

Issues and Programs, WSLU-FM Repeater Station

January, February, and March 2024

This station operates as a satellite of the North Country Public Radio network (flagship station is WSLU, Canton, NY). WSLU, Canton, NY and its satellite stations and translators make up the North Country Public Radio (NCPR) network. NCPR's News Team covers local and regional stories and issues in order to serve listeners in this rural region. NCPR's news director and reporters, as well as the station manager and other department directors, talk with listeners regularly and frequently, gathering information about community concerns and issues. In addition, the station uses broadcast and digital platforms to encourage listeners to share their thoughts and concerns by phone, mail, email, and social media. These comments receive a reply from station management and are often the basis for local and regional news and feature content. This content is aired during the weekday morning regional news program *Northern Light and/or Story of the Day*, which airs weekdays at 5:48pm, and/or *North Words*, which airs on the last Friday of each month at 12 noon. All three programs are also available as a podcast, and online for reading and listening at ncpr.org. Here are some examples of the station's treatment of key stories and issues in the coverage area. These stories can be referenced at ncpr.org using the links included.

Format:

Title of Story

Date, 2023 — Description

Length: x:xx

Web link

Education, Child Care, and Children:

Both major parties oppose Hochul's proposed school spending reductions

Jan 25, 2024 — Governor Kathy Hochul's budget proposal to direct less money to schools and change how aid is distributed has been met with almost universal opposition from members of both major political parties.

Length: 3:54

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49182/20240125/both-major-parties-oppose-hochul-s-proposed-school-spending-reductions>

In St. Lawrence County, fewer people are signing up to be foster parents

Feb 12, 2024 — In recent years, fewer people in St. Lawrence County have been signing up to host foster kids, according to county social services commissioner Joe Seeber.

Length: 4:45

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49248/20240212/in-st-lawrence-county-fewer-people-are-signing-up-to-be-foster-parents>

A \$66 million new school for 400 students is on the ballot in the Adirondacks

Feb 13, 2024 — School district officials say both the Westport school and the one in Elizabethtown are outdated and are proposing building a new, \$66 million school in nearby Lewis. That proposal is up for a vote this Thursday from 12-8 p.m. at the school in Westport.

Length: 6:32

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49280/20240213/a-66-million-new-school-for-400-students-is-on-the-ballot-in-the-adirondacks>

Regional Economic, Business, and Agriculture Stories:

Hochul announces \$13 million to help complete the Adirondack rail trail

Jan 25, 2024 — The Adirondack rail trail is getting another big influx of state cash. Governor Kathy Hochul announced this week that the project will receive \$13.1 million to help finish the trail between Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake.

STORY + PHOTOS here: <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49173/20240125/hochul-announces-13-million-to-help-complete-the-adirondack-rail-trail>

AUDIO here: <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49200/20240130/1-30-24-preserve-the-dark-skies>

Cheese box reconditioning in Canton's former Kraft plant is shutting down

Feb 08, 2024 — The old Kraft cheese plant in Canton is losing its manufacturer. For years, the facility has been one of a handful in the U.S. to clean cheese boxes for dairy manufacturers. The company that was leasing the building is leaving and laying off its North Country employees.

Length: 2:26

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49241/20240208/cheese-box-reconditioning-in-canton-s-former-kraft-plant-is-shutting-down>

Snowmobiling is big business on the Tug Hill, but shorter seasons are making it trickier

Mar 04, 2024 — Snowmobiling is a big part of life and business in Lewis County, which is home to about 25,000 people. According to a 2021 Lewis County economic impact study, about 900 jobs and about \$80 million in annual sales are attributed to snowmobiling on the Tug Hill Plateau. But you need snow to make that money, and both this winter and last winter have been short on that commodity.

Length: 6:24

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49338/20240304/snowmobiling-is-big-business-on-the-tug-hill-but-shorter-seasons-are-making-it-trickier>

Stories of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice:

New Mohawk superhero asks, what if the Haudenosaunee were never colonized?

