

THE OTHER RIVALRY

KEN EAST, WEST TO TANGLE IN FOOTBALL. 3B



DATING IN THE ELECTRONIC AGE

INSIDE



FRIDAY

October 21, 2005

North Tonawanda, N.Y.

50 cents

ONLINE: tonawanda-news.com

TONAWANDA NEWS

TODAY & TOMORROW

Today

■ Performance of "The Innocents," 8 p.m., Ghostlight Theatre, 170 Schenck St., North Tonawanda.

■ Performance "13 Historic Ghosts of the Niagara Frontier," 6 to 8 p.m., North Tonawanda Botanical Gardens, Sweeney Street.

Saturday

■ New York Rangers at Buffalo Sabres, 7:30 p.m., HSBC Arena, Buffalo.

■ Performance of "The Innocents," 8 p.m., Ghostlight Theatre, 170 Schenck St., North Tonawanda.

■ Performance of "Mark Twain Live," 7:30 p.m., Riviera Theatre, Webster Street, North Tonawanda.

INSIDE TODAY



Midwest prepares for the birds and the virus they may carry. 7A

TODAY'S OPINION U.S. must act on bird flu now. 4A

HEALTHY, WEALTHY & WISE
The Tonawanda News' daily story to improve your life

Proposed diabetes pill can double risk of death. 7A

COMING SOON
Look for it in future editions



SATURDAY: It is all about TNT.

AREA DEATHS

• **Hubbard, Bertie;** formerly of Tonawanda
• **Wesolowski, Nancy A.;** formerly of North Tonawanda

Full obituaries are on page 2A.

WHERE TO TURN

STATE LOTTERIES
Please see page 2A

WEATHER
Please see page 5A



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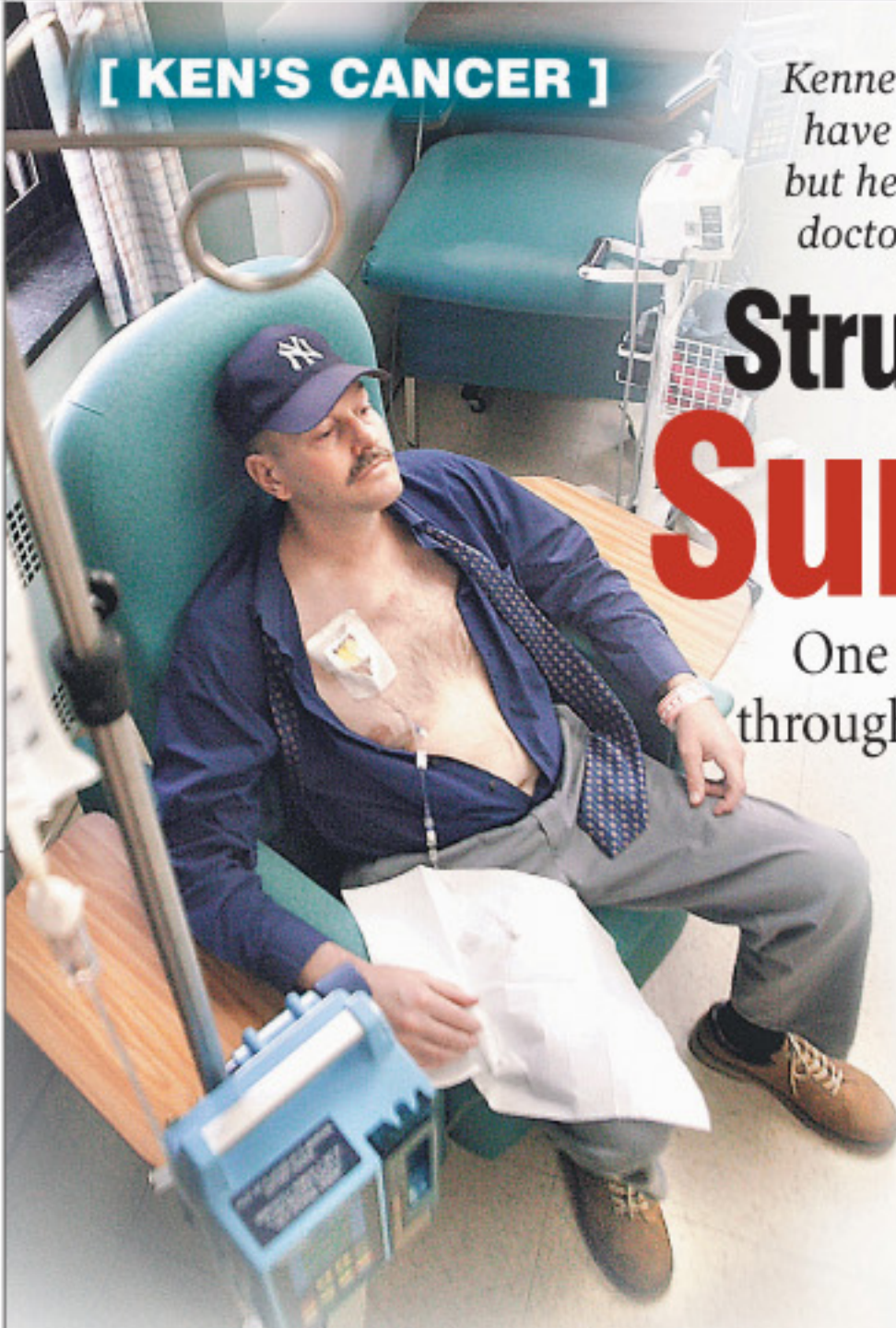
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■ Page designers: David Morris and Marci Jordan

