

WE'RE COMING TO THE TOWN

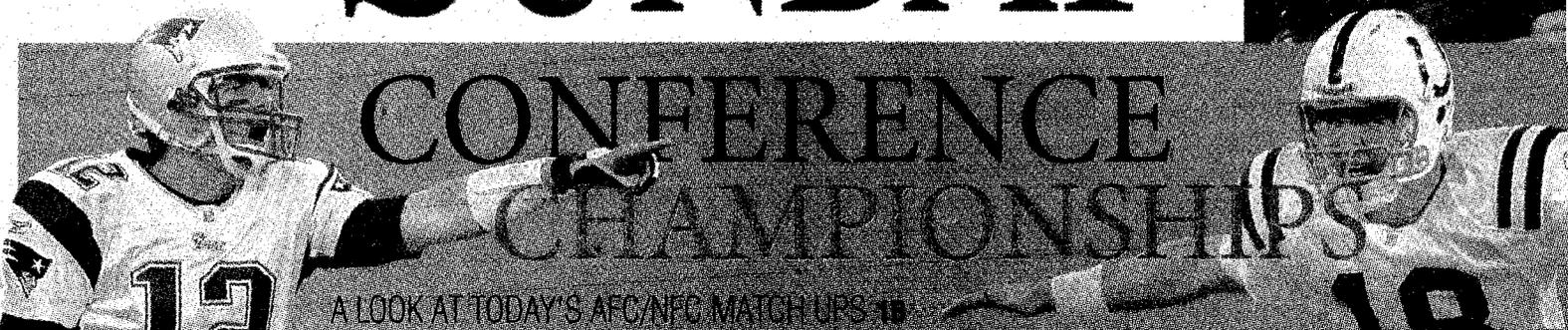
EDITOR DISCUSSES FIRST TOWN HALL MEETING **OPINIONS/10A**



TONAWANDA NEWS SUNDAY

HAM IT UP
RADIO ENTHUSIASTS CAMARADERIE IN HAVEN
LIFESTYLE/19

FOR THE LADIES...
INTERVIEW TIPS FOR WOMEN LIFESTYLE



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007

TONAWANDA-NEWS.COM

NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Read a rare interview with country music legend George Strait.

USA WEEKEND

SOMEWHERE ELSE TO CLICK

A look at what else TV watchers can subscribe to besides cable



YOUR TV CHOICES:

TIME WARNER CABLE

■ **Costs/Channel packages:** A 250-channel package costs \$69.70 per month. A 160-channel package costs \$64.70 per month. A 100-channel package costs \$59.70. The broadcast basic package, which

LEGISLATURE

Chairman defends absence

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

SAVING BUCKS: Satellite technician Bobby Umhauer of Intertech goes over a contract Friday with Walter Opalinski of Tonawanda, who switched from cable to satellite television to save money on his monthly bill.

BY AARON BESECKER
beseckera@gnnewspaper.com

Few people anticipated last week's season debut of Fox's "American Idol" more than Michelle Dempsey.

The Town of Lockport resident, like many cable subscribers in the Buffalo Niagara region, was in danger of missing the popular television show thanks to a dispute between owners of the local Fox affiliate and Time Warner Cable.

A fan since the show's first season, Dempsey said the possibility the cable company would yank some of her favorite programming was part of the reason she and husband Todd decided to switch to satellite television service.

A planned rate increase from Time Warner also played a part, according to Dempsey.

"I think people are more or less fed up with Time Warner," said Keith Ryan of KR

SEE CABLE ON PAGE 4A

purchase of a broadcast basic programming package.

■ **Unique features:** Premium channels available On Demand.

DIRECTV

■ **Costs/Channel packages:** For the top 155 channels plus locals — \$44.99 per month. For the top 185 channels — \$49.99. For up to 250 channels including premium channels like HBO, Starz, Showtime and the Sports Pack — \$99.99.

■ **High definition:** About a dozen channels cost an additional \$9.99 per month.

■ **Multiple televisions:** Customers pay \$4.99 per month for each additional receiver

■ **Equipment:** Satellite equipment and first receiver is free for new customers. DVR and high-definition receivers available.

■ **Installation:** Free professional installation of up to four rooms

■ **Unique features:** Only service where customers can receive NFL Sunday Ticket and NCAA Mega March Madness sports packages.

DISH NETWORK

■ **Costs/Channel packages:** For 40 family-friendly channels — \$19.99 per month. For top 60 channels — \$29.99. For top 120 channels — \$39.99. For top 180 channels — \$49.99. To receive local channels, the cost is \$5 per month.

