

# THE CURRENT SCENE

*Celebrating the people, places, and events of Geneseo*



Geneseo  
CURRENT

OCT 2025

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The Current Scene  
© 2025 Volume 4  
[www.geneseocurrent.com](http://www.geneseocurrent.com)

Editor/ Publisher: Geneseo Media Group, LLC  
Designer: One Step Printing, Davenport, IA  
Printed by One Step Printing, Davenport, IA  
Production: 40 pages on 60# Gloss Text

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## Geneseo Chamber Powers Ahead, Honors Excellence at 2025 Annual Dinner

GENESEO, IL – The Geneseo Chamber of Commerce gathered business and community leaders last night at Lavender Crest Winery for its 2025 Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet—an evening of celebration, recognition, and a shared vision for the future.

“The Geneseo Chamber isn’t coasting – we’re charging forward. And we’re bringing Geneseo with us,” said Zack Sullivan, IOM, Executive Director of the Geneseo Chamber of Commerce, as he opened the evening.

The event was more than a celebration—it was an opportunity to reflect on a year of milestones and to share plans for continued progress. Sullivan highlighted key achievements from the past year, including:

- **Investment in professional development** for Geneseo Chamber staff.
- **The Geneseo Chamber’s first advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. in 16 years**, representing Geneseo’s business community at the national level.
- **Successfully adapting the 2024 Geneseo Christmas Walk** after an ice storm forced last-minute changes.

“I can’t be the only person who has noticed Geneseo’s positive economic momentum over the past five years,” Sullivan told the crowd. “This progress is not the result of two people at the Chamber office. It is the result of all of the hard work our business community puts into their crafts, of the leadership at our City, and of your dedication to making Geneseo the best place it can be.”

The Geneseo Chamber reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the local economy, stating: “We are eager to see Geneseo’s continued growth during the second half of the decade. And we’ll be here to support Geneseo’s incredible business community along the way!”

The evening also honored individuals and organizations that exemplify leadership, service, and innovation within the Geneseo Business Community:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Lorrie & Barry Snodgrass
- **Business of the Year** – Blain’s Farm & Fleet
- **Business Person of the Year** – Tina Cooper of NOSH (accepted via video message)
- **ACES Award** – Geneseo School District 228 (presented by Inspire Continuing Care; accepted by Superintendent Dr. Laura Delgado)
- **Beautification Award** – Erdman Construction LLC
- **Rising Star Award** – Habaneros Geneseo
- **Volunteers of the Year** – Kristen Granell & Ashley Moore, Little Miss Geneseo Music Fest Pageant

The Geneseo Chamber thanks its 2025 Annual Dinner & Awards Banquet sponsors: Apex Clean Energy, Mel-O-D Lane Boarding, Sedlock Construction, Trackside Liquors, In A Godda Da Vida Music, Geneseo Communications, Catherine Rothschild CPA, and Caffeine and Carbs.

The evening concluded with a spirited auction, friendly networking, and a shared sense of excitement for Geneseo’s future.





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## Support Local Small Business

Supporting local small businesses is a powerful way to strengthen your community, but many people don't realize that you can make a significant impact without spending a dime. Whether you're sharing a post on social media or offering a kind word of encouragement, there are countless ways to show your support for small businesses that don't require a financial commitment. By getting creative and using your time, energy, and connections, you can help boost the visibility and success of local shops, restaurants, and services. Here are some simple yet effective ways to support your favorite small businesses—no wallet required!

1. Spread the Word on Social Media
2. Leave Positive Reviews
3. Recommend Them to Friends and Family
4. Engage with Their Social Media Content
5. Attend Free Events or Promotions





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# Winterizing Your Home: Your Cold-Weather Prep Checklist

When the temperatures drop, your home needs a little extra attention to stay safe, warm, and energy-efficient. Taking the time to winterize now can save you money on utilities, prevent costly repairs, and keep your family comfortable all season long. Here's a checklist to help you get started:

## 1. Seal Drafts and Leaks

- Cold air sneaks in through gaps around doors, windows, and even electrical outlets.
- Apply weatherstripping to doors and caulk around windows.
- Use draft stoppers at the base of doors.
- Check attic insulation — it's one of the biggest sources of heat loss.

## 2. Service Your Heating System

- Your furnace works hard in the winter — make sure it's ready.
- Have your furnace professionally inspected and cleaned.
- Replace air filters every 1–3 months.
- If you have a fireplace, schedule a chimney sweep before lighting that first cozy fire.

## 3. Protect Your Plumbing

- Frozen pipes can burst and cause thousands in damage.
- Insulate exposed pipes in basements, crawlspaces, and garages.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- If extreme cold is expected, let faucets drip slightly to keep water moving.

## 4. Prep the Exterior

- Snow, ice, and wind can be tough on your home's exterior.
- Clean gutters so melting snow can drain properly.
- Check your roof for loose or damaged shingles.
- Store or cover patio furniture and outdoor equipment.

