

# Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

July 16, 2021 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 30 / No. 30 • Vol. 34 / No. 21

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## Youngstown Yacht Club to provide summer of fun with CanAm, junior sailing, Boat Club, racing



Pictured is a drone shot of the Ideal 18s in racing competition out in Lake Ontario. Check out these and more at the major title-sponsored Dyneema CanAm Challenge and LYRA Race Week starting next weekend.

**BY TERRY DUFFY**  
Editor-in-Chief

As life in Buffalo-Niagara continues its gradual return to normalcy, up north the Youngstown Yacht Club is moving full speed

ahead toward a fun summer, despite the continuing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Canadian border closure. Club officials are excited about a number of things now

in place for 2021 on lower Water Street. This includes YYC's popular adult and junior sailing activities, an enhanced lower river shoreline at the club following the floods, the **SEE YYC, continued on Page 8**

## THRILL OF THE FIGHT: Local fighter set to make debut after pandemic scraps first match



Pictured are gym owner Craig Reed, Mackenzie Musgrove, Michael Stevens and trainer Pat Soundara.

**BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO**

After five years of training and honing her abilities at the Fight-Sport Training Center, Town of Niagara's Mackenzie Musgrove was set to make her amateur kickboxing debut last year on May 9. The preparation leading up to the bout was grueling. As her trainer Pativaj Soundara explained, it's essentially a second job.

"Usually when we train for a fight, we usually train for like, two or three months," Soundara said. "It's a fight camp; so, they show up at least four to five times a week and train for an hour-and-a-half to two hours. (When) we know the fight is for sure, for a month it will be two-a-days - 8 in the morning and then later at night around 5

o'clock. These guys, I make them run on their own; they run about three miles in the morning and another three miles at night. And then they have to have a super-strict diet. There's a weight limit that they have to meet. Most of them are cutting 7, 8 pounds within a couple months."

It was already a challenging year for Musgrove. A senior at Niagara Wheatfield High School, she balanced her intense kickboxing schedule along with schoolwork and time on the lacrosse team, a sport she's partaken in since seventh grade.

"I would go from lacrosse straight to kickboxing. It was a lot," Musgrove said with a laugh.

But just before the date arrived, the fight, much

like her senior prom and her final season of lacrosse, was canceled due to COVID-19.

"It was a crappy, crappy time," Musgrove said. "It was kind of really upsetting, because it's just that excitement you get that I'm finally gonna put all my work to use. I see how my coaches look at me. They obviously see that I have potential and now it's just gonna be taken away. All the hard work you put into it."

It wasn't just emotionally taxing. Soundara spoke about the difficulties of keeping up with training during the shutdown.

"It was tough," he said. "To train, you have to go train on the streets, out in parks. You couldn't open **SEE MACKENZIE, on Page 13**

## New York Power Authority approves 15-year construction services contract to modernize Niagara Power Project

The New York Power Authority board of trustees has approved the award of a competitively bid contract, valued up to \$275 million, to Voith Hydro Inc., located in York, Pennsylvania, for mechanical and electrical upgrades related to the Power Authority's 15-year modernization and digitization program titled "Next Generation Niagara."

"NGN" will extend the operating life of NYPA's Niagara Power Project in Lewiston, the largest source of clean electricity in New York - and one of the country's largest hydroelectric projects. "NGN" focuses primarily on the 13 power generating units in the project's Robert Moses Niagara Power Plant.

"The 'Next Generation Niagara' mechanical upgrades represent a foundational part of our multiyear effort to modernize our flagship plant," said Gil C. Quiniones, NYPA president and CEO. "The digitization and upgrade work will progress tur-

bine by turbine and include replacement of mechanical equipment, some of which dates back to the plant's construction, and will also involve the addition of sensors and new technology to help the project meet NYPA's bold digitization goals."

Launched in July 2019, "NGN" improvements will include replacing aging equipment with the latest machinery that reflects advanced digital technologies for optimizing the hydroelectric project's performance. The initiative encompasses four major phases: 1) design and implementation of an inspection platform to conduct comprehensive inspections of the Robert Moses Plant's penstocks - the 485-foot conduits that are 26 feet in diameter along the face of the project that carry water from the forebay to the turbine generators; 2) replacement of the 630-ton gantry crane that enables disassembly and reassembly of the generating units; 3) upgrading and digitizing control systems

**SEE NYPA, continued on Page 7**

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