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a mayor
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OCT 28 - NOV 05, 2014

VOL. 15, NO. 42

FREE

Hamister hotel is downgraded in size and substance.... again!



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Hamister Project Falls Short of Hype

Tony Farina

It was just a little over a year ago, on Sept. 19, 2013, that Gov. Cuomo, Mayor Dyster, State Sen. George Maziarz, and Assemblyman John Ceretto collectively praised the \$25.3 million Hamister hotel project in downtown Niagara Falls shortly after the council finally approved the at-times



Developer Mark Hamister's taxpayer subsidized hotel keeps getting smaller and smaller.

controversial project on Rainbow Blvd.

"With the approval of the Hamister project, the City of Niagara Falls is taking a major step forward in our ongoing work to revive the local tourism industry and economy," the governor said at the time, praising the efforts of the state's USA Niagara for negotiating the agreement for the Hamister hotel. That deal included a \$2.75 million state grant.

Well, here we are more than a year



This seven-story Hyatt Place Hotel in Pittsburg at 178 rooms is hardly transformational. Yet it has 50 more rooms than Hamister's proposed, taxpayer subsidized Hyatt Place in Niagara Falls.

later, and the only thing that has happened so far is that the cost has gone up, from \$25.3 million to \$28 million, even though project has been scaled down to a seven-story Hyatt Place, not eight stories, and the two dozen market-rate residential apartments are not in the plans.

Maziarz, who is leaving office under the cloud of a federal investigation, said back in September of 2013 "it has taken a team effort to make the Hamister project happen here in Niagara Falls....Gov. Cuomo should be credited with calling the right plays on this important development to get the win for WNY and for the all-important tourism industry."

Maybe a new team is needed. So far, anyway, the project has not delivered jobs or tourists, has yet to begin construction, and has been scaled back from 128 hotel rooms to 110 that is a far cry from the kind of transformational facility that the proponents trumpeted from the start.

In keeping with their tight-lipped way of doing business, the state's USA



Promised originally to be a luxury hotel, then downgraded to a mid-scale Hyatt Place, it is to be built only 300 feet from the Niagara Falls State Park. The highest and best use for this lot is certainly more than a mid scale, 128 room hotel.

Niagara has nothing to say and Hamister officials have been taking a cue from the state and are unavailable for comment on their revised plans for the property they got for a song from a city hungry for any development downtown.

The project's latest site plan will be up for review by the city's Planning Board on Nov. 19. No firm date yet on when a shovel will hit the ground on this

long-awaited project that so far has not delivered on the hype. Since no one will talk about it, not the developer or the state, we'll just have to wait and see what the final plans look like and whether anything will ever get built at the key downtown site.

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CHAIRMAN & EDITOR IN CHIEF
Frank Parlato

PUBLISHER
Peter Mio

MANAGING EDITOR
Dr. Chitra Selvaraj

SENIOR EDITOR
Tony Farina

PHONE: (716) 284-5595

P.O. Box 3083, Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

Phone: **E-mail:** news1926@gmail.com

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Hamister Hotel Project Scaled Back, No Comment From Dyster, Cuomo

Sam Fruscione told you so. And got rode out of town on a rail.

The Niagara Falls Reporter told you as well, but somehow weathered the storm.

Developer Mark Hamister, whose downtown hotel project was so crucial and perfectly timed a year ago that Fruscione was crucified by Mayor Paul Dyster, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and even U.S. Senator Charles Schumer for merely asking questions about the project, which was supposed to have begun construction last spring.

Dyster, Cuomo and Schumer had no comment last week when the grand hotel project -- which was to have included high end retail shops and permanent apartments -- was downgraded again by the developer, who doesn't seem to have any money beyond the taxpayer dollars gifted him by the city and state.

If you happen to run into the mayor, you might ask him why this "tipping point" project that was so important a year ago that he turned over a downtown property appraised at upwards of \$1.5 million for a paltry \$100,000, seems so unimportant now. He avoids the Reporter like many dodge the Ebola virus, but had no comment to any of the other media last week either.

This is the second announced downgrade to the Hamister hotel project, aside from the now seven-month delay in groundbreaking. Earlier, Hamister spokesmen said that the announced "resort" style development would actually be a Hyatt Place, the sort of smallish, boxy hotel one might find near the airport of some second rate city in a flyover state.

Last week, the project was down-



When it was first proposed - Mayor Paul Dyster said of the Hamister hotel, "That's a game-changer if ever there was one, folks."

graded further, going from eight stories to seven, with the elimination of permanent residences and designer boutiques. The project's plans now call for 128 rooms and suites, down from the 146 proposed earlier this year.

Not only will it not be the major attraction Hamister, Dyster, Cuomo and Schumer promised, it won't even be the biggest or nicest hotel town.

What it will be, if it ever gets built, is another mediocrity in a town full of mediocrities and run by them. A shrimpy, hotel built with corporate welfare handed out to a major campaign contributor.

Hamister has a long history of such deals, and a long history of political and media influence. When he bailed out of a deal to by the Buffalo Sabres at the last minute it was because millions in state and local subsidies weren't forthcoming.

cause, accusing Fruscione of political obstructionism, stating that Hamister's hotel was crucial to the future of the city and that the humble councilman represented a major threat to Niagara Falls.

All of the major Western New York media, along with self serving politicians from Dyster to Gov. Andrew Cuomo to United States Sen. Charles Schumer condemned Fruscione for standing in the way of progress.

Fruscione was defeated in the Democratic primary by Andy Touma, cousin to Dyster campaign manager Craig Touma and related by marriage to Dyster appointed city Court Judge Diane Vitello.

While he went on to run on a minor party line in the general election, Fruscione -- who had been the top vote getter



"The Hamister hotel is the game changer, transformational, tipping point development in Niagara Falls."

The 2003 drama ended when Rochester billionaire and philanthropist Tom Golisano rescued the team with his own money and was roundly criticized in the media.

The hotel project will still include rooftop banquet space, as well as a pool and fitness center, a restaurant with limited food service and a bar, according to the documents submitted to the city. In other words, it will be exactly the same as a dozen other faceless hotels downtown, except smaller.

