Memories abound of last shut-off of falls in '69
 Plans call for river to be diverted in next few years

By Harold McNeil

News Staff Reporter

Rock-filled memories of a waterless American Falls came flooding back for many upon hearing of plans to again shut off the waterfalls to a portion of Western New York's No. 1 tourist attraction two to three years from now.

They were there the last time, nearly half a century ago.

Linda Williams of Florida recalled on Facebook that she was 11 years old in 1969 when she got a peek at the barren falls.

"I remember this well in 1969," Williams commented on a posting about the possible diversion. "My entire family was there to take photos, and yeah! They shut the Falls off." Michael Hillier of Silver Creek also recalled his experiences on Facebook.

"I was a geology major at Fredonia State and got to walk around the bottom of the falls when they had it shut off. Was very eerie folks," he wrote in a comment.

Ron Guido of Orchard Park is also reminiscing.

Now retired, Guido was a young lieutenant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1969 when the International Joint Commission tapped the Corps to head a diversion of the Niagara River that forced a four-month bypass of the American Falls so the effects of erosion from the mighty cataract could be studied.

See Falls on Page A2

Clinton, Sanders spar at town hall
 O'Malley uses forum in bid to appear relevant

By John Wagner, Abby Phillip and David A. Fairhurst

WASHINGTON POST

DES MOINES, Iowa - With just one week left before the first votes are officially cast in Campaign 2016, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is on Monday at the Republican front-runner Donald Trump for designating Muslims.

"It's not only shameful and contrary to our values to say that people of a certain religion are a danger to the country, but it's also dangerous," she said.

See Clintons on Page A2

CAN CASH'S VISION FOR SCHOOLS SUCCEED?
 SIX-POINT PLAN SHOWS WHAT HE WANTS TO DO, HOW HE AIMS TO DO IT

Buffalo Public School Superintendent Kriner Cash has begun to roll out his six-point plan, the "New Educational Bargain," to turn around the city's troubled schools. Will he succeed where others have failed?

By Jay Rey

News Staff Reporter

For the first time since he was hired five months ago as superintendent of the Buffalo Public Schools, Kriner Cash has begun rolling out to the public his vision for improving the troubled district.

He dubbed it the "New Educational Bargain" with students and parents. But is Buffalo buying it?

And how much will it cost?

After talking with everyone from parents to the mayor about the issues plaguing the school district, Cash distilled them down to a half-dozen goals so the community has a clear understanding of where the district is headed — and what's at stake. Dramatic improvement of the school system is key, not just for the kids of Buffalo, but for the future of the city.

Thrusting schools are essential to prepare the workforce for the new medical and high-tech economy the city is trying to create, as well as to attract and retain the middle-class families Buffalo needs to turn itself around.

Cash already has hinted at some of the initiatives, such as more emphasis on math and reading in the early grades and redesigning high schools for emerging career fields.

"There's a lot of good things that are here and will continue. If it's not broken we won't fix it," Cash said. "But there are parts that need to be repaired and upgraded and re-envisioned so we can get quality across the system. That's what we're going to do. This is a start."

See Schools on Page A2

Paul retiring as chief weatherman at Channel 4

By Alan Pergament

News TV Critic

Channel 4 meteorologist Don Paul announced on the 6 p.m. newscast Monday that he will retire in March after more than 30 years in the Buffalo market.

"The incredible affection I've gotten from so many thousands of you," Paul told viewers. "The incredible affection I've gotten from so many thousands of you.

He added he doesn't have any immediate plans after leaving in March.

"I may just hang out in the pro- tective glove that Wonka rescued from the chocolate river in 'Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.'"
**Setting long-overdue teachers contract is a top priority**

**SCHOOLS** - from A1

Maybe the hardest - and arguably the most important - of Cash's six goals is establishing a new relationship with district teachers, who are in the midst of a collective bargaining negotiation process to revamp a contract that expired more than a decade ago.

"We refer to the teachers as partners," said Buffalo Teachers Federation President Philip Rumore. "Award the teachers and administrators the partnership they made. That would be the best thing he could do."

Both superintendents have made similar overtures, Rumore said, but have always followed through. Nevertheless, he said, it's a positive step.

"There's nothing better than to have an open dialogue," Rumore said. "I may have different opinions, but I think it's important for each side to understand the other side's point of view."

Cash’s five other reform proposals include:

- A more rigorous early elementary education. The focus will be on reading and math in grades K through third grade with the goal of lowering class sizes to 18.

- "That sets the stage for success longer term if we can get a good grounding in literacy and numeracy in those pre-K through third years," Cash said. "When we haven't done that in the past, we then have all these students who can't read in fourth grade, and they drop out of school much earlier than they should.

- Strong community schools. Gov. Andrew Cuomo this month proposed $300 million to convert struggling schools into "community schools," paid for as hubs for students and their families to link with organizations that provide health, nutrition, mental health, legal aid and cultural and recreation services, funded at an annual cost for Buffalo for about $3.5 million of that state pot.

Cash proposes designating four to six schools in the quad area of the city as community schools that would become the centers of the city, so the public can use the buildings after hours for meetings, recreation, as voting centers and to access the city's resources.

- New innovative high schools. The superintendent wants more high-quality options for students, who will have a choice between Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts High School and City Honors High School. And he would like to open a new high school on the city's southeast side.

- "We're not going to give up," said Cash. "As a matter of fact, I'm going to push that as hard as I can."

Cash recently rolled out the proposal to the Board of Education and thinks that, in general, there was a consensus, although some board members asked him to tweak the plan to include parent engagement as another focus.

