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## City & Region

### POLICE & COURTS

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Authorities issue alert on missing man, 50

A North Tonawanda man is being sought by Niagara County sheriff's officials and his family after going missing Oct. 10.

Sheriff's officials identified the man as Joseph M. Specyal, 50, who was last reported to be in the area of Niagara Falls Boulevard and Ward Road in Wheatfield. He may currently be in the Buffalo, Amherst or the Niagara region, authorities said.

Specyal had said he planned to harm himself about the time he went missing, and family members are "extremely concerned for his welfare," deputies said.

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Guard suffers concussion in alleged inmate attack

A state corrections officer is recovering from a concussion he received Thursday when he was punched in the face by an unruly inmate at Gowanda Correctional Facility, officials from the State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association reported Tuesday.

Officer Jim Karlstrom, a veteran corrections officer of more than a decade, was attacked by Jerome Harris, 47, an inmate serving one to three years in prison on two felony counts of DWI in the Syracuse area, authorities said. Harris was against a wall Thursday at the facility when he punched Karlstrom, who was taken by ambulance to Lake Shore Health Care Center in Irving, according to Al Mothershed, the regional vice president for the association.

Mothershed said Karlstrom remains off work and charges are pending. Harris, according to corrections records, began serving his sentence in March 2009 and was eligible for parole next July.

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Gunfire hits man in two-vehicle chase

A man grazed by gunfire while in an apparent two-vehicle chase Tuesday afternoon was treated in Erie County Medical Center, then released, authorities said.

The unidentified man, in his 30s, was shot at about 11:30 a.m. while driving on Goodyear Avenue, police spokesman Michael J. DeGeorge said.

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60-mile chase culminates in arrest of Buffalo woman

State police finally caught their woman late Monday night, after a 60-mile chase from Westfield to Buffalo.

A Buffalo woman accused of striking a police officer with her vehicle in Westfield was pursued by troopers for about 60 miles before she crashed into the median on the Niagara Thruway, state police said.

After the crash, on the Niagara Thruway in Buffalo, police cars surrounded the vehicle driven by Julie M. Lauricello, 37, of Auburn Avenue, police said. She then attempted to flee from the scene by crashing through two vehicles, before she was taken into custody, state police added.

Westfield police entered the Thruway at about 9:45 p.m., after the officer was struck by her vehicle as she tried to flee from a petit larceny investigation, police said. Westfield officers later gave way to state troopers, who followed the woman's vehicle all the way into Buffalo.

State police charged Lauricello with criminal mischief, reckless endangerment, fleeing from a police officer, reckless driving, driving while ability impaired by drugs and numerous traffic violations, according to police reports.

Westfield police plan to lodge warrants against Lauricello for petit larceny, reckless endangerment, assault on a police officer, fleeing from a police officer and failing to comply with a police officer.

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DWI defendant scolded by judge at sentencing

Keefe Wilmott was spared jail Tuesday but scolded by a judge for driving drunk with the 1-year-old son of a friend in the vehicle.

State Supreme Court Justice Penny M. Wolfgang fined Wilmott, 35, of West Delavan Avenue, \$1,525, ordered him to perform 30 days of community service, enroll in an alcohol and substance abuse treatment program and attend a Stop DWI victim panel session. Wilmott had pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated DWI and one count of endangering the welfare of a child. He was arrested on Walden Avenue in Depew at about 10:30 p.m. Jan. 29. Prosecutor Bethany A. Solek said his blood-alcohol level was 0.14 percent.

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Man dodges life term with acquittal ruling

Darrin Shivers, who faced a mandatory life term, was acquitted Tuesday of stealing a laptop, iPod and jewelry from his older sister's LaSalle Avenue home months after she kicked him out last year.

After a two-day trial before State Supreme Court Justice Penny M. Wolfgang, a jury found Shivers, 40, not guilty of felony burglary, criminal mischief and petit larceny. Defense attorney Paul Gordon Dell had told the jury the dispute between Shivers and his sister was "like something off of the Jerry Springer Show" and that she didn't file a complaint about the alleged May 6, 2009, thefts until May 21, a day after she called 911 six times to complain about her brother, whom she often argued with.

Shivers faced a mandatory prison term of 16 years to life as a persistent violent felon.

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