

Defensive battle

Beaver River tops Lowville in the latest renewal of longtime rivalry

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL, B1



Van Wagner, Schwartfigure spark Potsdam to season-opening win over Canton

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP, B1



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State parks to spend \$53M to upgrade security

By ALEX GAULT  
agault@wdt.net

A \$53 million program to upgrade security measures at New York's state parks is underway, with a combination of new educational programs for kids on outdoor safety and a range of new technologies installed at park gates.

Passed as a part of this year's state budget, the state parks system

established a Junior Ranger Safety Campaign this year, aimed at teaching children who visit the state parks system the basics about exploring the parks safely.

It also set aside millions for the installation of cameras and license plate readers at park entrances and exits. Officials said that there are more than 90 identified projects to be undertaken to install security cameras, license plate readers

and internet connectivity to use those tools at various parks across New York. They also identified 20 fencing and lighting projects to be undertaken. A state parks spokesperson couldn't specify which projects were being worked on or their timelines when reached on Friday.

Additionally, park staff are getting more training on security and visitor

See PARKS A5



Searchers gather last October in Gansevoort, Saratoga County, amid the search for a 9-year-old abducted from Moreau Lake State Park who was later found safe. Mike Groll/Office of Gov. Kathleen C. Hochul

Falls Fest fills downtown



Rain couldn't keep people away from Falls Fest in Rensselaer Falls on Saturday. Downtown was filled with food trucks and music despite the damp weather. Tom Graser/Watertown Daily Times

The Rensselaer Falls Fest went on despite rainy weather on Saturday. Festival attendees enjoyed hours of live music and delicious treats from local food trucks.

Tom Graser/Watertown Daily Times



Drones to aid fire dept.

Technology to help firefighters assess dangerous situations, locate individuals in distress and monitor large-scale events

By BOB BECKSTEAD  
bbeckstead@wdt.net

MASSENA — The Massena Volunteer Fire Department will be taking their response efforts into the air with the addition of drones as part of a new robotics program.

Chief Patrick M. O'Brien said the initiative will help improve emergency response capabilities and enhance the safety of both firefighters and the community.

"Our new robotics program represents a significant step forward in our ability to serve the Massena community," he said. "This technology will provide our firefighters with the tools they need to assess dangerous situations better, locate individuals in distress, and monitor large-scale events with greater precision."

O'Brien said a community needs assessment was used to determine mission areas where resources were lacking, while looking to place the latest tools for emergency management into the hands of first responders. He said the department worked closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that the program met all regulatory standards and best practices for the safe and effective use of drones.

The drone technology will be used to assist in various aspects of emergency operations, including search and rescue missions, fire suppression efforts, hazardous materials incidents, and disaster management.

"By providing aerial views and real-time data, drones will offer critical support in situations where traditional methods are limited, allowing for more informed decision-making and quicker response times," O'Brien said.

While the initial focus is drone technology, he said the program will "remain centered on overall robotics to allow for future expansion and broaden the department's grant funding opportunities."

The robotics program will also be used for training and education. He said the department plans to collaborate with local schools and community organizations to

See DRONES A8

1000 Islands gem, mineral show revived

By CHRIS BROCK  
cbrock@wdt.net

CLAYTON — Guangxia ("Sue") Hazlewood is in her element as she diligently works to revive an annual gem, mineral and fossil show based in the Thousand Islands region.

For the past five years,

Hazlewood has been traveling to gem and mineral shows on the east coast and setting up a table with her wares. That table, and her website, is named Rising Aurora.

At those shows, when fellow vendors discovered that she lived in Clayton, many

had a question for her: what happened to the Clayton-based show? Some vendors suggested she should take on a project focusing on the return of the event. In May, she began that task with an inquiry to management of the Cerow Recreation Park

See GEM SHOW A3

Showers today. Highs in mid-60s; lows near 45.

DETAILS, A8



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# Lowville Baptist Church celebrating 200 years



The Lowville Baptist Church as it stands today. Submitted photo

Johnson Newspapers

LOWVILLE — Members of the Lowville Baptist Church, 7627 N. State St., will hold a special worship service on Oct. 6 to celebrate the church’s 200th anniversary.

A traditional worship service at 11 a.m. will include music and guest speakers. The Rev. Everett F. Reed, who served as pastor of the church from 1990 to 2011, will travel from Alaska to provide a message. A dinner will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Displays and videos of church memorabilia will be open for viewing.

The Lowville Baptist Church was established on Sept. 8, 1824, when 32 members of the Lowville and

Denmark Baptist Church — locally known as the Line Church — met at the home of Jacob Burr in the village of Lowville. It was called the Line Church because of its location on the border of Denmark and Lowville districts. A few months later, it was unanimously agreed to build a house for public worship.

“By December of 1824, the society resolved to build a church of wood, 40 by 50 feet. The location was given to include ... all south of Moses Waters’, upon Stow’s Square inclusive, on the lot of our current brick edifice,” states Hough’s History of Lewis County, 1860.

