



The Recorder

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BROADALBIN-PERTH

Learning science by doing science

High schoolers take part in multi-year study of walleye in Great Sacandaga Lake

BY PAUL WAGER

Broadalbin-Perth high schoolers in Brian Henry's science research class have gotten a unique opportunity over the past few years.

The students are taking part in a multi-year study of the walleye in Great Sacandaga Lake looking at various aspects of their population.

"This course has been a game-changer for our kids," Henry said. "There is no better way for students to learn science than by doing science. I am very proud to say that my students are making a difference and it's something that should be celebrated."

Instead of spending all of their time in a classroom, students are often on the lake using fishing poles rather than pencils and pens, and the lectures are often taught while students are collecting data for the study.

"The kids love it. What's not to love?" Henry said. "They are on the water, doing real science, and contributing to the enhancement of the lake's fishery."

With the Great Sacandaga Lake just minutes away from the school, Henry decided to incorporate it into his class.

"I have focused our research efforts on the natural resources and the educational opportunities that the Great Sacandaga Lake provides. Because of our proximity to it, the reservoir is an ideal place for Broadalbin-Perth to create a unique experience for our students," Henry said. "As part of my course, students have engaged in the numerous methodologies and protocols associated with research design, data collection, analysis, and report writing. I have had numerous talks with members of the Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation, Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. They are all in favor of establishing scientific studies on the lake to help understand various components of this fishery."



Broadalbin-Perth High School students in Brian Henry's science research class are taking part in a multi-year study of the walleye in Great Sacandaga Lake looking at various aspects of their population.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Since 2019, students in the Broadalbin-Perth science research course have collected data on the walleye population in the lake. Their focus is to get a better understanding of the growth, behavior, and genetics of the fish species.

The class has access to two pontoon boats — called Patriot 1 and Patriot 2 — which the school district obtained through grants and fundraising to collect data on the lake.

The lake is 29.2 miles long

and encompasses parts of Fulton and Saratoga counties. It was created as a reservoir in 1930 following the completion of the Conklingville Dam on the Sacandaga River to provide flood control in the Hudson Valley. The lake is managed by the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District with shorelines of private and public access including residential homes, boat launches, restaurants, marinas, campgrounds, and

beaches. The Great Sacandaga Lake, which offers a variety of fishing opportunities, is home to more than a dozen fish species including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, northern pike, redbreast sunfish, rock bass, brown trout, rainbow trout, channel catfish, common carp, black crappie, and walleye.

The lake is one of the largest in the Adirondack region, and because of its size, the

natural population of walleye is plentiful. Walleye are a highly sought-after sport fish in New York state, especially in the Great Sacandaga Lake.

Walleye populations in the Great Sacandaga Lake are influenced by various factors including available forage, habitat, interspecific competition, sport fishing, and stocking. These variables have shown both positive and negative impacts

See **STUDY**, Page A2

FONDA

Village under boil water notice

Advisory may extend into weekend

BY ASHLEY ONYON

Recent precipitation has impacted turbidity and chlorine levels in the village of Fonda water supply, prompting a boil water notice for all system users until further notice, according to Mayor William Peeler.

"Apparently we've had excessive rain that caused turbidity in the system and the chlorination was not keeping up," Peeler said Wednesday.

Village officials and water staff are working with the state Department of Health to address the issue and restore water quality to regulatory standards.

Staff are working to return chlorine to normal levels in order to counteract the turbid or cloudy water due to suspended particles impacting the system. Turbidity can reduce the ability of chlorine to disinfect water effectively.

The boil water notice was issued on Wednesday morning and will remain in effect until water samples meet state health requirements. It may extend into the weekend.

"Our job is to make sure the water is safe," Peeler said. "When we do these boil water notices, it is for [residents'] safety and, as soon as we're aware of a situation, we make the public aware as soon as possible."

