



Where's the good times?

T.O. sizzle has fizzled as Bills stumble into bye Sports, 1B

SUNDAY

NIAGARA GAZETTE

Positively WILD

Man's animal collection has led to an exotic career Lifestyle, 1C



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009

NIAGARA FALLS, NY \$1.50



PHOTOS BY JAMES NEISS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

VACANT: The future of the closed Niagara Community Center and Girls Club on Center Avenue is uncertain.

FUTURE UNCLEAR for North End institution

Leadership void still issue at shuttered facility

BY MARK SCHEER mark.scheer@niagara-gazette.com

The once popular youth center has been vacant for many months. And it appears as though it is going to remain that way, at least for the foreseeable future.

The Niagara Community Center has sat vacant since 2008, when it was forced to close due to lack of funding.

Community leaders say there is interest in reviving the Center Avenue building as a home for young and old alike, but are still trying to figure out the best approach.

"I think, generally, there is enough common understanding that there is a need for something there," said former city administrator Bill Bradberry, an advocate for reopening the center. "I think we can get just about everyone together in a room to agree that we need to do something. The question is what do we do and who should make those decisions."

A long-standing institution in the city's North End, the community



AT THE CENTER: Unregistered Niagara Community Center vehicles are parked behind the abandoned building. The future of the closed Niagara Community Center and Girls Club on Center Avenue is uncertain.

center for years provided after-school and summer programs for children, free breakfast and lunches and a community gathering place for residents.

In the summer of 2008, two key funding sources pulled their support for the facility amid concerns about internal leadership and programming. Community center leaders received notice that year from both the United Way of Niagara and Niagara County Youth Bureau that their organizations were discontinuing financial support for the center.

The United Way of Niagara once provided roughly \$38,000 to the

center each year. United Way President Carol Houwaart-Diez said her organization pulled its funding for the center when it recognized that programs supported by those dollars were not being offered on a consistent basis. She said the United Way is bound by its contributors to make sure the programs it funds are being administered properly.

"We have to be responsible with the funds that are entrusted to us," she said.

Houwaart-Diez said the United Way has been approached recently

SEE CENTER ON PAGE 6A

NIAGARA FALLS

Man shot to death

DOWNTOWN: Police responded to shots fired call.

STAFF REPORTS

Niagara Falls police are still investigating the killing of a Buffalo man that occurred early Saturday.

Officers responded to a shots fired call at 1:15 a.m. at Main Street and Niagara Avenue.

A man, who was injured from a gunshot wound to his upper left leg, was found in front of a store.

Jacobi L. Lovett, 36, 17 Stanislaus St., was pronounced dead a short time later at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

Detectives believe the victim was shot while in his



Jacobi Lovett Homicide victim

vehicle that was parked in the 900 block of Niagara Avenue. Police said it appears the assailant drove off in the victim's vehicle, which was later found in the 1000 block of Cleveland Avenue.

No suspect information is available at this time.

This was the city's fifth homicide this year.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the NFPD Criminal Investigation Division at 286-4553 or the Police Desk at 286-4711.

Prince Charles draws small crowd

Whatever else is said about Britain's Royal Family, it appears they've lost the touch for drawing crowds.

When Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, visited the Niagara Region for 90 minutes Thursday — the itinerary included a visit to the Glendale Campus of Niagara College and an ice wine tasting — only about 300 people turned out.

Still, the crowd at the college was impressive compared with other stopovers like Cupids, Newfoundland, where the head count was 57.

(Niagara Falls Power, a baseball team, draws more on a rainy, free-door prize night at Hyde Park Stadium.)

Admittedly, it was damp and foggy that day but, after all, what else could



DON Glynn

the other 196 residents possibly be doing in a one stoplight hamlet.

Another stopover was Dundurn Castle in

Hamilton, built nearly 175 years ago by her great-great-grandfather, Sir Allan Napier MacNab.

Rosie DiManno, a Toronto Star columnist, put it in perspective:

"When Charles and Diana kicked off their extended cross-Canada trek in Newfoundland in 1983, the throngs were huge and boisterous, standing room only at all venues. Of course, much of that love-inn had to do with Princess of Wales-watching."

SEE GLYNN ON PAGE 6A

NEWS ANALYSIS

Incumbents reeling from Tuesday election

ALBANY: Hard fiscal times stirring up anti-incumbent sentiment across New York.

BY MICHAEL GORMLEY The Associated Press

ALBANY — Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi has been the go-to guy for two New York governors and on short lists for U.S. Senate, lieutenant governor, governor and attorney general. After Tuesday's election, he's desperately clinging to a narrow lead in his bid for a third term in his county job.

He wasn't the only incumbent office holder in for a surprise during this off-year election cycle:

Westchester County Executive Andy Spano, a Democrat, sought a



Tom Suozzi Clinging to lead

fourth term and lost.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, an independent, was shocked by a narrow win over a vastly outspent opponent.

The only incumbent in the 23rd Congressional District dog fight, a five-term Republican assemblywoman, couldn't even finish the race.

Republicans also seized majorities from Democrats in the legislatures in Dutchess, Nassau and Orange counties, while taking a majority in the Poughkeepsie Common Council.

Rising taxes, high unemployment, a lingering recession and politicians in

charge to blame all of it on can do that.

"The public's in a bad mood," Suozzi said Tuesday night.

Next year's election will be far more packed with incumbents, most of them bigger targets with bigger names and longer tenures, for voters to consider sending a message. Every New York state legislator, all statewide jobs including governor, 29 congressional seats and both U.S. Senate seats will be up for grabs.

"Right now, what we have is an anti-incumbent rip tide, not a partisan wave," said Bruce Gyory, the political consultant. He said Tuesday's results have some of the earmarks of 1978, when hard fiscal times under Democratic Gov. Hugh Carey led to a

SEE POLITICS ON PAGE 6A

ELECTRIC LIGHTS



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PARADE PATH:

Niagara Active Hose passes under old glory during Saturday's annual Electric Lights Parade on Military Road in the Town of Niagara. The parade theme was to "honor your community service agencies and volunteers," many of whom will take part in and receive donations from the event.



INSIDE Classified 1-12D Crossword 5C Local 3A Lottery 3A Obituaries 4-5A Opinion 8A Police 3A Sports 1-8B Weather 2A

© 2009 Community First Holdings, Inc. Page designer: Linda Noworyta

Look inside for this week's super savings at **TOPS** Friendly Markets. ALL PRICES EFFECTIVE WITH YOUR CARD. LOW PRICE TURKEY GUARANTEE. Count on TOPS! We guarantee you the best price.