



'Cool kid' joins Niagara U hockey team

Boy, 7, welcomed to Purple Eagles through Project IMPACT | PAGE C1

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FINAL EDITION

Police probe link between found boy, bodies in burnt car



This child was found sleeping on a porch Monday.

Florida couple may be his parents

BY MAKI BECKER, AARON BESECKER, AND KEITH MCSHEA

NEWS STAFF REPORTERS

A burned-out vehicle with human remains inside.

Three people from Florida who are missing.

A 3-year-old Florida boy found sleeping alone on a West Side porch.

The three incidents all came to the attention of Buffalo police on Monday. Now they are trying to figure out if, and how, they might be linked.

Members of a Florida family on Tuesday said they are awaiting word from investigators about whether the bodies found inside a burned-out vehicle in Black Rock on Monday are the parents of a toddler found sleeping alone on a West Side porch earlier that day.

Three people from Florida, including the boy's parents and a family friend, are con-

sidered missing by police.

The parents were identified as Nicole Marie Mersed Plaud, 24, and Miguel Anthony Valentin-Colon, 31. Dharmyl Mirella Roman-Audiffred, 29, was identified as their friend. They may have arrived in Buffalo late Sunday night, Buffalo Police Capt. Jeff Rinaldo said at a news conference Tuesday.

Mersed's and Valentin's son, Noelvin, was found on Potomac Avenue.

Police say it will take time before the remains found in the burned-out vehicle Monday behind Black Rock Mini Storage on Tonawanda Street are identified.

For now, the couple and their friend are considered missing persons, said Rinaldo, who called the situation "a complicated investigation."

"It's going to take quite some time to put this all together," Rinaldo said.

But the family of the missing couple fears they were killed in the car fire.

The last time the family heard from Valentin or Mersed was about 6 p.m. Sunday, said Zenaida Colon, Valentin's mother.

Valentin had taken his car in because of a recall and had a rental, a white Chevrolet SUV, Colon said. She said she thinks her son may have been taking advantage of the rental and was taking his family on a road trip. Their family often takes long road trips, she said.

See Deaths on Page A5

First-place vision for Skyway offers unparalleled view of city



Plan would remove half of bridge, create 'SkyPark'

BY MARK SOMMER
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The "City of Lights" entry picked Tuesday as the winner of the Skyway corridor competition calls for removing part of the Skyway and its access ramps from Church to Prime streets, making 12 acres available for development in downtown and Canal-side.

"City of Lights"

The first-place entry in the Skyway design contest calls for removing part of the span and transforming what remains into "SkyPark." A lift bridge would be built at Michigan Avenue to connect to the Outer Harbor.

The part of the Skyway bridge that remains - approximately half - would be transformed into "SkyPark," providing scenic views from on high with recreational amenities. The winning submission calls for a lift bridge to be built at Michigan Avenue to connect to the Outer Harbor.

"Is the Skyway going to come down? Yes, yes," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who attended the selection jury's announcement at Seneca One tower. "I believe it

See Skyway on Page A6



GRAPE FARMERS HARVEST BLESSING

The late September days are the pinnacle for grape farmers, who expressed their gratitude for a good crop at a blessing of the grapes in Silver Creek. Story, Page B1.

ANALYSIS

Can Trump's word on Iran be trusted?

Credibility problem might make laying blame for Saudi attack a tough sell.

BY DAVID E. SANGER
NEW YORK TIMES

For a president with a loose relationship with the facts and poisonous relationships with allies, the attack on the Saudi oil fields poses a challenge: how to prove the administration's case that Iran was behind the strike and rally the world to respond.

President Trump must now confront that problem as he struggles with one of the most critical national security deci-

sions of his presidency. Over the next few days or weeks, he will almost certainly face the reality that much of the world - angry at his tweets, tirades, untruths and accusations - could be disinclined to believe the arguments advanced by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and others that Iran bears responsibility for the attack.

If Trump tries to gather a coalition to impose diplomatic penalties, tighten sanctions to further choke off Iranian oil exports or retaliate with a military or cyberstrike, he may discover that, like Presi-

See Trump on Page A5

Skyway work won't be quick, will be worthy

Tearing down the Skyway is more than a big, expensive road project.

Think of it as an economic development opportunity, one that could dovetail with many of the positive things that already have happened at Canalside and along the Outer Harbor.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo came to Buffalo on Tuesday to announce the winner of his contest to reimagine the Skyway, with a plan by a Rochester group to take down part of the Skyway while turning a section of the



David Robinson

elevated highway into a "Skyway Park" that links downtown to the Outer Harbor and offers panoramic views to cyclists and pedestrians.

Who knows how much of that plan will survive the lengthy planning and environmental review process, but one of the most intriguing elements of it is how it frees up a dozen acres of land downtown - and about 100 acres along

See Robinson on Page A6

A blank canvas - minus old buildings or costly cleanups - could lead to another, not yet imagined, chapter in the waterfront's development.

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WEATHER

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