But just a year ago, the Hamister hotel project was nothing less than the future of Niagara Falls. According to the developer and his pal the mayor, 130 "permanent" jobs would be created, or more than one employee for each room.

Later this was downgraded to 24 jobs.

In his 2013 smear campaign against Fruscione, Dyster called the Hamister project the biggest development downtown since the Seneca Niagara Casino.

"We were operating with an understanding here that we were going to try to achieve certain things with this development effort," Dyster said. "If they are

going to kill the largest development in downtown Niagara Falls since the casino, they are going to have to explain it to the people who would be getting jobs here. I don't get it. I just don't get it."

Now Dyster is refusing to talk about the Hamister development. And Francine DelMonte, who runs the state's USA Niagara Development, says the governor's press office has to clear all comments on the hotel.

So the city and the state have committed millions of taxpayer dollars to a project they now refuse to discuss.

Why was approval of the Hamister proposal so important in November 2013 that Sam Fruscione was targeted by every major New York politician and all of the Western New York media with the exception of this newspaper?

And why, a year later, have these same politicians and media outlets remained largely silent about two major downgrades in the scope of the project and the fact that it is already seven months behind the originally announced schedule.

And finally, why, with the recently announced, \$150 million "Wonderfalls" resort project slated to begin construction next year directly across Rainbow Boulevard North, has Hamister decided to scale back his already puny project.

Mark Hamister has been given \$2.75 million in taxpayer subsidies and a parcel of prime downtown property for pennies on the dollar to build a hotel downtown that may not be wanted or needed.

How this fiasco occurred is anyone's guess. The guys who might know, Dyster, Cuomo and Schumer, aren't talking.

Fruscione Driven From Office Because Of Urgent Hamister Hotel Deal Here?

If the reputation of the once popular former city Council chairman Sam Fruscione had grown as much as the Hamister hotel project has shrunk over the past year, he'd be running for state Senate right now.

Fruscione was the target of an unprecedented smear campaign last fall based solely on the fact that he questioned giving a downtown city property appraised at more than \$1.5 million to do nothing developer Mark Hamister for a measly \$100,000.

Mayor Paul Dyster wanted the Hamister hotel project. Badly. And he wanted rid of Fruscione, who led the former Council majority that included Bob Anderson and Glenn Choolokian.

Dyster's enablers in Buffalo, Albany and Washington D.C. rallied to the

in his previous races -- finished poorly.

And now it turns out he was right. He told the truth. The Hamister hotel project -- whether it gets built or not and the boys on Pine Avenue will give you even money on that -- will not be the transformational project Dyster promised. In fact it will be a small, four story edifice in a neighborhood packed with similar structures. It will employ around 50 people, mostly earning minimum wage.

If it ever gets built.

One public official had the stones to call BS on this deal a year ago. Sam Fruscione. And for his trouble, and public service, he was driven out of office.

By you. The dear voters who know so much they continue to live in Niagara Falls.



Councilman Sam Fruscione dared to question the Hamister Hotel and was relentlessly attacked by elected officials.

LaSalle Tire Slasher Now Has a Price on His Head

Mike Hudson

A \$250 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a tire-slashing thug active in the city's LaSalle district.

At around 4:20 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 19, the slasher was caught on videotape in the parking lot of Jaco's Pizza, 7202 Buffalo Ave., putting dents in the rear side panel and puncturing two tires of a 2014 Ford F-350 truck belonging to Jaco's owner Rob Nye.

The slasher, a white male who appears to be around 50 years old, can be seen taking a homemade device about two feet long from out of his jacket sleeve and using it to vandalize the truck.

"The detectives told me there has been other slashings in the LaSalle area and the Town of Niagara recently," Nye told the Niagara Falls Reporter. "They think this guy may be responsible for all of them."

Niagara Falls Police Chief Bryan DalPorto confirmed there have been reports of criminal mischief in the area, but it is not known whether it is the work of one individual.

"There was a couple in LaSalle but nothing I would characterize as a rash," DalPorto said. "We also had a few downtown. The detective bureau is investigating as to whether they may be the same person."

The pizza proprietor said he has given the videotape to Niagara Falls police, who are sharing it with colleagues from the Niagara County Sheriff's Department, state police, the Town of Niagara police and other agencies.

Nye said the damage was covered by his insurance; he collected a check for \$1,261 this week from General National Insurance. The two tires, he said, front and rear passenger tires, were two days old.

"They were brand new tires I just bought from Baldo Ford," Nye said. "They were destroyed. When I went to go home after leaving my restaurant at five in the morning, I couldn't drive the truck because it was tilted to one side because the tires were flat.... The Niagara Falls Police drove me home."

Unbeknownst perhaps to the tire thug, the lot is under video surveillance. It didn't take long for Nye to view the tape and pinpoint the hour and minute of the vandal's activities.

From the video one sees the tire slasher wearing a leather jacket, cowboy boots and a bandanna on his head. He goes about his work methodically.

"You can pretty much tell it's not his first time at the rodeo," Nye said.

The 28-second clip shows the man first appearing in front of the truck, then moving toward the back. He slips, from out of his sleeve, his stick with a blade at the end of it. He is seen banging the rear panel on the driver's side of the truck. He goes to the passenger side, where, mostly of view of the camera, he slashes two tires leaving a more than one inch wide gash. Within seconds, he emerges in front of the Ford and walks off.

Nye said he is posting the reward to try to bring the maniac to justice.

"Somebody's got to know who this person is," he said. "I've shown the picture to hundreds of people who have come into the restaurant but nobody has recognized him so far."

Reporter Editor Frank Parlato said he hopes publication of the slasher's photo - although it is grainy and dark - may help someone identify the miscreant.

"It's a public service, and that's what we're here for," he said. "Whether the man is mentally deranged,



What would possess a middle aged man to go around slashing the tires of complete strangers' cars in the wee hours of the morning? Perhaps he'll offer some insight once he's brought to justice. If you know this man, call and earn a reward.

and criminally insane, or has some kind of perceived score to settle and is too much a coward to do it in the open, the sooner he is caught the better."

