



# CJ COUNTRY RECORD

Genesee County

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May 2026

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## Honoring Service with Recognition, Reflection



Kori Sciandra,  
Editor of CJ Country Record

An idea led by gratitude, patriotism, and honor has come to fruition with the support of the community over the last year.

The **Women of Valor Memorial and Veterans Center**, in Strykersville, is a memorial project honoring all women who served in the United States Military who were killed in action.

The memorial project, led by the Cari Anne Gasiewicz AMVETS Post #637, will become the first national memorial dedicated to honoring women who sacrificed in service. The memorial, at 3624 Route 78, Strykersville, NY, sits on 9 donated acres and is the brainchild of joint efforts between the Cari Anne Gasiewicz AMVETS Post #637 and the American Legion Six Star Post #637.

In addition to honoring and memorializing resilient, tenacious, and brave women, the property will potentially house a new veteran center that will provide invaluable support and resources to veterans and their families.

According to Melissa Weisenburg, Women of Valor Memorial Board of Directors member, at this time, nothing beyond the memorial has been finalized, and the board is committed to being thoughtful and collaborative neighbors while discussions continue.

"When we set out to create the Women of Valor Memorial here in Strykersville, we made a promise – that we would do this right. That promise hasn't changed. If anything, the work over the past year has only deepened our resolve," said Weisenburg.

The memorial project has been underway since 2025, and despite setbacks, the project is in motion. Once the memorial achieves the state-level designation as a non-profit organization serving the public, the project will move into the next phase. This will include site infrastructure, driveway installation, and site preparation.

AMVETS Post #637 was renamed the Cari Anne Gasiewicz Post after the late Army Sgt. Cari Anne Gasiewicz, 28, who served in the U.S. Army Reserves and was KIA in December 2004 while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The AMVETS Post #637 is the first post in the U.S. to be named after a female who was KIA. This notion is what led to the idea of honoring more women.

"Army Specialist Cari Anne Gasiewicz – because her story, and the stories of so many women like her, deserve to be told in a permanent, dignified way... Her sacrifice is what drives every decision we make," said Lorne LeMieux of the Cari Anne Gasiewicz AMVETS Post #637.

The memorial is a permanent tribute to women who sacrificed in military service. As plans unfold, an appointed committee has been focused on identifying and researching the broader roster of women who deserve to be honored.

The Women of Valor Board of Directors continue to work toward their goal with support from New York State Congresswoman Claudia Tenney's office.

"Having that kind of backing from our congressional representative means a great deal to this project and to our team," said Weisenburg.

Community support is evident, and that validates the importance of this memorial within the region.

"This is a place where service is respected and sacrifice is remembered, and this memorial will reflect that. When it's complete, it won't just be a tribute to the women who served – it will be a source of pride for this entire region, a place where families can come to learn, reflect, and connect with something larger than themselves," said LeMieux.

For more information or to get involved, visit [womenofvalormemorial.org](http://womenofvalormemorial.org).

## Studio Diaries with Terry Clifford



Terry Clifford,  
CJ Country Air Personality  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Monday through Saturday

### Don't Look at Me Like That

Okay, I admit it, don't look at me like that: I'm opening my pool, and I mean soon. Everyone has "that day" or "that event" they hate every year: taking down the Christmas tree, wrapping up the camper, or retiring the skis for another season. The day I dread comes in late September, when I place the cover over Big Blue.

My neighbors have become accustomed to the wailing, the shedding of tears, and the gnashing of teeth. It's rather dramatic, even for me.

In any case, on the day I close her down, I make the appointment to open her up in the spring. Mid-May is the mark, and I don't care if it is raining, blowing, snowing, or worse: that top will be peeled back, and the filter will start purring away. There is one more event that marks the day – the inaugural dip. Yep, I jump right in, BB!

Well, if I'm being honest, at 67, I use the ladder now.

Catch Terry Clifford at 10 a.m. Monday through Saturday after **TRADIO**.



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## Past the Last Stoplight

### Experience the Rhythm of the Rails

by Kori Sciandra

Ride the rails this season as the Arcade and Attica Railroad Corp. welcomes passengers to get their tickets punched beginning Memorial Day weekend, as excursions run every weekend through September. The memorable adventure begins at the historic train station in Arcade, where you can learn about one of the last operating steam train excursions offered in New York State.

Built in 1920, Steam Engine No. 18 returned to the rails in the fall of 2024 with the authentic short line railroad, and it continues to escort passengers on excursions, as well as two vintage diesel-electric locomotives that run weekly.

