

Air Base reopens main gate following 18-month reconstruction project



Maj. Brian Rhoney, 914th Security Forces Squadron commander, checks credentials and admits the first vehicle through the reopened Main Gate at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station on Wednesday, following an 18-month reconstruction project. This base entrance vehicle check was part of a grand-reopening ceremony. Col. Joseph Contino, 914th Air Refueling Wing and installation commander, was the driver of the vehicle. (U.S. Air Force photo by Kevin Nichols)

A ceremony was held Wednesday reopening the main Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station gate on Lockport Road following an 18-month reconstruction period. This \$10.6 million project is designed to increase the safety of more than 3,000 base personnel and the security of over \$1 billion in assigned federal assets.

Site officials said, "The functional objective of the main gate facility is to secure the installation from unauthorized access and intercept contraband while maximizing vehicular traffic flow by ensuring the proper level of access control and safety for all DoD personnel, visitors, and

commercial traffic to and from the installation."

This gate serves as the primary entry and exit for all Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station vehicular traffic supporting not only the 914th Air Refueling Wing, but also the 107th Attack Wing, Armed Forces Reserve Center, and the regional Military Entrance Processing Station.

The main gate will support the multiple mission sets that exist at NFARS and will operate 24/7 to provide screening for installation vehicular access, issue visitor passes, conduct commercial vehicle inspections, and conduct postal operations.

NWTA Scholarship committee announces winners

The NWTA Scholarship committee has announced its 2024 scholarship winners: Allison Gedeon, Christopher Desiderio, Trevor Collins and Michellyn Schroeder. The NWTA Scholarship for a student connected to the Haudenosaunee community was won by Seth Printup. The NWTA Scholarship for an enrolled Tuscarora student was won by Mariah Moll.

Allison Gedeon and Christopher Desiderio are the Clark-Foster Scholarship winners. Allison will be attending Duquesne University majoring in business with a concentration in sales and sports marketing. Christopher will be attending Geneseo and majoring in physics and plans on being a commercial pilot.

Trevor Collins and Michellyn Schroeder are the NWTA Scholarship winners. Trevor will be attending SUNY Niagara and studying computer science. Michellyn will be attending UB studying biology.

Seth Printup, the winner of

the NWTA Scholarship for a student connected to the Haudenosaunee community, will be attending Cedarville University to study engineering. Mariah Moll, the winner of the NWTA Scholarship for an enrolled Tuscarora student, will attend Syracuse University and plans to study math/English adolescent education.

A press release stated, "Please join us in congratulating these outstanding students. Thank you to all union members who contribute to the NWTA scholarship fund. We appreciate your support so we can continue offering these union scholarships."



Lumberjack's Patio Grill owner/operator Carol Tallichet, left, some of her staff members, and the unique art inside the North Tonawanda restaurant.

Lumberjack's to offer live music again this summer

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soda float), and additional drinks include beer, wine and spritzers.

While the waterfront view is picture-perfect, and the food quality inside the eatery – a former marina – is the same this summer, the recent work staff has graduated.

"We have 11 new employees," Tallichet said. "The people that have left are on permanent jobs now. They've been with me six, seven, eight years. So, they're working real jobs, shall we say? We're training a bunch of new ones. I'm sure they'll be with us many years to come."

Tallichet said she takes pride in providing youth with real-world work experience.

"I do because, in most cases, this is their first job. So, I do take pride, and I'm very proud of them all," she said. "Especially, I had two girls come in yesterday; one's working in Boston and the other one's working in Rochester – really good jobs – and I'm so proud of them, because they're a great example of the young people we have."

Lumberjack's opened for the 2024 season on Memorial Day. Hours of operation for boaters, bikers, motorists and walkers are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily at



1000 River Road.

"We're going to have music twice a week – Wednesday, Sunday – it starts on June 19 (Wednesday) with the Hastings. They're a local husband and wife

group," Tallichet said. "Come listen. Hopefully, it will be great weather and we'll be out on the patio."

She emphasized "We just love our customers.

"I was standing there at the restaurant the other day looking back, and I thought it's really unique and different, and we're very proud of it."

For more information, or a list of musical acts, visit Lumberjack's on Facebook.



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