of having a diagnosis of depression compared to those who have never vaped, according to a 2019 Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) study of nearly 30,000 current e-cigarettes.

Nicotine pouches are a relatively

new type of nicotine product gaining popularity, particularly among younger adults. They are small, discreet pouches containing nicotine powder, designed to be placed between the lip and gum. Unlike traditional tobacco products, they don't produce smoke, vapor, or odor. While some see them as a safer alternative to smoking, concerns exist about their addictive nature and potential health impacts.

"Nicotine is a highly addictive drug, and the tobacco industry has a long history of employing various strategies to maintain and expand its customer base, including introducing new products designed to appeal to new users, particularly young people," says Jonathan Chaffee, Reality Check Youth Coordinator for Tobacco Free Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany counties (TF-CCA). "The good news is that there's a service available to help tobacco users quit and begin a life independent from tobacco, e-cigarettes and nicotine products."

That service is the NYS Quitline

Anyone who lives in New York State may contact the NYS Quitline by calling 1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487). They can also visit nysmokefree.com to reach a specialist through an online chat, request a call-back or order free nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) medications.

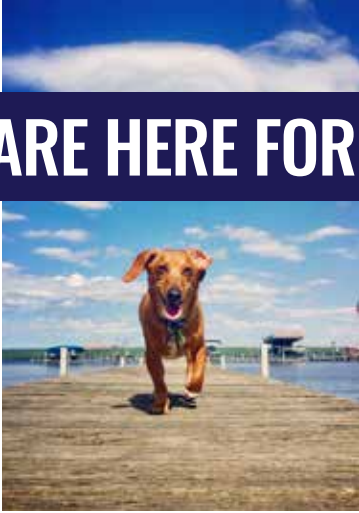
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Chautauqua Lake photos submitted by: J. Kuntz; M. Dick; K. Skorepa; L. Falcone; L. Chappell



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- Wine Tasting & Craft Beverage Sales
- Grape Stomping Contests
- Wine Competition
- Library Activities

Friday

- Grape Industry Workshop
- Wine Tasting Workshop
- Grape Juice Tasting
- Music

Saturday

- Westfield Farmers' and Artisans' Market
- Pancake Breakfast
- Vineyard Tours
- Trolley
- Pie Eating Contests
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- Grape Pie Baking Class
- Wine Class
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Friday

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Saturday

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- Museum & Gift Shop
- Vineyard Tours
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Zonta Club of Jamestown Hosts Zonta Day at Chautauqua



Submitted Photo

Pictured L to R are Zonta members Sylvia Stenander, Eileen Healy, Mary Cook, Sue Cala, and Danica Olson who is also Public Services Manager at the Prendergast Library.

Contributed by

Zonta Club of Jamestown

Members of the Zonta Club of Jamestown recently served as guest readers during Summer Storytime at the Prendergast Library. They shared stories focused on self-love and empowerment, after which children created self-portraits inspired by the readings.

In support of the library's mission

to empower lifelong learners, the Zonta Club of Jamestown donated two books to the children's room: *I Like Myself* by Karen Beaumont and *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers. These selections also reflect Zonta's mission to build a better world for women and girls.

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

BACK TO SCHOOL

All school districts were invited to be a part of this special edition. We welcome education submissions any week and hope to expand our partnerships this school year! Please contact us anytime.

Trivia

1. What year was the first public school in the United States established?
2. Who invented the common classroom supply, the pencil with an attached eraser, in 1858?
3. What is the oldest university in the United States, founded in 1636?
4. Which U.S. President signed the law creating the Department of Education in 1979?
5. What is the most commonly spoken foreign language taught in U.S. schools?
6. What U.S. state was the first to pass a law requiring children to attend school?
7. What subject is typically abbreviated as "STEM"?
8. What scientist failed several subjects in school but later developed the theory of relativity?
9. What company is famous for making Crayola crayons?
10. What is the official name for the black graduation cap?

1. 1635 (Boston Latin School in Boston, MA) 2. Hymen Lipman 3. Harvard University 4. Jimmy Carter 5. Spanish 6. Massachusetts (in 1852) 7. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math 8. Albert Einstein 9. Binney & Smith 10. Mortarboard

Chautauqua Lake Central School prepares for a memorable year



Submitted Photo

*Contributed by
Chautauqua Lake
Central School*

The 2025–26 school year will be a memorable one at Chautauqua Lake Central School as the community prepares to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its school building during homecoming week. The Silver Jubilee celebration on Saturday, October 4 will include building tours and a community brunch showcasing the district's history and progress over the past quarter century. The celebration comes as Chautauqua Lake marks another year of achievement. The CL Envirothon team earned third place statewide, while the VEX Robotics program advanced to the World Championship, competing alongside students from around the globe.

of the most robust manufacturing and engineering programs in the region. More than a decade ago, industry leaders Jay Baker and Randy Stuart helped launch a manufacturing club that grew into today's comprehensive program. Students learn in the District's advanced manufacturing technology facility and a districtwide Project Lead the Way engineering program, offered from elementary through high school. With support from workforce partners including Dream It Do It of WNY, and through dual-enrollment agreements with RIT and Jamestown Community College, the district provides more than 80 college credits across multiple disciplines.

The arts remain a hallmark of Chautauqua Lake. Partnerships with the Kennedy Center, Chautauqua Institution, and Jamestown

These successes are supported by one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Chautauqua Book Review

By Students Selecting Books and Writing Reviews

Monthly – Digital Distribution

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For a 5-step guide on How to write reviews.

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BIG CHANGES. BRIGHT FUTURES. WE ARE BROCTON STRONG.

The Brocton Central School District is kicking off the school year with BIG energy and exciting updates:

A warm welcome to our new Elementary Principal, Mrs. Molly Dehlinger!

A brand-new, state-of-the-art playground – one of the largest in Chautauqua County!

A beautifully remodeled high school gymnasium
...and even more amazing projects on the horizon!

WE'RE HIRING!

Join the Bulldog Family – Full-Time Bus Drivers are needed.

Apply today at www.broctoncsd.org

Here's to a year filled with growth, opportunity, and unstoppable Bulldog pride!





BACK TO SCHOOL

Q&A

Annalee Fuller

Falconer Central School • 3rd Grade

What’s something you’re most looking forward to about this school year?

I am really looking forward to going to my new school.

Do you have a favorite subject or class and why?

I love math!

What’s your go-to lunch or snack at school?

Oreos are my favorite snack.

What’s your favorite school supply (or the one you can’t live without)?

Markers are my favorite.

What advice would you give to someone starting school for the first time?

It is really fun. It’s ok if you are scared because I was when I started pre-K.

What grade are you entering this year and what is most exciting about it?

I am starting third grade and what’s most exciting about it is my new school and teacher.



Michael Colburn

Persell Middle School • 6th Grade

What’s something you’re most looking forward to about this school year?

Being able to hang out with my best friend Jerry because I haven’t been in the same class as him until this year.

Do you have a favorite subject or class and why?

Science because I enjoy and excel in it.



What’s your go-to lunch or snack at school?
Any type of pasta!

What’s your favorite school supply (or the one you can’t live without)?
Lots and lots of pencils.