In 1825, Elder John Blodgett, one

of three ordained ministers west of the Hudson River, was engaged as the first pastor at a salary of \$300. In November of 1825, an auction was held to sell church seats to raise money toward the cost of a church building. Fifty-six seats were sold for \$1,967. Palmer Townsend, clerk, Moses Waters, Deacon and Stephen W. Taylor were three of the more active leaders during those early years. In 1890 the present church building was constructed at a cost of \$14,000 and that same year, another \$2,500 was spent on rebuilding the parsonage on Shady Avenue.

See CHURCH A8

## BRIEFLY

### Stop 22 Walk aims to raise suicide awareness

CARTHAGE — The Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce, North County Veteran and Service Member Suicide Prevention Coalition, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Dionne-Rumble Post 7227 and Auxiliary are teaming up to promote military suicide awareness.

The group is organizing a Stop 22 walk set for 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 21. The 22-minute walk starts and ends at the Carthage Farmers Market Pavilion, Riverside Drive.

Registration for the walk begins at 9 a.m. with a fee of \$1 per participant.

According to Veterans Affairs statistics, 22 veterans a day die by suicide, many due to suffering from post traumatic stress.

### DEC to offer webinar on waterfowl news, updates

Wildlife biologists at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will host a virtual meeting from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sept. 23, to advise the public of a variety of regional and statewide waterfowl news and updates.

Meeting topics:

- Highlights of wetland management.
- Expected impoundment fall water level status.
- Research programs at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, and the Tonawanda, Oak Orchard, Northern Montezuma, and Braddock Bay wildlife management areas.
- Atlantic Flyway waterfowl populations.
- Upcoming duck and goose hunting seasons.

For general questions, contact DEC’s Iroquois Wildlife field office at (585) 948-5182.

To register and to receive instructions on joining the webinar, go to [wdt.me/waterfowldec](http://wdt.me/waterfowldec).

### Carthage Little Theater welcomes all to meeting

CARTHAGE — Carthage Little Theatre invites welcomes all — especially anyone interested in directing or performing — to the next meeting 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 at United Community Church, 112 N. School St.

Anyone from Carthage or surrounding communities is welcome. The troupe is also in need of people to work behind the scenes.



In August, Guangxia “Sue” Hazlewood attended the St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club’s 57th annual Gem and Mineral Show at the Canton Recreational Pavilion. Tom Graser/Watertown Daily Times

## Gem show

From A1

Arena, where the show had been hosted.

“The arena management was so supportive and the price was good,” Hazlewood said. “So, I’m going to do it.”

The 1000 Islands Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show is 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at Cerow Recreational Park, 600 E. Line Road. Admission is \$5, and free for those 11 and younger.

The Clayton area is part of Region III of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies Inc. Region III extends from the Adirondacks in Northern New York south to the Appalachians of Pennsylvania. The St. Lawrence Valley contains notable mineralized metamorphic rocks. Numerous mineralized fracture zones run across the region and many notable minerals also occur in Pennsylvania. Notable minerals include Herkimer “diamond” from the Mohawk Valley and black uvite from Pierrepont.

Last month, Hazlewood attended the St. Lawrence County Rock and Mineral Club’s 57th annual Gem and Mineral Show at the Canton Recreational Pavilion.

Gem and mineral-related shows in Clayton have had different names over the years, with none hosted the past several years. In 2004, a 26th annual show was called the Thousand Islands Stamp, Coin, Postcard, Gem and Mineral Show. The 35th annual show was held in 2013, with no record in Times archives of the show after that.

In 2013, organizer George A. Mingle, Cape Vincent, said the Thousand Islands Stamp, Coin, Postcard, Jewelry, Gem and Collectibles Show used to be a two-day event that attracted up to 70 vendors to Recreation Park Arena. How-



Some of the items sold at Guangxia “Sue” Hazlewood’s Rising Aurora vendor table and website. Submitted photo



Guangxia “Sue” Hazlewood also sells pendants. Submitted photo

ever, he noted a steady decline in foot traffic and participating vendors over the years and the show was scaled back to a single-day event in 2013.

Hazlewood has been spreading the word about this weekend’s show through social media and placing yard signs around the area. She speaks fervently about gems and minerals. “It’s been a lot of fun and I really believe I’m doing the right thing to make peoples’ lives

more meaningful.”

She said she has vendors lined up for the Clayton show who are coming from around the east coast — from Georgia to Pennsylvania. The show will also include classes and food trucks will also be set up.

“In the first year, I don’t think it’s right to think about money too much,” Hazlewood said of the show’s return. “I just want to do a good show. And a good show depends on two elements: you have to



Many of the items that Guangxia “Sue” Hazlewood sells at shows are created by artists overseas based on her designs, such as this octopus. Submitted photo



Art created on stones found along rivers and lakes are among the wares of Guangxia “Sue” Hazlewood. “The river rock 3Ds are painted by a group of part-time artists. They are my classmates and practiced for two to three years,” she said. Submitted photo

have good vendors and the second thing is lots of people coming.”

She especially hopes to

see younger attendees at the show. “It’s like planting a seed in their hearts. They might become geologists.”

September 8, 2024

AVERAGE GAS PRICES

Jefferson County

↓ \$3.403

St. Lawrence County

↓ \$3.671

Lewis County

↑ \$3.613

Source: American Automobile Association ([wdt.me/gasprices](http://wdt.me/gasprices))