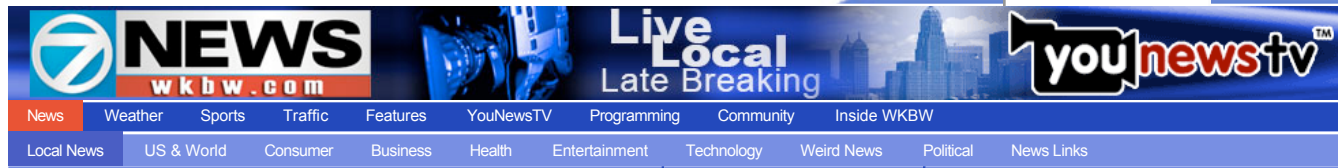




August 27, 2007 Buffalo, New York



Niagara Falls man says he is suing Diocese



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By Julie Fine

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Christian Butler used to teach at Saint Dominic Savio Middle School in Niagara Falls. But in 2004, he charged with endangering the welfare of a child and other charges, allegedly making advances toward two of his female students, and downloading graphic images from his computer. Butler plead guilty, and was sentenced to six months behind bars and 10 years probation. A student was apparently was the whistle blower in this case to police, according to Remi Gonzalez. He is a parent of a former student there. Gonzalez says Butler's behavior began long before he was busted, and that school officials didn't do anything about it.

"These kids lived in fear," said Remi Gonzalez.

"They called him the perv. A pervert," said former teacher Virginia Abbott.

Abbott, a former spanish teacher, said students told her about Butler making them uncomfortable, and that she told superiors several times, including the principal.

"Everytime I went to report it it was, okay, I will take care of it. Don't worry. Christian is harmless. I will take care of it and nothing was ever done," Abbott said she was told.

The story making statewide news in the New York Times, Remi Gonzalez says he and another family are suing the Diocese for about one and a half million dollars.

"I just want an apology," said Gonzalez.

A spokesman for the Buffalo Catholic Diocese says it has not been served with papers. A statement was issued today.

"The Diocese of Buffalo has had a policy regarding sexual harassment and abuse in place since 1990. This policy was updated in 2002 following the implementation of the charter for the protection of children and young people. In the case of Christian Butler, as soon as the Diocese was notified of the allegations against him, the Diocese followed this policy."

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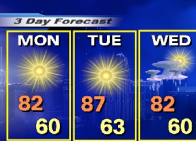
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