What advice would you give to someone starting school for the first time?
Don’t try to be part of the popular kids, just be yourself.

What grade are you entering this year and what is most exciting about it?
I am going into sixth grade. The most exciting thing about it is my teacher went to high school with my oldest brother.

Liam Price

Maple Grove Jr.-Sr. High School • 10th Grade

What’s something you’re most looking forward to about this school year?

I am most looking forward to connecting with teammates, friends, and coaches through sports, and bettering myself as a student-athlete at Maple Grove.

Do you have a favorite subject or class and why?

My favorite subject in school is English, because I have had many great English teachers throughout my years at Maple Grove, and writing and communicating have always come naturally to me.

What’s your go-to lunch or snack at school?

My go-to lunch for school is a breakfast sandwich that my mom makes every night for me.

What’s your favorite school supply (or the one you can’t live without)?

A school supply that I definitely could not live without is a calculator, as it came very handy in Geometry.

What advice would you give to someone starting school for the first time?

My advice to people starting school for the first time is to experience everything. Go to every school related event you can, help your class out with fundraisers, attend sports games and be supportive of your school. Rep those colors with pride.

What grade are you entering this year and what is most exciting about it?

I am entering my sophomore year of high school, and what is most exciting about this year is that I have my mom as my math teacher!



Lilianna Fuller

Falconer Central School • 9th Grade

What’s something you’re most looking forward to about this school year?

I’m looking forward to learning new things and spending time with my friends.

Do you have a favorite subject or class and why?

No, nothing quite fits my fancy but if I’d had to pick, I’d choose earth sciences.



What’s your go-to lunch or snack at school?
Pizza!

What’s your favorite school supply (or the one you can’t live without)?
I love pens.

What advice would you give to someone starting school for the first time?
Don’t give up, it gets easier as you go on.

What grade are you entering this year and what is most exciting about it?
I am going into ninth grade - it’s one year closer to graduation so I can go to college!

BACK TO SCHOOL

FREDONIA LOOKS FORWARD TO A DYNAMIC YEAR AHEAD



Upgrades to the accessibility of the Main Campus playground have begun and should be ready for the opening of school with students. The District would like to thank its Maintenance Department, Young and Wright Architectural, and Parkitects for their help and assistance with this important project.

Contributed by
Fredonia Central School

As the energy of a new school year fills the air, Fredonia Central School District is ready to build upon last year's successes while moving forward with innovative, dynamic, and global efforts. One of the new developments this school year is a focus on the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" by both students and adults. The faculty and staff have spent the past year learning about these concepts, and the district is now ready to begin to share information with all students, UPK to Grade 12. The process of incorporating the seven habits into their routines, procedures and teaching within each school is called "Leader in Me." Families can expect more information about this initiative from their building-level administration soon.

The District also looks to build on the success of its No Cell Bell to Bell policy, first implemented in 2024. Designed to eliminate electronic distractions and foster greater engagement in the classroom, the policy has been a tremendous success. Teachers and students alike have seen the benefits of uninterrupted instructional time, and they

look forward to another year of focused learning and stronger connections.

In addition to academic progress, Fredonia is also investing in spaces to better serve students. Construction crews have been hard at work on the Main Street campus playground, where finishing touches are being made to ensure it is more accessible and inclusive for all children.

"This project represents our ongoing commitment to providing safe, welcoming, and engaging play areas," explains Superintendent Dr. Brad Zilliox. "We want every student to have the same opportunities to interact with their classmates when on the playground."

Additional upgrades tie directly into Proposition #1 of our Capital Project, approved by district taxpayers in December. The scope of this much-needed work is centered on a promise to keep students and staff "Warm, Safe & Dry." Proposition #1 includes essential repairs and replacements of aging infrastructure across the district, such as roofing, mechanical,



CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Silver Creek Central School Knight University

Contributed by
Silver Creek Central School

At Silver Creek School District, we take pride in being a community where students aren't just taught; they're empowered to lead, create and excel. What makes us truly unique is the way we blend innovation, tradition, and community spirit into everything we do.



Knight University (KnightU) is a collection of teacher-led after-school classes designed within the Deeper Learning Framework. Each class is developed

around teacher assions and student interests, allowing students to explore topics in depth and work toward mastery in that subject area. The program culminates in a final celebration, where students proudly showcase their learning and creations.

KnightU has been running at Silver Creek Central for the past ten years, growing from just three classes in its first year to over twenty unique offerings today for students in grades 3-12. Past classes have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

Silver Creek Central School

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- RN - \$20/hr
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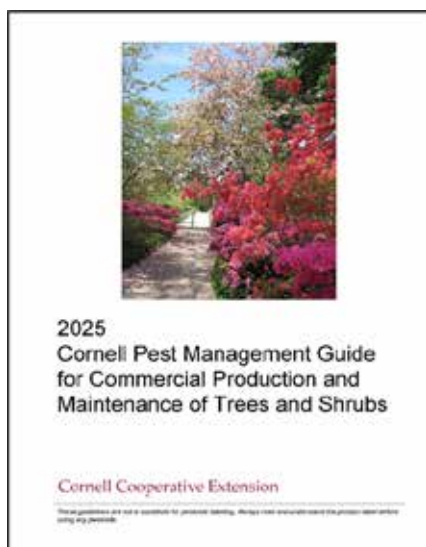
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Bemus Point Schools Ready for a Bright New Year!

Contributed by
**Bemus Point
Central School District**

As summer winds down, the halls of Bemus Point Central School District are buzzing with anticipation for the 2025-26 school year! On September 4, students will return to sparkling clean buildings, thanks to the tireless efforts of our dedicated cleaning and maintenance crews. Teachers are already back, diligently preparing their classrooms, and there's a palpable excitement in the air as we gear up for another year of learning and growth.

The Bemus Point Board of Education has set forth a clear vision for the district, encapsulated in a set of ambitious yet achievable goals designed to provide a truly exceptional educational experience for every student:

- **Future Ready Focus** - We are committed to equipping our students with the skills they need to thrive in an ever-changing world. This means integrating real-world experiences, emphasizing financial literacy, and fostering civic awareness through rigorous learning and innovative teaching methods.



- **Soft Skill Development** - Beyond academics, we believe in nurturing well-rounded individuals. Our focus is on developing essential soft skills, empowering students to communicate effectively, engage in service learning, and confidently navigate a global environment.

- **Human Technology Balance** - While embracing state-of-the-art technology, we also emphasize the importance of human connection and integrity. We strive to deliver quality academics that thoughtfully weave these elements together.

- **Social Emotional Supports** - A strong community is built on positive relationships. We are dedicated to cultivating an environment that fosters student growth, builds strong communities, and instills a deep sense of belonging for all.

At Bemus Point, our goal is not just to continue the excellent work already underway, but to continuously seek out new ways to empower our students to reach their highest potential. We are thrilled for the start of the 2025-26 school year and the promise it holds for our students and community!

Chautauqua Lake Prepares for a Memorable Year

Continued from Page 15

Schools support arts integration and professional development, including ArtSpark Day when professional artists lead workshops in music, dance, theater, and visual art. Students also love Chautauqua Institution's Young Playwrights Program, which invites them to create and see their original works performed. A recent visit from Kwame Alexander, Newbery Medal-winning author, also celebrated the district's belief that every student's voice matters.