Chief DalPorto said that because of the dollar amount of damage he did to Nye's vehicle, the vandal would likely be charged with an E felony criminal mischief charge.



The vandal approaches the truck, walks to the back, and starts his destruction.

"Of course, if we can charge him for other incidents, then the charge might be greater," DalPorto said.

Lt. Mike Trane said detectives have a copy of the video and are investigating.

Look at the picture. Do you know this man? If so, call the Niagara Falls Police Department at 716-286-4711 or Rob Nye at 716-930-0101. You'll be getting rid of a public nuisance and making \$250 at the same time.

The ideal of all education, all training, should be this man-making. But, instead of that, we are always trying to polish up the outside. What use in polishing up the outside when there is no inside? The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow. The man who influences, who throws his magic, as it were, upon his fellow-beings, is a dynamo of power, and when that man is ready, he can do anything and everything he likes; that personality put upon anything will make it work.

Swami Vivekananda

Children Behaving Badly Subject of Grandinetti Facebook Posting; Six-year Olds Saying F*ck!

City Councilwoman Kristin Grandinetti used her Facebook page to promote a viral video depicting a number of pre-pubescent girls, some as young as six, repeatedly using the f word in an effort to show that violence against women, unequal pay and the objectification of the female body are all far more offensive than a group of little girls using what is generally acknowledged as the most offensive word in the English language.

Using some provably false data about women earning 20 percent less for doing the same work as men and that 20 percent of all female college students are being raped or sexually assaulted during their time at school, the little girls, all dressed as princesses, read the lines written for them by adults.

"I'm pretty f*cking powerful," one child says. And ready for success."

"So what is more offensive? A little girl saying f*ck, or the f*cking unequal and sexist way society treats its' girls and women?" another child asks.

"Women are being paid 20 percent less for the exact same f*cking work," another child assures us.



One of the children who were told to use the word "f*ck" repeatedly in a video. The people who made the video and gave the child the script to work off of could be properly accused of child abuse.

The posting drew 40 commentators to Grandinetti's page, an unusually high number for one of her postings. The majority were women defending the children's use of the word f*ck.

"Over the course of several posts, Joseph Gallagher attempted to refute the

facts behind the video.

"Stealing the innocence of children is old hat for the left, so that is not a surprise," he wrote. "The old factoid that women earn 77 cents on the dollar has been debunked repeatedly."

Whether hearing an angelic six-



Council member Kristen Grandinetti posted a video of 6-year-old girls being scripted to say "f*ck" to make a point about women.

year-old repeatedly dropping the f-word disturbs you or not, one can only wonder what prompted Grandinetti, an elected city official and public school teacher, to promote such material in a public forum.

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Dyster Wants to Cart Away \$309,499 in Casino Funds

Anna M. Howard

Budget-budget who's got the budget? Mayor Dyster has it, we think.

It was due Oct. 1, 2014.

Deficit-deficit how large is the deficit?

It's \$9 million or possibly \$5 million.

Depending on who's talking.

Or maybe it's \$4.5 million.

Why is there a deficit?

It could be a shortfall in anticipated tax revenue or because of wasteful spending.

Or it could possibly both.

We don't know. No one seems to know.

With hear frantic calls for "transparency in the city's budget process and financial management system" coming from talk shows and editorial pages, yet the mystery of the Dyster administration budget deficit and delayed delivery of the budget continues to grow.

In fact the Reporter has learned that Gov. Andrew Cuomo recently told Mayor Dyster that he is disturbed about the city's budget deficit drama. It is a deficit that recently developed despite the fact that the governor cut loose millions in Niagara Falls casino funds in June of 2013.

Paul Dyster came into office in 2008 on the back of a mysterious "Building a Better Niagara Fund" that gave the mayor hundreds of thousands of dollars with which to open his government and hire

"the best and brightest" department heads.

The Reporter covered that slush fund scandal at length and we have been writing about Dyster's disturbing lack of transparency ever since.

So, why is everyone surprised that, my goodness, Mayor Dyster refuses to practice "budget transparency?" The fact is that this administration has never practiced transparency in any part of its government, let alone the budget process.

This troubling lack of fiscal see-through is but a small part of an overall pattern of Dyster's "hide and seek" and "now you see it now you don't" management style.

And that brings us to the Monday (Oct. 27) council meeting, agenda item # 3 "Letter of award for Hyde Park golf course cart path installation."

Dyster asked for \$309,499 for golf cart paths in the midst of a \$5 million or more deficit?

Councilmember Glenn Choolokian asked his colleagues to table the measure and in the light of the budget not even being presented - now almost a month late - the council agreed.

But, you would not know there was a budget crisis.

In the past several weeks since the deficit was "discovered," Dyster has given Isaiah 61 \$500,000, handed the Conference Center of Niagara \$1.5 million, contracted for \$260,000 in unnecessary work



The golf carts at Hyde Park presently travel on a gravel path. Mayor Paul Dyster, while blaming the deficit woes on city hall employees, wants to spend \$300,000 on paved cart paths at Hyde Park.

at Jayne Park and used "casino cash interest" to buy city planner Tom DeSantis \$6,175 in rugs and drapes for his city hall office...and now he wants \$309,499 for golf cart paths at Hyde Park.

In the wake of outraged calls for fiscal transparency, Dyster fails to even remotely describe on the council agenda support papers why the cart paths are needed, on what part of the golf course they are being installed, and what the work consists of. We only know that the work is to be paid with casino cash.

A contract doesn't even exist yet for this work. The mayor, with his agenda item, wants carte blanche approval to execute a contract with assistance of the corporation counsel to the tune of \$309,499 with American Paving and Excavating of Clarence Center.

Additionally, while the agenda item claims it will be paid with casino funds there is to be a fund transfer to budget line H1314.2013.1314.0449.599 with no explanation as to what this budget line happens to be.

And all of this sleight of hand is occurring in the middle of a public outcry for "budget process and financial management transparency."

