CJ COUNTRY RECORD

Genesee County | Hometown Stories from Your Hometown Station @105.5FM! | September 2026

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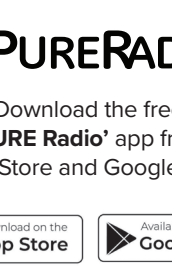

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Where the Trails Lead to Sunset

Kori Sciandra,
Editor of CJ Country Record

Specializing in guided trail rides throughout the countryside for the public, Letchworth Trail Rides, Inc. places a strong emphasis on beginner-friendly, safe, and enjoyable experiences for individuals who wish to ride horses.

Jessica Curran and her husband bought Letchworth Farm, which spans 88 acres, about four years ago. The farm, found on the southeastern edge of Letchworth State Park in Nunda, overlooks Keshequa Valley.

"I have always loved horses and have been riding since I was 7 years old. We had been looking to purchase a private family farm when this property was placed on the market," said Curran. "Our trails wind through a variety of scenic terrain across the farm, including open fields, wooded areas, and ridge-top views…"

The couple chose to take a leap and continue the trail riding business. Since then, they've grown the trail string from eight to 21 trail horses. There are currently 26 horses living on the farm, of which three are 2 years old and have not begun their training.

Opportunities include guided trail rides for beginners, longer rides that leave the farm and travel down the road for experienced riders, and new this year – hybrid lessons. Each lesson is an hour and a half and combines arena riding with trail riding, allowing riders to build skills in horsemanship, balance, and control in the ring, and then apply those skills out on the trail. It's a well-rounded approach to riding that blends education, confidence-building, and real-world experience.

"One of the things we're most proud of is where our horses come from and how they're cared for. We have a very unique program where many of our horses come to us through donation or second-career transitions," she said. "Some were former show horses, some are retired racehorses, some are mustangs who were once wild and roaming out west, some are ex-Amish workhorses, and others come from families who, due to life circumstances, needed to find a safe and loving home for their horses."

Each horse at Letchworth Farm is carefully trained specifically for a calm, safe trail-riding lifestyle. Riders are matched with their horse based on experience, comfort level, and personality.

"Once a horse becomes part of our farm, they are here for life even after they retire from the trail string. That lifelong commitment to our horses truly sets us apart from many other operations," said Curran.

In addition to guided trail riding, the farm offers two overnight accommodations on site – the Cabin Suite and the Cottage Suite. Both accommodations are designed to complement the farm experience. Guests have access to the property and trails as well as a large pond for swimming and fishing. There are free-ranging goats, chickens, farm dogs, and barn cats who will often interact with guests.

There are a multitude of different rides offered at Letchworth Farm as the seasons change.

"My absolute favorites are our sunrise and sunset rides. Watching the sun rise and set from the back of a horse is truly a magical experience, plus we take photos to capture the memories for our riders," said Curran.

A visit to Letchworth Farm will hopefully allow patrons to create and leave with a memorable experience.

"We hope visitors leave feeling calmer, more grounded, and reconnected to nature, to animals, and to themselves. Whether it's someone conquering their nerves on their first horse ride, enjoying a peaceful sunset on the trail, or simply slowing down from everyday life, our goal is to create experiences that feel meaningful and memorable," said Curran.

For more information, visit Letchworth-farm.com. Follow them on social media @letchworthtrailrides and @letchworthfarm.

Studio Diaries with Terry Clifford

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

Summer Fades Into Fall

Oh, my, the summer of 2026 seemed to run at warp speed! The flowers, the herbs, the vegetables we grew will sustain us throughout the winter and bring back the sweet smell and taste of summer as we enjoy them beginning on Thanksgiving Day.

We will spend a week in the Adirondacks this month, hoping to enjoy the start of the changing of the leaves in ADK and showing them the path to filling our world in western New York with color. Fall is without a doubt my favorite season. Doug and I will be married for 43 years in October, with hopes of many more. Life begins to get very busy again this month with schools reopening and the remnants of summer vacations to be scrapbooked both literally and emotionally.

If I haven't said it yet, I am so grateful for this second life on the radio. I really enjoy sharing my weird thoughts and even weirder experiences with such warm and caring people. It was great to meet you at the Genesee, Steuben, and Wyoming County Fairs this summer, and I hope this will be the first of many seasons together! So on to Fall and then…well, I won't push it, but man, I can't wait to play some Country Christmas tunage. Thanks for listening to CJ Country, God bless us, everyone.