Residents are advised to boil water for at least one minute and to let it cool before using it for drinking, cooking, making ice, brushing teeth or washing dishes. Using bottled water is another alternative.

Free bottled water is available for village water users at the Clerk's Office during normal hours 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Anyone unable to pick up water during those hours can contact the clerk to make

other arrangements.

"I know it's very inconvenient and I understand their frustration. We all use the same water and we're living with the same condition," Peeler said.

Meanwhile, the village is seeking long-term solutions to recurring water quality issues, including a boil water order that had been in effect for 40 days when it was finally lifted in August.

Problems over the summer began after an overnight system failure caused the water tank to be depleted and led to concerns that raw water had entered the system. Staff had no warning of the issue before arriving on-site for their normal shifts, because a communication line off village property had been cut unbeknownst to officials.

Elevated levels of turbidity and manganese in the water supply after the water tank was replenished contributed to the extended boil water

See **BOIL**, Page A2

FBI director Wray intends to resign before Trump takes office

BY ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Christopher Wray told bureau workers Wednesday that he plans to resign at the end of President Joe Biden's term in January, an announcement that came a week and a half after President-elect Donald Trump said he would nominate loyalist Kash Patel for the job.

Wray said at a town hall meeting that he would be stepping down "after weeks of careful thought," roughly three years short of the completion of a 10-year term during which he tried to keep the FBI out of politics even as the bureau found itself entangled in a

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WEATHER



Windy and colder; flurries
High 37/Low 20

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Class

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Since 2019, students in the Broadalbin-Perth science research course have collected data on the walleye population in the Great Sacandaga Lake. Their focus is to get a better understanding of the growth, behavior, and genetics of this fish species.

The class has access to two pontoon boats, Patriot 1 and Patriot 2, which the school district obtained through grants and fundraising to collect data on the lake.

The Great Sacandaga Lake (GSL) is 29.2 miles long and encompasses parts of Fulton and Saratoga counties. It was created as a reservoir in 1930 following the completion of the Conklingville Dam. The lake is managed by the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District with shorelines of private and public access including residential homes, boat launches, restaurants, marinas, campgrounds, and beaches. The Great Sacandaga Lake is home to more than a dozen fish species including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, yellow perch, brown bullhead, northern pike, redbreast sunfish, rock bass, brown trout, rainbow trout, channel catfish, common carp, black crappie, and walleye.

Walleye populations in the Great Sacandaga Lake are influenced by various factors including available forage, habitat, interspecific competition, sport fishing, and stocking. These variables have shown both positive and negative impacts on walleye success rates in GSL.

The Great Sacandaga Lake was created by the damming of the Sacandaga River to provide flood control in the

Hudson Valley. It offers a variety of fishing opportunities for many different species of fish, including walleye. The lake is one of the largest in the Adirondack region, and because of its size, the natural population of walleye is plentiful. Walleye are a highly sought-after sport fish in New York State, especially in the Great Sacandaga Lake.

Since 2012, the Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation has stocked the lake with approximately 6,000 hatchery-reared juvenile walleye yearly. Stocking is an important management tool to increase and sustain highly pressured fish populations.

“The science research class was tasked with determining if the stocked walleye are contributing to the population of the lake,” Henry said. “In other words, what is the genetic contribution of stocked vs. wild fish to the adult (harvestable) population? Are the stocked walleye reproducing in the lake or are they experiencing a lower fitness than the natural population? The results of a study like this could provide a directive for future stocking campaigns.”

Henry said that stocking can enhance recreational fishing, improve fishing populations, and keep bodies of water environmentally balanced.

“By providing data on whether the GSLFF stocking efforts are helping the fishery and improving the intangibles associated with it would be a huge benefit to the area,” he said. “For example, the annual Great Sacandaga Lake Walleye Challenge Ice Fishing Tournament has brought in millions of dollars to local communities. Understanding the genetics of the walleye population and whether the stocking program is making a difference would allow the GSLFF to modify or enhance its stocking efforts.”

