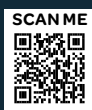


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The popular Cardboard Boat Regatta will highlight the 33rd Annual Watkins Glen Waterfront Festival June 20. PROVIDED BY WATKINS GLEN PROMOTIONS

Cardboard Boat Regatta to highlight Waterfront Festival

Jeff Smith

Elmira Star-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Looking for something to do on Father's Day weekend?

The highly anticipated, 33rd annual Waterfront Festival & Cardboard Boat Regatta will be held Saturday, June 20 in Watkins Glen, filled with family-friendly activities at Seneca Harbor Park.

Michaela Christensen, Director of Watkins Glen Promotions, said the event will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., kicking off the summer season in the Finger Lakes with activities, live entertainment, and the thrilling Cardboard Boat Regatta.

Visitors can enjoy a variety of food, crafts, and nonprofit vendors the entire length of the event.

From noon to 4 p.m., attendees can participate in free family activities such as face painting, balloon creations, and interactive games, Christensen said. The musical highlight of the festival will be a live performance by 5 Man Trio from 4-7 p.m.

The main attraction, the Cardboard Boat Regatta, will start at 2 p.m.

Participants will race their ingeniously crafted cardboard boats, held together by nothing but duct tape and glue, through the waters of Seneca Harbor, Christensen said. Before the Regatta begins, attendees can visit the Con-

course de Cardboard to see all the boats lined up and vote for their favorites.

Christensen said it's not too late to join the fun and enter the Cardboard Boat Regatta. Applications and rules are available at watkinsglen.com.

The village called the regatta "a cherished tradition" that brings the community together to celebrate the start of summer.

"We're thrilled to have the support of local volunteers, local businesses by way of sponsorships, the Tourism Assistance Program, and a generous grant from Erie Canal Pathways to make this year's festival better than ever," the village said in a statement.

Lawmakers OK one-year ban on NY data centers

Emily Barnes

New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

New York lawmakers passed a one-year ban on new data centers on their last official session day of the year on Thursday, June 4.

Different from a bill pushing for a three-year moratorium on data centers over 20 megawatts in New York, this legislation pauses the state Department of Environmental Conservation's approval of new data centers for a single year so their environmental, economic and ratepayer impacts can be studied closer.

"As legislators, it is our job to help our state address an issue with a measured, thoughtful and comprehensive approach to ensure the responsible operation and development of data centers to protect our natural resources and make sure that ratepayers are not being asked to unfairly subsidize the cost, the economic as well as environmental costs, of this industry," Assemblymember Didi Barrett, a Dutchess County Democrat, said on the Assembly floor Thursday.

Here's what to know.

What would the NY data moratorium bill do?

In addition to pausing the state DEC's approval of new data centers for one year, the legislation would also establish a new electricity rate for large data centers as well as set energy efficiency goals and labor standards and provide benefits for host communities.

The Senate sponsor of the bill, Sen. Kristen Gonzalez, a New York City Democrat, says it's one of the first ones passed in the nation.

"The reason that's important is because we're acknowledging we're not only in a climate crisis, not only in an energy crisis, but we're in an affordability crisis," Gonzalez said on the Senate floor on Thursday.

"And while my colleagues across the aisle and Big Tech would like us to do nothing," she added, "doing nothing means that we would let these costs be passed down to our constituents."

Maine recently became the first state to ban data centers, but its Democratic governor, Janet Mills, in late April vetoed the measure, citing in part its failure to allow a single data center project with broad local support to proceed.

Some NY Republican lawmakers oppose ban

Some Republican legislators pushed back on the measure as the state's Public Service Commission, or PSC, has already been looking at the impact of data centers on New York.

Assemblymember Phil Palmesano, D-Corning, voted against the bill, saying he thinks lawmakers "should let the experts work that out."

See DATA CENTERS, Page 2A

Guilty plea in fatal Schuyler County crash

Jeff Murray

Elmira Star-Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

An Ithaca man faces up to seven years in prison after pleading guilty in connection with a September 2025 single-vehicle crash in Schuyler County that killed another Tompkins County resident.

Michael A. Blake Jr., 18, pleaded guilty in Schuyler County Court to a charge of second-degree vehicular manslaughter, a felony, and driving while ability impaired by drugs, a mis-

demeanor.

The crash took place around 11:46 a.m. Sept. 29 of last year on County Road No. 1 in the Town of Hector, according to the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office.

Arriving deputies located a 2010 Ford Fusion that failed to negotiate a curve, left the roadway and struck some trees, the sheriff's office said.

Blake, who was the driver of the vehicle, was taken by helicopter to Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse for treatment of his injuries. A passenger in the Fusion, 17-year-old Marcus Knight, of

Trumansburg, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Blake was charged in January following an investigation into the crash.

As part of his plea, Blake admitted to consuming a combination of drugs and alcohol prior to operating a motor vehicle, resulting in the collision that caused Knight's death.

Blake is scheduled to be sentenced July 30. In New York state, a conviction for second-degree vehicular manslaughter carries a penalty of two-and-a-third years to seven years in state prison.

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