

Tragedy not new to Sodus; 6 killed within past year

Sodus

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Six people from Sodus have been killed in the area since last November.

In the Wayne County town of just over 8,000 people, the news of the slayings has been an all too common drumbeat of daughters, sons, fathers and mothers taken before their time.

Alyssa Taft, 17

Last year, it was Alyssa Taft, a 17-year-old Sodus Junior/Senior High School student stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend David Knight Hollis, 19, also of Sodus, after she rejected his advances to rekindle the romance. "We have a 17-year-old girl who won't graduate," said Wayne County Sheriff Barry Virts at the time. "She won't see Christmas with her family. It's so unbelievably sad. And it's over a relationship."

Knight-Hollis pleaded guilty in March and was sentenced to 20 years to life.

Zackary Dwello, 17

In another blow to the Junior/Senior High School student body, Zackary Dwello, a senior, was found stabbed multiple times near his car in a Newark park in December. Two Newark teens were charged with the slaying in March. Vaughn Gray pleaded guilty in August to manslaughter charges and was sentenced to 18 years in state prison, and Hunter Peck, who

was charged with multiple murder and robbery charges, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder last Friday and will be sentenced to 23 years to life in state prison.

Selena and Owen Hidalgo-Calderon

Then, in May, a mother and her 14 month-old son disappeared.

Eighteen-year-old Selena Hidalgo-Calderon's body was found a week later in a wooded area behind a Sodus farm where she worked with her boyfriend Alberto "Ebavardo Gutier-

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Taft



Hidalgo-Calderon

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rez" Reyes, 25, who was later charged with tampering with physical evidence. He is suspected of killing her in the couple's shared home on the farm.

two others were slain in Sodus by a shooter who has yet to be found by police.

Joshua Niles, 28, and Amber Washburn, 24, both of Sodus, were killed Monday. Schools were closed Tuesday, and friends and acquaintances began to leave their condolences for family members on social media. In such a small town, it's possible that many of them knew several of the past year's victims.

The body of Hidalgo-Calderon's son, Owen Hidalgo-Calderon, wasn't located until this month, when police found remains that were consistent with the child's age during a ground search, police said.

Authorities are waiting until the Monroe County medical examiner releases a full report before considering further criminal charges. The remains were found about a quarter-mile from where the child's mother was found.

Joshua Niles, 28, and Amber Washburn, 24

And now, as the Finger Lakes town closes in on a year since Taft's body was found on the ground near her ex-boyfriend's trailer,

In speaking about Dwello's stabbing in March, Newark Police Chief David Christler explained the shock that incidents like this send through a community. At the time, Newark, which is about 15 miles from Sodus, had only had two homicides in the past decade.

"When you live in a small community, it impacts everybody," he said.

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