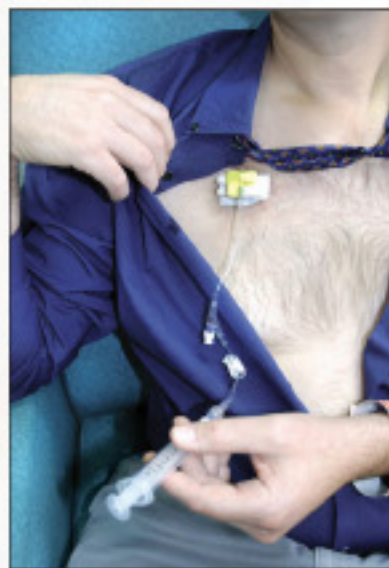
[KEN'S CANCER]



Kenneth Kobler should have died years ago, but he has outlived his doctors' expectations

Struggle to Survive

One victim's story through pain and hope



JAMES NEISS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SURVIVING: Ken Kobler, 44, of the Town of Tonawanda, has multiple myeloma terminal bone marrow cancer. He receives chemotherapy treatments at the VA Western New York Healthcare System. Kobler attributes his upbeat outlook to a faith in God and participation in prayer groups.

Editor's note: Of the 80,000 cancer diagnoses in New York state each year, 5,000 happen in Erie County. The Buffalo location for the Veteran Affairs Healthcare Network cares for hundreds of cancer patients, including Town of Tonawanda resident Kenneth Kobler. Kobler should have died several years ago but has lived years beyond his doctors' expectations. This story is a cancer patient's struggle to survive through Kobler's eyes.

BY CARLENE PETERSON
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Kenneth Kobler had his first chemotherapy treatment as two tall buildings in New York City crumbled to the ground.

As the medicine ripped through his veins, attacking cancer and white blood cells alike, Kobler saw what he thought was a scene from a movie.

It wasn't. Kobler's first treatment was Sept. 11, 2001. He received his death sentence before the towers were leveled, before the chemotherapy.

His doctor told him he had 30 days to live.

That was four years ago.

Kobler has multiple myeloma, cancer of the plasma cell. Of the 50,000 Americans living with multiple myeloma today, almost all are in their 60s and 70s. Kobler just celebrated his 44th birthday.

His first sign of cancer was a lump over one of his eyes. The lump got bigger, and Kobler started getting severe headaches.

"My eye was open, I just couldn't see," he said. "I knew something was wrong."

One Friday night four years ago, Kobler told his wife to take him to the

hospital. He was immediately admitted, and the chief of radiology was called. They put him in the cancer wing.

"I sat up there all Saturday and Sunday, and I knew I had cancer," he said. It was official by Monday.

"They called a conference with my family, and they told my family to make burial arrangements," Kobler said. "I didn't have 30 days."

But he started getting treatments and a new home — on the ninth floor of the hospital, where the terminally ill cancer patients stay. He was there 76 straight days.

Lynn Steinbrenner has been Kobler's primary doctor since the cancer was detected four years ago. She said multiple myeloma targets plasma cells in the bone marrow, which produce antibodies used to fight infection.

"In multiple myeloma you have uncontrolled overgrowth of these cells, so the consequence is it injures the bone by actually dissolving the bone," Stein said.

"Patients can have fractures and holes in their bones. It can cause problems with thick blood and high blood pressure levels," Stein said.

The plasma cells accumulate in the

SEE **CANCER** ON PAGE 2A

Ken's story

This is how Ken discovered he had multiple myeloma, a cancer that affects platelets in the body's blood stream. In his own words, Ken tells how a cancer patient receives their death sentence.

