

Issues and Programs, WSLU-FM Repeater Station

April, May, and June 2023

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. North Country Public Radio produces extensive coverage of local and regional stories and issues in order to serve all of its 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 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:

Rural students are less likely to go to college. This group aims to change that

Jun 12, 2023 — Though rural high school students graduate high school at a higher rate than the national average, they are much less likely to pursue post-secondary education. CFES Brilliant Pathways is an international non-profit trying to change that.

Length: (05:07)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47557/20230612/rural-students-are-less-likely-to-go-to-college-this-group-aims-to-change-that>

Here's how New York's 2023 investments in child care could be a 'game changer'

Apr 22, 2022 — The New York State 2023 budget was passed in early April, and child care issues were front and center during final budget negotiations. That's pretty unusual, says Dede Hill, who is policy director for the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy. Here's how New York's 2023 investments in child care could be a 'game changer'.

Length: 03:48

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/45756/20220422/here-apos-s-how-new-york-apos-s-2023-investments-in-child-care-could-be-a-apos-game-changer-apos>

Most North Country families can now get help to pay for child care. Do you qualify?

Jun 28, 2023 — The coronavirus pandemic put a big spotlight on child care, and it's resulted in some big shifts in public policy over the past few years. The most significant change in New York has been that many families are now eligible for child care assistance, which is money to help pay for your child's spot in a daycare or with a home provider.

Length: (04:47)

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47993/20230628/most-north-country-families-can-now-get-help-to-pay-for-child-care-do-you-qualify>

Health & Wellness:

St. Lawrence Health and its nurses ink new contracts with better pay and benefits

May 19, 2023 — St. Lawrence Health and nurses at its three St. Lawrence County hospitals have agreed on new contracts. Tentative agreements with New York State Nurses Association members at Massena, Canton-Potsdam and Gouverneur hospitals were reached on May 10. This week, the nurses overwhelmingly approved the new contracts, with unanimous votes from Massena and Gouverneur's nurses.

Length: 02:24 – audio during Northern Light, here:

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47848/20230519/northern-light-5-19-2023>

Transcript here:

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47846/20230519/st-lawrence-health-and-its-nurses-ink-new-contracts-with-better-pay-and-benefits>

The COVID health emergency is over. Here's what that means for the North Country

May 12, 2023 — We're entering a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last week, the World Health Organization announced that the virus is no longer a global health emergency. And yesterday, the

United States ended its public health emergency declaration. Andrea Whitmarsh, program coordinator at the Essex County Health Department, said that doesn't mean COVID is going away.

Length: 05:21

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47803/20230512/the-covid-health-emergency-is-over-here-s-what-that-means-for-the-north-country>

Housing:

There's a workforce housing crisis in the Adirondacks. A new study examines why

May 01, 2023 — There's been a housing crisis in the Adirondacks for years, specifically impacting the region's workforce. Now, new data defines precisely how severe the housing shortage is and what kind of impact it's having on the region.

Length: 04:39

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47735/20230501/there-s-a-workforce-housing-crisis-in-the-adirondacks-a-new-study-examines-why>

Jefferson County to hire housing director to address homelessness

May 26, 2023 — After homelessness became more visible in Watertown this past winter, Jefferson County's Department of Social Services is in the process of hiring a new housing director. The new position's main responsibility will be to address homelessness in the city of Watertown.

Length: 01:24

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47886/20230526/jefferson-county-to-hire-housing-director-to-address-homelessness>

Regional Economic, Business, and Agriculture Stories:

The decline of the American newspaper as told by a North Country editor who lived it

Apr 07, 2023 — It's not every small-town newspaper that wins a Pulitzer Prize. But that was the case for the Glens Falls Post-Star in 2009, at a time when the paper had not only grown in size, but in national stature. It was also right in the middle of Ken Tingley's two decade tenure as editor. His latest book is called "The Last American Newspaper."

Length: 18:31

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47610/20230407/the-decline-of-the-american-newspaper-as-told-by-a-north-country-editor-who-lived-it>

St. Lawrence County farmer aims to improve local food access

May 22, 2023 — Two of the biggest obstacles for North Country's local food movement have always been aggregation and distribution. How do you gather produce from lots of small farms and get it to individual customers scattered across the region? NCPR's Lucy Grindon reports.

Length: 05:18

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47852/20230522/st-lawrence-county-farmer-aims-to-improve-local-food-access>

Stories of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice:

Accessible trails proposed in the Adirondacks draw criticism from neighbors

Apr 11, 2023 — A green group in the Adirondacks wants to build a small network of accessible trails near Saranac Lake, but neighbors of the property are pushing back.

Length: 03:23

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47639/20230411/accessible-trails-proposed-in-the-adirondacks-draw-criticism-from-neighbors>

In the wake of sexual assault lawsuit, St. Lawrence University wrestles with its Title IX process, again

May 15, 2023 — At St. Lawrence University in Canton, the campus has been reeling from news of a sexual assault case. For years, St. Lawrence students have complained St. Lawrence's Title IX process lets too many perpetrators off easy, fails to communicate well and follow up with survivors, and just takes too long. NCPR reported on it in 2004 and again in 2014. Students protested those years, and again in the fall of 2021. In this current case, there were some missteps and bad timing.

