

Niagara County Tribune Sentinel

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#GavinStrong: Lew-Port singer supports pediatric prosthetics



Makenna Quarantillo performed a benefit concert for Limbs of Life in honor of her classmate, Gavin Burns. (Images courtesy of Kristy Quarantillo)

Lewiston-Porter seventh-grade student Makenna Quarantillo staged a benefit concert Saturday at Matt's Music in North Tonawanda. The 13-year-old singer sought to raise funds for pediatric prosthetics. She did this as a tribute to her classmate, Gavin Burns.

"I really love singing and sharing my music with other people, so I knew I wanted to do a fundraiser concert so I could use my music to help people," Makenna said. "I've really missed performing since I haven't been able to do much over the past year, so I'm glad I was able to have fun performing and also raise money for Limbs for Life in honor of one of my classmates."

Her mother, Kristy, said, "There was a decent crowd. She was able to raise and donate a little over \$1,000 to the Limbs for Life foundation in honor of Gavin Burns - her classmate. Gavin's whole family came to the event."

"Makenna sang eight songs, which included her harmonizing with her vocal coach, playing the keyboard and singing. Her last song was 'Rise Up' by Andra Day, which spoke volumes - and we found out after the event

from Gavin's mom that this is the song she would always reference and play for him, which we had no knowledge of. Makenna chose this as her closeout song."

In fact, Jackie Page Burns posted on Facebook, "This was a perfect song. We always tell Gavin to 'Rise Up.' Thank you Makenna for an amazing performance. You are a very talented young lady. Thank you for choosing Gavin as your inspiration."

In the summer of 2018, Gavin, then 10, was injured in a lawn mower accident at his Lewiston home. His foot was amputated just above the ankle - but his spirit was strong, and soon the community rallied around him with the #GavinStrong hashtag.

Kristy Quarantillo said, "Makenna will be continuing every fall to do a fundraiser and use her voice to raise money to help others. We are hoping to have a larger event next year, as this one was set up in six weeks."

"The woman we are dealing with from Limbs of Life will also be featuring Makenna and Gavin's picture on their social media page to acknowledge their efforts."

Youngstown, Porter Christmas Basket program opens for 2021



Dozens of volunteers teamed up last year to help make the annual Youngstown Christmas Basket program campaign "a great success." (Submitted photo)

BY TERRY DUFFY
Editor-in-Chief

We're just into November and, Christmas, as we all know, is still a few weeks off. But that isn't stopping some folks in Youngstown from getting into the holiday gift-giving mindset a little earlier.

You see, with all those disruptions to our lives from COVID-19, organizers of the Youngstown/Town of Porter Christmas Basket program are once again coming together to serve those in need in our community during the holidays.

"This year, we will provide gifts for needy children from their wish lists, and grocery gift cards plus donated nonperishable food for each family," organizer Beverly Roach said.

Roach, who coordinates this **SEE CHRISTMAS, on Page 2**

Niagara County records 400th COVID-related death

The Niagara County Department of Health on Wednesday issued its weekly update on positive COVID-19 cases. Five more Niagara County residents died between Nov. 4-10, bringing the total since March 2020 to 400.

NCDOH stated, "We regretfully report the deaths of five Niagara County residents from COVID-19. We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of these individuals."

Niagara County Public Health Director Daniel J. Stapleton said, "The fact that Niagara County has now lost 400 family members, friends and neighbors to COVID-19 is a stark reminder of the terrible cost of this pandemic. Unlike when this all began, we

now have the ability to mitigate the worse aspects of COVID-19 by getting vaccinated. We are heading into the holidays and, if last year is any guide, we may be in for a spike in cases. We are already seeing that post-Halloween. For the sake of those you love, please take the necessary steps to protect yourself, including getting vaccinated now to maximize your protection through the holidays."

The rest of the update is as follows:

- √ 703 new positive cases
- √ Total of 25,482 positives to date (isolations + recoveries + deaths)
- √ 776 active cases (746 isolating at home, 30 in hospital)

- √ 24,306 recovered
- √ 133,097 residents with at least one vaccine dose (<https://covid-19vaccine.health.ny.gov/covid-19-vaccine-tracker>)

- √ 6.5% positivity rate, seven-day average (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/positive-tests-over-time-region-and-county>)

The Niagara County heat map that breaks the positive cases down by municipality since the beginning of the pandemic can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ybgzmusw>.

The Niagara County heat map that breaks down active cases only by municipality can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5b4hldh>.

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