



## Lew-Port Business Academy holds graduation exercises

**PHOTO AND STORY  
BY TERRY DUFFY**

Editor-in-Chief

The Lewiston-Porter High School Academy of Business and Finance held its 11th annual graduation ceremony this week on the campus grounds.

Presenters at Wednesday's program included Joann Allender; Fred Press, manager, Business Academy development, NAF Be Future Ready; and Paul Casseri, Lew-Port superintendent.

In his remarks to graduates, Casseri called the Business Academy experience a "sharpening of saws" as youth move on to future endeavors. "Students need to have something; they

need to do well in your classes, but you need to be excited about coming to school. You need to be excited to be part of something; forming relationships – relationships which you'll have for the rest of your life.

"The Academy was the upgrowth of that idea. We created this Academy program and I'm so glad of its success, that we have this graduating class."

Recalling the numerous challenges students and Business Academy officials contended with through the pandemic and beyond, Casseri continued, "It's been exceedingly difficult, but you stayed the course, and now you're going on to some wonder-

ful things. I do hope that all the experiences you had at the Academy will impact you for the rest of your life.

"But you should always try to sharpen that saw."

2023 Academy graduates include Rebecca Hoffman, who intends to pursue early childhood education at Roberts Wesleyan College; Cole Norman, history, University at Buffalo; Rocco Randazzo, mathematics, Flagler College; Natalie Sharer, biomedical sciences, Roberts Wesleyan College; Sarah Streb, biological sciences, Binghamton University; Brynn Townsend, CLEG (communications, legal institutions, economics and government),

American University; and David Whyte, mathematics, Niagara University.

A business-oriented learning experience offered at the high school since 2006, the Business Academy is open to all eligible Lewiston-Porter students from sophomore level to seniors. It functions as a member of NAF Be Future Ready – a "national network of education, business and community leaders who work together to ensure high school students are college, career and future ready." Curricula and instruction are "focused on preparing students for college and career success."

Lew-Port Academy students

participate in "career-focused courses in conjunction with their general requirements, coupled with work-based learning activities that provide practical learning experiences that complement the academic leaning structure."

The Lew-Port Academy operates under the direction of Allender, the high school business department and district administration.

In addition to Lewiston-Porter, participating NAF Be Future Ready districts include Clarence, Depew, Grand Island, Lancaster, Maryvale, Orchard Park, North Tonawanda, West Seneca, Williamsonville and Wilson.

## Local authors in the spotlight

### Marcotte book launch at Lewiston Public Library

Michelle Marcotte, a Lewiston artist and author, will launch her childrens books – "Will Evie Ever Lay An Egg?" and "ABC Vegetables – Abécédaire des legumes" and "Chase That Polar Bear Out of the House!" – with a free book party at the Lewiston Public Library on June 10, starting at 1 p.m. All children and their adults are invited to the book reading, which will be accompanied by chicken- and vegetable-inspired activities, loot bags and book sales, at 305 S. Eighth St.

"Will Evie Ever Lay An Egg?"

is about a child who is raising five chickens. When one chicken, Evie, doesn't develop at the same time as her peers, the child's encouragement and empathy helps Evie, who does eventually lay a beautiful blue-green egg.

This book teaches about the power of encouragement and empathy – and also about backyard chicken breeds. It was illustrated by Seema Haider of Ottawa, Canada.

"ABC Vegetables – Abécédaire des legumes" is a reversible English and French book – two books in one – about common and uncommon vegetables. It's

intended to help language learners of all ages. It was written in English and French by Marcotte and Joël Beddows, and illustrated by Marcotte.

"Chase That Polar Bear Out of the House" invites an adult and child to take an imaginary or actual activity walk through the house, yard, forest and pond learning a new exercise, animal and color on each page. It was illustrated by Vancouver Island outdoor educator and artist Annelly So.

Marcotte is a well-known local painter who also writes and illustrates books for children. She is the organizer of the July

23 River Region Artists Studio Tour, and was the coordinator of the "2020 Vision: Women Artists of Western New York" exhibit at the Castellani Art Museum.

For more information, visit <https://www.michellemarcotte.com> and <https://www.michellemarcottebooks.com>.

### Retired Lew-Port teacher to hold book sale and signing at Hill of Beans Coffee Stop

Retired Lewiston-Porter teacher John Loss has written a book on 13 Niagara Falls residents who experienced being homeless many times in their lives. He said the idea for "...Not Always Homeless" came to him as he would see homeless individuals in and around his hometown of Niagara Falls. Loss knew they were not always homeless, so he decided to write a book about them.

He said, "This gives 'a voice' to their being homeless, trying to survive looking for the three basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – each and every day."

Loss taught for 33 years at Lew-Port in the subjects of industrial arts and career education. His first 16 years were at Lew-Port Junior High School, with his final years spent teaching at Lew-Port Senior High School.

All book sales proceeds go directly to Help and Hope for Homeless Inc.

Lewis Bean, the owner of Hill of Beans Coffee Stop, is providing time and space for this book sale and signing event. Hill of Beans Coffee Stop is located at 440 Main St., Youngstown. The book sale and signing will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 17.

### NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:

Do you need a **New Roof** and **Help** paying for it?

*Any leaking, visible damage, or roof age, may \*qualify you!*

Do you need **Energy Efficient Windows & Help** paying for it?

*Drafty windows, energy cost too high, you may \*qualify!*

**HELP IS AVAILABLE EVEN IF YOU COULD PAY CASH**



**YOU MAY \*QUALIFY THROUGH  
NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS!**

**Qualify Today: 800-944-9393**

or visit [NYProgramFunding.org](http://NYProgramFunding.org) to see if you \*qualify

\*Enrollment is only open during a limited time. Programs, appointments, and installations are on a first come, first serve basis in your area.

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs. Contractor License: NY: #2719-h14



**CLASSIC  
COUNTRY**

**WXRL RAMBLIN' LOU TOURS**  
"Let's Have Some Fun"!!!

**BOOK NOW!**

**June 26-29** Mackinac Island / Frankenmuth  
- MI (Wait list)

**July 25** Grand River (Wait list)

**September 11-15** Montreal / Quebec (Wait list)

**September 20** Sprague's / Seneca Alleg.  
Casino w/\$25 Casino bonus

**September 27** Lucy Tour - Jamestown, NY

**October 3-9** Great Smoky Mts/Nashville/  
Grand Ole Opry/Dollywood

**October 15-19** Vermont/N. Hamp/Maine  
- Portland Lighthouse

**October 25** Sprague's / Seneca Alleg.  
Casino w/\$25 Casino bonus

**November 14-16** Fest of Lights - Oglebay Park  
- Wheeling, WV

**November 27-29 (New Dates)** Lancaster, PA -  
2 Shows "Miracle of Christmas" & Amer. Music Theatre

"Buffalo's Home for Country Classics"

WXRL 1300 AM / 95.5 FM

& Streaming LIVE @ [WXRL.com](http://WXRL.com)

For a FREE brochure, call 716-681-1313

**NEED  
ANOTHER  
PAPER?**

Scan the QR code to find out  
where you can pick one up!



**SCAN ME**

### OLD FORT NIAGARA ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN Who Keeps History Alive?

Old Fort Niagara is operated by the Old Fort Niagara Association, an independent, not-for-profit organization established in 1927. We do not rely on tax dollars. Instead, the Fort is funded through charitable contributions, admissions and museum shop sales.



Go to the website  
[www.oldfortniagara.org](http://www.oldfortniagara.org) or  
you can also donate by sending  
a check to Old Fort Niagara,  
P.O. Box 169, Youngstown, NY 14174