## 5. Test Safety Devices

- Winter brings increased use of heating equipment — and with it, fire and carbon monoxide risks.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on each floor.
- Review your family's fire escape plan.

## 6. Winterize for Comfort and Efficiency

- Reverse ceiling fans to push warm air down.
- Use programmable thermostats to lower heat when you're away.
- Add area rugs to help floors feel warmer.

### The Bottom Line

A little preparation now can save you big headaches later. By tackling these winterizing tasks before the first deep freeze, you'll protect your home, lower your energy bills, and keep things cozy until spring.



## Business Spotlight



# VALLEY

## INSURANCE GROUP

Valley Insurance Group: Anchored in Trust, Growing in Geneseo and the Quad Cities Metropolitan Area Valley Insurance Group—originally founded in 1978 in Geneva, Illinois—is a well-established independent insurance agency now serving clients in over 30 states, with physical offices located in Naperville, Delavan, and a new location in Geneseo.

They offer personalized service across a broad range of industries.

Commercial: AgriBusiness, Auto & Equipment Dealerships, Auto Body Shops, Construction & Contractors, Manufacturing, Restaurants & Taverns

Benefits: Group health insurance benefits and life insurance

Their core mission is simple: build trusted relationships through community-centered expertise, backed by values like People First, Reliability, Expertise, and Teamwork.

### A New Era in Geneseo

With the recent launch of their Geneseo location at 122 State Street, Valley Insurance Group brings a deep bench of coverage solutions and business insurance experience directly to the Quad Cities Metro Area for commercial and agribusiness.

### Why Valley Insurance Group Stands Out

**Legacy + Growth:** Over four decades of service, now expanding into the Quad Cities, location in Geneseo, with strong roots in community and continuity of service

**Local Execution with Regional Reach:** Over 30 direct carrier relationships, supported by dedicated teams for claims assistance, loss prevention, and specialized expertise tailored to industry-specific needs

**Client-First Approach:** Dedicated experts who listen, guide, and customize coverage—built for commercial and agribusiness clients across the Quad Cities.



Valley Insurance Group is growing its Quad City footprint—ready to serve local farms and businesses with trusted, personalized coverage. Their new location in Geneseo brings seasoned commercial and ag expertise, backed by four decades of Midwest service.

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## Preplanning: A Gift of Peace of Mind

At Mississippi Valley Cremation and Direct Burial, we know that one of the most loving gifts you can leave your family is peace of mind. Preplanning your funeral or cremation wishes—whether you choose to pay in advance or simply record your preferences—removes uncertainty and ensures your story is honored the way you want it to be remembered.

### Why Preplan?

When a loved one passes, families are faced with dozens of decisions in just a few days. By outlining your wishes now, you spare your family from difficult choices during an already emotional time. Preplanning provides clarity and allows them to focus on celebrating your life.

### A Simple Place to Start

Create a file with the details your family will need, and keep it in a safe place they will know to find. This can also be kept at your funeral home of choice. Include information such as:

- Full legal name and date of birth
- Birthplace (city and state)
- Parents' names and mother's maiden name
- Education level
- Career occupation and industry
- Military service (if applicable)
- Preferred interment choice (cremation, burial, donation, etc.)
- Obituary
- Social Security number and your name as it appears on your card
- Insurance policies (if applicable)

### How Do You Want to Be Remembered?

We've created a helpful guide, How Do You Want to Be Remembered?, available on our website at [www.mvcremation.com](http://www.mvcremation.com). This outline helps you share your wishes on:

- Funeral or memorial service options
- Celebrations of life (music, flowers, foods, charities)
- Digital accounts and online presence
- Special traditions or personal touches

Completing this outline means your family won't have to wonder what you would have wanted—they'll already know.

### Take the First Step

Preplanning doesn't have to be overwhelming. Whether you wish to prepay or just record your wishes, **Mississippi Valley Cremation and Direct Burial** makes it **SIMPLE**.

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# Leftover Thanksgiving Hand Pies

*A fun, handheld way to repurpose holiday leftovers.*

## INGREDIENTS:

- Pie dough or puff pastry sheets
- Cooked turkey, shredded
- Stuffing
- Cranberry sauce
- Egg wash (1 egg + splash of water)

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Roll out pie dough and cut into 4–6 inch rounds or rectangles.
3. Add a spoonful of turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce to the center.
4. Fold over and crimp edges with a fork.
5. Brush tops with egg wash.
6. Bake for 20–25 minutes until golden brown.

Serve warm or freeze for later.



