

LOCKPORT SINCE 1821 Union-Sun & Journal

Durf's
M J AUTO REPAIR & TIRES
POT HOLE SPECIAL
SAVE! ONLY \$89.95
(Reg. \$129.95)
Includes: 4 Wheel Alignment, Tire Rotation, 4 Wheel Balance, Brake Inspection, and a Multi Point Safety Inspection.

7642 Rochester Rd., Rt 31
Gasport, N.Y. 14067
(716) 772-7591
www.durfdidit.com

Mon-Fri 8am-6pm
Sat 8am-1pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

LOCKPORTJOURNAL.COM

LOCKPORT, NEW YORK • \$1.00

City jobless rate drops

EMPLOYMENT: State labor officials say Buffalo Niagara Falls area saw close to a 2 percent increase in jobs.

STAFF REPORTS

The city of Lockport's unemployment rate dropped to 6.5 percent in August, according to figures released Tuesday by the state Labor Department.

That number is lower than July's, which was 7 percent, and much lower than 12 months ago, when the city's rate was 7.7 percent. A total of about 600 city residents were jobless last month, the Labor Department said, an improvement over the numbers reported for July and August 2014. In both cases, 700 were unemployed.

See **JOBS**, Page 7A

YWCA HONORS



Glenna Sternin of Youngstown gets a corsage from YWCA board member Marty Troia. Sternin received the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award on Tuesday.

JAMES NEISS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Community comes together to honor local women

BY JOAN MCDONOUGH

joan.mcdonough@niagara-gazette.com

Women from across Niagara County were celebrated Tuesday during the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier's annual "A Tribute to Women" awards dinner.

About 400 men and women gathered at the the Conference and Event Center in Niagara Falls to honor the award winners and 27 nominees, as well as the 100th anniversary of the Niagara chapter of the YWCA.

According to Kathleen Granchelli, CEO of the Niagara YWCA, the award winners were chosen not just for doing their jobs well, but for standing by the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. They have gone above and beyond in their communities.

"It's our number one event and number one fundraiser," Granchelli said. "We're bringing together a whole community of women ... the unsung heroes."

Many of the nominees said they were honored to be included in the program.

Regina Scibilia-Ceconci, president of the Lewiston Community Lions,



YWCA USA CEO Dara Richardson-Heron was the guest speaker at the YWCA of the Niagara Frontier 2015 Niagara Awards.

JAMES NEISS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

made an impact on the community." Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, said she was "born to serve" and stroke clinical coordinator at Alicia Scott, registered nurse See **YWCA**, Page 7A

Crash suspect was neighbor

INVESTIGATION: Driver charged in Wheatfield fatal hit and run lived half a mile from accident scene.

BY RICK PFEIFFER

rick.pfeiffer@niagara-gazette.com

WHEATFIELD – Shortly after Ryan Fischer was struck on Krueger Road on Nov. 20, Niagara County Sheriff Jim Voutour took to Twitter, looking for leads.

"Probability is high the driver lives in the area (of the accident)," Voutour tweeted. "Please call with any tips or info."

Ten months later, prosecutors have confirmed Voutour's hunch by indicting a man who lives just half a mile from the crash scene in the hit-and-run death of Fischer.

Anthony J. DiFilippo, 40, of Michael Drive, was charged Monday with leaving the scene of a fatal crash, tampering with physical evidence, failure to exercise due care for a pedestrian and texting while driving. He pleaded not guilty to the charges during an arraignment in New York State Supreme Court in Lockport.

"We found some evidence at the scene and we got some help from people in the neighborhood," Voutour said in describing what led his investigators to DiFilippo.

Mapping software shows that it would have taken DiFilippo no more than a minute to drive from the crash scene to his Michael Drive home. Help from nearby neighbors was "critical" in identifying DiFilippo, according to the sheriff.

"(Information from neighbors who live between Krueger Road and Michael Drive) in this case was extremely critical, especially with the timeline of what happened," Voutour said.

The sheriff praised the work of Investigator Tracy Steen and "the entire criminal See **SUSPECT**, Page 7A



FLYING HIGH

Yankees outlast Blue Jays 6-4 in 10 innings, draw closer in AL East race.

SPORTS, 1B

WHERE TO TURN

BULLETIN BOARD

Please see page 5A

TEAM STANDINGS

Please see page 2B

WEATHER

Please see page 2A



| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Classified..... | 3B |
| Comics..... | 7B |
| Local/Region..... | 3A |
| Lottery..... | 3A |
| Obituaries..... | 4A |
| Opinion..... | 6A |
| Sports..... | 1-3B |
| Sudoku..... | 8B |

© 2015 Community First Holdings, Inc.

Scan with your smartphone to visit lockportjournal.com



In the left photo, a pole obstructing a view of the completed Mural on Main was removed Tuesday by city workers Dan Cole and Joe Kane and electrician Josh Fiegl, with Mayor Anne McCaffrey watching. It was removed long enough for photos to be taken of the mural, which is located on the east side of the Mills Jewelers building. Saturday will be the official dedication for the mural, with the celebration starting at noon. A limited number of mural photos will be available. On the right, this photograph is one of the more than 2,000 photos taken by photographer Stephen Wallace to assist in documenting the entire Mural on Main process.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN M. WALLACE/CONTRIBUTOR

MURAL WORK



Waterborne Basecoat
Original Factory paint technology for superb color match and durability.

X-RAY Estimates
A new way to estimate your car and shorten the cycle time!

AVIS

Paul Trinkwalder's Inc.
IMAGE Collision
254 Park Ave. 433-0465