

**NEED TO READ**

**ONLINE**  
wnypapers.com



► Season of giving is upon us

► Celebrate Clara Barton's birthday by helping others

► Buffalo & North Tonawanda receiving \$10 million as winners of fifth-round Downtown Revitalization Initiative

► Hochul announces urgent action to boost hospital capacity and address staffing shortages

► First Night Buffalo to host virtual New Year's Eve celebration for families

► Artpark to welcome DISPATCH & O.A.R.; tickets on sale soon

► Justin Bieber's 'Timbalees' & merch available at Tim Hortons



► New directors at the helm of GNBC's 'The Nutcracker'

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

Niagara Frontier Publications and [www.wnypapers.com](http://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.

## Celebrate Clara Barton's birthday by helping others

"You must never think of anything except the need, and how to meet it."

These words from American Red Cross founder Clara Barton – who would have turned 200 in December – continue to serve as a guiding light for today's Red Cross volunteers, donors and partners, who exemplify her compassion and devotion to helping others.

This generous spirit is needed now more than ever. COVID-19

has taken a heavy toll on our most vulnerable neighbors, and they're in dire straits when another crisis strikes.

That's where our Red Cross community – of people like you – steps in to provide help and hope. This year, Red Cross volunteers mobilized across the region to support families in the wake of devastating floods caused by hurricanes Henri and Ida, responded to 936 local disasters – primarily

home fires – and provided immediate emergency assistance to 1,600 families during life's emergencies. In turn, many of those same volunteers dedicated their time to response efforts in the south and supported blood collection efforts at a time when the need for this lifesaving resource has never been greater.

This continues to be a time to take care of each other, and what better time to honor Clara's lifesav-

ing legacy than when we celebrate her 200th birthday this holiday season? Join us by making a financial donation, an appointment to give blood or platelets, or becoming a Red Cross volunteer. Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to learn more about how you can make a difference for those in need.

*Nicholas Bond*  
Regional Chief Executive  
American Red Cross  
of Western New York

## REACH out to help youth in need

The REACH (Restorative Environments Allowing Children Hope) division of Community Missions provides a safe haven for neglected, abused and troubled youth and young adults, ages 7-24. We provide services to the needy, troubled and emotionally disturbed population in Niagara County and other neighboring counties as needed.

This year marks the 31st year that the Niagara County Commu-

nity Libraries and other community supporters have graciously sponsored the "Tidings of Joy" campaign benefiting youth in our programs. We are pleased to say the positive response to this project has always been overwhelming. It provides our youth with many necessities, such as clothing, hygiene items, leisure activities, toys, games and so much more to help make the holiday spirit a little brighter.

We would appreciate your consideration of a donation for the "Tidings of Joy" project. Our ornament trees with specific gift ideas or suggestions are displayed at libraries in Lockport, North Tonawanda and Lewiston. We hope that you might help our youth, who often cannot return home for the holidays. We also accept tax-deductible monetary donations, which can be mailed to CMI "Tidings of Joy" Project, 1570

Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Any gift would be accepted, and know that no gift is ever too small. For further information, please feel free to contact the REACH offices at 716-285-3403, ext. 2231. We look forward to hearing from you!

*Marilee R. Clark*  
Vice President of Youth Services

## AAA urges drivers to safely secure Christmas trees

Drivers can damage vehicles with improperly secured trees

### SUBMITTED BY AAA WESTERN AND CENTRAL NEW YORK

Real or artificial? It's an annual debate as many Americans decorate for the holidays.

For those who choose a real Christmas tree, getting the tree home safely is a lot like moving furniture, appliances or other large objects. If not properly secured, a tree can cause vehicle damage, or even worse, it could fly off or out of the vehicle and become a danger to other drivers.

The latest AAA research from 2019 revealed that 44% of Americans who planned to purchase a real Christmas tree would transport the tree using unsafe methods. This includes 20% who would tie the tree to the roof of their vehicle without using a roof rack and 24% who planned to place the tree in the bed of their pickup truck unsecured.