# Pumpkin Cheesecake Swirl Muffins

*Classic pumpkin flavor with a creamy twist.*

## MUFFIN INGREDIENTS:

- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar +  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla

## CHEESECAKE FILLING:

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sugar
- 1 egg yolk
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp vanilla

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F and line muffin tins.
2. Mix dry ingredients in one bowl, wet in another. Combine.
3. Beat filling ingredients until smooth.
4. Fill muffin cups  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with batter, top with spoonful of filling.
5. Swirl with a toothpick.
6. Bake 18–22 minutes until set.



# APPLE CIDER DONUT FRENCH TOAST BAKE

A cozy make-ahead breakfast with all the flavors of fall.

## INGREDIENTS:

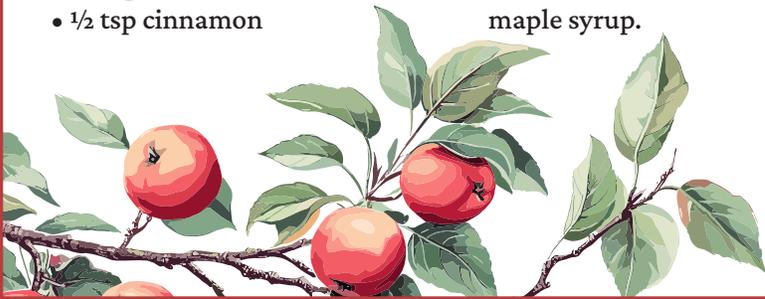
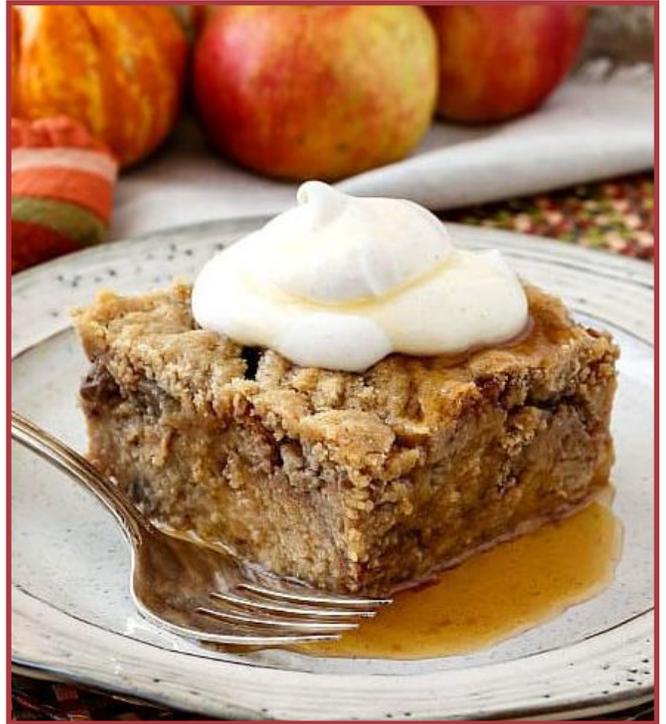
- 6 apple cider donuts (or cinnamon bread), cubed
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups milk
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Pinch of salt

## TOPPING:

- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 tbsp melted butter
- ½ tsp cinnamon

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Grease a 9x9 dish and fill with donut cubes.
2. Whisk eggs, milk, syrup, cinnamon, vanilla, and salt. Pour over donuts.
3. Combine topping and sprinkle over the dish.
4. Cover and refrigerate 2+ hours or overnight.
5. Bake at 350°F for 40–45 minutes until golden.
6. Serve warm with extra maple syrup.



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# GENESEO WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Laura Delgado was named Superintendent of the Geneseo Community Unit School District in April, shortly after completing her Doctorate in Education with a Superintendent Endorsement at Illinois State University.

Delgado said she was searching for a district that felt like the “right fit.” “I knew I wanted to find a community that felt like the right fit for me and my family. While I interviewed for multiple positions, nothing felt quite right. When Geneseo opened up, I drove up to the area and instantly felt like the community was a place I could call home.”

She added that she “loves the small-town feel, but also the welcoming nature of the community and the clear commitment to family and education.”

When asked about the future of Geneseo schools, Delgado said, “I am looking forward to continuing the tradition of excellence that clearly exists... It is my goal to continue to lift and support what is going well and problem-solve through areas that may need lifting. I am most excited to learn more this year as I spend time in schools with students, teachers, and support staff... I hope to continue to grow our enrollment as we take pride in being a ‘destination district.’”

On what excites her most about her role, she explained, “I love meeting new people, connecting with their passions, and working on solving problems... I am a student-centered leader and the main focus of my work is always what is best for students. I love the complexities and nuances of running a school district and look forward to continuing to grow in this role.”

She also acknowledged challenges: “This career, like most, has its ups and downs. I want to design systems that support students and staff, but sometimes you have to have difficult conversations or make decisions that are not popular with everyone. As long as we continue to center what is best for students, I can weather those ups and downs.”