Civic readiness is central to the district's mission. Through a partnership with Chautauqua Institution and the Hebrew Congregation of Chautauqua County, students from across the county participate in the Holocaust and Social Justice Education Program

of Chautauqua County. Funded by the Hebrew Congregation and led by Social Studies teacher Leigh-Anne Hendrick, the program provides meaningful experiences and workshops focused on history and humanity.

Students continue to build connections through community-based learning with Cornell Cooperative Extension partners. Fourth graders earned statewide recognition for their maple syrup production, a project supported by McCray Farms and Wiggers & Sons in Clymer. Students also worked with the Chautauqua County Watershed to become the first school in the area designated as a NWF Schoolyard Habitat.

The district embraces outdoor

adventure-based education with their three-mile on-campus trail for hiking, mountain biking, and environmental study. With support from the Chautauqua Health Network, programs like Elementary Hit the Trails promote healthy, active lifestyles. This summer, those opportunities expanded further with the donation of bicycles for elementary and middle school students through the combined support of Friends of Chautauqua Greenways, local donors, Cand'Aid, and the Specialized Bicycle Company's Outride grant program.

Behind these programs stand the community leaders, teachers, administrators, and staff whose professional learning and dedication drive student success. Each year, faculty set both individual and collaborative goals aligned with district priorities, developing projects that enrich instruction and strengthen school

culture.

The Silver Jubilee will honor community leaders from Mayville and Chautauqua who came together more than 25 years ago with a vision for a district defined by excellence. Special thanks are extended to Jack Voelker for his inspiration and contributions to this celebration.

"This anniversary is more than a date on the calendar," said Superintendent Dr. Josh Liddell. "It celebrates the people, programs, and partnerships that have shaped Chautauqua Lake into one of the most dynamic small school districts in New York State. Over 25 years, we have built a tradition of excellence in academics, the arts, athletics, and innovation. As we look ahead, our focus remains on preparing students to thrive, by challenging them, supporting them, and helping them discover who they are and what they can accomplish."

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CHAUTAUQUA LAKE

perspectives on our challenges

Chautauqua Lake..."Flying in Circles"

Contributed by
Chautauqua Lake Property Owners Association

The July 4th weekend was an "Absolute Nightmare" on Chautauqua Lake (Lake) for Burtis Bay, Sherman Bay, Ellicott and Fluvanna residents as broadcast by Channel 4 WIVB Buffalo to all of Western New York. More broadcasts followed the next six weeks from in-Lake areas now designated wetlands by the DEC. Nuisance weeds and Harmful Algae Blooms are now protected with growth encouraged by the DEC's new wetlands regulations implemented beginning January 1, 2025.

The Chautauqua Lake Property Owners Association (CLPOA), the Chautauqua Lake Partnership, and others across NYS have filed suit

to rescind the regulations. At the same time, the local Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium has gathered pro-wetlands groups to oppose our efforts and support regulations destined to make our Lake a swamp. Our County Executive, County Legislature, and all but two municipalities have not acted on your behalf..."Asleep at the Wheel" and "Missing in Action".

This "Nightmare" can be solved with (1) litigation challenging the DEC's wetlands regulations, (2) a Chautauqua Lake "Centralized Lake Authority", and (3) use of a Chautauqua Lake-specific Lake management plan. All three are necessary. The alternative is worsening Lake conditions and decreasing property values.

Many are critical of the NYSDEC when they've say they are "Building



Submitted Photo

a Plane While Flying It" as they haphazardly implement the new wetlands regulations inappropriately applying them to lakes. Our County is doing something similar with our Lake as we struggle and fail, decade after decade, to improve Lake conditions and watch as our "Nightmare" is broadcast to all of Western New York. The damage to our Lake, damage to our County's reputation, and damage to the local economy is clear.

In our case, "No One Is Flying the Plane" and "We Don't Have a Flight Plan". The Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) is "flying in circles on autopilot", failing to improve the Lake while doing the same thing year after year, the very definition of insanity.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



"Wetlands" Public Meeting #12

Labor Day Weekend

Monday, September 1, 2025

9:30 – 11:00 am

Bemus Point Golf Club & Tap House

ZOOM ID: 634 650 3547, PWD: clpoa

CLPOA email: chqlpoa@gmail.com

CLPOA website: www.chqlpoa.org

Hear of New York State/Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) "overreach"

- Review seriously flawed, unconstitutional, and "not ready for primetime" new wetlands regulations
- Major update on CLPOA's April 2025 lawsuit vs NYS/DEC and additional State and Federal suits
- DEC designated ~3,000 acres in-Lake + 100' onshore private property wetlands/restricted so far
- Lower property values and tax revenues to cause tax rate increase County-wide
- Need for effective Lake management and Plan - Centralized Lake Authority of only elected officials
- CLPOA website www.chqlpoa.org includes all CLPOA documents for review
- Most important...**YOU can join us to fight abusive government overreach AND improve the Lake**

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE

perspectives on our challenges

Consortium Releases Chautauqua Lake Analysis

Contributed by
**Chautauqua-Conewango
Consortium**

The Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium, A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate serving the Conewango Creek watershed, recently released a Chautauqua Lake research analysis in its July newsletter. The strength of this analysis comes from the databases used for the review. It is rare for one body of water to have years of the best industry standard lake plant surveys that were personally collected by Robert L. Johnson, retired from Cornell University after 45 years as an Aquatic Biologist. Adding to this information are the annual Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) reports available for each basin in Chautauqua Lake since 1987. Together, these data and more were reviewed by Scott Kishbaugh, retired chief of the Department of

Environmental Conservation's Lakes Section and founder of the state's CSLAP program.

"The intent of this project was to have Scott Kishbaugh and Bob Johnson look at what we have. Our request was to let us know what these data are telling us," said Jane Conroe, chair of the Consortium. Scott Kishbaugh explained, "The formulation of any findings comes from what the extensive data sets show, not any pre-determined conclusions. Once I had the data organized by years, several trends emerged. The differences between years with herbicide treatments and years prior to herbicide treatments could not be ignored. These lake changes should be considered in the ongoing evaluation of future plant management plans."

Four of the main conclusions are: The biomass of native plants has decreased in herbicide-treated places



Submitted Photo

while it has increased elsewhere. This is different from the conclusions of others who have indicated that the herbicide treatments are increasing the populations of native plants. Because Eurasian watermilfoil is often not the most abundant plant, future treatments should be evaluated.

The Chautauqua Lake harmful algal bloom (HAB) season has started earlier in recent years, compromising the health and safety of lake users. This earlier HAB season may be exacerbated

by herbicide applications due to pulses of nutrient release from dying plants.

