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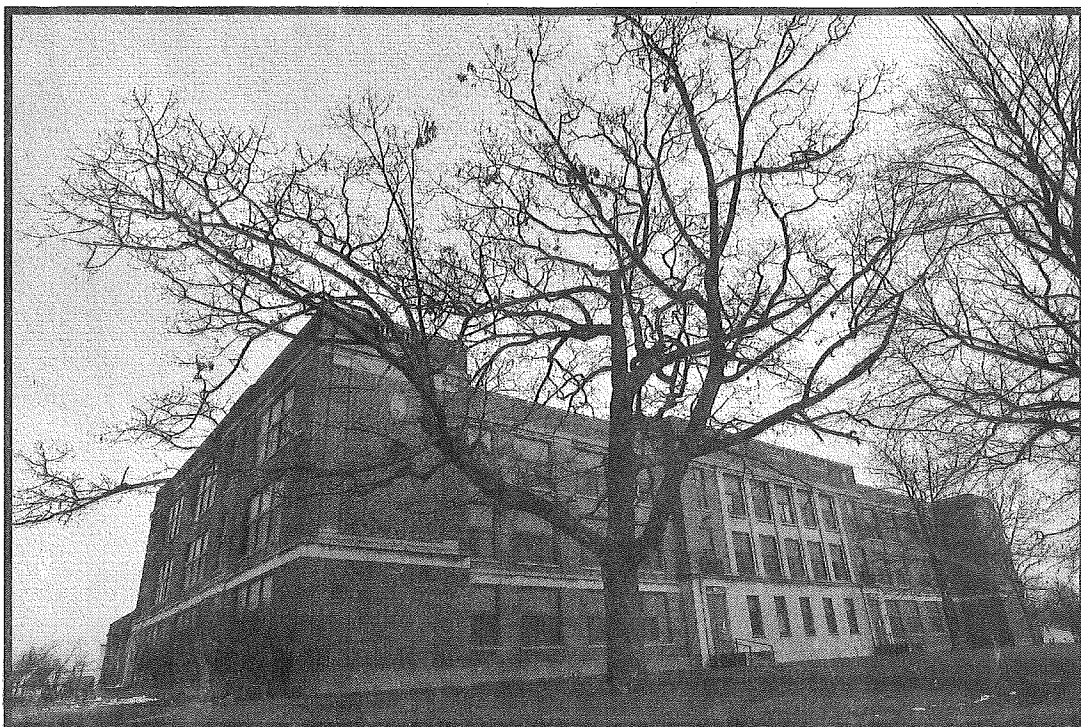
NIAGARA GAZETTE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2013

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SALE ITEM: Voters were asked Wednesday to approve the sale of several properties owned by the Niagara Falls School District, including this building - the old Niagara Falls South Junior High School, located at the corner of Walnut Avenue and Portage Road. The building has been vacant for 20 years.

SALE APPROVED

City voters support school district effort to sell off surplus properties, including South Junior HS

BY JUSTIN SONDEL
justin.sondel@niagara-gazette.com

The Niagara Falls School District will be shedding some real estate in the coming days.



LEWISTON LOOW ? findings debated

ADVISORY BOARD: *Technical chair questions data on radioactivity released by Army Corps last month.*

BY TIMOTHY CHIPP
timothy.chipp@niagara-gazette.com

Restoration Advisory Board Technical Chair Ann Roberts is thoroughly convinced the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is contradicting itself about uranium contamination at a particularly troubling location in Lewiston.

She says the interim waste containment structure on the grounds of the Niagara Falls Storage Site in the Lake Ontario Ordnance Works is, indeed, leaking. And despite claims to the contrary by the site's

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NIAGARA Richards hearing

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filed motions on Monday that attack the charges in the indictment. Attorney Rodney Personius has already claimed that there are "multiple defects in the indictment." The former federal prosecutor told State Supreme Court Justice Richard C. Kloch Sr., at an earlier hearing, that the indictment failed

crime occurred from March of 2002 through March of 2012. "Either that's the longest theft in all mankind or there's more to be looked at here," the judge said. Kloch said he would listen to arguments over those issues from Personius and state prosecutors.