Delgado and her husband, Rafael—project manager for Growmark—have settled into Geneseo. Their son, Xavier, is a sophomore at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. “He is studying education and plays on the Loras Football team. We are proud parents and have loved watching him grow into an incredible young man.”



## EDUCATION

- B.A. Elementary Education, Eastern Michigan University (1995)
- M.A. Instructional Technology, Eastern Michigan University (2002)
- M.A. Educational Administration, Illinois State University (2017)
- Doctor of Education with Superintendent Endorsement, Illinois State University (2024)

## CAREER

- Director of Elementary Education, Bloomington District 87 (2021–2025)
- Principal, teacher, instructional coach, McLean County Unit 5 (2013–2021)
- Elementary Teacher, Ann Arbor Public Schools (1999–2013)
- Preschool & elementary teacher, Howell, MI (early career)

## CREDENTIALS

- Superintendent Endorsement, State of Illinois
- Administrative Endorsement, PK–12
- Professional Educator License, K–9
- Teacher & Principal Evaluator Training
- Currently pursuing CSBO Endorsement



# Klavine Motor Co

Klavine Motor Co. has been in the family for 107 years, and on Oct. 1 will mark a milestone of being located in the same place for the last 100 years.

Dan Klavine, the third generation Klavine who now owns and operates the business said no special celebration is planned.

The company remains in its original location, at 119 South Center St. where it moved in 1925, although it has grown from its location at the back of the building to now occupying the front as well. Dan Klavine estimates “seven rooms,” on the first and second floors, not counting the basement and attic.

The business is so much more than a “Motor Co.,” showcasing countless cases of memorabilia, old tools, motors, engines, and “everything in-between,” Klavine said.

Dan has been involved in the family business since childhood, although the official year of him starting work is 1977. He recalls being at the shop when he was in grade school, and he also was involved in the family business when he was a “coop” student at J.D. Darnall High School (now Geneseo High “School.”)

He shared a memory of he and his dad, Roy “Joe” Klavine building a go-kart together.

Both Dan’s grandfather, Joe A., and his dad, Roy Joe, have passed away, his grandfather died in 1981, and his dad in 2019, and he isn’t sure what will happen to the business when he decides to retire.

“My son, Brandon, is not interested in working in the business,” he said.

Klavine Motor Co. was the first such in Henry County to offer refrigeration and repair service and the second to fix car air conditioners in Geneseo.

Joe A. Klavine, who was born in 1899 and grew up on a farm in Edford Twp., was the founder of the business in 1918.

After tiring of farming, he went to work for the railroad and later became interested in car repair, opening his own shop in 1918 in Osco, near the family farm.

It was one of his customers who encouraged him to open a shop in Geneseo, which he did in 1925 in the location where it remains today.

At one time the building was a buggy factory and some of the bows and seats remain there, although now the upstairs is used primarily to store old parts and some family antiques, “and junk,” Dan added.

Klavine is standing by the antique horse-driven road cart housed at the shop. Photo by Claudia Loucks  
In the front of the shop are numerous glass cases, filled with memorabilia, ranging from toy tractors, to items from Geneseo stores and yet another case holds memorabilia from the Klavine business. On a wall in the building at the front hangs a pendulum clock which at one time was located in the original Northside School building.

During World War II, Klavine Motor Co. serviced an area that reached from the Quad cities to New Boston, Knoxville, Princeton, Rockford and Clinton, Iowa. The company covered commercial refrigeration repair throughout northwest Illinois.

“Most of my customers now bring their work to the shop,” Dan said.

Klavine Motor Co. sells welding supplies which Dan said keeps the farmers visiting the shop, and they also recharge paint ball guns.

When asked how much longer he plans to operate the business, Dan answered, “Until I know it’s time to leave.”



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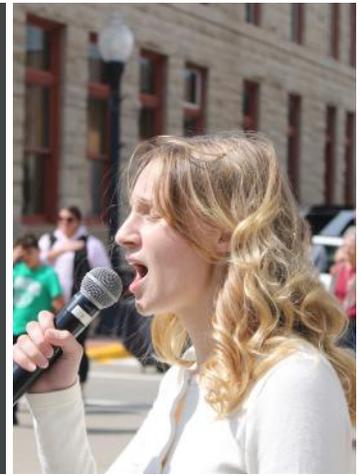
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Geneseo Farmer's Market

*Winter Market Dates*

2025	2026
November 22	February 14
December 20	March 14

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Noon to 3pm

# From Dated to Dream Kitchen



[www.durianbuilders.com](http://www.durianbuilders.com)

This 1950s mid-century kitchen has been transformed into a cook's dream! Originally featuring flat-front slab and simple recessed panel doors with metal knobs and pulls—typical of post-war kitchens—and a scalloped wood valance above the sink, this space had classic charm but lacked modern functionality.



