

**NEED
TO READ**

ONLINE
wnypapers.com



► Island weaver reflects on a lifetime at the loom

► Full preview: Grand slate set for Lewiston Art Festival

► Red Cross: Donation shortfall may impact blood supply

► 'Walk for Kidney Health' will raise awareness and support patients

► Considering going electric? Some travelers are renting EVs for 'test drives' while on vacation

► 'Architect Barbie' co-creators explain impact of 'Barbie' movie

► Fun(ner) Summer: Strates Shows midway returns to Erie County Fair

► 'Party at the Pier' an evening of music, drinks & eats on Buffalo waterfront



► Diamonds in the Ruff gifted \$50,000 for shelter expansion

In print and online, we are your No. 1 source for local news

Niagara Frontier Publications and
www.wnypapers.com

Opinions

Use of all submitted letters and editorials is at the discretion of Niagara Frontier Publications. All entries should include the writer's/organization's name, number and address. Submissions, which may be edited for content/style/accuracy, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of NFP staff.

TRAVEL SCAM WARNING:

AAA offers tips to travelers to avoid scams

By AAA of Western and Central New York

It has been a busy summer for travel and, unfortunately, that strong interest has also attracted criminals who are looking to take advantage of others. AAA strongly urges travelers to use reputable services for their travel needs, and to be on alert for potential scams.

Recently, a AAA travel adviser came across a scam targeting air travelers. The scam specifically targets people who search for an airline's phone number online because their flight has been canceled or delayed. Those fake phone numbers lead callers to an unrelated, third party that will ask for reservation information and credit card numbers to pay for a "service fee" or price difference between flights. In some cases, those "fees" are hundreds of dollars. AAA wants members, and

all travelers, to be aware of these types of scams to avoid falling victim.

AAA Recommendations

✓ If your flight is delayed or canceled, and you're at the airport, speak with a gate agent in person or use the airline's app.

✓ If you prefer to call the airline, use the toll-free number that appears on its website.

✓ An airline will not charge you for a canceled or delayed flight.

✓ Prior to a trip, download the airline's app and save its toll-free number on your phone.

✓ To avoid these situations, work with a travel agent ahead of time and purchase travel insurance to cover incidental expenses like meals and lodging in the event of a cancellation.

Just how busy is the travel industry? International trips

continue to rise dramatically with travelers headed to popular destinations like London or Rome. Overall, AAA booking data reveals that international travel is up more than 200% compared to 2022. Hotel bookings are seeing the biggest jump, up more than 300% over last year. Unfortunately, the spike in demand is driving up airfare. Ticket prices for international trips have increased more than 30%, yet travelers aren't hesitating when it comes to booking international getaways.

Domestic travel is also extremely busy with travelers heading to East Coast beaches, National Parks, theme parks and campgrounds. A new travel trend taking place this year has travelers booking bucket list destinations well in advance. AAA is seeing an increase in bookings for 2024 and

even 2025, which was unusual in the past. Some destinations, such as African safaris, are booking into 2026, as many travelers have a renewed a "YOLO" ("you only live once") attitude about travel post-pandemic.

AAA is on standby to assist travelers before, during and after their trips. For those who need vacation inspiration, www.AAA.com/Travel and AAA's TripCanvas are good starting points.

As upstate New York's largest member services organization, AAA Western and Central New York provides more than 862,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding in 1900, AAA has been a leading advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. Visit AAA at www.AAA.com.

Consumer alert: NYS DCP provides targeted back-to-school tips for parents & children

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

For this week's "Tuesday's Tips," the New York Department of State's Division of Consumer Protection is providing targeted scam prevention and shopping tips for adults and children ahead of the new school year.

"As another summer comes to an end and New Yorkers begin preparing for the back-to-school rush, it's important for parents and guardians to be aware of potential scams aimed at stealing personal information," Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez said. "Whether shopping for school supplies or helping your young student with new online learning tools, these tips will help protect you and your family's privacy and finances."

Below is some guidance on how to start the new school year safely.

Think About Children's Privacy

Under New York state's education law, if you are a parent of a child in the New York state schools, you have rights regarding the privacy and security of your child's

personal information and data. New York state law requires each educational agency to publish a parents' bill of rights for data privacy and security on its website.

Technology has become a permanent fixture of the education experience. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a policy statement putting educational technology on notice of their obligations to protect children's privacy. In other words, educational technology companies must comply with privacy requirements and can't require parents and schools to agree to the comprehensive surveillance of children for kids to use their learning tools. Thus, parents and guardians need to pay close attention to the technology children use, what information is collected and how it is used.

Some important things for parents to know:

✓ Your child's personal information cannot be sold or released for any commercial purposes.

✓ If your child is under age 18, you have the right to inspect and review the complete contents of your

child's education records.

✓ If you have questions about student data, please see information available for parents from The New York State Department of Education.

Other ways to pay close attention to your child's personal information:

✓ **Protect documents that contain a child's personal information.** Understand where your child's information is stored. Ask how after-school organizations and sports clubs secure their records: Are digital records connected to the internet and, if so, are they encrypted? Are physical records locked in filing cabinets? Who has access?

✓ **Be careful when providing identifying information to after-school activities and sports clubs upon registration.** If asked for a Social Security number (SSN), inquire why it is needed and ask to use another identifier. Oftentimes, organizations include the SSN request as a formality and it may not be mandatory.

✓ **Only label books, backpacks and lunches with the**

student's full name and any other information on the inside! Using initials on the outside is OK, but names – even just first names – on the outside can create an unsafe situation.

✓ **Discuss internet safety tips with children and remind them to be careful about opening attachments and suspicious emails.** For tips on how to stay safe online, please see information from this January 2020 consumer alert.

✓ **Both parents and students should be careful on all social media platforms: Don't over-share.** Any information you post can be seen and utilized by identity thieves. Avoid sharing personal information including full names, addresses, phone numbers, Social Security numbers or even where they go to school. Social media posts often reveal sensitive information unintentionally. Cybercriminals look for content that can reveal answers to security questions used to reset passwords, making accounts vulnerable to identity theft.

SEE FOLLOW, continued on Page 5

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

Founded February 14, 1987

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

Grand Island Publishing Corp.

Newspaper is printed in the U.S.A. and all rights reserved. © 2023 by Grand Island Publishing Corp. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts and photographs will be returned only if accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

All letters, news releases and photos received will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication or brochure and are subject to Grand Island Publishing Corp's. unrestricted right to edit, comment or reject.

All original artwork, layout and design remain sole property of Grand Island Publishing Corp. Reproduction in whole or part of any advertisement is strictly forbidden.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. will not be liable for errors appearing in advertisements beyond replacement of the space occupied by the error. The

publisher reserves the right to reject any advertisement at his sole discretion. Notification must be made in writing within one week of publication. Verbal notifications will not be accepted.

Grand Island Publishing Corp. does not knowingly accept any kind of fraudulent advertising. We suggest you investigate thoroughly any advertisement before you reply.

Verbal cancellations will not be accepted. Written authorization to cancel a display or commercial classified ad must be received by Grand Island Publishing Corp. before deadline for insertion.

The Tribune is published weekly.

Display Ads Deadline: MONDAY 5 PM

New York State Press Association, Niagara County Builders Association, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, Wheatfield Business Association Inc., Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce, The Niagara USA Chamber.



NIAGARA
FRONTIER
PUBLICATIONS