Herbicide applications are not helping to prevent the growth of Curly-leaf pondweed in the following year. The application of herbicide in the spring to Curly-leaf does not affect its ability to make the reproductive structures for the following year and, in fact, might be helping them grow stronger.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

**Before you panic about
wetland regulations...
get the facts you need.**



**When to ask questions?
Where to go for answers?**



<https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/permits-licenses/general-permits/freshwater-wetlands>



Chautauqua-Conewango
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Western New York’s Finest Artists, Studios, and Galleries - North Shore Arts Alliance Art Trail

Continued from Page 11

What to Expect

14 Hub Locations: These hubs serve as gathering points where multiple artists display their work. Some hubs are located at individual studios, while others are shared spaces where visitors can meet several artists at once.

Passports: Visitors can pick up a passport at any location and collect stamps as they visit different hubs. Completed passports are eligible for a drawing to win gift certificates redeemable with any participating artist.

“Whether you’re from Chautauqua County or visiting from out of

town, this immersive art-and-nature experience is not to be missed”, said Marcia Merrins, president of NSAA. Rain or shine – admission is free.

The Art Trail is a community-driven initiative, run by North Shore Arts Alliance, an all volunteer non-profit organization. The trail brings together artists, art lovers and nature enthusiasts in an immersive experience that celebrates the beauty of both art and the environment of our beautiful Chautauqua County.

Follow updates at
nsaachautauqua.org and on
Facebook @northshorearts.

Chautauqua Lake... “Flying in Circles”

Continued from Page 20

The Alliance board “cockpit” is an alphabet soup of Chautauqua Lake organizations but none have “pilot’s wings”. They admit they have no authority to manage the Lake. “No One Is Flying the Plane”. The County Executive’s plan to double the size of the cockpit is just another in a series of superficial “band aids” which will not address the Alliance’s lack of authority and organizational flaws. The Alliance must be retired.

Lake files are full of Chautauqua Lake studies and, since June 2024, now include an excellent Lake management plan, the North Carolina State University’s “Long-Term Management Plan for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation at Chautauqua Lake”. Although funded by them, the Alliance refused to adopt this Plan. “We Don’t Have a Flight Plan”.

We must form a Centralized Lake Authority, a formal New York State entity, which will have the license to “Fly the Plane” and which will utilize the June 2024 “Long-Term Management Plan for Submerged Aquatic Vegetation at Chautauqua Lake” as its “Flight Plan”. With that, we can stop flying in circles and start improving the Lake.

The “Centralized Lake Authority” would consist of only Chautauqua Lake-side Town Supervisors, Village Mayors, and County Legislators, all elected at the polls. It would be legally responsible to year-

round and seasonal residents and taxpayers and would, by law, operate transparently...in direct contrast to the secretive Alliance.

Encourage your County Executive, County Legislator, and Town Supervisor or Village Mayor support the CLPOA’s efforts. Come to the CLPOA’s “Wetlands” Public Meeting #12 on Monday, Labor Day, September 1, 2025, 9:30-11:00 am at the Bemus Point Golf Club and Tap House to hear more about the Lake and what you can do to fight DEC overreach and encourage a Centralized Lake Authority and use the NCSU Lake Management Plan.

Check the CLPOA website, www.chqlpoa.org for more information and an online facility to make donations. Please consider donating to support our ongoing litigation, research, and public awareness activities.

Chautauqua Lake Property Owners Association, Inc.
Jim Wehrfritz, President (832.319.8112)
Jeff Moore, Vice President
Dan Smith, Secretary/Treasurer
Kathy O’Brien and Tammy Schack, Directors

The CLPOA is an all-volunteer, 501c3 New York State non-profit corporation whose mission is to support the interests of property and business owners and Lake users on and near to Chautauqua Lake.

Jamestown Coin Club Show
Sunday, August 31 • Celoron Legion



A 10th-oz. \$5 Gold American Eagle coin, similar to the one pictured, is among the prizes at the Jamestown Coin Club Fall Show Sunday, August 31, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The free event is at the Herman Kent Post 777 (Celoron) American Legion.

Contributed by
Jamestown Coin Club

If you have coins you want to sell or trade or just learn their value, you won’t want to miss the free Jamestown Coin Club Fall Show Sunday, August 31, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at the Celoron American Legion Post 777 on Jackson Ave., W.E., just off Fairmount, in Jamestown.

More than two dozen dealers will be buying, selling, and offering free appraisals of U.S., ancient, and foreign coins. Coin supplies will also be available for purchase.

Raffle prizes include a tenth-ounce American Eagle, 3 BU Morgan dollars, a 1946 Walking Liberty half dollar, a 1896 uncirculated Indian Head cent and 4 Silver Eagle coins. Door prizes will be given away hourly.

Except for December, the Jamestown Coin Club meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of the month, also at the Legion. Doors open at 6 p.m. and meetings begin at 7 p.m., with door prizes, raffles and a coin auction. Annual membership is \$10. Guests are welcome to participate at no charge. For more information, call (716) 720-1591.



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Back to School, Back to Nature: Clean Water Starts in Your Yard

Contributed by
**Chautauqua Watershed
Conservancy**

Fall is here, and while our kids are preparing to head back to school, our yards are getting ready for some big changes as well. The days are already getting shorter, and the leaves are starting to change. While our kids gear up for another year of learning, fall is a great time for us to learn some new yard care habits for our landscape - ones that help keep our lakes and waterways clean and healthy.

When it rains, water often runs off our driveways, sidewalks, and our lawns. Instead of staying in our yards, it flows into storm drains, ditches, creeks, and finally into our lakes. Along the way, it can pick up grass clippings, leaves, fertilizers, pet waste, and other nutrients and pollutants. This pollution gets into our water, helping algae and plants grow.

The good news? We can all make simple changes in our own backyards that really help. And fall is the perfect

season to start.

Plant Something New!

We all think of spring when it comes to gardening, but did you know that fall is a wonderful time to plant native trees and shrubs?! Cooler weather and soft soil help roots grow strong. Native plants and trees like northern red oak, Allegheny serviceberry, or paw paw are especially good choices. Their deep roots soak up excess water, stop soil from washing away, and provide food for our local birds and butterflies.

Rethink the Lawn

Lawns may look nice, but they often need a lot of maintenance. Fall is a good time to take a step back and look at all the grass in your yard. Are there areas that didn't do well this summer that you had to tend to more than you'd have liked to? These are great spots to consider replacing the grass with a native plant garden! Or, if you really want grass in those areas, try adding extra grass seed instead of fertilizer and mulch your leaves right into your lawn.

Leaves help feed the soil and reduce the chemical runoff into our lakes. Keep in mind that if you do see an area you might want to take from lawn to native garden but don't know where to start, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is here to help with our free YardSmarts program!

Slow the Rain

Instead of letting rain rush off your yard, help it soak in. You can add a rain barrel to collect water from your roof or create a rain garden with flowers in low spots where water collects. Rain gardens can also be created at the end of your gutter downspouts where water-loving native plants can soak up the excess water flowing off your roof. These small changes slow water down, help prevent flooding, and clean the water before

entering our waterways.