At Durian Builders, we gave it a fresh, contemporary update with a two-tone grey stain on the lower cabinets and Pewter (light grey) on the uppers. Sleek gold bar pulls add a touch of luxury and beautifully contrast the cabinet finishes. We also introduced an oversized glossy subway tile backsplash in a staggered layout, giving a contemporary twist to a classic design.

The countertops are a bright, low-maintenance quartz with subtle veining, and professional-grade stainless steel appliances—including a range, hood, and dishwasher—elevate the kitchen to chef-level functionality.



Updating kitchens and bathrooms, enhancing energy efficiency, and improving curb appeal through new windows are all ways to increase your home's value—and at Durian Builders, we do it all. This remodel transformed the kitchen from a utilitarian 1950s space into a sleek, modern, transitional kitchen that balances current design trends with timeless elements. The estimated ROI for this remodel would be between 60%-70%.



# THE CURRENT WEEKLY



The *Geneseo Current* is your go-to source for local news, sports, lifestyle features, and community happenings—all in one place.

Our *Current Weekly* email newsletter is delivered every Friday before noon, keeping you up to date and ready for the weekend.

Signing up is quick and easy: just scan the QR code and complete the short form to start receiving *The Current* straight to your inbox.

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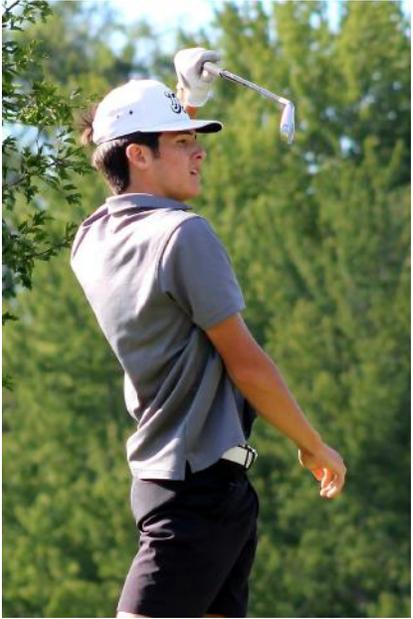
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# FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS





G E N E S E O G O L F





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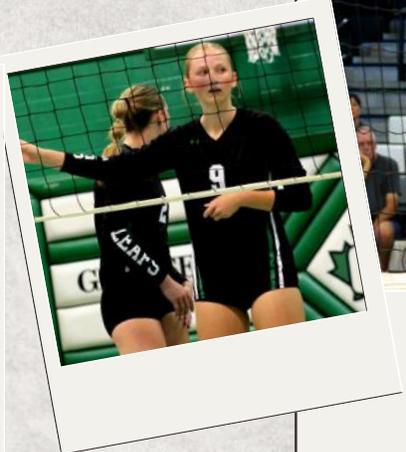
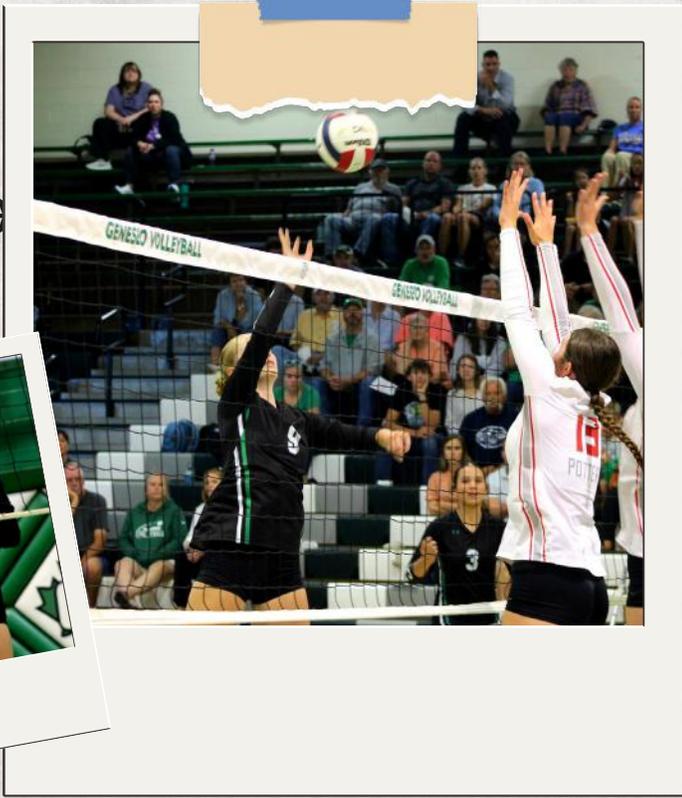
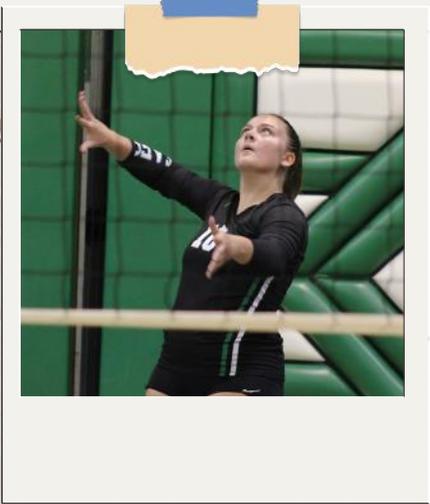
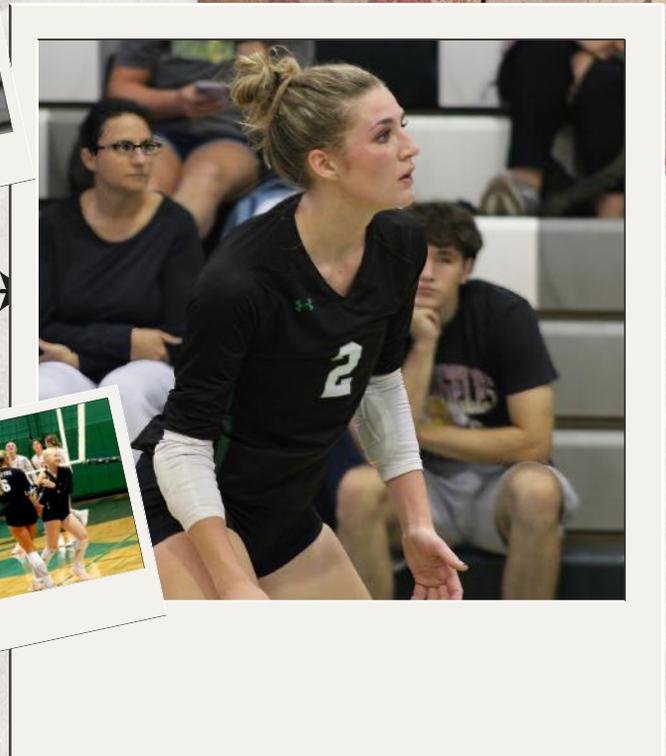
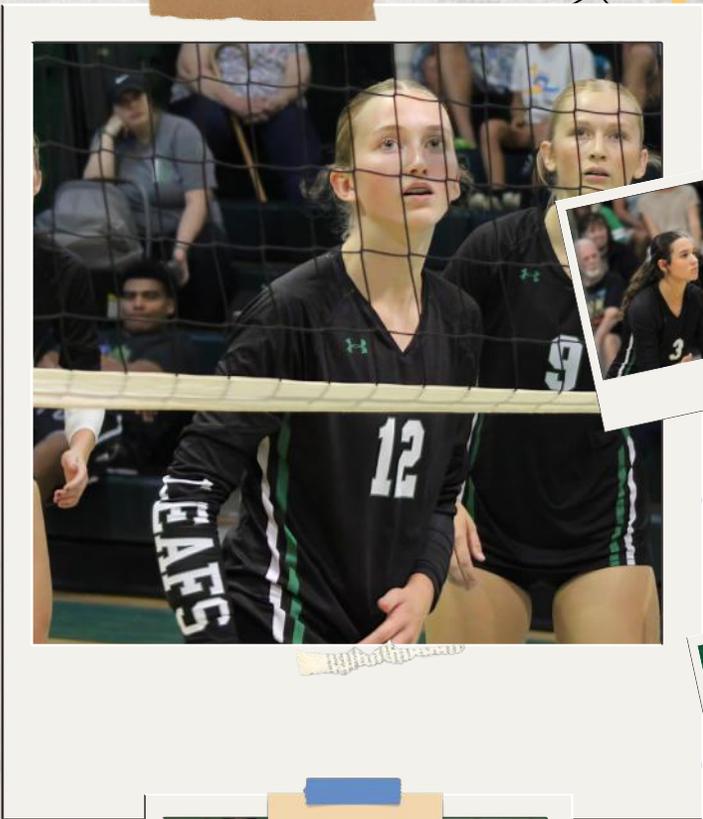
# LADY LEAFS



