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NT officials honor high schoolers who stopped assault on school field



Local officials honored Anthony Swan and Simon Griskonis, who stopped a vicious assault of another student on July 1.

STORY & PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEPIETRO
 Interim Tribune Editor

A pair of North Tonawanda high school students were honored Monday by local officials for doing the right thing when it mattered the most.

On July 1, a group of teens viciously assaulted a young lady on the school football field while others stood by and videotaped

the incident on cell phones. The assault continued until two members of the high school wrestling team, Anthony Swan and Simon Griskonis, spotted what was happening and took action. The pair confronted the attackers, escorted the victim from the field, and helped walk her back to her family's home.

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Artpark announces 10th annual Fairy House Festival set for Aug. 15

Artpark & Company will present its 10th annual Fairy House Festival on Saturday, Aug. 15, from noon to 4 p.m., at 450 S. Fourth St., Lewiston. Admission is free, but in order to adhere to current social gathering / distancing guidelines, it is requested interested attendees RSVP in advance for timed admission. Parking will be available for \$10.

The popular annual festival for both the young and young-at-heart will be modified to include contact-free activities and feature a walk-through tour of artist and community-created fairy houses, winding through the Artpark woods.

Guests can enjoy the whimsical and enchanting Artpark Fairies and roaming
 SEE ARTPARK, continued on Page 2

Falls tourism reps in 'staycation' mode

'New York Forward' campaign turns focus to the Niagara experience

STORY & PHOTO BY TERRY DUFFY
 Editor-in-Chief

As the "New York Forward" pandemic recovery campaign continues, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul made her second visit to Niagara Falls in as many weeks to again send home the message Niagara has overcome COVID-19 and is open for business. On Tuesday, she said now is the time to consider a visit to the Cataract City as part of "staycation" plans this year.

Hochul was joined by Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino, New York State Parks Western Regional Director Mark Mistretta, and a number of Falls tourism officials at the Aquarium of Niagara to emphasize the "stay close

to home" message, and also to support the many tourist attractions and businesses that continue their recovery from the state shutdown.

"We want to remind people that, if you have a family at home and are looking for something to do with your children, and you think of Niagara Falls as someplace you did years ago, come back!" Hochul said. "The experience is phenomenal. Many attractions are new, they have been updated; the state park has had \$70 million in investments, and you will not believe the transformation.

"Come to Cataract Commons; we just opened a couple of days ago. The new entrance to the state park. There's a big 'wow'

factor here.

"We want everyone to come and visit and please support these businesses. We have to get them through these tough times. ... The time is now to support these businesses and these attractions," Hochul said.

Destination Niagara USA CEO/President John Percy talked of the various methods tourism officials have been utilizing during the continuing "New York Forward" phases to promote the region as being a safe destination for families as the state's recovery moves forward.

"We began this pandemic with a message of hope, 'Dream Now. Adventure Later,'" Percy said.

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From left, Aquarium of Niagara Executive Director Gary Siddall and Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul entertain visiting penguins from the Aquarium as Falls Mayor Robert Restaino looks on.

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