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City & Region

NIAGARA POLICE & COURTS

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Fire damages garage, two nearby structures

Investigators are seeking the cause of a fire early Sunday at a Glenwood Avenue garage that damaged two other structures.

Buffalo firefighters were dispatched to 542 Glenwood at 2:10 a.m. The fire caused \$15,000 damage to the garage.

The fire also caused \$20,000 damage to the house next door at 548 Glenwood and \$500 damage to its contents, as well as \$1,000 damage to a building at 540 Glenwood. The American Red Cross was asked to help two adults displaced from 548 Glenwood.

Teen charged after crash of horse and buggy in chase

LEON -- An Amish teen who tried to flee police faces charges of alcohol possession and "overdriving an animal" after he crashed his getaway vehicle -- a horse and buggy.

Cattaraugus County sheriff's deputies reported over the weekend that Levi E. Detweiler, 17, ran a stop sign and refused officers' attempts to stop the buggy. Deputies chased Detweiler for about three quarters of a mile, and when he tried an unsafe turn into a driveway, he crashed the horse and buggy in a ditch. The teen then fled on foot but was found later in the area.

He was interviewed by detectives, who charged him with possession of alcohol by someone under 21, overdriving an animal, second-degree reckless endangerment, failure to stop at a stop sign and failure to yield to an emergency vehicle in the incident that occurred at about 1:30 a.m. last Monday.

The Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Bureau completed an investigation and charged the youth, whose \$500 bail was posted. Two Amish men helped deputies free the horse and remove the carriage from the ditch.

Three arrested in fight injuring off-duty officer

THOROLD, Ont. -- Three teens were arrested early Sunday after an altercation in which an off-duty police officer in uniform suffered a broken jaw, Niagara Regional Police report.

Charged with assault were Michael Shellard and Christine Denny, both 19 and both of Thorold. Also charged was a 16-year-old, whose name was withheld.

Police said the officer, who was not identified, accosted the youth regarding damage to a wooden fence in the Confederation Heights Park area about 2:30 a.m. Sunday. The youth proved uncooperative, police said, and the two Thorold resident came to assist him.

The officer used a cell phone to call police for help. In addition to the broken jaw, he suffered a broken rib, a laceration near his eye and several cuts and bruises to his arms and legs. The officer underwent surgery on his jaw Sunday.

Man fined for speeding, cleared of gun charge

A former Buffalo bar handyman was fined \$80 for speeding, but State Supreme Court Justice Christopher J. Burns found him not guilty of a felony weapons charge for having a loaded revolver in the car he was driving last fall.

James Williams, 44, of Glendale Place, has been jailed since his arrest after he was flagged down for speeding at about 2 a.m. Oct. 22 on Bailey Avenue near Wecker Street. Williams was freed from custody after the verdict late last week.

During a two-day, nonjury trial, testimony showed there was very little of Williams' DNA on the loaded .38-caliber revolver that police found between in the vehicle, which was owned by the management of the Night Owl bar at Bailey Avenue and Wecker Street.

Williams testified he was unaware the revolver was in the car, which bar management had him use to drive home two drunken patrons. Williams also testified that his DNA was on the revolver because it was routinely kept in a drawer below the bar cash register, which he frequently accessed, moving the weapon out of the way.

Four charged in assault on husband and wife

Four men were charged with a gang assault on a husband and wife following an argument at a hot dog vendor's cart early Sunday in the Chippewa District.

According to police reports, the four men, all 21 years old, got involved in an argument with the couple at Main and Chippewa streets at about 3:40 a.m. and severely beat them.

The husband was thrown to the ground, punched, kicked, and his head was slammed against the side of a parked pickup truck, police said. He suffered large bumps and bruises on his forehead, a swollen right eye and a large bump on the front of his head, police said. He was treated at the scene by a Rural/Metro ambulance crew.

The wife also was punched and kicked in the face and head, causing a cut lip and substantial pain and swelling. It was unclear if she was transported to a hospital.

The incident also caused about \$500 damage to the pickup truck.

Arrested were Patrick W. Browne of Delaware Avenue; Pierce A. Devine of Lakecrest Drive, Hamburg; Timothy E. Lane of Briar Hills Road, Orchard Park; and Joshua J. Senior of Eden-Evans Center Road, Angola.

All four were charged with second-degree gang assault, third-degree assault, harassment, criminal mischief and petit larceny for taking the husband's cell phone.

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