# TENNIS



# Lady Leafs Volleyball

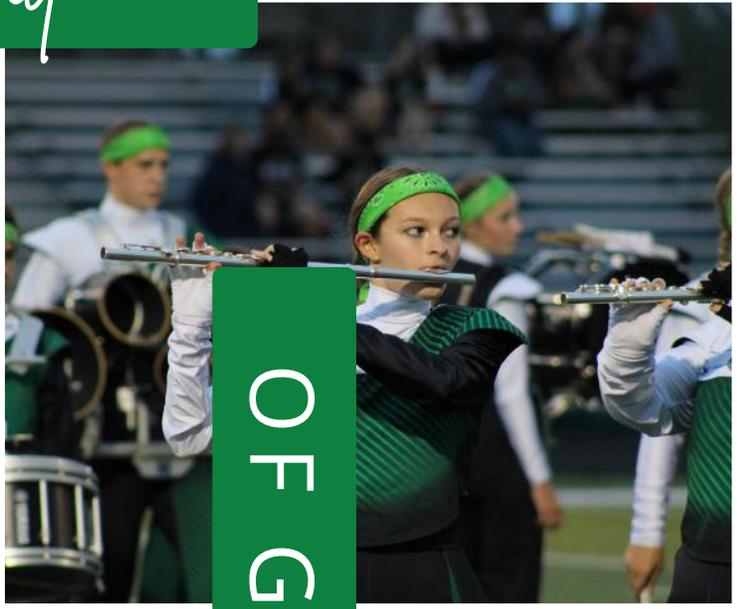
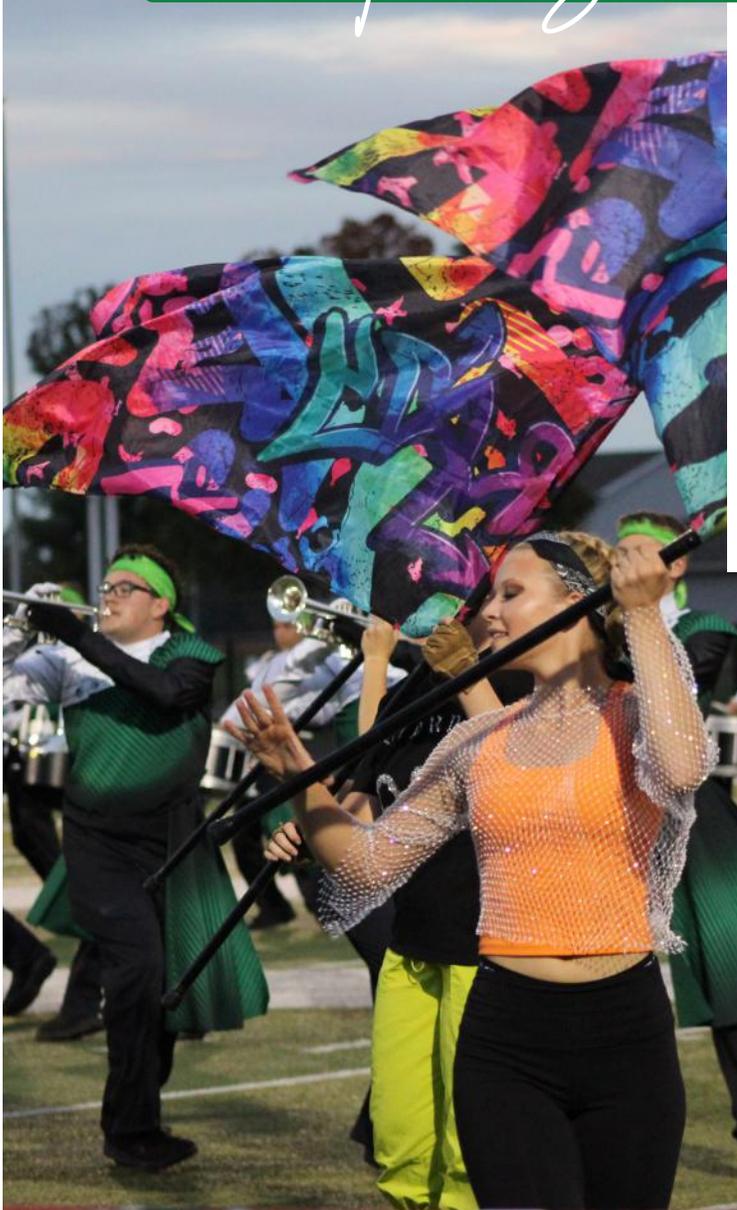


