

INSIDE

CalendarPage 5
 DiningPage 8
 Obituaries...Page 5-7
 M. AllenPage 36
 Classifieds...Page 37

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

Adirondack Express names new editor

By M. Lisa Monroe

OLD FORGE — *The Adirondack Express* is pleased to announce that it has a new editor, Angela Gratz.

Gratz, who has resided in Old Forge full time for two years, has a degree in journalism from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich. and has worked as a reporter for various daily and weekly newspapers in Michigan, as well as the *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica. Gratz said she enjoyed working for a daily paper, but was very excited to start work for the *Express* in June of 2005.



Angela Gratz

"I really wanted to work in town. I spent so much time in Utica, I really couldn't get to know the community and enjoy living in Old Forge," she said.

Gratz's husband, Saint, has lived in Old Forge seasonally and full-time for more than 10 years. His mother and stepfather, Phil and Sue Freese, have lived in Old Forge for 17 years. It was his love for the area that brought the couple to live here.

"My husband has lived in Old Forge for many years. He had his heart set on living in the Adirondacks and it didn't take long for me to fall in love with the area, too," said Gratz.

Like many full-time residents, she first came to Old Forge on vacation.

"My friends and I would come here on vacation and we always had such a good time. It's a beautiful area. I met my hus-

Please see EDITOR, page 15

Firefighters Drill School celebrates 40th anniversary

OLD FORGE — Firefighters Drill School — now in its 40th year — will take place Sept. 14-17 at the Old Forge Volunteer Fire Department. The annual four-day event, also known as "Firefighters Weekend," not only offers training for firefighters, but features a Saturday parade, an evening of live music and raffle drawings for the fire department's "Big Bucks Giveaway."

Firefighters Drill School began as a way to boost the Central Adirondack economy, drawing emergency personnel from other areas to Old Forge for a weekend of training seminars and lectures by nationally-known instructors. Past presenters include New York Fire Department officers who responded to the first World Trade Center bombing and the fire chief who rescued "Baby Jessica," the little girl who fell in a Texas well in 1987.

This year, Firefighters Weekend begins with registra-

tion at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14 and continues Friday, Sept. 15 with another opportunity to register at 7:30 a.m. and an opening ceremony starting at 8 a.m.

Classes begin Friday at 8:30 a.m. and the schedule continues as follows:

Friday, Sept. 15
 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m., classes.

1:15 p.m. — 5:15 p.m., classes.

5 p.m., Push Ball.

Saturday, Sept. 16
 Demonstrations throughout the day by Mercy Flight, Power Hawk, Rescue Jack and Holmatro.

9 a.m. — 1 p.m., LZ Ops-Mercy Flight, What about Katrina?

2 p.m., Annual Firefighters Parade.

8 p.m. — midnight, live music at the Fire Hall. Parade trophies will be awarded.

Sunday, Sept. 17
 Noon, Big Bucks drawing at the Fire Hall. J



Back to school

Cameron Lenci readies his school supplies outside of his locker on the first day of school. He was excited about his first day of fourth grade in Mrs. Gaige's class. "She's more interesting than my other teachers. I think she's going to be really fun," said Cameron.

— Photo by M. Lisa Monroe. J

Wounded Warriors: Always up for a challenge

By M. Lisa Monroe

OLD FORGE — The weather was foggy as usual as the competitors in the Adirondack Canoe Classic prepared to depart Friday, Sept. 8 at the Old Forge Lakefront. Among the many dozens of paddlers were three very special men. Men who are used to meeting a challenge and facing it down. Men for whom endurance is a way of life. Dan Shannon, Shon Holler and Matthew Proffitt, all from different places, share a love of adventure, a desire to push themselves to the limits of their stamina and refusal to accept limitations. They paddled in the war canoe division, which was appropriate because they canoed as part of the Wounded



The Wounded Warriors team at the Adirondack Canoe Classic finish line Sept. 10 in Saranac Lake, stern to bow, Saint Gratz, Shon Holler, Mark Pepper, Dan Shannon, Andy Pritchard, Matt Proffitt, Bill Cromie and Gregg VanSlyke. — Photo by Angela Gratz.

Warrior Project — a program that provides injured veterans support and organizes trips to get them out to enjoy physical challenges they might have

met before their injuries.

Dr. Bill Cromie — or "Doc" as the guys were called

Please see WARRIORS, page 16

Adirondack Storytelling Festival returns to McCauley Mtn.

OLD FORGE — The Sixth Adirondack Storytelling Festival is set for Saturday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McCauley Mountain. It will be held rain or shine with sheltered accommodations.

Guests are encouraged to bring a blanket or chair and spend the day enjoying traditional folklore tales, music, and craft demonstrations. Adult admission is \$5. Those under age 16 will be admitted free. There is a maximum admission fee of \$15 per family. Food concessions will be available.

Events begin at 10 a.m. with a nature walk led by retired Forest Ranger Gary Lee. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., a storytelling workshop



Storytellers Mitch Weiss and Martha Hamilton for all ages will be conducted by Beauty and the Beast (Mitch Weiss and Martha Hamilton).

Please see STORYTELLING, page 14