Lead by Example

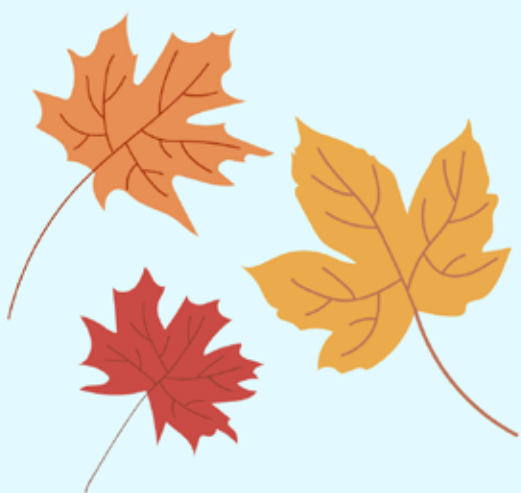
As our kids go back to school, in addition to subjects like math and science, we hope they are learning the important life lessons of kindness and responsibility. We can do the same as adults at home. Imagine if every person in our community made just one small change. Together, those steps would mean cleaner water, more birds and butterflies, more healthy outdoor places to play and grow. This fall while you're packing backpacks and settling into new routines, take a little time for your yard too. Let's all practice those important life lessons we learned so long ago and be kind to our regions lands and waters by being responsible for our actions right in our backyards.



CHAUTAUQUA
WATERSHED
CONSERVANCY

BACK TO SCHOOL & BACK TO NATURE

Do you live near a lake or pond? Your yard can help keep our waters clean, support pollinators and wildlife, and make your space healthier and more beautiful! Scan the QR code below to watch "Our Lakeshore Connection" video, to learn fun and easy ways to turn your yard into an eco-friendly sanctuary.



CHAUTAUQUA
WATERSHED
CONSERVANCY

Registration is Still Open for the 10th Annual CHRIC Classic Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 30, 2025
Chautauqua Golf Club's Lake Course
Chautauqua, NY

Contributed by
**Chautauqua Home
Rehabilitation &
Improvement Corp.**

Registration is still open for the 10th Annual CHRIC Classic golf tournament being held on Saturday, August 30, 2025 at the Chautauqua Golf Club, Lake Course, 4731 West Lake Road, Chautauqua, NY. There is still time to be part of this great event by registering a team or sponsoring the event.

Registration and morning refreshments begin at 8:00 am with a 9:00 am Shotgun Start on Lake Course. Games include: Dice Games on Par 3; Close to the Pin; Longest Drive-Men & Women; Longest Putt; Par 3 Challenge and on the Turn Putting Competition (2-Putts). Entry fee is \$95 a player or \$380 a foursome which includes 18 holes of golf with cart, 2 drink tickets & luncheon.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and donors for taking part in this event their support is critical to helping us achieve our mission of **"Promoting neighborhood stabilization, community revitalization, and economic development through projects and partnerships that impact Chautauqua County and its residents."**

Platinum Sponsors:
Basil Chevrolet-Buick-Cadillac Fredonia for the chance on a Hole in One on Par 3 to win a car and Fredonia Beaver Club;
Gold Sponsor:
John R. Samuelson,
Attorney at Law

Silver Veteran's Team Sponsor: Lawley Insurance Agency, Snow Construction 2.0 LLC and Wells Enterprises; ACE Putting Sponsor: Owl Homes Group

Tee Sign Sponsors: Bittering Spray Foam Insulation, LLC, Cattaraugus County Bank, Chautauqua Transportation Services, Freay Funeral Home, Kosciuszko Polish Home, Lake Shore Savings Bank, M & T Bank, Putnam Record Agency, Quick Solutions-Eaglesome Graphics, Simpson Electric and Usherwood Technology.

Basket/Prize/Raffle Donors: Arcade & Attica Railroad, Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse NLL, Buffalo Bisons Baseball, Chipolte, Erie Zoological Society, Holiday Valley Resort- Double Black Diamond Golf Course, Jamestown YMCA, Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum, National Comedy Center, Patton Lighting Center, Pittsburgh Steelers, Salvatore's Hospitality, Scotts Enterprises-Peek'n Peak Resort.

A Special Thank You to all of our teams and golfers who will be coming out and supporting CHRIC. Your continued support and generosity means so much to us.

Golf Team Registration Forms and Sponsorship Opportunities are still available please contact CHRIC at: 716-753-4650, email request to: chric@fairpoint.net or write to CHRIC, 2 Academy St., Mayville, NY 14757-1050. Golf Team Registration Forms and Sponsorship/Donation Opportunities Forms are also available on CHRIC's website at: www.chric.org

CHRIC CLASSIC 10th Annual Golf Tournament Saturday, August 30, 2025



CHAUTAUQUA GOLF CLUB
4731 West Lake Road
Chautauqua, New York

More info at: chric.org/index.php/fundraisers/

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CHAUTAUQUA FARMERS MARKETS

Dunkirk Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 9 AM–2 PM
June 11–October 8

45 Cliffstar Court, Dunkirk

Shop local meats, produce, handmade soaps, and more while staying cool under the new pavilion.

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

Lakewood Farmers Market

Thursdays, 12 PM–4 PM
June–September

Chautauqua Avenue, Lakewood

Set in the heart of the historic village center, enjoy a mix of produce, baked goods, and local specialties.

Accepts: FMNP, Fresh Connect checks (most vendors)
lakewoodny.gov/farmers-artisans-market | 716-763-8557

Forestville Farmers Market

Thursdays, 2 PM–6 PM
May 13–August 26

Main Street, Forestville

A growing market featuring vendors from Fredonia, including Degolier Maple Syrup, local produce, and handcrafted items.

Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect checks
716-965-2921

Jamestown Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9 AM–1 PM
June 7–November 22

Third Street, Jamestown
(in front of Lucy Desi Museum)

More than a place to shop, the Jamestown Farmers Market is a community hub outfitted with longtime vendors like Abers Acres and Hidden Valley, and new favorites like Lantern's Hollow offering sustainable greens and herbs. In winter months, visit the indoor market at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Accepts: SNAP, Fresh Connect, FMNP coupons
www.jfmny.org

Fredonia Farmers Market

Saturdays, 9 AM–1 PM
year-round

Baker Commons, Fredonia

Year-round access to local meats from Roo Haven Farms and Green Heron Growers, plus prepared foods from Pots n' Curries and specialty baked goods (including gluten-free and keto).

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

Westfield Farmers & Artisans Market

Saturdays, 9 AM–2 PM
May 24–September 27

Corner of Routes 20 & 394, Westfield

Voted one of the top 15 farmers markets in the U.S. by American Farmland Trust! Find everything from organic produce and pasture-raised meats to Whizz n Smash nut butters and fresh Thai dishes from Gong Gardens.

Accepts: FMNP checks
westfieldmkt@gmail.com

Falconer Farmers & Artisans Market

Saturdays, 10 AM–4 PM
May 31–October 25

Village of Falconer Park

Visit with local vendors and shops like Persnickety Pies and browse handmade artisan goods, fresh produce, and more each Saturday throughout the summer season.

716-665-4400

Bemus Point Farmers Market

Saturdays, 10 AM - 2 PM
June 14–August 30

Lakeside Park
(by the Village Casino)

Located in the scenic lakeside village, this market is the perfect spot to shop for fresh goods while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of Bemus Point.

bemuspointny.org/farmers-market

Cassadaga Farmers Market

Sundays, 12 PM–3 PM
June - end of summer

Ames Commons, Cassadaga

A small, hyper-local market featuring vendor Roberto Fred's wide variety of fresh produce.

