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# Community rallies to support NT girl attacked on video

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO  
Interim Tribune Editor

The violent attack of Amelia, a 14-year-old North Tonawanda High School student, has galvanized a local community to come together in support, and to help put an end to bullying altogether.

In an incident that occurred on July 1, a group of juveniles were videotaped brutally kicking, punching and slapping a young girl on the school's athletic field. In the video, the attackers can be heard hurling insults at the victim, and also indicate that they had poured urine all over her.

The attack finally came to an

end when Anthony Swan and Simon Griskonis, two members of the high school wrestling team, spotted what was happening and took action. The pair confronted the attackers and escorted the victim from the field.

On July 8, North Tonawanda police confirmed four juveniles, three girls and one boy, were charged with third-degree assault in connection with the incident. Police also said that, per a city anti-bullying law that was put into effect in 2017, the parents and guardians of the four have been placed on a 90-day notice. If any of the juveniles reoffend dur-

ing that period, the parents and guardians could face charges themselves. According to the ordinance, parents can face a \$250 fine or up to 15 days in jail.

The father of one of the girls seen in that video attacking the victim posted a statement. He said there is no excuse for what happened and it makes him sick.

Video of the incident made its way onto social media and stoked a visceral response throughout the community. Local community members quickly rallied to support Amelia. Some sent cards and online messages of support,

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# Beat the heat

Ways to stay cool in Niagara County

BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO  
Interim Tribune Editor

With temperatures exceeding 90 degrees this week, Western New York finds itself in the midst of a sweltering summer heat wave. It's so hot that in Buffalo, records are being broken. The Queen City is expected to break a 30-year-record for consecutive days with 90-degree temps, while Wednesday's high of 94 degrees tied a record set in 1988.

It doesn't appear that the area will see much of a reprieve, either.

Apart from a bit of rain this weekend, temperatures are expected to hover around the upper-80s and lower-90s next week.

Unfortunately, the constant barrage of new COVID-19 related announcements and regulations are making it difficult for locals to know exactly where they can, and can't go, to beat the summer heat. That's why the Tribune has put together a handy list of some of the summer season amenities available to area residents.

SEE STAY SAFE, continued on Page 19

## Lewiston Council on the Arts

### Hyatt's sponsors 'Chalk YOUR Walk'



Lewiston Council on the Arts announced Hyatt's of Buffalo is a new sponsor and has made a generous contribution toward the "Chalk YOUR Walk" competition presented by LCA.

"Hyatt's - All Things Creative is proud to support the Lewiston Council on the Arts and the 'Chalk YOUR Walk' competition. Together we can brighten our days and brighten our neighborhoods," said Chris Piontkowski, retail operations manager at Hyatt's.

"Chalk YOUR Walk" is taking the place of the traditional Lewiston Art Festival Chalk Walk competition, which was canceled this summer due to COVID-19 restrictions. The competition is open to anyone and everyone in Western New York. Prizes include \$500 for Best of Show and \$250 for the People's Choice Award. An application can be found on the LCA website at www.artcouncil.org. The deadline is July 20. For more information, call the LCA at 754-0166.

Pictured, from left, are Hyatt's - All Things Creative's Piontkowski, Alex Beahan and Matt Arida join with the LCA's Eva Nicklas. (Submitted photo)

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