There have never been motorized cart paths on any portion of the 36-hole Hyde Park golf course complex. Why now and why in the face of a multi-million dollar deficit?

What is the percentage of Hyde Park golfers that use motorized carts? What plan is in place to enforce and penalize those motorized golf cart users that ignore or misuse the cart paths? DPW director Dave Kinney told the Reporter that when it rains heavily carts cannot be used on the golf course and sometimes tournaments have been canceled.

But how often has this occurred.

What is the cost/benefit analysis? In my part of the country, \$300,000 is a lot of money.

Moreover, the company that submitted the low bid has asked to withdraw the bid, saying they came in too low. Expect the price to soar upward.

Regardless, from where in Dyster's administration has this casino-cash-grab grown from?

Exactly what is going on?

This "non-transparency" is no accident.

The non-transparency is by design.

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Governor Cuomo Shows Dyster the Albany Woodshed

The Niagara Falls Reporter has learned that Mayor Paul Dyster met briefly with Gov. Cuomo in Buffalo following last Wednesday's gubernatorial debate. The governor had summoned the mayor the previous day.

They met for about 10 minutes and it wasn't pretty, sources say.

We are told that Cuomo expressed his displeasure with what he is seeing and hearing regarding the political goings-on in Dyster's hometown.

It seems that the state's top Democrat is upset with the trajectory of the Isaiah 61 program, going so far to say that the city has imprudently, if not improperly, administered the program. The governor wants the Isaiah 61 situation rehabilitated, no pun intended.



Gov. Cuomo expressed concerns with the ongoing complaints against the city police department as recorded through the State Attorney General, as well as complaints lodged against Dyster's city hall regarding hiring, firing and EEO practices and procedures.

And the governor seems mystified

– aren't we all – by the fact that Dyster, after receiving a casino cash windfall of \$89 million in June 2013, has driven the city budget into the deficit ditch once again.

Cuomo, in short, is very unhappy with Mayor Dyster.

We understand that the mayor called a meeting of his "top department heads" the day after the governor's dressing down to develop a strategy to set things right with Cuomo.

Will Dyster's head roll in the 2015 election, or will Dyster roll the heads of some of his "best and brightest" before the close of 2014 in an effort to keep his political career alive?

Stay tuned.



Reporter dramatization: Actor Moe Howard as Gov. Cuomo and Curley Howard as Paul Dyster.

Maziarz Machine Kicks in on Downgrade, According to Destino Campaign

It appears the Maziarz political machine is in full gear these days, trying to make sure that the outgoing senator's handpicked successor, Robert Ortt, is successful against Johnny Destino, ensuring the future of the Maziarz empire that he spent nearly 20 years putting together.

Informed sources say it was the

Maziarz stamp on the SCOPE downgrade of Destino last week which Ortt himself, not SCOPE, announced with great fanfare.

The Destino campaign has been informed that Niagara County legislator John Syracuse, who is from Maziarz's Newfane district, conspired with Scope's John Peracciny to have

SCOPE hand Ortt the Destino downgrade to use in his campaign.

"My opponent will stop at nothing to try and win the seat," said Destino. This whole Scope downgrade conspiracy is another example of the kind of dirty tricks that his campaign has been playing from the start, including getting Republican help to land the Working Families Party line for Paul Brown to deny me that line on the ballot. Nothing is off limits to the Ortt-Maziarz political machine. My hope is that the public will see through this latest conspiracy and vote to end that kind of politics on November 4th.

Destino, who signed SCOPE'S pledge to support efforts to repeal the Safe Act, was initially denied the supposedly non-political group's highest

A+ rating (given to all candidates to sign the pledge) in their blatant attempt help their candidate, Ortt, win the seat to pick up where Maziarz left off.

Destino has consistently stated that he would have voted against the Safe Act bill because of several unconstitutional provisions but nonetheless has been criticized for supporting some of its more common sense provisions such as enhanced penalties for responders and illegally carrying guns onto school properties.

Destino said "there is just no limit to what my opponent's supporters will do to ensure that the Maziarz machine lives on after the senator was forced into retirement by a federal probe into his campaign finances."

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Ulrich Sports New Rolls Royce Wraith; as County GOP Rewards Him with Lucrative Lease

Frank Parlato

Good news.

Big time Republican campaign donor David Ulrich of Lockport, fresh from winning the award to store county voting machines at his Newfane warehouse, celebrated his soon-to-be-inked Niagara County lease by appearing in town in a new Rolls Royce Wraith.

Talk about class!

This super supple car with its 624-horsepower engine is the most powerful Rolls Royce ever built and economically priced at \$284,000.

About 1/6 of what Ulrich will earn on his new lease with the county.

"There's a sense of effortless grace and elegance but at the same time something more contemporary and daring," said Giles Taylor, director of design for Rolls Royce, about the Wraith.

He could have been describing Ulrich, who has gracefully donated \$50,950 to State Sen. George D. Maziarz, R-Newfane; \$27,500 to the county GOP committee and \$8,519 to individual Republicans in the county since 2000.

Ulrich also made seemingly effort-



When you got it, flaunt it. And that's what Dave Ulrich does with his gorgeous 2013 Rolls Royce Wraith.

machine storage contract out to bid.

Ulrich had been charging the county \$3 per square foot, or \$86,400 a year, for 28,800 square feet of warehouse space under the old lease.

In August, after the lease expired, Ulrich doubled the rent to \$6 per square foot to take advantage of the lapse between the expiration of his old lease and the time it would take to put a new lease out to bid.

He is now, temporarily, charging taxpayers \$14,400 per month instead of the \$7,200 he was getting during his five-year lease.

But all's well that ends well, as the Bard used to say.

Ulrich won the bid competition this year coming in at \$4.25 per square foot for 15 years, but offered to reduce the price to \$3.95 a square foot, or \$113,760 per year, if the county deletes a clause that permits them to cancel the lease with 120 days' notice.

If Ulrich gets the full 15 years, he will earn \$1,706,000 over the lifetime of the lease.