Henry’s students recently launched the next phase of what is designed to be a multi-year study that seeks to determine why walleye in the GSL tend to be shorter, on average, than walleye



in the rest of New York state.

On Nov. 19, students traveled to Cranberry Cove Marina to tag 1,000 juvenile walleye that were then released into the lake. The students used elastomer tags to “tattoo” the hatchery-raised walleye with a harmless latex dye behind their left eye. This year’s dye was yellow; students used a pink dye in 2023. According to Henry, using different colored dyes each year will help the student researchers account for the age of the walleye when they are later caught by fishermen.

The walleye are part of a stocking campaign funded by the Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation. In 2022, the GSLFF asked the science research class to help determine whether the federation’s stocking efforts were contributing to the population of walleye in the lake. Students designed a study to determine the genetic contribution of stocked versus wild fish in the adult (harvestable) population and worked with fisheries biologists from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to collect tissue samples of adult walleye caught on the GSL.

“We are currently working with NYSDEC fisheries biologists, The Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation,

In photos at left: Students in Brian Henry’s science research class at the high school are taking part in a multi-year study of the walleye in Great Sacandaga Lake looking at various aspects of their population. On Nov. 19, students traveled to Cranberry Cove Marina to tag 1,000 juvenile walleye that were then released into the lake. The students used elastomer tags to “tattoo” the hatchery-raised walleye with a harmless latex dye behind their left eye. This year’s dye was yellow; students used a pink dye in 2023. According to Henry, using different colored dyes each year will help the student researchers account for the age of the walleye when they are later caught by fishermen.

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council, and West Virginia University. A genetics lab at West Virginia University ran the tissue samples we collected and completed the genetic analysis of the wild walleye and stocked walleye,” Henry said. “The data has shown that the hatchery-raised walleye are contributing to the overall population of the lake. Results reveal an average of 7.6% ancestry of the hatchery population in the wild population. Ranges from 0.7% to 68% hatchery ancestry were found in the wild population.”

For the current study, Henry’s class was granted a tagging permit by the NYSDEC. Students are hoping local anglers will contribute to their research by submitting the lengths of marked walleye that they catch in the GSL. This data will allow students to document how quickly or slowly the walleye are growing in the lake. Fishermen can submit the data from their catch by visiting surveymonkey.com/r/2023GSLwalleye or by contacting Henry at henryb@bpsd.org. As an incentive, the class is offering \$25 gift certificates to local bait shops for confirmed catches.

“We have done a lot in a short period of time and the opportunities afforded to our students from this research are numerous. Students will gain an overall understanding of aquatic ecosystems by focusing on the flora and fauna found in them,” Henry said. They will learn proper research and hands-on sampling techniques in the field. Students

can use this research opportunity for senior projects and capstones. Students will also acquire the necessary skills, responsibilities, and knowledge to be good stewards of freshwater environments.”

The B-P program will continue its walleye research this spring, as it will build artificial fish habitats in the lake starting in the spring of 2025 and completing it in the spring of 2029. The five-year initiative to create “reefs” in the lake to help the lake’s ecosystem take the next step to improving the fishery.

“This kind of research will target high school students that have an interest in the outdoors and may pursue a career in wildlife services. Students also will learn to appreciate water resources and begin to foster a conservation ethic. Students can also take ownership of their community’s natural resources,” Henry said. “Many of these students have limited opportunities to take our science electives or do not have an interest in our current course offerings. Having a real research option provides a new and novel opportunity for our kids.”

In addition to his science research class, Henry also helped start the school’s fishing club a few years ago.

“The fishing club provides kids with opportunities to fish and create a lifelong hobby. It has gone way better than I could have ever imagined,” Henry said “The level of participation we have seen, as well as the gracious support from local fishermen and businesses have been amazing.”