Length: 07:40

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47814/20230515/in-the-wake-of-sexual-assault-lawsuit-st-lawrence-university-wrestles-with-its-title-ix-process-again>

North Country Politics and Elected Officials:

North Country GOP lawmakers weigh in on school violence, swatting incidents

Apr 04, 2023 — Schools across the North Country and New York state have locked down and canceled classes due to active shooter and bomb threats twice in the last week. Those turned out to be hoaxes.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking into them and it's believed they came from outside the country.

Length: 03:39

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47614/20230404/north-country-gop-lawmakers-weigh-in-on-school-violence-swatting-incidents>

Immigration:

St. Lawrence County prepared for an influx of migrants after Title 42. But none came

May 16, 2023 — Last week, the federal government lifted the pandemic-era border restriction popularly called Title 42. St. Lawrence County has two Canadian border crossings, one in Ogdensburg and one in Massena. Before Title 42 Expired, Customs and Border Protection asked the St. Lawrence County public health department to help coordinate health resources, just in case the crossings saw a big influx of new arrivals. But the public health department says an influx hasn't materialized.

Length: 02:45

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47825/20230516/st-lawrence-county-prepared-for-an-influx-of-migrants-after-title-42-but-none-came>

Rejected by Canada, asylum seekers plot their next steps at a Plattsburgh gas station

Apr 19, 2023 — On a Thursday afternoon earlier this month, Wendy Ayotte and Grace Bubeck meet a family of five from Turkey at the Plattsburgh Mountain Mart. The two women are volunteers with Bridges Not Borders, a Quebec-based refugee advocacy organization. They're trying to connect the father, mother and their three daughters with a place to stay for the night.

Length: 08:54

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47687/20230419/rejected-by-canada-asylum-seekers-plot-their-next-steps-at-a-plattsburgh-gas-station>

Crime, Law Enforcement, and Bail Reform:

Here's how the new budget changes bail reform in New York

May 04, 2023 — Lawmakers finally approved the new state budget on Tuesday night. One of the biggest issues that held up this year's budget-making process was further revisions to New York's bail reform

laws from 2019. Joshua Solomon is a reporter for the Albany Times-Union, who's been covering this issue. He spoke with Lucy Grindon about what's been changed in the state's bail policy.

Length: 04:39

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47776/20230504/here-s-how-the-new-budget-changes-bail-reform-in-new-york>

Environment, Climate, and the Natural World:

Lake Champlain's lake trout are making a comeback. That means stocking levels can go down

Apr 10, 2023 — A mysterious good news story is unfolding in Lake Champlain. Lake trout are reproducing on their own in numbers not seen in decades. A conversation with a DEC biologist about what's behind the rebound.

Length: 04:01

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47585/20230406/lake-champlain-s-lake-trout-are-making-a-comeback-that-means-stocking-levels-can-go-down>

Adirondack lawmakers, advocates applaud environmental funding in the NY budget

May 03, 2023 — Adirondack lawmakers and advocates are applauding the new state budget, which includes more than \$100 million for projects in the park and \$400 million for environmental protection across New York State.

Length: 03:53

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47764/20230503/adirondack-lawmakers-advocates-applaud-environmental-funding-in-the-ny-budget>

Adirondack teens hear a message of hope at a climate change gathering in Ontario

Jun 01, 2023 — A group of young people from the Adirondacks is in northern Ontario this week for a Youth Climate Action Summit. The students are there as part of the Wild Center's Youth Climate Program, and are attending workshops, presenting local community climate action plans, and connecting with other young environmentalists from around North America.

Length: 05:06

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47907/20230601/adirondack-teens-hear-a-message-of-hope-at-a-climate-change-gathering-in-ontario>

North Country People, Culture, Arts, and Music:

You've probably seen these Adirondack maps. Meet the artist who draws them

April 7, 2023 - Nancy Bernstein has drawn a lot of maps in her life— hundreds, maybe more than a thousand. Her work has been featured in the Adirondack Explorer magazine for 30 years.

Length: 05:25

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47607/20230407/you-ve-probably-seen-these-adirondack-maps-meet-the-artist-who-draws-them>

This Warrensburg social worker is turning her story of bullying into a comic for tweens

May 09, 2023 — This story is for anyone who feels like a misfit or outcast. Rebecca Bammert grew up as a self-described nerdy, goth kid in Warrensburg. She got bullied a lot. Today, she's a social worker there dealing with some of those same issues. In her free time, she started drawing a comic book series that brings those two worlds together.

Length: 10:06

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47656/20230509/this-warrensburg-social-worker-is-turning-her-story-of-bullying-into-a-comic-for-tweens>

A Lake Placid musician's reflections on life and breast cancer

May 23, 2023 — Most of the time, we hear about a musician's life experiences through their music, but sometimes it's important to hear just their words. When Lake Placid musician Caitlin Scholl was diagnosed with breast cancer, she wrote an essay, titled "This Luminous Life", and shared it with us.

Length: 05:20

<https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/47856/20230523/a-lake-placid-musician-s-reflections-on-life-and-breast-cancer>