Ulrich bought the 60-year-old warehouse for \$75,340 in 2004.

The county received four bids, rang-



Never a "Johnny-one-car" the sophisticated taste of David Ulrich compels him to drive a Bentley (L) and a Porsche (R) when the mood strikes.



less donations to Republicans Chris Lee, Chris Collins, Mitt Romney, Rudy Giuliani, Henry Wojtaszek, George Bush,

Alphonse D'Amato, Nancy Naples, the New York Republican Committee and various PACs associated with the GOP.

Republicans, who control the legis-

lature 11 to 4, have made it clear they will award the voting machine storage contract to Ulrich's Clear Opportunities Properties and were set to instruct County Manager Jeffrey M. Glatz and County Attorney Claude A. Joerg to negotiate the deal with Ulrich without a further vote.

But County Legislature Minority Leader Dennis F. Virtuoso, D-Niagara Falls, won a minor concession when he insisted that the Republicans at least put in the price and length of the lease before voting to give Ulrich the award.

Ulrich had the lease for storing voting machines for five years at his former Lockport Mattress plant on Transit Rd. in Newfane.

He had to face competition this year to keep the lease when, after his lease expired, the Republican majority, under pressure from Democrats, put the voting

ing from Ulrich's low bid of \$4.25 to almost \$9 per square foot.

The second low bidder, Niagara Frontier Distribution, with warehouse space on Old Saunders Settlement Rd. in the Town of Lockport, also bid \$4.25 per square foot.

While Ulrich was low bidder, Democrats say the bid process was flawed and that the original, April 22, Requests for Quotation (RFQ) was written to ensure Ulrich won.

"If you look at the request for proposals, it's pretty clear they deliberately eliminated any competition," Virtuoso said.

From the number of parking spaces, to the type of loading docks, to entrances, to location of electrical outlets, the RFQ seems to require exactly what Ulrich's warehouse has.

Under amount of space, the RFQ



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County GOP Bent Over Backwards to Ensure Ulrich Won Bid

states: "The County requires approximately 28,800 usable square feet of space."

Approximately 28,800? That's an odd number for an approximation.

But Ulrich has exactly 28,800 square feet available.

Photos of Ulrich's warehouse, however, where voting machines are stored, show as much as 13,000 square feet of unused space suggesting the county doesn't need anywhere near 28,800 square feet of space.

Virtuoso brought this up and asked for a needs assessment, but was overruled by the Republican majority.

Then there was the location requirement.

Initially the RFQ required a warehouse be located within 12 miles of the Board of Elections at 111 Main St., Lockport. Ulrich's warehouse is 11.4 miles away.

About a week before the deadline to submit bids, County Manager Jeffrey Glatz said the county would "consider" bids from outside the 12-mile limit.

By that time, it was late for serious bidders outside the 12 mile radius to create and submit a bid.

"The Niagara Falls City School Board (about 20 miles away) was going to put in a bid that would have been substantially lower," said Democratic lawmaker Jason Zona. "But they saw the 12-mile requirement and could not bid."

Niagara Falls School Board President Russell Petrozzi told the Reporter that "We had space at the Trott Center. But when we found out it had to be within 12 miles of Lockport, we did not bid."

Zona said the school board would have offered their space for \$50,000 per year, or less than half what Ulrich will get.

But Ulrich has a winning way with both leases and automobiles.

In 2012, Ulrich got a no-bid lease from the county for the storage of county records for \$128,160 per year, for five years, for a total of \$640,800, at the same

Newfane warehouse.

With records and voting machines in storage there, Ulrich will get \$240,000 per year on a property he paid \$75,000 to acquire.

Before that, the Republican-controlled county legislature handed Ulrich a no bid lease for 20-40 East Avenue in Lockport to house the Department of Social Services and a lease for 111 Main Street for the Veteran's Office, Probation, Board of Elections, Office for the Aging, Department of Motor Vehicles, and Human Resources and a no bid lease for 50 Main Street for Niagara County

Community College.

The assessed value of these three properties before he got the leases was \$985,000. In 2005, after he got the leases, he sold the three buildings - with nice long term leases - for \$9.1 million.

"The most potent and technologically advanced Rolls Royce in history, Wraith is a car for the curious, the confident and the bold," says Rolls Royce's marketing department.

County Republicans should be equally proud of their bold and confident landlord David Ulrich, as he sports about in his Wraith.

As Sir Henry Royce said so long ago, "Take the best that exists and make it better: when it does not exist, design it."

Apropos of this, some say that the county designed a voting machine RFQ to make sure the best man got it.

In addition to his Rolls Royce, Ulrich enjoys a more sporting look when he drives his 2013 Ferrari 458 Spider (\$260,000). Other times, when he wants to be less ostentatious, look for him gliding through town in his confident and sophisticated Aston Martin or his powerful hand crafted, luxury Bentley.



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“Disarming law-abiding citizens does nothing to make our schools, our streets, or our communities safer.”

—Rob Ortt

62nd Senate District Candidate

Rob Ortt
for STATE SENATE



RATINGS
ORTT: A+
DESTINO: C-

Water Board Head Gets Big Raise, Can't be Bothered With Taxpayers

Mike Hudson

Paul Drof, executive director of the city's water and sewer facilities, is expected to get a raise this year, with his \$103,000 annual paycheck jumping to \$110,000.

But when Niagara Falls City Council members asked the Williamsville resident to come in and answer a couple questions about the condition of a city water line, he said he couldn't be bothered.

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, who handpicked Drof and was also largely responsible for spinning the water and sewer services off as a city department and creating a private entity while he was a city councilman serving under former mayor Irene Elia, offered no comment about either Drof's raise or his refusal to appear before the Council.

Residents on Macklem Avenue are concerned that a disaster similar to that which occurred on 72nd Street earlier this year - when road reconstruction was



Water Board ED Paul Drof is not available to meet the people who pay his salary.

I am reaching out on behalf of the City Council to formally invite you to attend the 10/27 5 PM Council meeting. As you are aware, there are a number of issues currently being discussed by the Council and city residents that involve the Water Board, and the Council would like you to have the opportunity to address those at the meeting.

