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► ASI: Grant funding for arts projects state-wide community

► Red Cross: Help tackle need by giving blood or platelets

► NYSSBA: Learning loss, mental health will be primary concerns in upcoming school year

► Office of Mental Health video series aims to help parents & students prepare for return to school

► AHLA: 67% of business travelers to reduce trips amid rising COVID-19 cases

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# Opinions

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## A wonder dog and loved by all

My dog became a Center Street celebrity.

Penny's workday consisted of sitting in the front window at Antiques to Chic on Center Street, Lewiston. She would wait patiently for customers to come through the door to play fetch with her beloved mouse. Penny was a dedicated and worked for belly rubs, lots of belly rubs. Customers couldn't leave the shop before being properly kissed goodbye, Penny style. Penny could not hold her licker.

On Sunday, Aug. 29, at 8:30 p.m., Penny was savagely attacked by two pit bulls as she was sitting inside the store waiting to go home. The owners had no control over the dogs. I did everything I could to free Penny from its jaws. I sustained two dog bites. I had the door slightly ajar to look for dogs walking down Center Street; to the left the sidewalk was clear. To the right there was a pit bull that grabbed Penny, dragged her outside and killed her. Her little body sustained injuries so severe she passed in my arms.

Penny was a wonder dog and loved by everyone. There was



never a lack of Penny kisses for all. Penny was my medic alert canine. She was always at my side. She was trained and registered in two different countries through three different canine facilities. She was my lifeline to the world. That line

and my life have been severed.

We read about these types of savage attacks more and more often. We pray and send our condolences to the families for their loss. We may argue that pit bulls are the sweetest dogs or they are vicious

beasts. We wonder why the SPCA is full of pit bulls up for adoption.

Possibly thinking that it could never happen to our pet. In one split second, on a Sunday evening, in the sleepy Village of Lewiston, it happened. Be aware of your dog's surroundings at all times. Be aware of present danger. Avoid stranger dogs that are walking on leash. Not all dogs have been socialized, so it is best to steer clear. Not all dogs get along during a meet-and-greet. In a second, a more aggressive dog can turn and hurt your dog. Keep your dog's vaccinations up to date. Teach him how to walk properly on a leash.

Dogs are the most precious gift who love unconditionally. Please hug your pets tonight and hold them close.

For Penny.

Annie and Chris Edwards  
Antique to Chic, Lewiston

## Red Cross: Help tackle need by giving blood or platelets

Submitted by the Red Cross

As fall approaches, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to help end the ongoing critical need for blood and kick off the season with a blood or platelet donation. The Red Cross needs donors of all blood types to give now and help ensure lifesaving transfusions are on the sidelines for those who rely on them.

While summer winds down, the Red Cross is concerned the rise in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant and a potentially active hurricane season may further challenge the ability to collect and meet

hospital demand. In recent weeks, the Red Cross has seen the number of blood donors coming to give drop by nearly 10%. This decline in donors is believed to be due to multiple reasons, including the continued effects of the pandemic on blood drive cancellations and donor availability as well as back-to-school preparations for many families.

Make a game plan to donate – patients are relying on the kindness of blood and platelet donors for their continued treatment. Schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets by using the Red Cross blood donor app, visiting RedCrossBlood.

org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the blood donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a thank-you, those who come to give Sept. 3-7 will receive a new, 16-ounce Red Cross campfire mug, while supplies last.

Donors who come to give throughout the month of September will receive a free haircut coupon by email from Sport Clips Haircuts.

### Upcoming Opportunities

•Amherst

Noon to 6 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 8, 15; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 10, at the Boulevard Mall, 730

Alberta Drive.

•Buffalo  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3, at WNY Chapter, 786 Delaware Ave.

•Grand Island  
1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the Grand Island Firehall, 2275 Baseline Road

•Tonawanda  
9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 11, at Church of the Nativity, 1530 Colvin Blvd.

•Lockport  
1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, at The Dale Association Inc., 33 Ontario St.

1-6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 15, at Moose Lodge No. 617, 204 Monroe St.

## NIMAC looks forward to final decision

BY JOHN A. COOPER SR.

Niagara Military Affairs Council Chairman

This past summer has been one of the busiest that NIMAC has had in some time.

It was announced in the spring that the 914th Air Refueling Wing would be considered along with five other Reserve Wings to host 12 KC-46 aircraft. This consideration if awarded to the 914th would bring a brand-new aircraft

along with an active-duty squadron. NIMAC's part was to assist in gathering a tremendous amount of information on our community including health care, child care, education, housing, etc. Kudos to our quality of life committee and our executive director, Holly Curcione, in bringing this together. We expect an announcement later this year.

So many opportunities begin

with a simple phone call, and this one happened this past winter when we spoke with leaders at the University at Buffalo concerning the possibility of building a SCIF/Multi Agency Secure Facility at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. We then began to work alongside the 107th Attack Wing and the University at Buffalo as to how to accomplish this. Local defense contractors showed interest and

support and we were able to fund preliminary plans for the project. Again, NIMAC's assistance and coordination for this project has not gone unnoticed.

USAF Chief of Staff Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. developed the acronym ACOL – Accelerate Change or Lose. That is what NIMAC will continue to strive for.

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