

Meet the top talents on the 2019 boys and girls teams. PAGE B1

# THE BUFFALO NEWS

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SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019

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FINAL EDITION



## NFTA gets proactive in effort to reverse Metro ridership slide

John Hickey/Buffalo News

Shawn Saunders and 3-year-old Shawn Jr. ride the No. 3 Grant Street bus on Tuesday.

### Agency focusing on service, communication, amenities

BY ROBERT J. MCCARTHY  
NEWS POLITICAL REPORTER

Patrick Bush and Eric Fontaine were waiting for a Metro bus at the Black Rock-Riverside Transit Hub a few days ago as a cold drizzle fell outside their heated enclosure.

The Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority promises more enhancements like that one at Niagara and Ontario streets, but even amenities don't seem to impress these commuters. The bus riding experience itself, they say, leaves much to be desired.

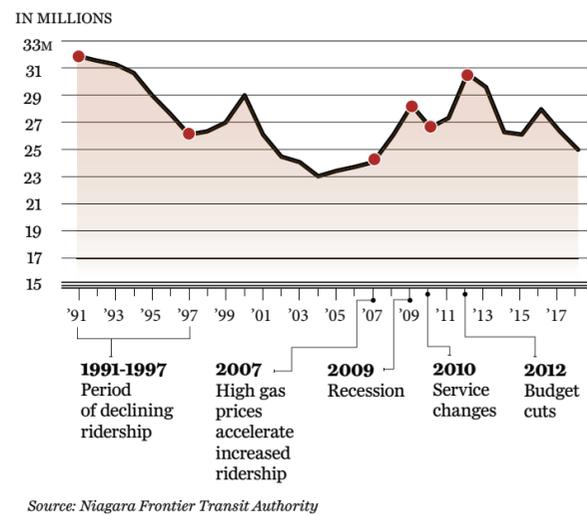
"You get all kinds of crazies arguing with the driver," Fontaine complained. "I don't have anything against the homeless, but they'll buy an all-day pass and stay on the bus the whole time."

"And the buses aren't very clean, either," added Bush as he hopped on a No. 23 bus.

Metro officials take issue with this pair's allegations (surveys say more than 90 percent of

### NFTA Metro ridership trends

Total annual ridership by year



See **Ridership** on Page A7

## New trade deal expected to boost WNY's economy

Trump's pact with Canada, Mexico may aid auto parts, dairy industries

BY JERRY ZREMSKI  
NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF

WASHINGTON – President Trump's new trade deal with Canada and Mexico won't have much of an impact nationwide, but it would give a boost to some industries that are especially important to the Western New York economy.

American auto parts manufacturers and dairy farmers stand to benefit, as do service industries that would find it easier to do cross-border business, according to an independent government analysis released this week that took an in-depth look at Trump's United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

The trade deal, which aims to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, would boost economic growth nationwide by only 0.35 percent, said the 379-page report from the U.S. International

Trade Commission.

But 17 percent of the job gains – 29,700 new jobs in total – would come in auto engine and transmission manufacturing facilities, meaning those that benefit could include the General Motors Powertrain Engine plant in the Town of Tonawanda.

Meanwhile, the deal would make it easier for U.S. dairy farmers to sell milk in Canada, chipping away at a protectionist policy that's hurt local dairy farmers in recent years, while making the border more seamless for U.S.-based law firms and banks.

"The model estimates that the agreement would likely have a positive impact on all broad industry sectors within the U.S. economy," the report said. "Manufacturing would experience the largest percentage gains in output, exports, wages and employ-

See **NAFTA** on Page A7

### HOW THE ANCIENT PRACTICE OF YOGA CAN BENEFIT YOUTH



The ancient practice of yoga, with its stretches, poses, breathing exercises and meditation, now is giving kids the power to navigate the stressful twists and turns of modern childhood.

Story in **Refresh**, Page 8

## Encryption apps often stymied Mueller efforts

BY CRAIG TIMBERG AND DREW HARWELL  
WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON – Special counsel Robert Mueller detailed multiple contacts among Russian operatives and associates of President Trump in the report made public Thursday. But Mueller repeatedly also lamented what he couldn't learn – be-

cause encrypted communications had put key conversations beyond his reach.

"The Office learned that some of the individuals we interviewed or whose conduct we investigated – including some associated with the Trump Campaign – deleted relevant communications or communicated dur-

See **Encryption** on Page A6



New York Times

**Robert Mueller has been asked to testify before the Judiciary Committee no later than May 23.**

ANALYSIS

## Report's release gives no closure

Democrats, Republicans and the nation remain deeply polarized.

BY PETER BAKER AND NICHOLAS FANDOS  
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON – House Democrats vowed Friday to pursue the revelations in the special counsel's report on President Trump but drew little Republican support in a nation still deeply polarized over the investigation that has

dogged the White House for two years.

The chairman of the House Judiciary Committee issued a subpoena demanding that the Justice Department hand over an unredacted copy of special counsel Robert Mueller's report along with underlying evidence by May 1 and promised "major hearings" into its findings. And Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts became the most prominent Democrat to call for impeachment.

See **Mueller** on Page A6

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