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► Higgins pushes for changes to expedite Amtrak's Maple Leaf Route between US & Canada

► Niagara Hospice celebrates 10 years of Gran Fondo big ride & party on Aug. 5

► 'Theatre Alongside the Canal' to debut at Tonawandas Canal Street Pavilion

► Niagara Wine Trail hosting annual festival on July 1

► Taste of Buffalo celebrates 40 years of food & fun

► National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division band sets 6 free concerts in WNY



► Grand Island Fun Center lives up to its name

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Mount St. Mary's Hospital continues to provide services for mothers & babies in Niagara County

Lockport ER cares for nearly 200 patients since opening last Sunday

Submitted by Catholic Health

While Mount St. Mary's Hospital is transitioning its labor and delivery services to Sisters of Charity Hospital beginning July 1, the Lewiston hospital will continue to serve the health care needs of mothers and babies throughout Niagara County.

With the region's highest quality and patient safety ratings, Mount St. Mary's offers a variety of outpatient OB/GYN services – including wellness visits, pre- and postnatal care, and GYN services – at its Center for Women in Lewiston and soon-to-be at the new Lockport Memorial Hospital

opening in September.

Mount St. Mary's Hospital President CJ Urlaub said, "While we recognize this is an unexpected change for families who planned to deliver at Mount St. Mary's, we will continue to serve women and babies throughout our community, whether it be at our two hospital campuses in Niagara County, within our Catholic Health network, or through partnerships with other community providers."

One such partnership helps ensure babies born at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center get off to a healthy start. Through a con-

tract between the two hospitals, Mount St. Mary's will continue to provide 24/7 pediatric coverage under the direction of Dr. Donald Pickhardt, who serves as chief of pediatrics for Catholic Health and Niagara Falls Memorial. Along with pediatrician Dr. Michael Zang and other pediatric providers from Catholic Health, all babies born at Niagara Falls Memorial receive needed pediatric care following delivery and pediatric wellness checks before they leave the hospital. The Catholic Health pediatric team is also available for all high-risk deliveries at Niagara Falls Memorial.

As Mount St. Mary's gears up for the opening of Lockport Memorial Hospital, it is filling another critical need in eastern Niagara County with the opening of a temporary emergency room at 5875 S. Transit Road, Lockport. The 24/7, full-service emergency center is available to serve area families until Lockport Memorial opens in the fall.

"The ER has been very well received by the local community and area EMS providers," Urlaub added. "Since opening our doors on Sunday, we've cared for nearly 200 patients."

National Tire Safety Week

AAA advises motorists to prioritize tire maintenance before summer road trips

By AAA of Western and Central New York

National Tire Safety Week runs from June 26 through July 3, 2023. This initiative is intended to educate consumers and motorists about tire care, safety and maintenance, especially as the summer travel season heats up heading into the Fourth of July holiday. AAA Western and Central New York is sharing information from the U.S. Tire Manufacturers Association (USTMA) in an effort to raise awareness.

Tires are one of the most important safety components of a car – the only part that touches the road – and, as such, critical to road safety. That's why tire care and maintenance should be a top priority for all motorists.

Today's tires are made to perform better than ever before, yet improperly maintained tires can put drivers at risk. Worn-out tires are three times more likely to be involved in a crash than tires with sufficient tread depth, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. A NHTSA study of tire inflation pressure and tire pressure monitoring systems showed that 12% of all passenger vehicles in the U.S. of model years 2004-11 have at least one underin-

flated tire by at least 25%.

U.S. tire manufacturers recommend drivers check tire pressure at least monthly, regularly check tire tread depth, and ensure vehicle tires are rotated and properly aligned. USTMA reports that 53% of drivers don't know how to check tread wear. Use the upside-down coin trick – if part of the president's head is covered by the tread, you're good to go. If you can see his entire head, it's new tire time.

Proper maintenance and periodic inspections by a tire professional are essential for optimum performance and service life of tires and can help ensure lower overall environmental impacts.

To help motorists remember these important tire maintenance actions, USTMA encourages drivers to remember the acronym "P.A.R.T."—pressure, alignment, rotation and tread. Tire safety essentials are especially important this year as summer road trips are expected to be very popular, and vehicle usage is on the rise.

Americans drove more than 3.169 trillion miles in 2022, an increase of more than 29 billion miles compared to 2021, according to the Federal Highway Administration.

USTMA and AAA are committed



to helping consumers understand important facts about tire care and maintenance, especially as the summer travel season gets underway.

USTMA is the national trade association for tire manufacturers that produce tires in the U.S. With 57 facilities in 17 states across the country, U.S. tire manufacturing has an annual economic footprint of \$170.6 billion and is responsible for more than 291,000 U.S. jobs in manufacturing, distribution and retailing. The industry supports more than 510,000 additional U.S. jobs in supplier and induced ac-

tivities, totaling more than 801,000 jobs nationwide. USTMA advances a sustainable tire manufacturing industry through thought leadership and a commitment to science-based public policy advocacy. USTMA members are committed to continuous improvement of the performance of our products, worker and consumer safety and environmental stewardship. Our member companies make mobility possible. For more information, visit www.USTires.org or on Twitter @USTires.

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PUBLISHER Skip Mazenauer GM/MANAGING EDITOR Joshua Maloni

EDITOR IN CHIEF/SENTINEL EDITOR Terrence P. Duffy WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR Joshua Maloni

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER Kim Stacharczyk ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Jennifer Walowitz

PRODUCTION MANAGER/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER Wendy Juzwicki CLASSIFIED MANAGER Wendy Puffer

CIRCULATION Kim Stacharczyk SENIOR REPORTERS Michael J. Billoni, Patrick J. Bradley, Alice Gerard, Karen Keefe CONTRIBUTORS Timothy Chipp, Kevin and Dawn Cobello, Michelle Blackley Glynn, Wayne Peters, Elijah Robinson, Lauren Zaepfel

©2023 Niagara Frontier Publications 1859 Whitehaven Road Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Phone 716-773-7676 Fax 716-773-7190

Editorial: Dispatch@wnypapers.com Sentinel@wnypapers.com

Advertising: NFPDesign@wnypapers.com

Classifieds: NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com

Circulation: NFPcirculation@wnypapers.com

Legals: legalnotice@wnypapers.com Website: wnypapers.com

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