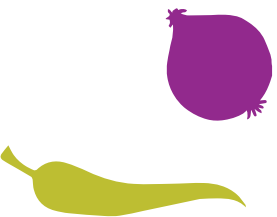
Accepts: SNAP, FMNP, Fresh Connect checks
cassadaganewyork.org
716-595-3007

Jamestown Mobile Market

Various times and locations across Jamestown
June - September

Managed by St. Luke's and the Jamestown Farmers Market, this mobile option offers fresh produce, meats, baked goods, and more at discounted prices throughout the city.

Accepts: SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, Fresh Connect, FMNP coupons
www.jfmny.org



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Jamestown Farmers Market

SATURDAYS
9 AM - 1 PM
JUN - NOV

Start your weekend all summer with a visit to the market! Fresh locally grown produce, prepared foods, artisan crafts and goods await you! Plus live music, entertainment, and surrounding businesses offer breakfast and coffee!

FRESH FOOD
LIVE MUSIC
LOCAL GOODS

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JFMNY.ORG



FALL 2025 | SOUTHWEST REGION SBDC

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
FAST TRAC

In this 10-week program, aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs will develop and refine a business concept, taking it through each step of the business planning process.

September 9 – November 13, 2025
Tuesday & Thursday evenings
5:30PM–7:30PM

All classes are being held at JCC (Carnahan 123).

Cost:
The cost of this program will be free for residents or business owners within the City of Jamestown and cost \$125 for all others. All participants are expected to attend all sessions.

Register:
[SBDCJCC.ORG/EVENTS-1](https://sbdcjcc.org/events-1)

NEW YORK SBDC IS A PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH THE SBA ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK. FINANCED IN PART THROUGH A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. THE FOLLOWING DISCLOSURES ARE AVAILABLE AT: <https://sbdcjcc.org/financial-disclosures>. ALL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THE SBA COOPERATION AGREEMENT. ALL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THE SBA COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL LIFESTYLE	FROM IDEA TO BUSINESS CONCEPT	MARKET RESEARCH	MARKET RESEARCH II
BUSINESS MODEL DESIGN	PRICING STRATEGY	LEGAL STRATEGY	BUSINESS EXITS
REACHING THE MARKET	DISTRIBUTION AND SALES	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CYCLE	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
BUILDING THE ORGANIZATION AND TEAM	YOUR CASH NEEDS AND WHEN YOU MIGHT EARN A PROFIT	REFINING FINANCIAL ASSUMPTIONS AND SEEKING FUNDING	PUTTING TOGETHER A BUSINESS PLAN
LAUNCH	MEASURING AND ANALYZING FINANCIAL RESULTS	PRESENT PLAN	PRESENT PLAN II

CAM-P-TECH Students Get Preview of Important Employability Skills in Tech Fields



Submitted Photo

Ellen Ditonto presenting at the "You Want a Job?" event.

Contributed by
Jamestown Board of Public Utilities

Regional high school sophomore students enrolled in the Careers in Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) P-TECH program participated in a presentation entitled, "You Want a Job?" during their week-long Summer Bridge Program held recently.

Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (JBPU) Business Development Coordinator Ellen Ditonto offered students a preview of both hard and soft skills required in both the Electrical Construction Maintenance/Electrician and Information Technology career tracks.

Students were provided with examples of problem-solving, communications, initiative and time-management skills, all critically important skills required in today's job market. Ditonto also highlighted some of the hard skills that students will learn as they progress through the P-TECH program.

CAM P-TECH Academy Principal Heather Banks said, "Each summer we invite an industry partner to speak with our students about the importance of employability skills. We focus on what makes someone employable, including both hard and soft skills."

In their senior year, CAM P-TECH students are invited to visit the Jamestown BPU offices and tour the power plant and discuss positions in the electrical division with the utility's Human Resources team.

CAM P-TECH Academy, offered through Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, provides students with an innovative up-to-six-year pathway that combines high school, college, and industry experience. Students graduate with both a high school diploma and a no-cost associate degree from a higher educational partner. For more information, visit e2ccb.org.

Fredonia Looks Forward to a Dynamic Year Ahead

Continued from Page 17

electrical and heating systems. These improvements are not only critical for day-to-day comfort and safety but also ensure the long-term preservation of district facilities.

The Capital Project also features new opportunities for Fredonia's youngest learners. At the Wheelock Early Childhood Center, students will soon enjoy two brand-new playgrounds, carefully designed to support growth, creativity, and play. These spaces will help foster both social and physical development while adding even more fun to the fundamentals of early childhood education. As the doors open to the 2025–26

school year, Fredonia Central School District is focused on maintaining strong academic foundations while continuing to invest in the future. From successful classroom initiatives to major facility upgrades, our priorities remain clear: to provide an environment where students and staff are engaged, supported, and empowered every day to become their greatest selves.

Fredonia Central School District is a place of learning and exploring. We are dedicated to paving innovative pathways to dynamic and global educational experiences that allow individuals to become their greatest selves.



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Wednesday, August 27
Homemade Chicken & Biscuits
w/ real mashed potatoes
Full: \$11.50 + tax | Half: \$8.50 + tax
*\$.50 extra for separate packaging

Thursday, August 28
(1) Homemade Meatloaf Dinner
w/ real mashed potatoes & corn
Full: \$11.50 + tax | Half: \$7.50 + tax
(2) Meatloaf Sandwich w/ choice of side

Friday, August 29
1/4# Dog Burger w/ choice of side
\$10.25 + tax

★ ★ **Monday, September 1** ★ ★
CLOSED - **Happy Labor Day!**

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M: 8am-1:30pm | T-F: 8am-2pm

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sandeescatering.com

SUDOKU

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

Here's How It Works:

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

Level: Beginner

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4			5	6	7			8	9	10
11				12			13				14		
15							16				17		
	18					19					21		
					22	23				24			
25	26	27	28	29									
30								31					
32										33	34	35	36
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43			44					
	45	46	47										
48						49				50	51	52	53
55						56					57		
59						60					61		
62						63					64		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxis

