CJ COUNTRY RECORD

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A Season of Vibrancy, and a Reset

Kori Sciandra,
Editor of CJ Country Record

As the perennials in our garden beds begin to dwindle and fade, and the leaves begin to change to variations of vibrant reds and golden oranges, that means a change in the season has arrived. A season packed with wealth and community!

Change is good, and so is the presence of color. Fall in Western New York and throughout the Southern Tier holds a sense of beauty. It's time to put late-night laughter and fireside s'mores to rest, create new crockpot recipes, try a seasonal beverage like a Brown Sugar and Hazelnut Macchiato or a Banana Bread Latte, and don't forget your favorite cozy fall blanket.

This is a time to reset. As you embrace what's coming and reflect on the joys of summer, it's at this time of the year when gratitude moves to the forefront.

This season, while the sun is still shining, take in all the color. Take a drive through the hills. Go see the brilliance of Cohocton in the fall and soak up the different shades of the Finger Lakes region as the area offers a warm welcome to tourists in autumn. In addition to the stunning hues you'll see along your drive, it's also festival season!

The **Cohocton Fall Foliage Festival 2026**, slated for Oct. 3 and 4, will kick off the season in the Southern Tier for the 60th year. It will feature arts and crafts, local breweries, wine tastings, food, horse-drawn wagon rides, a classic car show, and fireworks.

The **4th Annual Lima Pumpkin Festival & Agricultural Day** will take place the same weekend from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at Mark Tubbs Memorial Park, 7384 Ziegler Drive, Lima.

Ellicottville's Fall Fest takes place on Saturday, Oct. 10, and Sunday, Oct. 11, in Ellicottville with artisans, food, and live music.

There is a festival filled with fun each weekend in the GLOW region and beyond this fall. Pick out your pumpkins and gourds at your favorite family farm, go apple picking with your children, and bring your grandparents for the fun as you embrace the harvest. Autumn feels packed with community. Whether you make daytime memories at the beloved Castile Cider Mill with cider slushies or set up the projector for an outdoor movie night, the fun continues in autumn!

October rounds out with **Oktoberfest at Chautauqua Institution** from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Chautauqua Institution at 1 Ames Ave., Chautauqua.

The **2nd Annual Fall Festival in Spencerport** is slated for that same weekend—Oct. 24 and 25—beginning at 5 p.m. at 3334 Brockport Spencerport Road, Spencerport, NY. The festival will feature vendors, wagon rides, pumpkins, and more.

As you make your way through festival season and experience the taste of different foods and cultures, take notice of the different people you come across and the different interests the artisans and crafters feature. This is part of what makes living in the GLOW region so special. Autumn in our neck of the woods feels like an extension of summer. It's just one more month to enjoy time with friends, neighbors, and family out in nature.

Studio Diaries with Terry Clifford

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

So Long Summer, Hello Cider

"All the Gold" isn't in California; it's in Western New York and the Southern Tier. While some are still mourning the end of the "longest summer in years," the cool, wet spring, the hot temps in July, and the cooler August weather will team up this year to fill our world with color!

Fall in WNY offers its own "splendiferous" rewards. From the color-filled rolling hills of Wyoming County to the pristine waters of the Finger Lakes, we are making the transition from lemonade and fireflies to cider and frost! Autumn in WNY is the stuff movies are made of. We are bathed in color from the Thruway to the dirt roads, and it's a show like no other. Promise me you will take time for you this month and enjoy the glory of the greatest place to live in the fall. I'm aware of what's coming; let's not focus on that…

What is your favorite fall fun?

Mine include the Haunted Hayrides in Williamson, leaf peeping in Letchworth, and getting up close and personal with the Mt. Morris Dam, thanks to ranger-led tours that provide a unique look at the Genesee River near Letchworth State Park. There are pumpkin patches, apple farms, and corn mazes—so many corn mazes (thank God they come equipped with the white "I give up" flags… otherwise, I'd still be lost in Lockport)! There will be lots of time for tinsel and turkey; right now, let's focus on crisp, cool fall air and the abundance of beauty in our end of New York State!

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Past the Last Stoplight

Rocky's Restaurant Celebrates 76 Years

by Kori Sciandra, Editor

Known for its authentic red pasta sauce and its tripe, Rocky's Restaurant is a family-owned Italian restaurant that Rochester and Western New York residents have come to love over the many decades of serving homemade favorites to the community.

