

A bittersweet day for UB's basketball teams

Men's Cinderella story comes to an end, but women's squad advances | PAGE B1

Summer Hemphill



THE BUFFALO NEWS SUNDAY

Wes Clark



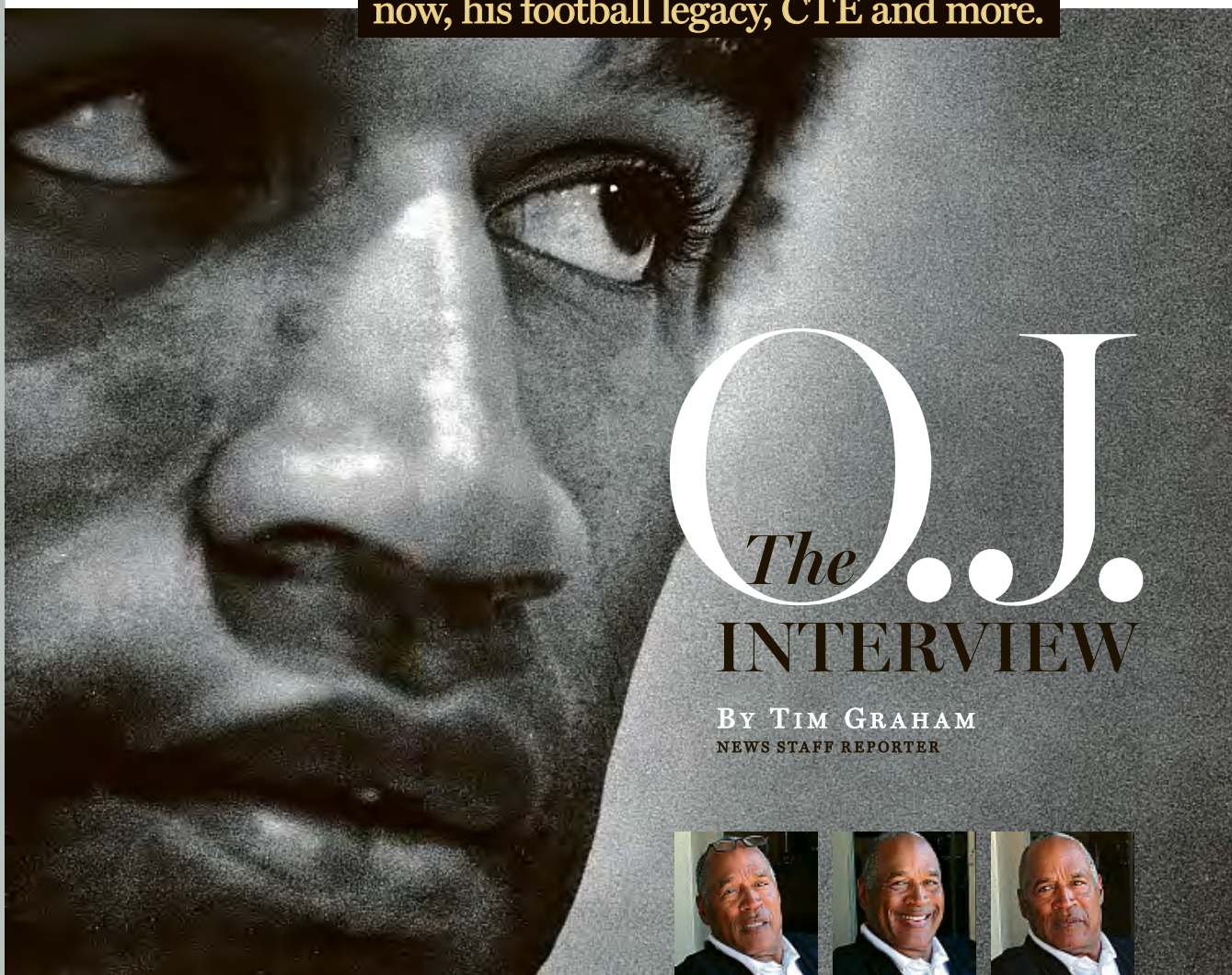
BUFFALONEWS.COM • MARCH 18, 2018 • FINAL EDITION

UP TO \$516 IN SAVINGS

5 months after his release from prison,

Simpson talks about his time there, his life

now, his football legacy, CTE and more.