■ **High definition:** More than 30 channels available with packages including non-high definition channels ranging from \$49.99 to \$69.99.

SEE CHOICES ON PAGE 4A

Rivera spoke of Minority Leader Dennis Virtuoso's attempts to help the Pine Avenue Business Association's gazebo.

SEE LEGISLATURE ON PAGE 11A

■ TOWN OF TONAWANDA

Plans for the landfill

RECREATION? Town mulls what to do after landfill's closed.

BY DAN MINER
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Mounds rise ever higher as the Town of Tonawanda, under the watchful eyes of the state Department of Conservation, prepares to close the landfill which lies adjacent to the City of Tonawanda.

And while the town and DEC say they can't have a final closure plan until after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finalizes a report on whether there are dangerous levels of radioactivity in the landfill, they're already looking ahead to what it might be.

"We've talked to consultants about the possibilities of recreational use," said Town Supervisor Ron Moline. "We want to make sure we close it in a manner that would allow future activity of that site."

The Army Corps says the DEC and town are

SEE LANDFILL ON PAGE 4A

Time travelers in the Tonawandas



BARBARA
Tucker

Reminiscences about the streets and folks of the Tonawandas came in hot and heavy this week.

First, was the laugh of the day from **Doug Smith**. He asked, "Are you sure you wanted a headline on your column reading: 'Walking the Streets brings back memories'?? ... Anybody else pick up on this?" You were the only one, Doug,

except for those who kept their thoughts to themselves.

...

Next, an e-mail from "**Jackie**." "I just read your story walking down the street in Tonawanda. I found it very interesting. I was a resident of Tonawanda until I moved away 35 years ago. I still think of the days when I walked the streets. I lived on Niagara

Street across from the river where we hunted for tadpoles and swam in the runoff from Spaulding Fibre and ate hot dogs from **Gademsky's** across the street. The good old days."

...

Then a phone call from **Bob Archibald**, a THS graduate and resident of Fayetteville, Pa.

SEE TUCKER ON PAGE 4A



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er St. above Vona's fruit and
vegetable market. My father was a
barber and work at 410 in the same
building. **Tom's Barber Shop** was
at this location until his retirement

priests in the diocese of Granada,
Nicaragua, where she ministers to
the poor, heard about her dad's
death, every parish celebrated a
Mass in his honor on Jan. 14.
What a wonderful tribute.

LANDFILL ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

under no obligation to wait for the
finalized report. The report is due
in December 2007.

Once that report is finalized, the
town plans to form a plan with the
DEC for potential uses for the
closed landfill, which then must be
approved by the town board, said
John Camilleri, director of the
town's Department of Wastewater
Resources.

"We would like to do something
other than just turn it into a field,"
said Robert Morris, the town's
director of technical support. "But
we haven't proposed anything to the
board."

About four years ago, the town
discussed the idea of turning the
landfill into a par-3 golf course or
possibly a soccer field, Morris said.
More recently, Moline has brought
up the idea of a winter sledding
park.

"But we haven't got anything
etched in stone," Morris said.

Meanwhile, possible plans to
close the landfill have run into
opposition from nearby homeowners
in the City of Tonawanda, who
have watched with consternation
while the hills behind them rise as
material is brought in to close the
landfill. Property values, they've
pointed out, are likely to dive with
such a visible black eye in their back
yards.

"No matter what they say, this is
going to have a great impact on the
City of Tonawanda," said Eugene
Parks, a City of Tonawanda resident.

"They should have done it different-
ly."

The mounds do not have to be so
high, Parks said. And the only rea-
son they are is because it's the
cheapest way to do things.

"They didn't include City of
Tonawanda residents (in discus-
sions) and we're the one it affects,"
he said. "There's a lot of bright
young engineers around. It could
have been kept a lot lower."

Parks pointed out that no State
Environmental Quality Review has
ever been done at the site, and that
alone is basis to sue the town.

The SEQR act requires all state
and local agencies to assess the
environmental significance of all
actions they decide to approve, fund
or undertake, according to the
DEC's Web site.

City of Tonawanda Mayor Ron
Pilozzi said that if the landfill is
capped, he would like to see an
access road between the landfill and
homes on Hackett Drive in the City
of Tonawanda.

"One of the issues when it comes
to property value and nearness to
the landfill is the fact that there's
going to have to be road access back
there," he said. "If you put that road
along that property line it adds
about 100 feet between the property
line and the landfill itself."

That will allow for buffers to be
put in, Pilozzi said.

"We can consider putting things
like trees that would, at least from
an aesthetics point of view, make it
more (reasonable) to live in that
area," Pilozzi said.

Contact Dan Miner
at 693-1000, Ext. 115.

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