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Niagara County welcomes first baby of 2024, born at Memorial Medical Center

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center announced the birth of Niagara County's first baby of 2024. Newborn Ella Jane Williams arrived at 12:56 p.m. Jan. 2, measuring 19 inches and weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz. The healthy baby is the daughter of Lindsey Tompkins and Ricky Williams of Niagara Falls.

This year, the first baby of 2024 at NFMCC received a special gift bundle courtesy of Totally Buffalo Cares. The package includes a \$100 DoorDash gift card among other items, to celebrate this momentous occasion.

In addition, Ella and her parents are participants in NFMCC's community-based doula program provided by the P3 Center of Niagara. A press release noted, "The program offers consistent guidance and support from a dedicated doula throughout pregnancy, birth



Ricky Williams and Lindsey Tompkins with newborn Ella Jane Williams. (Submitted photo)

and postpartum.

"NFMCC is committed to providing free birth doulas to dozens more pregnant Niagara County residents through the end of 2024, as made possible by

a grant from the Blue Fund and a contract with Amerigroup."

Interested parents may call 716-343-0817 to learn more about the P3 Center's doula program.

Niagara Scenic Parkway removal phase 3 scoping underway

Colliers named lead consultant; public meeting set

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has announced the beginning of the scoping process for phase three of the removal of the Niagara Scenic Parkway, between Findlay Drive in the City of Niagara Falls and Center Street in the Village of Lewiston.

The scoping process, which will be led by Bergmann (which has joined Colliers Engineering & Design), "will consider broad alternatives for creating a sen-

sitively configured transportation network along the Niagara Gorge, and will include traffic studies, environmental review, development of design alternatives and public engagement."

The entire scoping and preliminary design process is expected to wrap up by August 2025.

A public meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the Castellani Building at DeVeaux Woods State Park, 3160 DeVeaux Woods Drive, Niagara Falls. Project dis-

plays and staff will be available beginning at 5:30 p.m., with a presentation taking place at 6:30 p.m.

While New York State Parks will be the lead agency, the City of Niagara Falls, the Town and Village of Lewiston, the New York State Department of Transportation, USA Niagara and the New York Power Authority will serve as partners.

More information about the project can be found at www.niagaraparkwayremoval.com.

Lewiston-Porter Central School District Lunch menu for the week of January 8 - 12

ES - Full paid lunch: \$2.20 • MS & HS - Full paid lunch: \$240

MONDAY - E.S. - Chicken Patty on a bun, Baked Beans, Fruit. **M.S.** - Buffalo Chicken Sandwich on a bun, Baked Beans, Fruit. **H.S.** - Buffalo Chicken Sandwich, Baked Beans, 1CRomaine Salad, Fruit.

TUESDAY - E.S. - Taco in a bag w/Nacho Doritos, Meat, Cheese and Salsa, Corn, Fruit. **M.S.** - Nacho Grande w/Tostito Chips, Meat, Cheese and Salsa, Corn, Fruit. **H.S.** - Nacho Grande w/Tostito Chips, Meat, Cheese, Lettuce & Salsa, Corn, Diced Tomatoes, Fruit.

WEDNESDAY - E.S. - Pepperoni or Cheese Pizza, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Fruit. **M.S.** - Meatball Submarine, Steamed Broccoli, Fresh Fruit. **H.S.** - Meatball Submarine w/Mozzarella, Steamed Broccoli, Carrot Sticks, Fresh Fruit.

THURSDAY - E.S. - Meatball Submarine, NYS Cole Slaw, NYS Apple. **M.S.** - BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich, NYS Cole Slaw, NYS Apple. **H.S.** - BBQ Pork Sandwich on a bun, NYS Cole Slaw, French Fries, NYS Apple.

FRIDAY - E.S. - Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Carrots, Fruit. **M.S.** - Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Carrots, Fruit. **H.S.** - Grilled Cheese Sandwich w/ Tomato Soup, Broccoli, Mixed Vegetables, Fruit.

Menus are online at www.lew-port.com

Menus are subject to change without notice

Available Daily:
Cheese or Cheese and Pepperoni Pizza,
6" Subs Made to Order,
Julienne Salad (Includes Flatbread),
Triple Decker Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich,
Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/Flatbread

ALL LUNCHESES SERVED WITH:
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Non or Low Fat White Milk
or Non Fat Chocolate Milk



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NYS DOL reminds New Yorkers of decrease in farm worker overtime threshold

The New York State Department of Labor is reminding New Yorkers that the phased-in, gradual reduction in the overtime pay threshold for farmworkers began Jan. 1, with the threshold set at 56 hours per week. The process will continue with the overtime threshold limit reducing by four hours every other year until reaching 40 hours per week in 2032.

This process was officially adopted in February 2023 following Commissioner Roberta Reardon's order that adopted the Farm Laborers Wage Board's report and recommendations in September.

'Jolicoeur's Journey' at Old Fort Niagara

On Saturday, Jan. 13, Old Fort Niagara will present a special winter adventure called "Jolicoeur's Journey," an interactive living history program based on the memoirs of Jolicoeur Charles Bonin. The young soldier trekked from Quebec to Fort Niagara in the winter of 1754.

Participants in the program will learn about snowshoes, construct a brush shelter, start a fire with

flint and steel, and prepare a ration of soldiers' pea soup. The program ends with a hearty lunch inside the fort's heated log cabin.

A press release noted, "Bonin was part of a 500-man detachment that left Quebec on Jan. 15, 1754, and arrived at Fort Niagara on Feb. 25. During their 42-day journey, they marched over ice and snow, crossed icy streams and skated on ice-covered Lake Ontario."

Educators from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will present a history of snowshoes to kick off the program. Activities begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m. Weather-permitting, visitors will have a chance to don a pair of snowshoes and take a short hike to a campsite where they will establish an 18th century winter camp.

Program capacity is limited. Participants are asked to RSVP to Old Fort Niagara: 716-745-7611 ext. 223, or via email at mwessel@oldfortniagara.org.

Parks seeks lifeguards

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation announced there will be four lifeguard exams scheduled in the Niagara Region for the 2024 season.

"With competitive pay and beau-

tiful locations to work in, being a lifeguard in a New York state park is one of the best jobs to have. We welcome anyone who is interested to test," said Ben Paquette, Niagara Region water safety coordinator.

Testing is required for anyone wishing to work as a lifeguard at any New York state park and will take place at Hamburg Middle School 360 Division St., as follows:
√ 4:30-8 p.m. Jan. 12, March 15, April 19
√ 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 24

Prior to employment, successful candidates must be at least 15 years of age and must furnish proof of completion of "CPR for the Professional" and completion of the American Red Cross lifeguard training, which includes first-aid, with a certificate for the waterfront module or equivalent courses. Successful candidates will also need a physician's certification of adequate physical fitness, including a minimum of 20/40 uncorrected vision, after receiving a conditional job offer.

Lifeguard positions in the Niagara Region will be available at Beaver Island, Woodlawn Beach, Evangola and Fort Niagara state parks and will pay between \$20 and \$24 an hour.

For more information or to register for the test, contact Paquette at 716-475-6419 or Benjamin.Paquette@parks.ny.gov.