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'Hamilton' begins at Shea's Buffalo Theatre

'Chicago P.D.': Atwater finds solace in new love interest; Q&A with LaRoyce Hawkins



NFMMC welcomes LaVaughn Reeves as new director of emergency department

In print and online, we are your No. 1 source for local news Niagara Frontier Publications and www.wnypapers.com

Opinions

DISPATCH TO BECOME PART OF TRIBUNE/SENTINEL

A better newspaper is coming

Regional reach • neighborhood news

Streamlining to be stronger & more sustainable; Even more content to be available online

Seventeen years. Hard to believe, but that's how long Drew Carey has hosted "The Price Is Right."

In 2007, it seemed inconceivable that someone could replace the legendary Bob Barker (and his signature skinny microphone) at the helm of television's most-watched game show. But almost two decades have passed, and we still faithfully tune in to "TPIR" on weekday mornings.

Alex Trebek and Pat Sajak not only hosted "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune" over the course of four decades, they were synonymous with these shows. I mean, can you imagine someone without a mustache asking your wager on a "Daily Double," or another person escorting Vanna White to the big letterboard?

Sure enough, "Jeopardy!" has thrived under new host and long-time champ Ken Jennings, while

Ryan Seacrest recently found a ratings increase after his first week on "Wheel."

Jim Kelly was the most popular person in Buffalo, staging a Hall of Fame career in Rich Stadium and setting a bar no quarterback could touch ... until Josh Allen starting leapfrogging defenders inside Highmark Stadium.

So, what does any of that have to do with this newspaper?

Just like these examples, your go-to local information source is changing - and we think for the better.

Starting next week, the Grand Island Dispatch is merging with the Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel to become a "super paper" - a news outlet with regional reach and neighborhood news.

As the needs of our audience changes - and, frankly, the cost to print increases - Niagara Frontier Publications saw a unique oppor-

tunity to maximize the talents of its staff of writers, editors, photographers, designers, office workers and advertising consultants, and combine the best of both counties into one expanded edition printed each weekend.

Doing so will strengthen the product - replacing press releases with byline articles, but still including favorites such as the Cracker Barrel, obituaries, the blotter, wedding and engagement announcements - while streamlining the production process.

This merger will increase circulation, bringing more value - and connecting more readers - to our partners - the local businesses who trust us with their valuable advertising dollars; and allow us to share even more content online - for free - at www.wnypapers.com.

While we will always have a soft spot in our hearts for the Island Dispatch, Lewiston-Porter Sentinel

and Niagara-Wheatfield Tribune, we believe the new Tribune/Sentinel, serving Niagara County & Grand Island, is the best version of all our newspapers.

What the future holds is up to you: We rely on our readers and advertisers for feedback, suggestions, direction and, yes, revenue. Without you, the math doesn't work.

It's our hope that, just as you've come to accept the departure of legendary hosts, trusted living room companions and hometown heroes - and supported their replacements - so, too, you will continue to champion us in our endeavors to provide trusted local news.

We will continue to shine a spotlight on the people, places and events that matter most to you - as long as you'll have us.

Here's to more seasons together.

Consumer alert: NYS DCP warns consumers to be cautious of charity scams after hurricanes

Submitted by the New York Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection

In the aftermath of hurricanes Helene and Milton, the New York Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection is warning consumers to be cautious of charity scams, which supports Gov. Kathy Hochul's efforts to assist communities affected by these disasters.

Charity scams can happen at any time, but they are more prevalent after a natural disaster or emergencies, when scammers prey on the kindness of unsuspecting individuals seeking to help others. On many occasions, scammers pretend to be affiliated with well-known organizations or even the government to scam people out of their hard-earned money. According to the Federal Trade Commission, there were 9,809 reports of charitable solicitation fraud nationwide in 2023, but many of these scams go unreported because individuals may not know where their dona-

tions are going or that they are being scammed.

"When natural disasters like hurricanes Helene and Milton strike, people often feel compelled to donate to relief efforts to help those affected," Secretary of State Walter T. Mosley said. "Before making your donations, it is crucial to ensure your money is reaching the intended recipients and not falling into the hands of scammers looking to exploit your generosity for their own gain. I urge all New Yorkers to follow our consumer protection team's tips and thoroughly research charities before donating, so your contributions can truly make a difference to those in need."

To assist communities affected by these hurricanes, Hochul has deployed the New York National Guard to support with the recovery and response to both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, as well as deployed over 200 state

and local government employees to assist with efforts in the southern U.S. in response to Hurricane Helene.

To prevent your donation money from falling into the wrong hands, consumers should take the following precautions:

- Check the legitimacy of the charitable organization: Charities located or engaging in substantial fundraising in New York state should be listed on the New York state attorney general's database of registered charities. Research before you donate to verify registration by checking the database and other websites such as bbb.org, www.give.org and www.guidestar.org, in addition to visiting the charity's website. If donating toward relief efforts, visit a site such as disasterphilanthropy.org to ensure your donation is going to help those in need.
Learn to detect a phony charity: Some scammers will

create fake "charities" and try to trick you with names similar to well-known charities. Pay attention to the charity's full name, web address, contact information, donation policies, etc. Scammers may copy or mimic the name of a familiar, trusted organization to swindle you.

Designate your donation: Ask how your donation will be allocated between direct services and administrative fees. Unless you designate a specific purpose for your donation, it will go into the organization's general fund, so make sure to note if you are sending money for a specific purpose (i.e., "playground fund").

Be cautious of third-party fundraisers: If a solicitation comes from a third-party company, the charitable organization will receive only a percentage of your donation. If you want to ensure the charity receives the whole amount,

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