Please let me know if you can attend.

Best,
Ryan

Nine days later, Drof got around to responding.

He wrote, on Oct. 24, with Caesar-like terseness:

Subject: Invitation to 10/27 City Council meeting

Ryan:
I will be unable to attend.

Paul

Of course, this invitation to Drof to attend the council meeting should have been sent by the Council Chairman, Charles Walker, not Undercoffer.

And it shouldn't have been an "invitation" it should have been a diplomatically worded demand for attendance with a clearly marked CC to the media.

City hall is hopeless.

improperly done and old water lines were left too close to the surface resulted in freezing water lines.

Worried Macklem Ave residents sought help from the council. Council members, in turn, asked Drof to come to the council and explain the situation.

Ryan Undercoffer, the council office administrator, wrote to Drof on Oct 15.

His email reads as follows:

Subject: Invitation to 10/27 City Council meeting

Good morning Mr. Drof,

\$1000 REWARD!



\$1000 reward for return of Brutus, 7.5 years old Beagle, tri-colored male from 95th St & Read Ave.

Please return Brutus, no questions, asked.

716-236-0145 (Roland)

716-283-3851 (Mike)

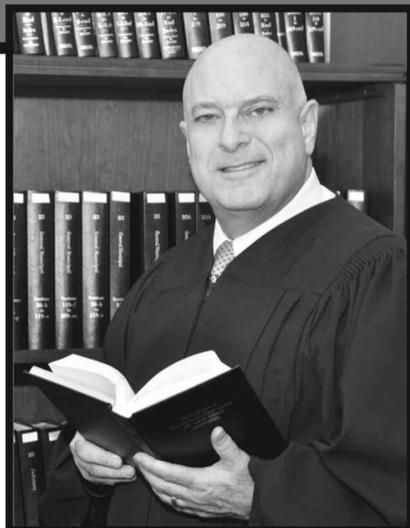
716-236-0145 (Roland)
716-283-3851 (Mike)

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Lewiston Senior Center Candidates Meeting, Wrong Place, Wrong Time?

Anna M. Howard

Whether they wanted to or not, the senior citizens who went to the Town of Lewiston Senior Center on Oct. 21 were subjected to a political event named "Meet the Candidates."

Only Democrats running for Lewiston Town Board attended the daytime meeting, as architect William Conrad, a Republican, had to meet with a client and Independence Party candidate Beth Ceretto, who runs a day care business, could not leave children in her care unattended.

David Sanchez and Keith Ahlas, endorsed Democrats, were present, as well as Republican Town Clerk Donna Garfinkel, and Democrat Johnny Destino and Republican Robert Ortt, who are running for the state senate.

Most of the seniors seem to enjoy social activities and programs that address health and welfare there. But, on that day, instead of focusing on these activities -- funded by Lewiston taxpayers -- the staff at the center instead were using town time and resources to bring partisan politics where they do not belong.



Was the Lewiston Senior Center the right place to stage an arguably partisan "Meet the Candidates" afternoon event?

The issue of holding a political event at the senior center was never brought up, discussed, or voted on at any town board meeting; the event was held without consulting councilmen, although Town Supervisor Dennis Brochey attended the affair, so he must have sanctioned it.

But use of a town building for activities other than its designated purpose should require town board approval.

Also oddly, the event was arranged and moderated by Paulette Glasgow, a former council member, who has declared her disdain for the Republicans and for two of the candidates that had

been invited, but did not attend.

Glasgow wrote a letter to the editor of the Lewiston Sentinel, published five days before the event, where she declared herself a "political scientist" and asked voters to support certain candidates and reject others.

I don't recall ever hearing of a municipality holding such an event in a town owned building during regular hours of operation.

The organizers and its supporters may say they were "only attempting to inform the voters" by holding this event.

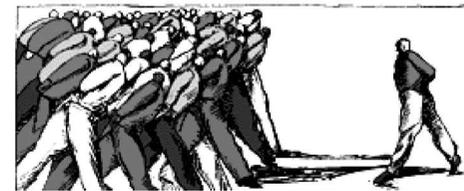
But the moderator's prominently published political opinions suggest par-

tisanship.

After this affair I think the campaign phrase "let's keep politics out of our Lewiston Town Hall" should be extended to "let's keep politics out of our Lewiston Senior Center."

Hopefully this will not set a precedent where any group can hold any event with the blessings of a single board member, which is all a town supervisor is.

Even if a town board gave its approval for such a political function, they should at least have the consideration to make sure that the event is scheduled at a time that is most convenient for all town residents, such as in the evening, and not during the day when many people are working.



If the whole world stands against you sword in hand, would you still dare to do what you think is right?

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for Lewiston's Future.**

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FOR LEWISTON'S FAMILIES
FOR LEWISTON'S FUTURE

Cross Endorsements Bad News For Voters of Either Party

Your vote doesn't matter.

That's the message being sent by the bosses of the Democratic and Republican parties who cross endorse judicial candidates here in order to deprive voters of the choice to select state supreme court judges.

This year, both parties endorsed four of six candidates running for state Supreme Court and that means that in four races there will be no opponent - hence no choice for voters.

The candidates who got both parties' endorsement--via cross endorsement--are the next judges, despite the formality of an election.

Eyebrows were raised because the parties did not cross endorse incumbent Judge Frederick Marshall, who has served for 14 years, and John DelMonte, the brother of former state Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte.

But they did endorse Dennis Ward, the former Erie County elections commissioner and secretary of the Democratic Party there; former Niagara County Legislator Paul Wojtaszek, the brother of former Niagara County GOP head Henry Wojtaszek and Niagara County Judge Kathleen Wojtaszek-Gariano; Buffalo City Court Judge



Astonishingly, out of five state Supreme Court races, only one - the race between Justice Frederick Marshall (R) and John Del Monte (D) will be contested. The other four seats that are open are uncontested since Republican and Democratic party bosses in Erie County decided to "cross endorse" the same candidates. What's even more astonishing is that there is not a peep of protest from the people, who have been denied their right of electoral choice.

