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## City & Region

### POLICE & COURTS

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#### FIRE DESTROYS RESIDENCE IN CHEEKTOWAGA; 3 PETS DIE

A dog and two cats perished in a Chapel Avenue house fire at about 5 p.m. Tuesday in Cheektowaga, authorities said.

The cause of the blaze, which caused \$100,000 damage to 44 Chapel, a 2 1/2 -story home, remained under investigation today. U-Crest Volunteer Fire Company Chief William Graczyk said the residence was destroyed.

Firefighting efforts, the chief said, were hampered because of low water pressure in area fire hydrants. "We had to close down Union Road at Genesee Street for a couple hours to bring in water from a hydrant over there," he said.

#### MAN CHARGED IN BEATING OF 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL

A Town of Tonawanda man is accused of beating up the 3-year-old daughter of his girlfriend, authorities said.

Tyrone Bolden, 35, of 54 Alcott Court, has been charged with second-degree assault and endangering the welfare of a child in the attack, which occurred Aug. 3 at the residence he shares with the child's mother, according to Town of Tonawanda Police Department Juvenile Detectives James Sibbet and William Smith.

A felony hearing was conducted today in Tonawanda Town Court.

The child was hospitalized for three days after being repeatedly hit on the head by Bolden, according to the detectives, who are continuing an investigation into the assault.

#### CABBIE'S UNCERTAINTY FREES SHOOTING SUSPECT

An East Utica Street man was freed Tuesday after a cab driver he was accused of shooting testified that he was "not absolutely" sure he was the culprit.

Lawrence W. Bradberry, 24, shook hands with his lawyer, Paul Gordon Dell, as he was released before Erie County Judge Shirley Troutman less than an hour after prosecutors asked the judge to dismiss the charges of felony reckless endangerment and weapon possession.

When Dell asked the cabbie, whose name court officials asked the media not to publish, if he recognized Bradberry from the Goulding Avenue shooting in July 2003, the man testified he was "not absolutely" certain.

Monday, as jury selection began, identical charges were dismissed against Bradberry's co-defendant, Terrance K. Pugh, 21, also of East Utica Street.

Pugh remains jailed on unrelated weapons charges.

Bradberry and Pugh were indicted on stolen-car charges linked to the cabdriver shooting incident early on July 9, 2003, but that case was dismissed when the purported owner of the car refused to return to Buffalo for court proceedings.

Dell said Bradberry and Pugh were arrested right after the shooting because they resembled the bandits' descriptions on the police radios.

#### THREE MEN SENTENCED FOR HOME BURGLARY

Three Buffalo-area men were sentenced Monday in Allegany County Court for a home burglary Dec. 3 in the Town of Cuba.

Judge James E. Euken sentenced Gregory Russell III, 23, of Cheektowaga, to one to three years in state prison; his brother, Jason A., 23, of Chapel Street, Cheektowaga, to seven months in the Allegany County Jail; and Branden L. Pirong of Depew to three years of probation and 21 hours of community service.

The Russells pleaded guilty May 21 to third-degree attempted burglary and Pirong on June 25 to petit

Bradberry