Owned and operated by the Mastrella family since 1949, Rocky's was started by Joseph and Louise Mastrella, who met in Rochester. The couple is originally from Villavallelonga in Italy.

"At first, Louise would cook for her family and friends, then the neighborhood, and then she started serving the community," said Alexandria Mastrella—4th generation.

At 190 Jay St., Rochester, Rocky's is currently owned by Joseph Mastrella (3rd generation), who is the grandson of Joseph and Louise and son to Rocky Mastrella. The staff at Rocky's is comprised of third-, fourth-, and fifth-generation members of the Mastrella family.

Known for serving authentic Italian dishes, especially their meatballs, Rocky's still uses the same recipes they have been using since 1949. At Rocky's, you'll find excellent customer service and keen attention to hospitality.

Fan favorites include homemade gnocchi, cheese raviolis, and baked lasagna. All specials served at Rocky's are homemade, including their gnocchi dough and ravioli dough. Another longtime favorite is "Chunk of Pork" in the sauce.

"Rocky's is a place you can come and go back in time. You will feel like you are family, eating in grandma's kitchen. It is very old-school with reasonable prices," said Alexandria, who attributes Rocky's success to dedicated, loyal customers. Rocky's is often the first or last stop for customers who have moved away and come home for a visit.

People You Should Know

Adrian P. Morris,
self-taught artist

From Irish Inspirations to American Art

Creating art for more than 20 years, Adrian P. Morris is a self-taught artist. Also a painter and a writer, Morris is originally from Bray, Ireland, and now lives in Rochester.

"For me, art is a journey of self-discovery. I'm always learning, experimenting, and, most importantly, trying to enjoy the process," said Morris, who moved to America in 2008.

As an artist, Morris is inspired by people, places, history, and life. Other artists have also influenced and inspired his work. He enjoys supporting his peers during their exhibits and makes a point to visit local galleries when he travels.

"Ireland influenced my appreciation for landscape, history, and storytelling, while living in America has given me new experiences and perspectives," he said.

Morris enjoys working with oil paint the most. He loves its depth and richness, and values what he can create with the texture.

"I can build the paint in layers and make the surface almost as important as the image itself. It also gives me a connection to the Old Masters while allowing me to develop my own contemporary style," he said.

After exploring assorted styles over the last two decades, Morris has gradually developed his own voice.

He sells both his paintings and prints of his work. Find out more about his work and where you can visit during his next exhibit on Facebook @Adrian P. Morris or follow him on Instagram.

Community Calendar

Benefit Car Show for Damien Dick | **Saturday, Oct. 3 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**
Held at 35 Meadow Lane, Pine City. Show cars are $5, and spectator admission is free. Rain date is Oct. 4. For more information, call (607) 481-3152.

Family Fun Day: Crafts and Flight Simulator Experience
Saturday, Oct. 10 | Noon to 3 p.m.
Held at the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum, 8419 State Route 54, Hammondsport. Admission is pay-what-you-can during the event.

Dolly Parton,
country artist

JAMM Session:
Humanity, With a Touch of Glamour

By Jimi Jamm, CJ Country Program Director

It still feels surreal. No one could convince me that Dolly Parton wasn't going to live forever. Maybe it was the energy she was still putting into the world, or the unbelievable amount of goodness she gave us through her music, her generosity, and everything she stood for. Whatever it was, there was nothing that could have prepared me for Aug. 25.

Dolly was one of those people who just seemed permanent. Part of why we loved her was the music. She could write songs that were deeply personal and somehow make them universal.

"Coat of Many Colors" was her story, but anyone could understand family, pride, and being made to feel different. "Jolene" was vulnerable and unforgettable. "I Will Always Love You" proved heartbreak didn't need a villain.

And then there was Dolly herself.

For every 9 to 5 or Steel Magnolias, there was a Rhinestone. Not everything worked, but even when the movie didn't, she was undeniable.

Has there ever been anyone with that particular mix of glamour and self-deprecating humor, business savvy and kindness, generosity without expectation, and enough fearlessness to walk onto a football field in a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader outfit in her 70s?

She could laugh at herself without diminishing herself. She was larger than life and still somehow approachable. The music, the humor, the glamour, the generosity—all of it. I hope she knew how deeply she was loved and appreciated.We'll never see another Dolly Parton. And maybe that's exactly the point.

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