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Past the Last Stoplight

Retired in Purple Acres

by Kori Sciandra, Editor

As he approached retirement after a 17-year career in sales (chemicals and atmospheric gases) and a 23-year career in education, both as a teacher and in administration, Rick Riggi, owner of Genesee Valley Lavender Farm, began researching ways to generate an income from his 10-acre farm in Caledonia.

"I needed to find something I knew would keep me busy and make some money as well. Farming lavender came to the forefront as a viable product due to my land being perfect for lavender growing, and the climate in my area of New York State is perfect for lavender as well," said Rick, who operates the lavender farm with his wife, Sue Riggi.

Operating in their third year as a U-Pick farm at 3380 Avrill Road, Caledonia, Rick owns 10 acres, with five of those acres (approximately 6,000 plants) filled with lavender. He also sells lavender products at festivals.

"Lavender is a relaxing scent that many people use for wellness purposes. It's also very good at relieving itch from rash and helping the skin to heal," he said.

Genesee Valley Lavender Farm is operational from May to September, while U-Pick is open from mid-June to mid-July and recently wrapped up for the season.

"It has been a fantastic season with U-Pick growing by 300 percent!" said Rick.

The couple make oil out of lavender and make their own soap, bug spray, roll-on, sachets, dried lavender, and more. Rick is optimistic about the growth of their business, as festival sales are increasing by 100 percent in addition to the increase in U-Pick growth. New products and a new website are currently under development, with the anticipation of launching a website.

For more information about Genesee Valley Lavender Farm, call (585) 538-2955.

People You Should Know

Jami Long,
library director

Long Embraces New Role as Director

A lifelong learner who loves science and the arts, Jami Long, of Bath, is proud to be working in the community she grew up in. She has roots in both Bath and Hammondsport, which only enhances her passion for building community and partnership. Appointed as the newest director of the Dormann Library in Bath, Long has been working at the library for four years. She has worked her way up since she began as a programming assistant and has played an active role in its recent growth.

"I love the library and the community and have big dreams for the future of our organization and our town," said Long, who has the full support of the Dormann Library Board of Trustees.

Expertise in her field will allow her to guide the library and continue the momentum through her vision. Long holds an associate's degree in fine arts, a bachelor's degree in art education (K–12) with the accompanying certification, and a master's degree in library (MLIS) and information science, also with the accompanying public librarian certification.

"For the latter two, I graduated summa cum laude while working full time," said Long, who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Since she began her new position in the spring, Long has faced challenges, but most of those challenges provided an opportunity to be innovative and creative.

"I enjoy the work I do; it keeps me busy, and even on rough days I do find comfort in the fact that this job is deeply rewarding," said Long.

Community Calendar

ARC GLOW Friends and Family 5K and Fun Walk

Saturday, Sept. 19 | Registration 8:45 a.m.; race/walk 10 a.m.

Held at Arc Glow's Elba Day Habilitation Site, 4603 Barrville Road, Elba. Open to all ages and abilities. Featuring the Taste of Country Produce Giveaway with donations from local farmers. Proceeds benefit Arc Glow programs and services and The Mary Anne Graney Memorial Scholarship Program.

Ella Langley,
country artist

JAMM Session: Ella, Explained.

By Jimi Jamm, CJ Country Program Director

Every so often, an artist goes from having fans to becoming a household name. Ella Langley is in the middle of that moment.

Whether it's "Choosin' Texas," one of the biggest songs on radio in years, or hearing more than one of her current songs on the air, she's become one of the biggest stories in country music. The interesting part is why.

Langley doesn't feel like an untouchable celebrity. She has that girl-next-door quality. Her songs sound like conversations you've actually had, and they're so easy to sing along with that by the second chorus, you feel like you've known them for years.

Around CJ Country, we've been on the Ella train for a long time.

Long before "You Look Like You Love Me" became a national radio hit, I saw it catching fire on TikTok. I loved it, trusted my gut, and started playing it nearly two months before it was officially pushed to country radio.

That's one of the things I'm proud of when it comes to programming CJ—the freedom.

Programming a radio station isn't just about following charts. It's about listening to your audience, paying attention to where music is heading, and occasionally taking a chance on a song you simply believe in.

We've believed in Langley for years. It's been fun watching the rest of the country catch up.

Sometimes your next favorite artist isn't hiding in plain sight.

Sometimes she's already on CJ Country.

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