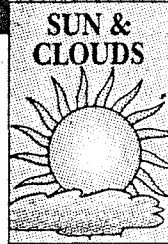


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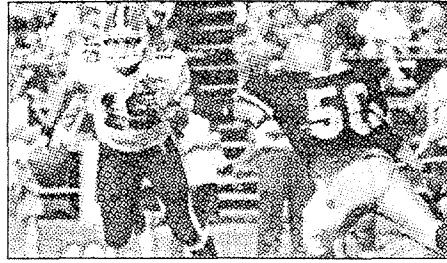
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

\$1.00



WEATHER

High Low
75° 59°
DETAILS, 8A



N-W wins big
Falcons beat Sweet Home, 21-14 in OT
— Sports, 1D



Spreading wisdom
Seniors volunteer their time at local school — Living, 1E

BRIEFLY

► CRIME

Police investigating two city stabbings

Police released a youth suspected of stabbing a man into his mother's custody Saturday, pending a decision on whether to charge him as an adult.

Gregory T. Marshall, 27, of 1710 16th St., told police he was stabbed in the abdomen and cut in the face at 10:39 p.m. Friday by the 15-year-old.

Juvenile Aid Bureau Investigator Patrick Corsaro said police took the youth into custody at 1:34 a.m. at his 10th Street home, where the stabbing occurred. If tried as an adult, Corsaro said, the youth could face a charge of first-degree assault.

Marshall was listed in fair condition late Saturday.

Police also were investigating a second stabbing Saturday. Ronald Reynolds, 43, of 1876 North Ave., said he was accosted by three men and stabbed nine times at 3:41 a.m. Saturday on the 200 block of 13th Street. Detective John Olander said

County tops waste chart

Leads state in disposing of hazardous waste

By Jodi Ackerman
Niagara Gazette

At a time when businesses across New York must be more environmentally conscientious, Niagara County still tops state charts on generating and disposing hazardous wastes.

More hazardous waste is disposed in Niagara County than in any other in the state — and it comes in second in generating it — according to figures recently released by the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

TODAY'S TOPIC: ENVIRONMENT

Niagara County produced 118,535 tons of hazardous waste that was treated in the state in 1995, according to the latest DEC figures. The amount disposed in the county was 182,656 tons. St. Lawrence, in the western Adirondacks region, was the only county that generated more hazardous waste — at 121,473 tons.

The numbers don't include the millions of tons of hazardous wastewater produced in New York.

The figures come from an annual DEC report to the governor and Legislature that lists the types and quantities of hazardous wastes generated and disposed from nine state regions.

Niagara County is in Region 9, which also includes Erie, Wyoming, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Allegany

Please see Waste, 2A

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Generation and disposal of New York state hazardous waste within Region 9 counties, not including hazardous waste water, in 1995:

County	Generated	Disposed
Niagara	118,535 tons	182,656 tons
Erie	8,424 tons	912 tons
Wyoming	218 tons	61 tons
Allegany	40 tons	0 tons
Chautauqua	1,016 tons	31 tons
Cattaraugus	45 tons	360 tons
Total in Region 9	128,278 tons	184,020 tons

Source: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Niagara Gazette

Health Summit



Affirmative action case

Waste treatment keeps Niagara County statistics high

Continued from page 1A

counties. Niagara County generated 92 percent of the total amount of hazardous wastes generated in the region and disposed of in the state. The region was second in production only to Region 6, which includes the western Adirondacks.

Cleaning up hazardous waste sites is a key reason the generation of hazardous wastes is so high in Region 9 and why the disposal is even higher, the report said. Out of the 128,680 tons generated, 99,193 tons, or 77 percent, came from secondary waste — waste generated from treating previously existing hazardous waste.

The report doesn't surprise George Spira, manager of government and environmental affairs for CWM Chemical Services in Lewiston.

"The basis of the chemical industry really in the U.S. started in Niagara Falls in the 1890s," Spira said. "With that in mind... of course you would expect a high level of (hazardous waste)."

CWM is the only commercial treatment center in New York allowed to landfill hazardous waste transported from other companies in and out of state. Besides New York, the company manages wastes from nearby states such as Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut, and a small amount from Canada, Spira said.

The treatment center is the main reason the bulk of wastes disposed of in New York is in Niagara County, said Judy Enck, an environmental expert for the New York Public Interest Research Group.

"New York is in the business of accepting hazardous wastes from virtually anywhere and it's all

because of Niagara County," she said.

Numbers don't add up

The DEC concedes its numbers are not all accurate or complete. For instance, the report said little about the amount of hazardous wastes disposed of both in and out of state. For instance, Niagara County disposed of an additional 230,486 tons from out of state, or a total of 414,506 tons, DEC spokesman Gary Belcher said.

Most of the report also does not include the generation of hazardous wastewater. Of the total 59.4 million tons of hazardous material generated in the state, 58.8 million tons were water wastes. Eastman Kodak in Rochester, Monroe County, contributed approximately 44 million tons of this total, or 75 percent, the report said.

The quantities of wastewater is "impossible" to verify and is often not reported or is reported incorrectly, the report said.

