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THE Landmark

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Holden News

April 26, 2007

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Car slams into Holden Discount Liquors

BY MELISSA MCKEON MMCKEON@HOLDENLANDMARK.COM



It takes hours to stock

(Left) Frank Iaftrato's 1995 Chrysler is embedded in the Main Street store; (below) Cheryl Griffith of Holden was working in Holden Discount Liquors when the crash occurred, sending bottles, display shelves and coolers flying (bottom, far left). No one was hurt inside the Main Street store. Iaftrato was transported to the hospital. Steve King photos

shelves, but it only took about 10 seconds for several shelves, some refrigerator cases and hundreds of bottles to hit the floor as a motor vehicle crashed through the side of Holden Discount Liquors on April 18 during what Holden Police Chief George Sherrill described as poor driving conditions due to inclement weather.

The accident at Holden Discount Liquors occurred just after 10 p.m. when a 1995 Chrysler driven by Frank Iaftrato, 63, of Avery Heights Drive, Holden, exiting the parking lot of Holden

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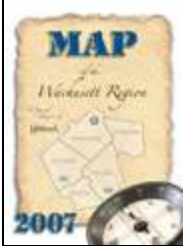


Discount Liquors, was struck by a 2000 Chevrolet driven by Samuel Knipe, 57, of Pleasant Street, Paxton. Knipe was travelling eastbound on Main Street in Holden when his vehicle struck the left front door of Iaftrato's vehicle.



Iaftrato's car spun around and plunged into the Holden Discount Liquors lot and through the front of the building.

Iaftrato was transported to UMass Memorial Medical Center. His injuries were non-life-threatening.



No one inside the building was injured, though damage was considerable.

Holden Discount Liquors manager Peter Leonard said the store was closed for almost two days while the mess was cleaned and repair work to the building begun. No estimates for the damage were available at press time.



Both the building and the business, Holden Discount Liquors, at 673 South Main St., are owned by Gerald Leonard of Worcester, who also owns two other stores.

General Manager Ken Prunier said the plan was to repair the building.



The accident was one of a series of motor vehicle crashes that kept already busy public safety personnel rushing to the scenes during last week's torrential rains.

The evening of April 17, 48-year-old Lea Hawley of Broad Street suffered injuries when her 2005 GMC pickup hit a large boulder on Route 68.

Hawley was extricated from the vehicle by Fire Department personnel and transported to UMass Memorial.



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Police estimate Hawley was going about 10 miles over the 45 mph speed limit when the accident occurred about 9 p.m.

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