Jeanette Ogden and incumbent state Supreme Court Judge Donna Siwek.

One for you, one for me, the cross endorsement scheme, devised by party bosses, ensures a candidate's victory.

While all of the candidates (even those who will not have an opponent) are most likely qualified, regardless of their political affiliation, it is the process of cross endorsement itself that is wrong.

When party bosses meet at some hotel, dropping any pretense that they are philosophically at odds with one another, and decide between them who is going to be judge - it is the voter who loses.

This year in four out of five state Supreme Court races, party bosses, not the people, will have chosen the next judge.

This year the Democrats got two and the Republicans got two sure bets

through cross endorsements.

The 5th seat will be contested between the Democrat DelMonte and the Republican Marshall.

Some say, well what difference

does it make?

There could be a reason why voters might want to choose: They might wish to choose based on party affiliation, judicial track record, legal ideology, whether the candidate came from civil, criminal, defense or prosecution, government or private, or any number of good and sufficient reasons that do not supplant the party bosses wisdom over the wisdom of the people in selecting their government representatives.

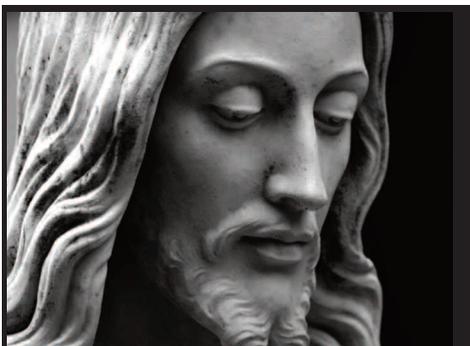
Not all judges are the same, nor do they come to the bench with the same understandings and approach to the law.

There is supposed to be an election by the people of state Supreme Court justices.

But when the two major party bosses decide to endorse the same candidate, there is no election.

It is clear why the bosses did this.

What is not clear is why the public allows it.



Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Mathew 11:28

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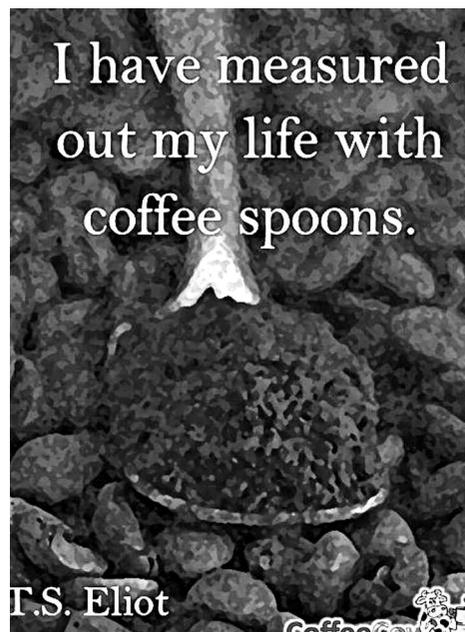
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Niagara Catholic Sells Coffee

Eighth grade students at Niagara Catholic are selling coffee to raise money for a field trip to Washington, D.C. The coffee, sold with a customized label featuring Niagara Catholic's "Big Red Blend," is fresh roasted and hand packed.

The students are also selling tea, cocoa, and chocolate chip cookie mix with custom labels.

Orders should be placed by November 3 to ensure delivery for the holidays. Orders can be placed directly with the students, or online through http://www.wecarecoffee.com/Item/niagara_001.



Palace Theater Has Haunted House

The Historic Palace Theater will present their annual haunted house, described as "10 rooms of horror, creepy characters, dark rooms, chilling sounds, tons of screams and surprises everywhere" from 6-10 p.m. Oct. 28, 29 and 30. Tickets are \$10 at the door. There's a coupon on the Palace's Facebook page with a buy-one get-one-



free offer.

Facebook page with a buy-one get-one-

Tonawanda High School Production of Addams Family In Nov. Promises Top Flight Performances

The City of Tonawanda High School will present a production of The Addams Family - A New Musical Comedy, on November 13-16, at the Tonawanda High School Alumni Auditorium, 600 Fletcher St, Tonawanda.

Tonawanda High School is the first school in western New York to perform this Broadway show which recently had a run at Shea's Buffalo Theatre.

The Addams Family, with music and lyrics by Andrew Lipka and a book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice, is based on The Addams Family charac-

ters created by Charles Addams in cartoons, which depict a ghoulish American family with an affinity for the macabre. The original show opened on Broadway in April 2010 and closed on December 31, 2011 after 722 performances. Tickets for the Tonawanda High School production are: Adults; \$10.00; Students/Seniors: \$7.00. For more info contact Daniel Lynch at (716) 694-7670 x2258 or dlynch@tona.wnyric.org.

For the second year in a row, Tonawanda High School's Drama Club has been selected as a finalist

for the Kenny Awards presented annually to area high school productions by Shea's Performing Arts Center and The Lipke Foundation to recognize high school talent for producing and performing musicals. Cast: Gomez Addams – Connor Maxwell; Morticia Addams – Erin Burris; Uncle Fester – Justin Pope; Grandma – Meghan Bozeman; Wednesday Addams – Jaimee Harmon; Pugsley Addams – Ben Thurston; Lurch – Michael DeSantis; Mal Beineke – Kyle LeBlanc; Alice Beineke – Marina Tighe; Lucas Beineke – Cullen Colosimo



YOUTH PRISON PREVENTION PROJECT

For four years the Youth Prison Prevention Project has educated youth and parents in schools, churches, and community centers on topics like Anger Management, Anti-Bullying, and Effective Parenting. Our program has been an Alternative to Incarceration in several courts in Erie County, as well as with parole and probation.

We've also been able to attract youth into our program through our Talent Development Program; aiding youth in creating positive music and placing them in dozens of live performances.