Cancer.
Onset — mid-April of 2001, just after a full physical. By the end of the month, I was having severe headaches, loss of vision to the left eye. I was coaching boys and girls track, high school.

Each day the headache was on the left side of my head. It felt like someone was squeezing it on a vice.

Well, somehow I made it through track season, all the way until the second week of June. I had one male and one female make it to the state track finals in Long Island.

On June 14, Wallace (son), Sandy (wife) and I were heading to Springville so Wallace could visit his grandfather. On the way, I was driving. We were about halfway there when I got a large boomer of a headache. I pulled over and had my wife drive me to the VA Hospital on Bailey Avenue in Buffalo.

It was approximately 8 p.m. It took about 45 minutes for the radiologist to become free and shoot a series of X-rays on my skull. After the shoot, I was admitted to the

SEE **KEN** ON PAGE 2A

Bail set for accused border smuggler

FEDERAL COURT: Ontario man may also face charges for drug smuggling.

BY STACEY SHEPARD
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A federal judge set bail at \$25,000 cash Thursday for an Ontario man accused of smuggling five illegal aliens across the Niagara River.

Carter Warren of Welland, Ontario was arrested Monday, along with Simon Liu, a naturalized U.S. citizen from east-

ern Michigan, after five Chinese immigrants were seen departing a boat the two men docked at the Gratwick/Riverside Park boat launch in North Tonawanda.

Liu also faces charges for conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens into the country, a felony that carries a five-year prison term, but has yet to retain an attorney.

The five Chinese citizens — two women and three men — face charges of illegally entering the country. Two of the three men also are accused of felony drug possession after 35 pounds of marijuana were found in backpacks they

were carrying.

All five had their cases adjourned until next week because several requested to retain their own lawyers.

Joel Daniels, a Buffalo attorney representing Warren, requested that bail be set at \$10,000 instead of the \$25,000 recommended by Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah Sorbini.

Daniels said Warren never has been arrested and is a homeowner in Canada who is married and has two children, ages 2 and 6. Warren was a truck driver

SEE **BAIL** ON PAGE 2A

Bumper battle

Parking is fair game at T-NT Classic

BY THERESA D'AUROZIO
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For the 96th time, Twin Cities sports fans will root madly for their home teams — and rival for a parking space.

Tonawanda

and North

Tonawanda

high schools

will vie to

champion the

annual T-NT

Classic tonight

at the Lumber-

jacks Sports

Complex.

Though the

competition

following the 6

p.m. kickoff

will be fierce,

city officials

said fighting

for a parking

space before

the game

shouldn't be a

problem.

"There are a lot

of spots, but parking

will be at a premium

for the game

because it's a rivalry.

Carpooling

would help, and

you might want to

get there a little

early," said Steven

Scordato, superin-

tendent of Buildings and Grounds for

North Tonawanda.

SEE **T-NT** ON PAGE 2A

If you go

■ **WHAT:** T-NT Classic

■ **WHERE:** Lumberjacks Sports Complex, Meadow Drive

■ **WHEN:** 6 p.m. today

■ **NOTES:** North Tonawanda has clinched the Class AA North title with a 6-1 record, and is the No. 3 large school in Western New York. Tonawanda is 4-3 and off to the consolation bracket at home.

■ **TV:** Tape delay on cable Channel 13 — 8 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday

Inside

■ Twin Cities schools host pep rallies. 3A

■ Teams ready for the big game. 1B

Forecasters: Wilma is growing stronger

HURRICANE: Cancun, Cuba evacuate luxury hotels, low-lying areas as storm approaches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CANCUN, Mexico — Desperate tourists, trapped after the airport closed Thursday, shuttled from luxury hotels to emergency shelters ahead of Hurricane Wilma, which forecasters said was growing stronger. Cuba evacuated more than 200,000 people as the storm approached.

The hurricane, which killed at least 13 people in Haiti and Jamaica, was expected to hit Cancun and sideswipe Cuba early today. Forecasters said it would then swing around to the northeast and charge Sunday at hurricane-weary Florida.

Briefly the most intense Atlantic

SEE **WILMA** ON PAGE 2A

Wilma slowing down

Hurricane Wilma weakened to a Category 4 storm with winds of 150 mph but could still do catastrophic damage to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula before turning toward Florida.

Hurricane Wilma (Category 4)
LOCATION: 18.9°N 100.7°W
MOVEMENT: NW at 150 mph
WINDS: 150 mph
SEA: 20 ft