The short line railroad provides excursions with themes centered around World War II to Murder Mystery Dinner Theater and rides like "The Great Train Robbery," all while passengers can embrace the history of railroading in America. The A&A encourages riders to discover the countryside through a historic window as they enjoy a more than 90-minute ride through their pastime.

Celebrate mom for Mother's Day weekend with a train ride – May 9 and 10. Try one of the railroad ale, wine, or whiskey rides as they're offered, or pack up the kids for a fall, picturesque experience among the rolling hills as the leaves turn into fall hues at peak season in mid-October. The Fall Foliage Steam Train Excursion is the most popular excursion.

Each excursion makes a pit stop at Curriers Depot mid-ride, and passengers can explore the area as they stretch their legs.

For more information, visit [aarailroad.com](http://aarailroad.com) or call (585) 492-3100.

#### What's our next destination?

If you know of an interesting place in Genesee, Livingston, or Wyoming Counties that we should share with readers, email Kori Sciandra at [editor@pureradio.org](mailto:editor@pureradio.org).

## Community Calendar

### Uninhibited History Lecture Series | May 7 | 6:30 p.m.

Presented by GO ART! at 201 East Main St., Batavia. "Consent of the Governed? 250 Years of Voting in America," presented by Dr. Terrienne Schulte. Admission is free. Tavern 2.o.1 is open for pre-lecture refreshments.

### Nick Leduc Live | May 7 | 6 to 9 p.m.

Nick Leduc will perform live at Smokin' Eagle BBQ & Brew, 9 Main St. (Rt. 5), LeRoy, NY 14482. For more information, call (585) 768-4770.

### HARDY with Tucker Wetmore and McCoy Moore | May 29 | 7 p.m.

Six Flags Darien Lake Amphitheater, 9993 Alleghany Road (Rt. 77), Darien Center, NY 14040. For tickets, visit [livenation.com](http://livenation.com). For more information, call (585) 599-4641.

## People You Should Know

### Planting Seeds: Motherhood Comes First for Burley

Growing up on a small farm in Pennsylvania, Megan Burley, of Perry, dreamt of starting her own strawberry farm one day. As an adult, that dream came to fruition when she met her husband, Ryan.

The couple met online while Megan was studying agricultural science at Penn State University. Thirteen years later, the couple has a growing family, and together they own and operate Burley, Berries & Blooms at 6335 Route 20A E., Warsaw, NY 14569.

Since its inception, the couple's business has evolved from growing strawberries and flowers to pairing a life they love with earning a profit. They are heading into their 11th season. In 2022, they built The Creamery at Burley, Berries & Blooms, combining milk and fruit to create their grass-based milk.

In addition to their other products, as of 2025, the couple makes European-style yogurt and gelato on site with the help of a grant provided by NYS Ag & Markets and the NYS Grown and Certified Program.

As their business has grown, so has their family. The couple shares three children – Jud, Leena, and Lettie. Megan's favorite part of motherhood includes "watching the kiddos grow and learn new things every day..."

On Mother's Day, Megan plans to attend church with her family.

"We often stop at a greenhouse on the way home from church on Mother's Day to add more perennials to my plant collection," she said.

She continued, "I'm a mom first. The kiddos are my priority. The best crop we're growing on our farm is our children..."

This month, Burley, Berries & Blooms will feature Mother's Day bouquets and lavender moon milk. Additionally, there are a few spots left for summer dairy and flower CSA.

For more information, visit Burley, Berries & Blooms on Facebook or call (814) 648-0178.



**Corey Kent,**  
country music singer

## JAMM Session: Kent's Grit, Talent Fuel Music Career

By Jimi Jamm, CJ Country Program Director

Some artists arrive with fireworks. Others build quietly, brick by brick, until one day you look up and realize they've been there all along. Corey Kent is firmly in that second category.

He's been bubbling under the surface since around 2022, earning industry buzz and fan loyalty the old-fashioned way: with great songs, relentless touring, and a voice that actually sounds different. In an era where a lot of male country singers blur together on the radio dial, Kent cuts through. There's grit there. Texture. A lived-in quality that makes you lean in instead of tuning out.

Commercially, the resume already checks the boxes: a number three hit with "Wild as Her," followed by a number one in 2024 with "This Heart." On paper, that's success. In reality, it still feels like he's somehow underrated.

I first heard Kent thanks to a friend in the business who slipped his music onto a playlist back in 2022. One listen in, I knew it wasn't just "another guy with a guitar." It felt like something CJ Country needed to be early on, because that's what stations like ours are supposed to do – spot the ones who are about to matter.

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