# Lady Leafs Volleyball

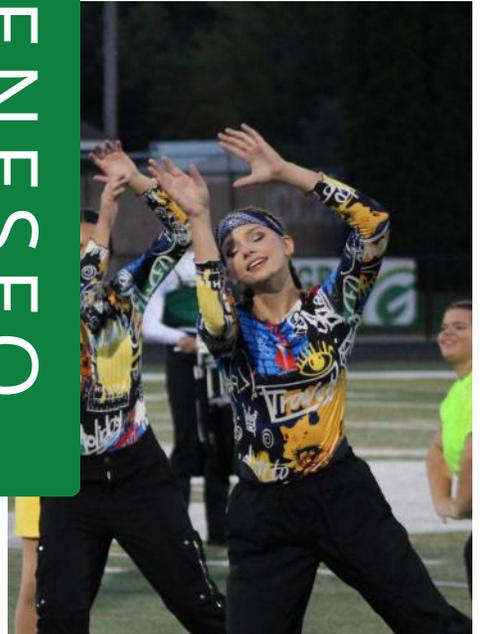


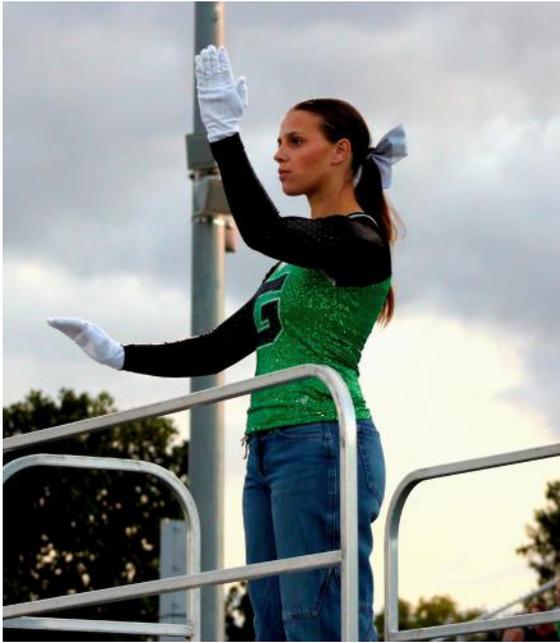


The Sound



OF GENESEO







# Geneseo Community Choir



# FALL SIMMER POT RECIPES



## Apple Pie Simmer

- 1 apple, sliced
- 1 cinnamon stick (or 1 tsp ground cinnamon)
- 2–3 whole cloves
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- A few strips of orange peel
- 2 cups water

Combine all ingredients in a small pot, bring to a gentle boil, then reduce to a simmer. Add water as needed to keep it going for hours.

Smells like: Grandma's kitchen during Thanksgiving prep.



## Citrus & Spice Simmer

- 1 orange, sliced
- 1 small handful of cranberries (fresh or frozen)
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tsp whole allspice
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 3 cups water

Add all ingredients to a saucepan, bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Refill with water as needed.

Smells like: Holiday brunch and mulled cider by the fire.



## Cozy Woods Simmer

- 1–2 rosemary sprigs
- A few pine or cedar clippings (optional)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- A splash of lemon juice
- 2–3 cups water

Simmer gently in a saucepan, adjusting water as needed. For stronger scent, gently crush the herbs before adding.

Smells like: A fresh forest walk with a mug of tea.

# Make This the Coziest Season Yet- One Tradition at a Time

Visit a local orchard & bake something together



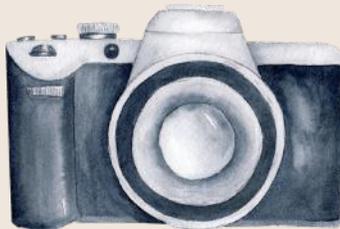
Take a Sunday “leaf walk” with a thermos of cider



Light the same fall-scented candle every year



Start a fall book tradition (reading or gifting)



Host a fall photo day — no occasion needed



Make a “welcome fall” soup or chili night



Carve pumpkins while watching your favorite old movie



Pick one night for a no-phones, firepit conversation

Traditions don't have to be big.  
They just have to mean something.

# FALL

# Home Maintenance

# CHECKLIST

## EXTERIOR & YARD

- Turn off and drain outdoor faucets
- Rake leaves and remove yard debris
- Store or cover outdoor furniture
- Clean gutters and downspouts

## WINDOWS & DOORS

- Check weatherstripping and seals
- Install or check storm windows/ screens
- Add draft stoppers or sweeps if needed

## HEATING & FIREPLACE

- Schedule a furnace inspection/ tune-up
- Replace HVAC filters
- Clean baseboard heaters/ air vents
- Clean the chimney and inspect fireplace

## SAFETY CHECK

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Replace batteries in detectors and thermostats
- Check the expiration date on fire extinguishers

## INTERIOR PREP

- Reverse ceiling fan direction (clockwise for winter)
- Clean dryer vent and hose
- Vacuum behind/ under appliances
- Inspect insulation in attic and crawl spaces

## BONUS TIPS

- Get quotes for snow removal
- Stock up on salt/ ice melt
- Service your snowblower or winter equipment
- Check and clean your humidifier

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

10/25 Scarecrow Row

10/30 Witches' Night Out

11/11 Veteran's Day- Aisle of Flags

12/13 Christmas Walk



See more local events here!



## *The Last Look: Fall in Geneseo*

As the season turns, Geneseo shows its true colors — literally. From the tree-lined streets to the fields surrounding town, fall is the season where home feels especially rooted. It's the time of year when porches glow with pumpkins, Friday nights echo with school spirit, and families gather to share meals that remind us of tradition.

Thank you for reading The Current Scene. This magazine is possible because of the support of local businesses and readers like you. When you shop local, visit our advertisers, and share this publication with friends and neighbors, you help keep our community connected and thriving. Here's to a season full of color, tradition, and local pride.

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