SENIOR NOTES

HORACE J. INMAN SENIOR CENTER

AMSTERDAM — The Horace J. Inman Senior Center, 53 Guy Park Ave., 518-842-3815. The local AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program seeks volunteers to help taxpayers with their returns during the upcoming filing season. For information or to register, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide or call 518-399-1423.

BROADALBIN SENIORS

BROADALBIN — The Broadalbin Seniors meet every other Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Father Smith Center, 7 North St. The final meeting in 2024 will be on Dec. 11. Upcoming Senior Trips:

- ◆ April 9-12, 2025: Washington DC. \$675 pp/dbl, +\$210 for singles. \$75 due at sign up, balance by Feb. 26.
- ◆ April 25-May 4, 2025: Norway Collette tour/cruise. \$4,650 pp/dbl and \$5,550 single. \$698 due at sign up, balance by Feb. 25.
- ◆ May 12-19, 2025: Parks and Peaks of Colorado. \$2,999 pp/dbl, singles add \$600. \$500 deposit due with reservation. Final payment due April 1.
- ◆ June 8-13, 2025: L’Isle-Aux-Coudres. \$949 pp/dbl, Singles +\$335. \$75 due at sign up, balance by May 1.
- ◆ Sept. 8-13, 2025: Nashville. \$979 pp/dbl, singles +\$340. \$75 due at sign up, balance by Aug. 1.

For info on the Broadalbin Seniors and trips, contact Toni at 518-883-3008 or atonibaloney@aol.com or Carole at aunt.spot@verizon.net

ARKELL CENTER

CANAJOHARIE — Arkell

Center, 2 Maple Ave., 518-673-4408 will hold these events for all area seniors at the center unless otherwise noted:

- ◆ Mondays, Wednesdays: Senior exercise program
- ◆ Tuesdays: Tai Chi for Arthritis 1 and Fall prevention, \$5 per class; Chair yoga with Patti, \$5; Tai Chi for Arthritis 2, \$5 per class
- ◆ Fridays: Senior exercise program; Yoga with Sharon C., \$10

SCHOHARIE COUNTY COUNCIL OF SENIOR CITIZENS

COBLESKILL — The Schoharie County Council of Senior Citizens’ Gathering Place 50 Plus Community Center, 127 Kenyon Road, is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Membership is open to anyone aged 50 and up. The Gathering Place offers over 20 fitness classes weekly, including Pilates, Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, and more plus art, crafts, music, lifelong learning, and social activities like book clubs and game nights, as well as offering many bus trips. These programs help our community members remain active and independent while forging new friendships and connections. To learn more and/or support The Gathering Place, stop by for a visit, call or 518-823-4338 go to www.gatheringplace50plus.org

GALWAY SENIORS

GALWAY — Galway Seniors meet on the first and third Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at Galway Town Hall, 5910 Route 147. Open to anyone 55+. Membership is \$10 per year. For

information or to join, call Liz Feulner at 518-882-9153. Saratoga County Department of Aging & Youth Services provides a daily meal at 11:45 a.m. Monday-Friday. Registration required, call 518-921-8766 or call the town hall from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays-Fridays at 518-882-6070. Tentative Galway Seniors trip: Dec. 12: Christmas Spectacular at Turning Stone, \$50 for \$25 free play and \$5 meal credit

Trips are open to members of Galway Seniors. Galway Seniors must be 55+ and pay dues of \$10/year. All trips must be pre-paid. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to bus departure time. No refunds unless the trip is canceled by the group. Participants must be able to travel independently or bring an aide. For information, call Doris 518-882-9903 or Valerie 518-882-9148.

