

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

February 5, 2021 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 30 / No. 7 • Vol. 33 / No. 50

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COVID-19

NT woman hospitalized before holidays heads home



Talia Kalisiak leaves Kenmore Mercy Hospital after defeating the coronavirus. (Submitted photo)

Talia Kalisiak, a 20-year-old North Tonawanda woman hospitalized with COVID-19 since Nov. 11, finally made her way home on Feb. 3, thanks to the medical rehabilitation team at Kenmore Mercy Hospital.

The hospital noted, "While the elderly are particularly vulnerable to serious complications from the illness, younger adults like Kalisiak are far from immune."

SEE COVID, continued on Page 5

Planning continues for Lewiston Art Festival

2021 festival applications available

Applications are now available for the Lewiston Art Festival, which is slated for Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 14-15, in the Village of Lewiston.

Professional artists will display and sell their work and compete for prize money in the juried show. Applications and instructions can be downloaded at www.artcouncil.org or by email at artstaff@artcouncil.org. The application deadline is April 1.

The Lewiston Council on the Arts stated, "As we continue to deal with restrictions and the ongoing COVID threat, our commitment to artists and our community will not waver. It is still too early to know if the festival will take place or not, but we will optimistically continue to plan as if it will."

For more information, call 754-0166.



Lewiston Art Festival 2021 featured artist Lori DeFazio. (Submitted photo)

Castellani Art Museum poised for grand comeback in 2021



New website, virtual tours & programs, expected summer reopening

2020 couldn't have had a more promising start for the Castellani Art Museum on the Niagara University campus.

The "20/20 Vision: Women Artists in Western New York" exhibit in February was an inspiring accomplishment, and CAM staffers were excited for what the rest of the year would bring.

"We had a hugely successful women's exhibition that had a massive opening. We had, I think, over 600 people here that night, which is unprecedented for us. We've never had those kinds of numbers," Interim Director and Curator of Exhibitions and Special Projects Michael Beam said.

Unfortunately, "Soon thereafter, we had to, of course, close the museum, which meant close the exhibition," he said.

One month after the exhibition's opening night, Gov. Andrew Cuomo placed "New York State on PAUSE," in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Beam said, "There was lots of



The Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University will remain closed to the public through the spring semester, as Niagara University continues to use its galleries as classroom space in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, the museum will not host public visitors or in-person programming. However, online offerings are now available – and plans are in place to reopen this summer. (Images courtesy of CAM)

momentum behind it – a celebration of women artists, all women artists in this big exhibition – and it just stopped."

He explained, "We actually weren't sure when we were going to reopen – we had no idea if it was going to be long, short; so, we left the art – the exhibitions – on view, because we just weren't sure when we were going to reopen."

Niagara University classes went virtual in late-March. As the global pandemic took hold, "We realized it was going to be a long-

term issue, and what we had to do was make arrangements for each of those 200 women artists to come and ... socially distanced, pick up their work," Beam said. "We had to make individual appointments with every artist to come get their work."

As spring turned to summer, and festivals and events were canceled, CAM had to make additional difficult decisions.

"One of the aspects of what we do that got affected was our traveling exhibition program," Beam said.

SEE CAM, continued on Page 9

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