Board Member Barbara Sevick expressed a desire to see these as his "main reform proposals," but said that didn't mean other issues were not important.

Cash said he is confident that he will work with the union to implement the reforms he wants.

"There's still room for negotiation," he said. "I think we're on the same page."

Cash said he is still seeking to negotiate a contract with the teachers' union. He said he is ready to join the union and is ready to do anything to enter into the jobs that are coming, we didn't do you a good service."

- Extended learning. Contractually, the school day is restricted to six hours and 50 minutes, which means kids need more option time to learn after school, Cash said. The after-school programs offered now vary in quality from building to building.

- "I want it to be more high-quality and consistent across all schools," Cash said.

- Services for the needy students. Buffalo already does a good job helping these children and their families, Cash said. But he needs to continue if kids are going to come to school ready to learn.

- "That's why there's mental health clinics that we have now in 46 of 58 schools," said. "That's a big deal."

- "At some point of view, we need to look at these six as his "main reform proposals," but said that didn't mean other issues were not important.

Cash recently rolled out the proposal to the Board of Education and thinks that, in general, there was a consensus, although some board members asked him to tweak the plan to include parent engagement as another focus.

Board Member Barbara Sevick also said he doesn't think Cash planned to pay for these after-school programs. The board last week began delving into the budget, and projections show that efforts to lower class sizes would cost at least $25 million alone.

"Historically, the money has always come to Buffalo, but how that's been spent has always been done in the wise and judicious way," Cash told the Buffalo News. "Those areas that have historically been asked, I want to reduce those."

- "It's a clear, concise plan of attack, and School Board Member Larry Quinn.

"I think it's good," he said, "because if you are clear in what you are trying to do, you can base all your strategic thinking around these six principles."

"It's confusing in a district like this with so many moving parts," Quinn said, "but people will follow you if they know where you are going." It has been several years since parents have had a clear sense of where the district is headed, which, according to Samuel L. Randolf III, president of the District Parenting Coordinating Council.

The value of this is we don't have to wonder what he's thinking," Randolf said. "Agravis me, he does a clear indication of what he calls the 'New Educational Bargain,' and 'I think it's good.'"

But superintendents have come before him and said the right thing," Randolf said. "It's in the implementation where they find the challenges."

email: jsloy@buffalonews.com

---

**One year ago, with rumors on rise, Facebook postings rallied to Paul**

**RETIREMENT** - from A1

To be trying to appeal to a younger demographic.

News Director Scott Levy also said the departures of Paul and Newberg — believed to be two of the higher-paid-per-hour employees — will enable Channel 4 to use any money to hire more people in the news department.

Paul plans to rejoin Channel 4 for 28 years over two different time periods, with a three-year stay at Channel 5 until 2020.

He will be leaving several noon newscast duties to the weather anchor Kevin O’Connell, who announced last month that he will be wrapping up in 2020 after the final 18 months of his contract are over.

Both stations have already made replacements.

Channel 4 hired Todd Santos in August as Paul’s eventual replacement.

Channel 5 hired Patrick Hannon as the likely eventual replacement for O’Connell.

Levy confirmed that Santos will become the station’s chief meteorologist after Paul leaves in two months and that the station will add someone to the weather department to have the same eight-team it currently has with Paul, Santos, Mike Cefola and Andrew Baglini.

"As we entered the new year, the station felt it was a perfect time to start the transition in the weather department," said Levy. "‘Under Don’s leadership, Todd spent the past few years learning from him directly, which should help with the transition.’

Paul’s pending departure wasn’t unexpected.

A year ago, Paul’s long-term future was unclear, and he started sharing weather reports on the important weekday newscasts with Andrew Baglini.

At the time, Paul went on Facebook and wrote, "I just want to say to some of you it is not in my plans to retire at this time."

Paul had several comments of praise and support and some suggestions that Channel 4 should replace him at some point.

Andrew Baglini said that he saw the weather anchor leave was a little silly. The silky pale continued said Paul and that he’s been too busy to serve as an example of positive influence.

The Facebook post might have been a public relations move for Paul, but management has often been able to ignore public sentiment. That is the case when it thinks it can save some money by eventually replacing someone as well-paid as Paul has been over the years.

In TV news, the one thing that is as difficult to beat as Mother Nature’s Fierce Thinker."

email: jgray@buffalonews.com

---

**Sanders tried to ‘revive’ experience**

**FOWA** - from A1

Clinton used her segment of CNN’s three-candidate Democratic debate to make the central message of her campaign: that if you want real change, go to Washington, hammers her best-qualified to achieve liberal goals. She is trying repair a challenge from San Berni Sanders of Vermont, who has called for more far-reaching proposals and rejected Clinton’s approach as incrementalist, and from Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley.

Clinton was asked: Could she

- Sanders said: "I want to respond to the democratic socialists," Sanders - questioned what we mean by "democratic socialism." It means he

- citation to Clinton’s use of a private email to hide government decisions by saying essentially: You haven’t been paying much attention, long enough. You have to be answerable to your constituents and tell the truth to the people.

- Sanders during his 45

- minutes on the stage said he didn’t think the government’s role was "enough," that government has not been able to solve problems.

- "What democratic socialism" means to me is that economic rights, the right to economic security, should be extended in the United States of America," said Sanders, who calls himself "democratic socialist." He said the means governments that government teachers and students have access to college. "Creating a government that works for all of us, not just a handful of people on the top."

- Sanders was asked about his plan for "universal health-care."

- "I’m sure everyone’s health care is a human right," Clinton said. "That’s our definition of democratic socialism."

- Sanders was asked how he planned to pay for his plan.

- "I’m still working on that," he said. "I’m going to talk about it later."