GLOVERSVILLE SENIORS

GLOVERSVILLE —Senior Center of Gloversville and Fulton County, 53 Church St. For information, call 518-725-0923. The center is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and 8:30-10 a.m. Saturday. Membership is \$15/year. These activities are scheduled:

- ◆ Mondays: Coffee Club, 9 a.m. to noon
- ◆ Tuesdays: Fun Bingo, 10:30 a.m., free, all seniors are welcome; Chair or mat yoga with Samantha, 6 p.m., all ages welcome, \$5
- ◆ Wednesdays: Coffee Club, 9 a.m. to noon; Lunch, noon, \$6 per person, call 518-725 0923 to sign up; Adult karate class, 6-8 p.m. \$20 per month. Contact Gary Avery at 518-725-223 for info and to sign up.
- ◆ Thursdays: Closed; Kara-

te class for adults and kids, 6-8 p.m. \$20 per month. Contact Gary Avery at 518-725-223 for info and to sign up.

- ◆ Fridays: Writer’s Group, 10 a.m.; Pitch card party, 10 a.m.
- ◆ Saturdays: Breakfast, 9 a.m., \$6 donation, sign up not required

Dec. 14: Craft Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., \$15 donation to reserve a table, call center for info.

Donations of baskets and gift certificates are needed for the fundraiser at the holiday party, drop off at center

JOHNSTOWN SENIORS

JOHNSTOWN — The Shirley J. Luck Johnstown Senior Center, 109 E. Main St., 518-762-4643, is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Some classes and activities have fees. For info, visit www.facebook.com/johnstown50plus or see

monthly newsletter, “The Eavesdropper.” The Center will offer these activities:

- ◆ Mondays: Light stretch; Open pool (billiards); Line Dancing; knitting/crocheting; Pitch
- ◆ Tuesdays: Fun and Fit; Hybrid yoga; Chair caning, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Wednesdays: Light stretch; Open pool (billiards); Pitch or Pinochle
- ◆ Thursdays: Art/painting class; Fun and Fit; Hybrid yoga; Pitch; TOPS meeting
- ◆ Dec. 8: Holiday family breakfast buffet, 8-11:30 a.m., open to the public, \$12/adult, \$5/kids under 10
- ◆ Dec. 9 and 16: Empowered Caregiver program, 11 a.m., free and open to the public
- ◆ Dec. 10: Tech Buzz: cyber security, 10 a.m.; Holiday Gift Tag making, 1 p.m.
- ◆ Dec. 11: Lunch Crew at Partner’s Pub, reservations required; Tech Ed, 4:15 p.m.

- ◆ Dec. 12: Trip: Turning Stone “A Classic Christmas,” \$90 members, \$110 guests

In the event of inclement weather, if Johnstown schools are delayed, there are no morning activities and if Johnstown schools are closed, then the center is closed.

SACANDAGA TASK FORCE FOR SENIOR LIVING

NORTHVILLE — Sacandaga Task Force for Senior Living hosts the OFA congregate meal at 11:30 a.m. on Thursdays at the Northville meal site, Fellowship Hall in the basement at the Presbyterian Church, 161 Reed St. accessible by stairs and by elevator. Dr. Lisa Groff, a chiropractor, will discuss issues affecting seniors such as arthritis, lack of mobility, and important nutrition for the aging process at 12:30 p.m. on Dec. 12. Call Fulton County OFA at 518-736-5650 for reservations.

Favorite Winter Recipes

Pasta Carbonara

Ingredients:

- 1 package (16 ounces) spaghetti
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 4 ounces chopped pancetta
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- Chopped fresh parsley

Directions:

Cook spaghetti according to package directions for al dente. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, whisk eggs and Parmesan; set aside. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add pancetta; cook and stir until crispy, 5-6 minutes. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Drain spaghetti, reserving 3/4 cup pasta water. Add spaghetti to skillet; toss to coat. Slowly add egg mixture, stirring constantly. Add salt, pepper and enough pasta water for sauce to reach desired consistency. Sprinkle with parsley, and additional Parmesan if desired.

Nutrition Facts:

1 cup : 337 calories, 11g fat (4g saturated fat), 66mg cholesterol, 539mg sodium, 44g carbohydrate 2g sugars, 2g fiber), 14g protein.

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