The O.J. INTERVIEW

BY TIM GRAHAM
NEWS STAFF REPORTER



LAS VEGAS – The dishwasher was chirping, and he couldn't figure out how to turn it off. The thermostat was a mystery. A freshly discovered leak dripped from a large stain in the garage ceiling, and he couldn't locate the cause. ¶ He hunched as he moved around the house, smoothly but with a shuffle more than a glide. Reading glasses perched on his salt-and-pepper head. He wore a black button-up sweater over a white golf shirt, black slacks, black Nike sneakers. ¶ He looked like Mr. Rogers, not the running back who once scored 23 touchdowns in a season, not one of the most infamous men on the planet. ¶ But that baritone voice, that incandescent smile. Yes, this was O.J. Simpson. ¶ And he was ready to sit and talk. ¶ In his first substantial interview in a decade and his first extensively about football since the 1990s, Simpson spoke to The Buffalo News on Monday. ¶ Simpson had myriad other opportunities. Representatives say he has been approached by all the serious news programs, the gossip shows, Oprah Winfrey, the whole media gallery. They say he's been offered big money to tell his story. He declined them all. ¶ "I get so many offers to talk,"

SEE INTERVIEW ON PAGE A8 • Buffalo News file photo and Tim Graham

BUFFALO NEWS EXCLUSIVE

Buffalo Diocese paid \$1.5 million to abuse victim

2016 settlement is largest to emerge so far in cases against local clergy

By JAY TOKASZ

NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The Catholic Diocese of Buffalo quietly paid \$1.5 million in 2016 to a man who alleged a priest sexually abused him when he was a teenager more than three decades ago.

It was the diocese's second financial settlement of a lawsuit alleging abuse by James A. Spielman, a former diocesan priest who served in at least six Western New York parishes and taught religion at Archbishop Walsh High School in Olean.

The settlement is the largest that has come to light so far in the Buffalo Diocese for a clergy sex abuse case.

The News found the case in a recent search of federal court records from Hawaii, where the lawsuit was filed.

The massive settlement added to questions about whether diocesan officials have disclosed the full extent of clergy sex abuse in Western New York.

The alleged victim, who is 52, lives in Texas. In 2014, he sued Spielman and the Buffa-



A photo of the Rev. James A. Spielman from the 1983 Archbishop Walsh High School yearbook.

lo Diocese, along with the high school, the Diocese of Honolulu and the Southdown Institute, a facility near Toronto where offending priests were sent for psychological treatment and rehabilitation. He said he was 14 to 17 years old and attending Archbishop Walsh High School, when Spielman repeatedly molested him at the school and other locations in both the Buffalo and Honolulu dioceses from 1979 through 1982.

The alleged victim accused the diocese of knowing that Spielman had molested children in the past, covering up the abuse and transferring Spielman from parish to parish despite his history of abuse.

See **Diocese** on Page A6



MCCABE MAY HAVE MEMOS ON TRUMP

Fired FBI official Andrew McCabe reportedly recorded his interactions with President Trump in memos that may interest the special counsel. Meanwhile Trump's lawyer calls for an end to the collusion probe. *Stories, Page A4.*

State lawmakers draft sports wagering bills

Moves anticipate high court's ruling

By TOM PRECIOUS
NEWS ALBANY BUREAU

ALBANY – Forget wagering on March Madness at the office or a bar. And say goodbye to bookies and illegal, offshore internet for your straight, parlay, teaser and whatever array of wagers made on pro and college sports.

It could all be done – legally – on your phone or laptop or at a casino if the next potentially massive wave of government-

sanctioned gambling – sports wagering – comes to New York.

And it could happen as early as the first snap of the NFL season this fall.

Or not. The decision whether New Yorkers will be able to place perfectly legal bets on pro and college sports contests is, first, up to the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court by May is expected to rule on a case that could strike down a 1992 federal law that has effectively limited sports wagering to Nevada and, in more limited ways, Dela-

See **Betting** on Page A7

It's St. Joseph's Day – please pass the sfingì

By MARY KUNZ GOLDMAN
NEWS CLASSICAL MUSIC CRITIC

To Buffalo's Sicilian population, St. Joseph's Day looms large.

For the rest of us, it is something of a mystery. It is sandwiched between two gigantic Western New York party days, St. Patrick's Day and Dyngus Day. These noisier occasions tend to obscure it. You do not find store aisles devoted to St. Joseph's Day, as you do for St. Patrick's Day. Though there is a massive St. Patrick's Day/St. Joseph's Day/Dyngus Day celebration, the holiday in the middle is in a class by itself.

It is celebrated wherever Sicilians are, said Peter LoJacono, president of the Buffalo Federation of Italian-American Societies.

The roots of St. Joseph's Day, adding to its exotic nature, are distant and medieval. St. Joseph saved Sicily from famine in the Middle Ages, and Sicilians have been thanking him ever since, by holding St. Joseph's Tables – elaborate feasts.

A St. Joseph's Day feast is always meatless. There were two reasons for that: One was that the day invariably falls during Lent, and rules used to be far stricter than they are now.

See **St. Joseph's Day** on Page A11

St. Joseph saved Sicily from famine in the Middle Ages, and Sicilians have been thanking him ever since, by holding St. Joseph's Tables – elaborate feasts.

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WEATHER

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