Among those who planned to purchase a live Christmas tree, 16% have previously experienced a Christmas tree falling off or out of their vehicle during transport.



If a tree is improperly secured to a car, it can cost drivers as much as \$1,500 in repairs. Twine, ropes or straps can wear away paint and tear rubber seals when routed through door or window openings. Closing a door over tree tie-downs may also permanently distort the window frame and tree branches can cause scratches to the paint.

Transporting a real Christmas tree home is easy as long as you

have the right tools and follow AAA's simple tips:

✓ Use the right vehicle. It's best to transport a Christmas tree on top of a vehicle equipped with a roof rack. However, if you do not have a roof rack, use the bed of a pickup truck, or an SUV, van or minivan that can fit the tree inside with all doors closed.

✓ Use quality tie downs. Bring strong rope or nylon ratchet

straps to secure the tree to your vehicle's roof rack. Avoid the lightweight twine offered by many tree lots.

✓ Protect the tree. Have the tree wrapped in netting before loading it. If netting is unavailable, secure loose branches with rope or twine.

✓ Protect your vehicle. Use an old blanket to prevent paint scratches and protect the vehicle finish.

✓ Point the trunk towards the front. Always place the tree on a roof rack or in a pickup bed with the bottom of the trunk facing the front of the vehicle.

✓ Tie it down. Secure the tree at its bottom, center and top. At the bottom, use fixed vehicle tie-down points and loop around the trunk above a lower branch, to prevent any side-to-side or front-to-rear movement. The center and top tie downs should be installed in a similar manner.

✓ Give it the tug test. Before you leave the lot, give the tree several strong tugs from various directions to make sure it is secured in place and will not blow away.

✓ Drive slowly and easily. Take the back roads, if possible. Higher speeds create significant airflow that can damage your Christmas tree and challenge even the best tie-down methods.

For more information about car insurance, call your AAA insurance agent, speak with an agent by calling (888) 671-7044, stop by your local branch, or [AAA.com/Insurance](http://AAA.com/Insurance).

## 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 EDITORS**

Joshua Maloni, Lucia Spiritosanto,

Toni Snyder

**ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES**

Colleen Rebmann, Jeff Calarco,

Marcy Lombardo

**CIRCULATION**

Kim Wendt

**ACCOUNTING/OFFICE MANAGER**

Kim Wendt

**PRODUCTION MANAGER/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Wendy Juzwicky

**GRAPHIC DESIGNERS**

Lucia Spiritosanto, Toni Snyder

**CLASSIFIED MANAGER**

Toni Snyder

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Jennifer Walowitz

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS/REPORTERS**

Michael J. Billoni, Kevin and Dawn Cobello,

Michael DePietro, Karen Keefe, Nathan

Keefe, Wayne Peters, Mark Williams Jr.,

David Yarger

©2021 Niagara Frontier Publications

1859 Whitehaven Road

Grand Island, N.Y. 14072

Phone (716) 773-7676

Fax (716) 773-7190

**Editorial:**

[Tribune@wnypapers.com](mailto:Tribune@wnypapers.com)

[Dispatch@wnypapers.com](mailto:Dispatch@wnypapers.com)

[Sentinel@wnypapers.com](mailto:Sentinel@wnypapers.com)

**Advertising:**

[NFPDesign@wnypapers.com](mailto:NFPDesign@wnypapers.com)

**Classifieds:**

[NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com](mailto:NFPClassifieds@wnypapers.com)

**Circulation:**

[NFPcirculation@wnypapers.com](mailto:NFPcirculation@wnypapers.com)

**Legals:**

[legalnotice@wnypapers.com](mailto:legalnotice@wnypapers.com)

**Website:**

[wnypapers.com](http://wnypapers.com)

**Grand Island Publishing Corp.** Newspaper is printed in the U.S.A. and all rights reserved. © 2021 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 adver-

tisement 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**