5. Space Systems Command

8. Plant seed by scattering

11. Alliances

13. Fiddler crabs

14. Heroic tale

15. Yemen capital

16. Misleading gesture

17. Cain and ___

18. Simple shoe

20. Hundredweight

21. Children’s toy in the snow

22. Gets rid of

25. Free of deceit

30. Performed a dance

31. Chinese philosophical principle

32. Exaggerated

33. Refrain from inflicting

38. A doctrine

41. Can be subdued

43. A place to bathe

45. Land used for pasture

48. Curved piece of iron

49. Automobile

50. Fencing sword

55. Breezes through

56. Child

57. NBA legend Iverson

59. Horsley and Iacocca are two

60. Midway between northeast and east

61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation

62. U.S. leader during much of WW2

63. Lair

64. Fibrous material

CLUES DOWN

1. Home of “60 Minutes”

2. Expression of sorrow or pity

3. ___ fide: legitimate

4. Immune response

5. Assistance and support

6. Glared

7. Spanish saloon

8. Pitch black

9. S-shaped lines

10. Statistical test

12. ___ Paulo, city

14. Graduation garb

19. A way to record

23. Not good

24. Weather events

25. A pituitary hormone

26. Jamie Foxx film

27. Rocker’s accessory

28. One point east (clockwise) of due north

29. One who obtains pleasure from another’s pain

34. Consume

35. Licensed for Wall Street

36. Sick

37. Israeli city ___ Aviv

39. Removed the husk

40. Mass of rocks and sediment

41. Two-year-old sheep

42. Area units

44. Prison overseer

45. Walked

46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier

47. Tax

48. 50 percent

51. Swiss river

52. Tattle

53. Actor Idris

54. Resist authority (slang)

58. Egg of a louse

Best Summer Memory

Continued from Page 5

rejected from the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra a few years back, so her performance tonight was somewhat of a “redemption era” for the pair, a remark that garnered plenty of amusement from the crowd. Later on, someone in the crowd yelled, “I love you!” which was ironically right before the song “I Wish You Love.” While it wasn’t the only time someone yelled those words during the night, it was probably the most fitting (and amusing) for the song it preceded. To the delight of many in the audience, Laufey also performed several songs from her upcoming album, “A Matter of Time,” including the then-unreleased songs “Forget-Me-Not” and “Snow White.” That last part was especially meaningful for the fans in the crowd, since being able to hear unreleased songs firsthand is a really special experience, one that isn’t common in too many shows.

Another particularly enjoyable aspect of the concert was the engagement with the audience during certain songs. Due to the primarily jazz and classical nature of Laufey’s songs, it’s pretty normal for the audience to be mostly silent during the performance- but during “Lover Girl,” and “From The Start,” the audience clapped and sang along. Considering that the latter is also her most popular song to date,

the involvement of the crowd is a nice testament to that fact. Singing along at concerts has always been a special thing, though, since it really ensures that nobody feels out of place. One of those really special aspects for me was the performance of “Like the Movies,” which is one of her oldest songs, yet one of my absolute favorites. I didn’t expect it to be played, considering that it is an older song, but it’s one of those concert moments that makes you feel like it was “your” show.

Although I’m usually not a huge picture or video person, this was a night I knew I wanted to be able to look back on, so I ended up taking a pretty good number of videos. Some songs are definitely just meant to be performed live, and as Laufey noted herself, while some of them are absolutely meant to be performed with an orchestra. Thanks to this show, I can definitely vouch for that sentiment! This concert was pretty definitively the highlight of my summer. Perhaps this is your sign to go see a show, go support the arts and enjoy the rest of your summer. Hopefully, the transition back to school (or college) isn’t too harsh on everyone!

The Gazette is proud to feature Ryan, a high school junior talented beyond his years, as our monthly student journalist

Consortium Releases Chautauqua Lake Analysis

Continued from Page 21

There are now more areas observed where there are no plants growing. This openness of the bare lake bottom invites the establishment of more invasive plants rather than native plants, and may impact fishing and aquatic life support.

Current, unpleasant south basin conditions in Chautauqua Lake have many asking, “What can we do?” This question often comes with the hope that something can quickly change lake conditions. Knowing that is not true, the Consortium began the process to analyze the actual lake conditions. A data review, such as this one, is a key action that all persons responsible for lake maintenance and permitting should take. The review of lake conditions, scientifically gathered over longer periods of time, is a rare

opportunity that the Consortium has provided. Now, an annual comparison can provide evaluation for future lake management actions.

The Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium produced its position statement on herbicide use in 2020. The Consortium recognizes the appropriate times and places for aquatic herbicide use. As of this time, with the review of the data as it has been explained, the Consortium cannot support the currently existing herbicide program on Chautauqua Lake.

For more information on the Kishbaugh-Johnson review and all supporting data, go to the Chautauqua Conewango Consortium website.

Silver Creek Central School Knight University

Continued from Page 17

included kickboxing, stained glass window making, tie- dye, cooking, gardening, yoga, dance, ribbon skirt making and much more.

Driving this rich programming is our dedicated faculty and staff, whose commitment goes well beyond the school day. Each day, they invest time, energy and care to ensure our students feel seen, supported and challenged. This culture of care creates a learning environment where all students thrive both academically and socially every day. Our families and staff aren’t the only ones who gather—Friends of Silver Creek (FOSC) events bring the wider community together in vibrant, memorable ways. A standout is Reading Under the Lights, where families cozy up with books under the lights on our athletic field, making literacy a shared celebration. Another hit is our annual Track or Treat event: a Halloween-themed stroll around the athletic track, complete with costumed characters, treats and even spooky attractions—all organized by our PTSA and welcoming hundreds of families.

Recognition doesn’t stop at engagement—it extends to student achievement. Our scholars have earned both the Seal of Civic Readiness and the Seal of Biliteracy, honoring their leadership, global awareness and linguistic proficiency. These distinctions reflect our commitment not only to academic rigor but also to preparing our students as empowered, culturally fluent citizens.

Our PTSA (Parent-Teacher-Student Association) provides the backbone for many of these successes. From strategic planning

to volunteer coordination, the PTSA’s unwavering support helps bring creative programs, community events, and critical resources to life—ensuring every child’s potential becomes reality #everyday. Equity and cultural responsiveness are also central to who we are. Our Native American education programming spans from the elementary grades through high school, providing culturally rich learning experiences grounded in respect and authenticity. Through collaboration with tribal partners, culturally relevant curricula, and inclusive practices, we ensure indigenous heritage is honored, understood and woven into the fabric of learning—from early grades to graduation.

Looking ahead, our upcoming \$36.1 million capital project marks the most significant facility investment in our district’s history. This ambitious project spans every corner of our campus—from a fully renovated auditorium, a new ADA-compliant playground with rubberized surfaces and school-color branding, a “super field” turf space for baseball, softball and soccer with scoreboards and spectator-focused upgrades, to pool enhancements, modernized locker rooms, redesigned classrooms for flexible, problem- based learning and essential infrastructure improvements.

In summary, Silver Creek isn’t just a school district—it’s our community, thriving on creativity, compassion, and connection. At Silver Creek, we believe in the power of every student, every day, where every member of the Silver Creek team adds to the Black Knight Story.

Restaurant, Bar & Coffee House



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MFYM is a veteran and woman owned small business featuring farm-to-table, chef-prepared breakfasts, artisan sandwiches, and gourmet dinners.

A dining experience to make your taste buds sing

New Year. Fresh Chapter.

Continued from Front Page

In the elementary library, we're kicking things off with our *Hooked on Books* program. This program is all about helping kids embrace literature at an early age. Each student has a reading goal to work on, and families play a big part in making it happen, whether it's by snuggling up with a book, listening to a story or exploring new worlds together. As our students grow as readers, we celebrate their progress with special events and lots of encouragement, all in partnership with the wonderful Mayville Public Library.

To me, the library is not just a place to check out a book. It is about helping students find their passion. It is also a place to spark creativity through hands-on exploration, and to learn about the newest tech tools that can support both schoolwork and personal interests. The library should be a space where students feel free to explore, experiment and imagine possibilities for their future.