Jan 09, 2024 — Many Mohawk people are raving about Marvel's new superhero, Kahhori. MCU introduced her on their animated show, "What If..." that reimagines big events from the Marvel Universe. Kahhori is from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Folks who attended a recent screening said she's is a hero for generations of Mohawks.

Length: 6:02

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49067/20240109/new-mohawk-superhero-asks-what-if-the-haudenosaunee-were-never-colonized>

St. Regis Mohawks reaches settlement with Monsanto over toxic chemicals

Jan 25, 2024 — The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe has reached a settlement with the company that made toxic chemicals that polluted the Akwesasne Mohawk reservation and the St. Lawrence, Grasse, and Raquette Rivers. Neither side has released terms of the settlement.

Length: 3:50

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49183/20240125/st-regis-mohawks-reaches-settlement-with-monsanto-over-toxic-chemicals>

North Country at Work: Making campus home for everyone at SUNY Potsdam

Feb 26, 2024 — SUNY Potsdam is one of the most diverse places in the North Country. Around 8% of its students are Black, and another 10% are Latino or Hispanic. About 70% of the campus identifies as white. That's not a lot when you compare it to the town of Potsdam, which is 88% white. That can lead to challenges and learning over race, gender, and culture on campus and in the surrounding community. Dr. Jacqueline Richardson-Melecio knows what that's like. Dr. Richardson-Melecio is SUNY Potsdam's Chief of Diversity, in charge of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, or DEI.

Length: 4:42

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49160/20240226/north-country-at-work-making-campus-home-for-everyone-at-suny-potsdam>

ADK historian sheds light on Black woman whose husband was enslaved 12 years

Feb 26, 2024 — Solomon Northup has a lasting legacy in American history, as a free Black man who was kidnapped and enslaved for twelve years in the mid-1800s. He published his story in a memoir 'Twelve Years a Slave,' which was adapted into an award-winning film in 2013. But little has been written about his wife, Anne Hampton, who was raised in Hudson Falls and later worked in Saratoga Springs and Lake George.

Length: 4:56

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49361/20240226/adk-historian-sheds-light-on-black-woman-whose-husband-was-enslaved-12-years>

North Country Politics and Elected Officials:

Primary opponents emerge in Plattsburgh mayor, council races

Feb 28, 2024 — Plattsburgh's Democratic committee endorsed its candidates for mayor and city council Monday night.

Length: 2:59

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49384/20240228/primary-opponents-emerge-in-plattsburgh-mayor-council-races>

Stefanik echoes Trump's Jan. 6 "hostages" comment on NBC's Meet the Press

Jan 08, 2024 — North Country Congresswoman Elise Stefanik appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday. A big topic of the rare mainstream news interview was the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot. Stefanik

echoed former President Donald Trump's recent comments referring to those prosecuted in a court of law and imprisoned for taking part in the attack as "hostages."

Length: 1:50

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49078/20240108/stefanik-echoes-trump-s-jan-6-hostages-comment-on-nbc-s-meet-the-press>

Environment, Climate, and the Natural World:

Adirondack Lakes have an oxygen problem. It's worse than scientists previously thought

Feb 06, 2024 — Brook trout are the New York State fish, and they are particularly emblematic of the Adirondacks. But their future in Adirondack Lakes is being threatened. According to a recent Cornell University study, 95% of Adirondack Lakes have an oxygen problem, and already are or are becoming inhospitable to brook trout.

Length: 5:04

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49158/20240206/adirondack-lakes-have-an-oxygen-problem-it-s-worse-than-scientists-previously-thought>

Making skies darker in Lake Placid and the Adirondack Park

Jan 15, 2024 — Dark skies, and nights where you can clearly see stars, are becoming more and more rare. A recent American Astronomical Society study found that light pollution has increased by about 10% in the United States in just the last decade. If you look at a light pollution map of the United States, there are very few dark pockets left in the country, and just two east of the Mississippi: Northern Maine, and the Adirondack Park.

