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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

New directors at the helm for GNBC's 'The Nutcracker'

Family-favorite show returns to Niagara Falls High School Dec. 10-11



Students rehearse for "The Nutcracker," hopeful to stage a show similar to past performances. GNBC couldn't produce the holiday favorite in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. "The Nutcracker" will return to NFHS on Dec. 10-11. (Practice photo by Mark Yerger/stage picture by Joshua Maloni)

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

When the Greater Niagara Ballet Company stages "The Nutcracker" this year, it will be without founder, artistic director and show choreographer Beverley Feder. A cultural icon and Fellow

of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, Feder said she hopes to return in the future.

In the meantime, Feder and the GNBC board have handed the reins to professional dancers and teachers Mary Schnepf and Molly Vine.

"In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Feder decided to semi-retire from her business, The Feder School of Classical Ballet, and the Greater Niagara Ballet Company," the GNBC board stated. "She still teaches **SEE THE NUTCRACKER, on Page 6**



Seneca Niagara tree-lighting to feature Jim Kelly, Cami Clune



Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino is ready to celebrate the start of the holiday season in a big way – and with plenty of star power.

The resort will host its annual holiday tree-lighting celebration on Thursday, Dec. 2, starting at 5 p.m. on the casino side of the resort. Santa Claus will be on the scene, and he will have plenty of special helpers, including Hall of Fame quarterback Jim Kelly, Sabretooth, Billy Buffalo and Rex (Buffalo Bandits' mascot). They will all be there to greet those in attendance, share in the holiday spirit and help officials from Seneca Niagara and Seneca Gaming Corp. light the giant tree standing outside the Fourth Street entrance, above Seneca Square.

To cap off the special night, Western New York's own Cami Clune, a finalist on "The Voice," will perform a few songs after the tree is illuminated. Cami Clune & Vitamin D3 are in town for a special two-night performance of their "Holiday & Hits" show inside The Bear's Den Showroom at Seneca Niagara on Dec. 2-3.

"The holidays are all about timeless traditions and a spirit of togetherness," Seneca Gaming Corp. President and CEO Kevin Nephew said. "We're excited to continue the tradition of our tree-lighting to help bring light to this holiday season and to truly make this the most magical time of the year."

The public is invited to join in the fun and enjoy cookies and hot cocoa, courtesy of Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino. The event will begin at 5 p.m., with the tree lighting occurring at approximately 6 p.m. Face masks will be required for all attendees.

The tree lighting will also be streamed live on the resort's Facebook page. For more information, visit SenecaNiagaraCasino.com.

'Gingerbread Wonderland' returns to Culinary Institute

"Gingerbread Wonderland" will return to the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute (NFCI) this December, with both in-person and take-home fun for families.

While there will not be a life-sized gingerbread village, crafty bakers of all ages are invited to take part in the gingerbread competition. Prizes include gift cards, community education

classes at NFCI, dinner at Savor Restaurant, and even scholarships for eligible high school and college students.

If pastry arts isn't your style, families can also enjoy a magic show, balloon artistry, live music and visits with Santa. This year, take-home kits are available to preorder online. These **SEE NCCC, continued on Page 9**

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