One of my personal highlights this past year was when CLCS hosted a school visit with Kwame Alexander. His books, full of rhythm, energy and heart, show students that stories can be powerful, fun and deeply meaningful. Through poetry, novels, and picture books, he has a way of truly getting young readers. His visit reminded all of us that reading is not just about assignments, but about finding stories that connect with who we are.

I've become first-day wise with more years gone by than I like to count at this point. Easing back into routine is something I have always worked on in my own home. A consistent bedtime, a calm morning plan and a set time for homework can help students feel steady and ready to learn. Even small habits, like packing a backpack the night before or reading together for a few minutes each evening, can help make the transition smoother.

As both an educator and a mom of three, I've learned that what works for one child may not work for another. Each family finds its own rhythm. For me, two routines make a big difference: family dinners, even if just a few times a week, and when my kids were younger, daily

reading time together. Sharing a meal gave us time to reconnect, and reading, whenever we found a quiet moment, built strong habits and lasting memories.

As a librarian, I try to connect some of the same principles I use at home to my school environment. I work on making the libraries calm and welcoming, a place where students can connect with each other, find quiet when they need it and also have opportunities to be creative. My hope is that every student feels comfortable, supported and inspired to explore new ideas. Here are my recommendations for getting back into routine and ready for the year ahead:

Mrs. McPherson's favorite quote:
"That's what Hermione does," said Ron, shrugging.
"When in doubt, go to the library."
—J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Create a morning routine. Set an alarm, eat breakfast and make sure to take the time to double-check all materials are packed and ready for the day. Plan time for homework and study time. Set aside time each day that is specifically to work on classroom studies.

Review classroom expectations. Whether your student is in elementary school or in secondary school, make sure to know what is expected in the classroom. Make reading a part of each day. Take it slow. Remember, routines take time and consistency.

For all students, one of the most important things they can do from the start is to ask for help if they need it. Teachers and staff want to support their students, and questions build strong connections.

Back-to-school season is the perfect time to set the tone for the year ahead. I hope that all students feel excited to open the next chapter, both in their classrooms and in the library. Together, we'll explore stories, ask questions, celebrate accomplishments, grow as readers and create excitement for the year ahead.

Jennifer McPherson is starting her ninth year as the Library Media Specialist at the Chautauqua Lake Central School. She is a wife and mother of three. "Jenny" loves stories, books, and helping others fall in love with reading.

Accomplished Cellist to Give Recital at Opera House

Contributed by
1891 Fredonia Opera House
Performing Arts Center

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center presents Cellist Jolyon Pegis in a special recital on Fri., Aug. 29, at 7:30 p.m. He will be joined by Pianist Robert Frankenberry in a program that features the music of Schumann, Debussy, Prokofiev and more.

Pegis may be familiar to Opera House audiences as one of the Bach & Beyond Baroque Music Festival musicians for several years, as well as for a previous Opera House concert with violinist Maria Schleuning.

Pegis, who currently lives in Texas, hails from Rochester, NY. He is the winner of the Artists International Awards in New York, and subsequently made his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall. He since has appeared as a recitalist and chamber musician across the country.

A champion of new music, he has worked with composers such as Gunther Schuller, Lukas Foss, Eric Heckard, and Don Freund. He was a member of the Arcadia Trio in residence at the Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival and has also been featured at the Roycroft Chamber Music Festival and the Anchorage Festival of the Arts. A frequent soloist with orchestras, he has appeared multiple times with the San Antonio, Virginia, Dallas, West Virginia and Chautauqua Symphonies.

Pegis is currently Associate Principal Cellist with the Dallas Symphony as well as Principal Cello of the Chautauqua Symphony, and a member of the Grammy-nominated contemporary music ensemble Voices of Change.

Frankenberry enjoys a multi-faceted relationship with music as a singer, pianist, conductor, orchestrator, director, and occasional composer.



Submitted Photo
Cellist Jolyon Pegis

On stage, he has performed a wide range of roles including Mozart (Amadeus), John Adams (1776), Bacchus (Ariadne auf Naxos), the title roles in Don Carlo, The Tales of Hoffmann, Faust, and Willy Wonka, and Orson Welles in Daron Hagen's film opera Orson Rehearsed. At the piano, he regularly performs works by living composers with such groups as Pittsburgh's IonSound and AnimeBOP, New York City's The Phoenix Players and PRISM Players, and multi-city entelechron and Chrysalis Duo.

He is currently Interim Concert and Communications Coordinator for the Department of Music at the University of Pittsburgh.

Tickets to the show are \$20 (Adults), \$18 (Adults), and \$10 (Students) and can be purchased in person at the Opera House Box Office or by phone at 716-679-1891, Tuesday-Friday, 12-4:30 p.m. They can be purchased online anytime at www.fredopera.org.

The 1891 Fredonia Opera House Performing Arts Center is a member-supported not-for-profit performing arts center with a mission to "present the performing arts for the benefit of our community and region ... providing access to artistic diversity ... and high-quality programming at an affordable price." It is located in Village Hall in downtown Fredonia. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.fredopera.org.

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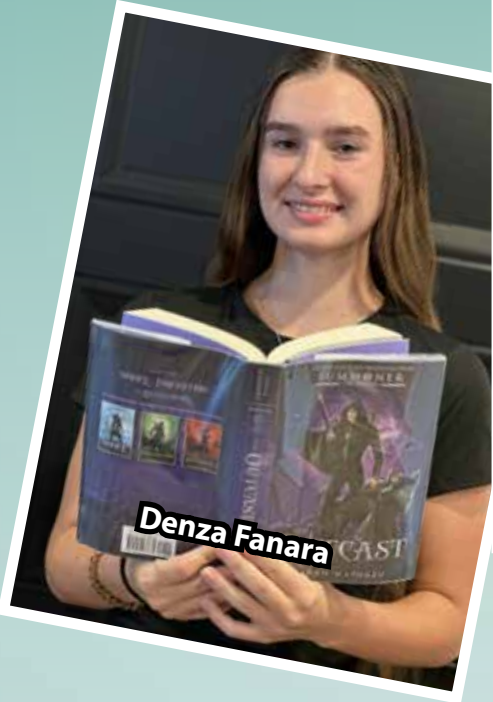
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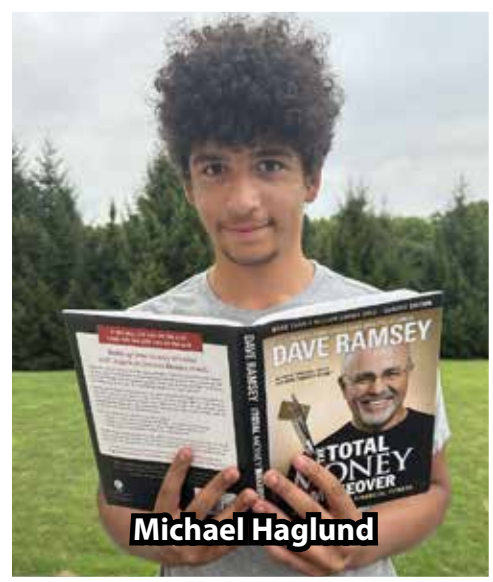
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