Length: 3:59

STORY here: <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49090/20240115/making-skies-darker-in-lake-placid-and-the-adirondack-park>

AUDIO here: <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49200/20240130/1-30-24-preserve-the-dark-skies>

Democracy & Extremism

January 16-19, 2024, NCPR aired a special series of reports from the If All Else Fails podcast series about right-wing extremist activity in the North Country on Northern Light and Story of the Day. Here are two examples of that reporting:

A sheriff was recruited to a far-right group. Now he's reconsidering

Jan 15, 2024 — Rich Giardino is the sheriff of Fulton County, a rural county west of Albany. Giardino was a member of Protect America Now, a far-right constitutional sheriffs group that experts say has been radicalizing sheriffs across the country. Giardino explains why he joined the group, and why he has reservations. This reporting is part of a podcast on far-right extremism in Upstate New York called 'If All Else Fails.'

Length: 18:01

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48806/20240115/a-sheriff-was-recruited-to-a-far-right-group-now-he-s-reconsidering>

Far-right extremism is thriving in rural areas. Here's what it looks like in Upstate NY

Jan 15, 2024 — Security officials, extremism experts and some law enforcement say militia groups are particularly alarming because they're driven by their own ideologies. They often claim they're peaceful and say they would defend everyone, but in fact that may not be the case. Far-right groups have rallied and posted propaganda around the North Country and there is statewide data on far-right extremism. The Southern Poverty Law Center tracked 53 hate and anti-government groups in New York in 2022. This story is part of a special investigative podcast from NCPR on far-right extremism called 'If All Else Fails.'

Length: 26:16

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49046/20240115/far-right-extremism-is-thriving-in-rural-areas-here-s-what-it-looks-like-in-upstate-ny>

North Country People, Culture, Arts, and Music:

One last rabbit hunt in Norfolk before some hunting competitions are banned

Jan 23, 2024 — New York has a new state law that will ban some hunting competitions starting in November. About a hundred people, including a couple dozen kids, attended the club's rabbit and squirrel hunt on Jan. 6 — the last competition of its kind that the club will be allowed to host.

Length: 4:46

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49121/20240123/one-last-rabbit-hunt-in-norfolk-before-some-hunting-competitions-are-banned>

Plattsburgh artist hopes self-portraits help gallery-goers cope with depression

Feb 02, 2024 — An upcoming exhibit at the Strand Center in Plattsburgh showcases the work of seven Black artists, including a handful from the North Country. It's called "Eloquent Visions: Honoring the Rich Tapestry of Black Artistry." Winosha Steele is one of the youngest participants. She says she'd never really encountered racism before moving to the U.S., and it's still confusing to her.

Length: 4:47

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49217/20240202/plattsburgh-artist-hopes-self-portraits-help-gallery-goers-cope-with-depression>

North Country at Work: Making the perfect wooden bowl

Jan 10, 2024 — Some people have true callings, that one thing that they're meant to do and life seems to pull them towards. Gary Pierce is one of those people. He's 62, and he lives in Long Lake. His "thing" is bowls. Wooden bowls, to be specific.

Length: 3:40

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/48992/20240110/north-country-at-work-making-the-perfect-wooden-bowl>

How volunteers maintain hundreds of miles of snowmobile trails in Lewis County

Mar 05, 2024 — Each winter, volunteer snowmobile clubs groom hundreds of miles of trails in Lewis County, without any charge to riders. Amy Feiereisel reports on the machines used and the volunteers who do the work.

Length: 7:17

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49369/20240305/how-volunteers-maintain-hundreds-of-miles-of-snowmobile-trails-in-lewis-county>

North Country at Work: Making wooden ducks in Cranberry Lake

Feb 01, 2024 — Bob and Linda Jones of Cranberry Lake run St. Lawrence River Decoys. Linda takes care of the business, while Bob makes the wooden ducks at a workshop by their home. Jones also makes loons, swans, and the occasional heron. Ana Williams-Bergen stopped by to see the operation.

Length: 4:41

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/49101/20240201/north-country-at-work-making-wooden-ducks-in-cranberry-lake>