Richards engaged in a scheme to steal goods and use town resources for his own personal benefit. Among the claims are allegations that he directed town employees to pick up and deliver property to his personal business, clean a clogged drain at his personal business, and con-

cleaner. He is also accused of taking a shotgun from the town police department. Richards is free on his own recognizance. He faces a maximum of two and 1/3 to seven years in state prison if convicted of the highest charges in the indictment.

panies were "too tattered and tenuous" to survive. Con Ed and the insurance companies had claimed that a company owned by developer Larry Silverstein and other defendants could be held liable. Hellerstein had dismissed various defendants in a series of rulings. The building fell at 5:21 p.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, nearly seven hours after the other buildings collapsed. A Con Edison power station beneath Tower 7 was crushed when the building fell.

were allowed to install diesel backup generators. The fuel burned for hours in the building after hijacked planes struck the two nearby towers, flinging debris into the smaller skyscraper. Con Edison had maintained that fuel from the diesel tanks heightened the fire's intensity.

The fire department decided to let Tower 7 burn because it was unable to reach adequate water supplies, there were no people in the building and 343 firefighters had already been killed that day, the appeals court noted. Lawyers for the plaintiffs did not immediately respond to messages for comment. Bud Perrone, a Silverstein spokesman, said he was pleased with the appeal ruling.

LOOW ...

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caretakers, she said the most recently released data can prove it.

"What they're reporting is not what they've found," Roberts said during a RAB meeting Wednesday.

Roberts' disagreement stems from a report given by the Corps to the LOOW Community Action Council two weeks ago that attempted to disprove any concerns over leakage coming from its IWCS structure. Instead, the report claims, high levels of uranium in the soil surrounding the site stem from residual and historical contamination from before the structure was built between 1982 and 1986.

During the Army Corps's presentation, representatives cited data showing contamination levels at specific trouble spots held constant at about 900 micrograms per liter, unthinkable high levels of uranium present in groundwater near a supposedly properly operating containment structure. They

claimed it was safe, though, because the constant level showed there's no threat of leaking and that the environmental effects of the uranium were minimal as no drinking water source was affected.

But the RAB technical chair said the numbers she's seen fly in the face of the assertion. It turns out, she said, uranium levels are jumping by large numbers. She's basing her claim on two studies done by the Army Corps, including its 2003 remedial investigation.

At that time, she said, one particular trouble spot south of the IWCS mound showed contamination of 958 micrograms per liter. By comparison, natural occurrence is about five micrograms per liter and the federally mandated drinking water standard is 30 micrograms per liter.

By the time 2011's study came along, which the Corps presented last month, Roberts said the reading had ballooned to show levels of 2,680 micrograms per liter.

She also studied the readings coming from well

OW-11B, which the Corps also highlighted in its presentation. She concluded the opposite of the Corps at this location as well, saying contamination increased from 248 micrograms of uranium per liter in 2003 to 1,760 micrograms per liter in 2011.

"To me, that sends up a red flag," she said. "These levels are not typical of what we've seen at the site in the past. You don't get levels like that."

"The obvious explanation ... is that if uranium levels are increasing in groundwater around the IWCS, then it would be leakage coming from the site."

The argument from the Corps that any contamination of the soil and groundwater at the site was due to historical storage practices before the IWCS's creation between 1982 and 1986 is also incorrect, Roberts said.

She said soil from surrounding areas was drugged up and buried with any barrels of material as the IWCS was created. This would eliminate any extreme elevated presence

in many of the locations in question, she said.

If the site is leaking, the question becomes 'How?' RAB members like Roberts wonder if maybe there's some pipes not plugged at the south end of the structure, perhaps coming from a previously demolished building not incorporated into the mound despite housing radioactive materials pre-IWCS.

Roberts said the Corps has admitted previously finding pipes connected to other buildings to the west of the structure not in their plans, so it's possible.

According to maps of current wells on the property provided by the Army Corps, there has been no monitoring of the area between the demolished building and the mound, though Roberts said this might soon change.

"If they're seeing increases in uranium at this magnitude, there has to be a source," she said. "Uranium tends to stay near the surface, but this is completely at the subsurface. I can think of only one source."

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

	7				1			
5		2	6			9	1	
			4	7				3
6	1							
		7				4		
							3	9
2			8		5			
	9	8			6	2		5
			7				9	

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Previous puzzle solution

6	5	1	3	2	8	7	9	4
4	3	9	1	7	6	8	5	2
2	7	8	9	5	4	3	1	6
3	1	7	2	4	9	5	6	8
8	4	2	6	1	5	9	7	3
5	9	6	7	8	3	2	4	1
7	8	4	5	6	2	1	3	9
9	6	5	8	3	1	4	2	7
1	2	3	4	9	7	6	8	5

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