In addition, there is no breakdown by county or region on the amount of hazardous wastes generated in the state but treated somewhere else.

"The report appears to be more confusing than we'd like," Belcher said. "We plan on reorganizing it next year to make it clearer." He added that this is the first year the report was released to the press, although it has always been made available to the public.

The incomplete numbers have environmentalists concerned.

"Hundreds of thousands of pounds of hazardous wastes are discharged into our water, and I'm talking about some pretty nasty stuff," said William Cook, a lobbyist for the Citizens Campaign for The Environment in Albany.

HAZARDOUS WASTE FACTS

■ In 1995, a total of 59.4 million tons of hazardous waste was generated within New York state, including hazardous waste water. 61.3 million tons were generated in 1994.

■ The total amount of hazardous material generated in 1995 was 563,788 tons. This figure does not include waste water, and is the number DEC uses in its regional and county breakdowns.

■ New York ranks 11th in the nation in generation of hazardous wastes after:

Texas
Tennessee
Louisiana
Michigan
Illinois
California
New Jersey
W. Virginia
Pennsylvania
Washington (state)

■ About 78 percent of the hazardous waste generated in New York state was treated, stored or disposed of in the state.

■ About 53 percent of the waste generated in the state was treated or disposed of on the site where it was generated.

■ About 63 percent of the hazardous waste treated or disposed of by commercial treatment, storage or disposal facilities in New York state came from other states.

■ New York state has the largest number of large quality hazardous waste generators — 2,144 — in the country, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Sources: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and "Generation and Management of Hazardous Waste in New York State," a DEC report.

Niagara Gazette

Companies are required to treat the water until it is no longer hazardous before it is released into ground or surface waters or to a sewer system, Albany DEC spokesman Gary Sheffer said.

But Ms. Enck of NYPIRG said citizens have a right to know what's being dumped into their water system, as well as the ground and air, and that's not being done, she said.

For instance, according to the report, if a company generates a large amount of hazardous waste but is not considered a large quantity generator, the waste does not get reported because the company is not required to file with the department.

Under state standards, a company

has to produce 2,200 pounds of hazardous wastes a year or more to qualify as a large quantity generator. The company must then file with the state.

"We're in a situation where companies are dumping known carcinogens into our environment," she said. "We want to know where every pound of is going."

Tougher laws sought

Ms. Enck said the state needs to institute tougher laws to force companies to reduce the millions of tons of hazardous waste produced in New York.

"We want companies to change the way they manufacture so that they use non-toxic or less toxic material," Ms. Enck said.

"Nowhere does that make more sense than in Western New York."

Although there are no regulations to require companies to reduce their wastes by a certain amount in a given amount of time, the DEC has a voluntary compliance policy, Sheffer said.

The policy requires companies to come up with a reduction plan if they produce 25 tons or more hazardous wastes a year. The plan works by comparing the amount of hazardous wastes a company produces to its product manufacturing.

But in order for a policy to be effective, the state needs to set guidelines for companies to follow, said Anne Rabe, executive director of Citizens' Environmental Coalition, which has an office in Medina.

"To promulgate a law, you need regulations with details," she said. "Lack of those regulations continues to be a big problem in New York. Companies can incinerate their wastes, which is different than reducing wastes or cleaning them up with non-toxic cleaners," she said.

"It hardly matters what kind of plan is implemented as long as it works," Sheffer said.

For companies, reducing their wastes means reducing the cost to clean them up, said Steve Shoecraft of Tulip Corp. on Highland Avenue. The company recycles plastic used to make items such as recycling bins and automotive battery parts.

"The more we generate, the more it costs," Shoecraft said. Tulip generates a hazardous waste from a recycling process but has been working with the DEC to reduce the wastes, Shoecraft said. He would not comment on what kind of hazardous reduction plan the company is using, but said, "if it works, we will be producing zero hazardous

wastes."

"Companies have definitely reduced their wastes," said Joan Gipp, a Lewiston resident and former councilwoman during the Love Canal era. "But it is still not at the zero discharge we were promised years ago."

Haz wastes declining

The amount of hazardous waste produced in the state has declined. One reason is there are fewer companies, Sheffer said.

"There are simply fewer companies reporting, but also companies are doing a better job in using non-hazardous material in cleaning up the wastes that they do produce," he said.

Ms. Rabe said the reduction comes more from companies closing down or moving out of state and not necessarily reducing their hazardous waste.

According to the report, hazardous waste produced in the state has declined by 1.9 million tons, from 61.3 million tons in 1994 to 59.4 million tons in 1995. When excluding hazardous wastewaters, those wastes dropped from 950,163 tons to 563,788 tons.

The number of those filing reports went down from 2,293 in 1994 to 2,206 in 1995, meaning the DEC received 87 fewer filers.

For several years, New York has seen a steady decline in the number of companies reporting. From 1992 to 1995, the number of filers declined by nearly 700.

"What they're saying is, we're polluting at a slower rate. Nevertheless nothing is changed," said Ms. Gipp. "The stuff is still buried and we still take in hazardous and sanitary waste. Lewiston and Porter still have 2,500 acres of land that can never be used by humans again."