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Another corrections officer pleads guilty in Nantwi case

Casey Pritchard
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Another corrections officer involved in the Messiah Nantwi case has plead guilty and could face up to four years in federal prison.

Nantwi, an inmate at Mid-State Correctional Facility, was brutally beaten to death on March 1 by a Correction Emer-

gency Response Team to the point of unresponsiveness and beaten twice more, with his hands cuffed behind his back. After the fact, the grand jury alleges corrections officers met together to plant evidence and submit false testimony.

Daniel Burger stood before Judge Michael Nolan on Aug. 14 and had been scheduled for oral arguments, however in the time since his last appearance

and now, he accepted a plea deal and pleaded guilty to offering a false instrument for file.

Burger had been charged with first-degree manslaughter, first-degree gang assault, second-degree gang assault, fifth-degree conspiracy, and first-degree offering a false instrument for filing.

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Daniel Burger, center, stands before Judge Michael Nolan.
CASEY PRITCHARD/OBSERVER DISPATCH

District moves to Plan C



A flood on June 22 flooded Oneida High School and caused enough damage to close the school for the 2025-2026 school year. Three weeks before the start of school, parents and students are still waiting to hear the district's plan for high school students since a plan to hold high school in the former Bishop Grimes High School in East Syracuse didn't work out over safety concerns. ONEIDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Oneida, Bishop Grimes high schools both unsafe

Amy Neff Roth
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oneida High School students have lost their school twice this summer, both times because the buildings sim-

ply weren't safe enough.

Now, three weeks before the first day of school on Sept. 5, they still don't know where they'll attend school, how they'll get there or any other logistical details.

Oneida High School was flooded in

late June and the district announced on July 21 that it would remain closed for the 2025-2026 school year because of extensive damage to its electrical and mechanical systems.

See PLAN C, Page 4A

Attorney for CO argues crime scene definitions

Casey Pritchard
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Corrections officers in the Messiah Nantwi were back before Judge Michael Nolan on August 14, and for one of the COs attorney, he argued for dismissal of charges.

Nantwi, an inmate at Mid-State Correctional Facility, was brutally beaten to death on March 1 by a Correction Emergency Response Team to the point of unresponsiveness and beaten twice more, with his hands cuffed behind his back. After the fact, the grand jury alleges corrections officers met together to plant evidence and submit false testimony.

Donald Slawson is charged with tampering with physical evidence after allegedly mopping up blood and cleaning the infirmary in which Nantwi was beaten. He was back in court before Judge Nolan on Aug. 14.

Slawson's attorney, Kevin Lui-brand, argued that Slawson had not intent to tamper with evidence and that the grand jury indictment didn't allege that.

"The factual evidence is that [Slawson] mopped up a room," Lui-brand said. "All the grand jury indictment says is that [Slawson], preventing an analysis of blood. It doesn't have the required element of intent or that it would be used [in the investigation.]"

"It wasn't declared a crime scene five hours later, when originally it wasn't. Senior officials at the jail went through the area and none of them declared it a crime scene. And it wasn't Slawson's obligation to declare it a crime scene."

See SLAWSON, Page 4A

Police: Bystander ends shooting by hitting alleged shooter

Amy Neff Roth
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

**EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was updated to include the name and charges of the alleged shooter.*

A bystander ended a shooting in Herkimer on the night of Aug. 14 by hitting the alleged shooter with his car, accord-

ing to a Facebook post by Herkimer Police Chief Mike Jory.

One male shooting victim and the alleged shooter were both taken to Wynn Hospital in Utica, where both were listed in stable condition at 3:30 a.m. the next morning, the chief said.

Herkimer officers were first dispatched to the area around the Herkimer Burger King around 10:40 p.m. on

Thursday, Aug 14, Jory said. More information then came in indicating the incident might have actually taken place on the 100 block of North Main St., he said.

Officers then noticed several people standing near the Endzone Pub & Grub at 129 North Main St. and a vehicle parked diagonally in front of the pub, heading in the wrong direction. They

found a male standing near the vehicle, who had been shot, and another male lying on the ground in front of the vehicle, who turned out to be the alleged shooter, Jory said.

That's when officers were told that a bystander had used his vehicle to stop the shooter, "most likely preventing

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