

PULLING AHEAD

HALL, ENDYCOTT EMERGE AS LEADERS DURING SECOND ROUND OF PORTER CUP. SPORTS/1B



CITY CHAMPS

HYDE PARK BRAVES TAKE HOME MAYOR'S CUP THURSDAY NIGHT. SPORTS/1B



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Police threatens delay case

COURTS: Judge cites threats to police as reason for McTyere twins' sentencing delay.

BY RICK PFEIFFER
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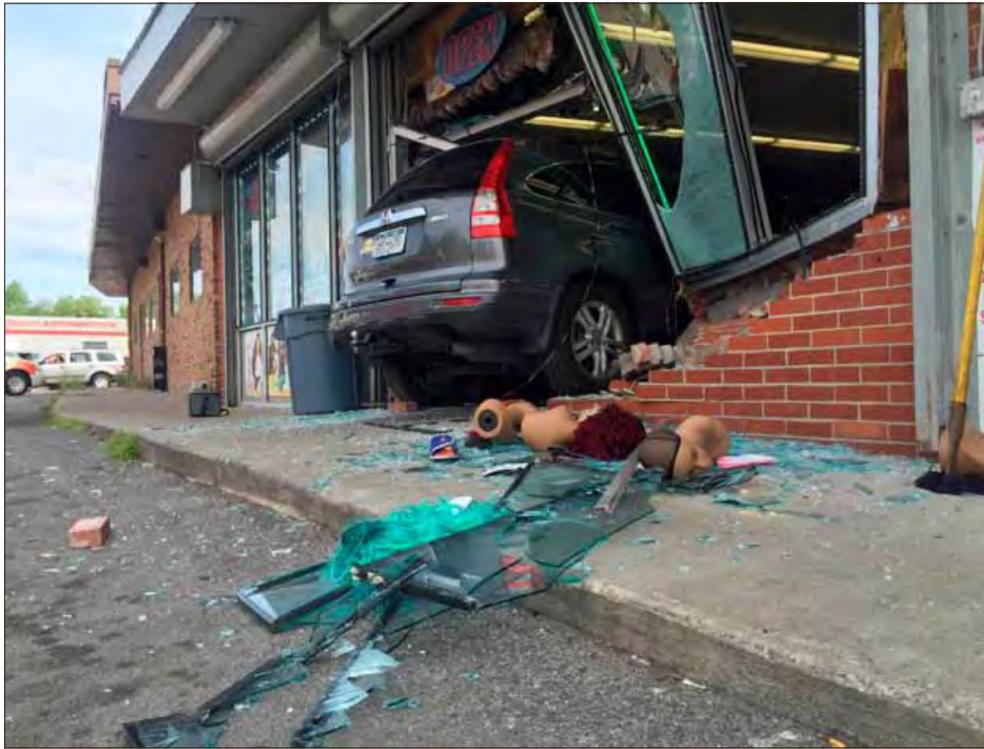
LOCKPORT — The scheduled sentencing of twin brothers in connection with a Highland Avenue homicide was abruptly halted Thursday morning over revelations that at least one of the twins had threatened to kill cops.

Niagara County Court Judge Sara Sheldon postponed the sentencing of Keon and Deon McTyere to allow time for probation officers to speak with Falls police detectives who were the targets of the threats. The twins are now set to be sentenced on Aug. 4.

A pre-sentencing report, prepared by the Niagara County Probation Department, pointed out that Deon McTyere, in an interview with a Falls Police detective, threatened to shoot another investigator.

Assistant Niagara County District Attorney Claudette Caldwell told Sheldon that Deon McTyere said, "Next time I see you, pop, pop, pop See **THREATS**, Page 5A

CRASH SCENE



With mannequin parts and glass strewn across the front of the building, an elderly man's car sits in the DeVeaux Mini Mart building Thursday morning on Main Street. Falls police officials said the elderly man hit his gas pedal instead of the brake pedal. No injuries were reported.

PHILIP GAMBINI/staff

Elderly man drives into DeVeaux Mini Mart Thursday morning

BY PHILIP GAMBINI
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Keon Wimsatt was pulling cash out of the DeVeaux Mini Mart's ATM for a pack of smokes Thursday morning when he began to feel as if he

were in a movie. A vehicle headed toward him from Main Street. It drove through a parking lot before it jumped a curb and crashed into the storefront. The vehicle was moving fast, he said, but the scene unfolded as if it was in "slow motion" and appeared so odd it was "unrealistic."

Moments later, Wimsatt said he was running toward the convenience mart's back wall without his money or his smokes as "glass showered throughout the store." "He was just hauling (expletive) right at me," Wimsatt said after emerging from the store unharmed. "Another split

second more and I'd be under that car." A mid-sized sport utility vehicle had pulverized the front end of the DeVeaux Mini Mart, 2649 Main St., just feet from where Wimsatt had been punching his pin number into the ATM. Sam Fasciano, a See **CRASH**, Page 5A

MacLeod changes lawyers

COURTS: Views on evidence leads to shuffle in Japanese tourist attack case.

BY RICK PFEIFFER
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LOCKPORT — A Falls man, charged in the brutal robbery and sexual assault of a Japanese tourist, has fired his defense attorney and hired a new one.

Attorney A. Joseph Catalano told Niagara County Court Judge Matthew J. Murphy III on Thursday that he and Robert MacLeod



Robert MacLeod

just did not see eye-to-eye after reviewing the evidence in the case.

"We see this case entirely differently," Catalano said. "And I would ask you to grant his request to hire a new attorney."

Murphy allowed Catalano to leave the case and MacLeod told the judge he has hired Buffalo-based defense attorney Herbert Greenman as his new See **MACLEOD**, Page 5A

Teenage inmates sparking violence

REPORT: State prison staff say rising number of incidents fan tensions.

BY JOE MAHONEY
CNHI State Reporter

ALBANY — Lax discipline for teenage prisoners is causing a wave of assaults on staff at New York prisons, according to leaders of a correctional officers union.

BY THE NUMBERS

91

Number of inmates ages 16 and 17 in state prisons as of July 18, according to state records.

16- and 17-year-old prisoners who are getting more combative.

They cite a string of incidents dating to December, See **VIOLENCE**, Page 5A



LEFT: Anna Gundersen and Filip Kiil, both visiting from Denmark, enjoy the views from the newly renovated Whirlpool Park stairway down into the Niagara Gorge. RIGHT: Amaya Hirsig-Smith, 14, and Elizabeth Norman, 10, both visiting with their families from Wisconsin, venture up the newly renovated stairway.



JAMES NEISS/staff photographer

Devil's Hole stairway next on the list for a facelift

STATE PARKS: Committee approves funds for project as well as fishing area upgrades along Niagara River.

BY PHILIP GAMBINI
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A series of state parks projects, including improvements to fishing areas and reconstruction of a portion of the Devil's Hole stairway, are queued up to be green

lit as funding becomes available over the next year. The state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation standing committee approved the project list Thursday after a similar OK was given by the Niagara Greenway Commission earlier this year.

The Devil's Hole project, tentatively slated to begin next spring, will close the trail to public access for the better part of a year as drainage issues and a decayed portion of the stairs is reconstructed.

Mark Mistretta, State Parks' capital facilities manager, likened the stairs' current state to a "really bad funhouse" that is in "dire need of reconstruction."

The stairway, constructed during the 1920s, is nearly

90 years old and according to state documents has since then "been the victim of rockslides, frost and water damage — and gravity."

Crews will be rebuilding the uphill wall bordering the stairs, smoothing out a landing area toward the base descent and constructing eight steps to reach a "large boulder" overlook along the stairs.

State Parks announced recently that the newly

constructed stairs at Whirlpool State Park leading into the Niagara Gorge opened nearly a month ahead of schedule.

Of the five fishing locations within a half-mile stretch between Artpark and Fort Niagara, two spots along the northern stretch are in need of repair.

"At the Artpark site, fishermen scramble down a steep, worn path, hanging on to trees and shrubs along See **PARKS**, Page 5A



INSIDE

Classified 5-8B

Comics 4B

Local 3A

Lottery 3A

Obituaries 4A

Opinion 6A

Police 5A

Sports 1-3B

Weather 2A



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