Join us in our FREE conference this weekend. Some of the things we cover include:

- ✓ PRISON PREVENTION – (THE REAL TRUTH)
- ✓ POSITIVE ATTITUDE EMPOWERMENT
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- ✓ ANTI-BULLYING
- ✓ POSITIVE PEER PRESSURE
- ✓ BALANCE & TIME MANAGEMENT
- ✓ PRISON PREVENTION & THE SCHOOL
- ✓ ADMINISTRATION
- ✓ PRISON PREVENTION & THE PARENT

For more info, call Mr. Harris at 563-5515



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Tuesday, November 4th, 2014



A Platform for Progress

Only one candidate has a vision for the future of Western New York and a platform for progress: Endorsed Democratic Candidate Johnny G. Destino.

It's time to begin a new era of cooperation to create the same high-road economic development projects in Niagara County that are revitalizing Buffalo's economy.

Destino has already partnered with Lt. Gov. Candidate Kathy Hochul and U.S. Congressman Brian Higgins to make sure we get the attention we deserve.

Gov. Cuomo's "Buffalo Billion" initiative is the lifeline we've been waiting for and will kick start job creation in the 62nd District.

The Republican candidates are pledging to kill the initiative, allowing Albany to keep more of our money.

We can't afford to start another war with Albany.

On November 4th, please vote Johnny G. Destino for NYS Senate.

- Immediate end to the Gap Elimination Adjustment to restore funding for public education
- Creation of a Student Loan Re-financing program to help NY families save money by lowering their interest rates
- Expanding our 21st century infrastructure by extending our fiber-optic networks and utilities to our rural communities
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- Campaign Finance and Ethics Reforms including stripping elected officials convicted of crimes of their pensions and benefits and ending the use of campaign cash for their own legal defense funds
- Supports funding for school tax-cuts to Veterans
- Supports efforts to repeal NY SAFE



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Democratic Candidate
62nd District

Current Endorsements

United Auto Workers
New York State United Teachers
Communications Workers of America
Niagara-Orleans Labor Council
IBEW Local 237
Laborer's Local 91
Niagara County Democratic Committee
Orleans County Democratic Committee
The Good Government Club of Western New York
AFSCME Local 182
AFSCME Council 66
Teamsters Joint Council #46
IBEW Local 2104
National Association of Letter Carriers - Branch 3
OPEIU Local 153
Lockport Professional Firefighters
Operating Engineers Local 463

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Improving the quality of life for the people in our community will take hard work. Destino has the right mix of private-sector and legal experience necessary to help begin creating the living-wage jobs required to save our middle class working families.

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to lead

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- Seneca Gaming Corp. — Technical Services Manager
- UB Law School — Affordable Housing Clinic
- People United for Sustainable Housing — Buffalo
- M&T Bank — General Counsel's Office
- Member, Niagara Falls Board of Education
- Member, Orleans-Niagara BOCES
- Member, Community Missions Niagara Frontier
- Member, Highland Community Revitalization Committee

ON NOVEMBER 4TH PLEASE VOTE JOHNNY G. DESTINO FOR NYS SENATE.

Lewiston Democrat Chairwoman Urges Voters to End Republican Era



Diane Perri Roberts
Chair, Lewiston
Democratic Committee

The upcoming election for two members of the Lewiston Town Board is critical in shaping the future of our community and the type of government we will have.

When Town Supervisor Dennis Brochey was elected last year, he looked to end the political strangle-hold on the board that led to an FBI public corruption investigation and a scathing report from the State Comptroller's office on the handling of Town finances and the misuse of public property.

Former Supervisor Steve Reiter had been given free reign by the rubber stamp, all-Republican Board that permitted him to squander town money at Joseph Davis State Park—a "project" which still negatively impacts the Town's finances—as well as wasting funds on plans for an extravagant recreation center.

Initially the Town Board planned to commit millions of dollars on the recre-

ation center by a simple vote of the board, and only after a public outcry, did they submit the proposal to a referendum where it was soundly defeated.

Supervisor Brochey has been working tirelessly to get the Town's finances in order and bring openness and fairness to government. But I personally have observed his frustration at meetings in accomplishing these goals because he faces a partisan clique, a voting bloc whose intent is to block the supervisor's initiatives at nearly every step of the way. If Dennis proposes, they generally oppose. We saw this with the Artpark funding issue this year.

The results of this election will determine whether blind partisanship will continue.

In one race, for a one year term, Keith "Casey" Ahlas is up against William Conrad, the choice of the Republican board members to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Ernest Palmer earlier this year.

In the other race, David Sanchez is running against Beth Ceretto, an Independence Party member who has the Republican endorsement. That race is for a three year term to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Michael Marra.

Beth Ceretto's announcement said "I'm a political independent and will always vote my conscience." But how "independent" is Beth Ceretto?

When she was an executive officer of the Independence Party she signed off on the Independence party's endorsement of

Reiter and his all Republican Board—the same board that brought four years of financial activity which led to the June 2013 FBI investigation at Town Hall.

She actively sought the Republican endorsement for this very race. In fact when seeking the nomination of the Lewiston Town and Village Republicans, Beth Ceretto wrote a letter (of which I have a copy) that dispels any notion of her "independence." She said if she received the nomination, "I promise I will uphold the values and beliefs of the Republican Party."

Wow!

She offers an oath of loyalty to the Republican Party instead of a pledge to work independently for the best interests of the people of Lewiston.

There should be no doubt that Beth is aligned with the Republicans that want to curb Dennis Brochey's reforms and continue the cronyism and backroom deals that poison politics in Lewiston.

The candidate's own words say it all.

I can assure you the Democratic Party has not required such a partisan promise from its candidates. We want good people who will make sound decisions based on the facts, not on party allegiance.

David Sanchez is an attorney whose views are truly independent. His wife is known to those whose children attended Lewiston-Porter High School. He has a young daughter and wants to keep this community flourishing. He wants to work hard for the entire community, with all

people regardless of their political affiliations. Lewiston needs change, not one-party rule.

Keith Ahlas is a newcomer to politics and has plenty of ideas about how to make Lewiston a better place. He works for a customs brokerage firm and has considerable experience in handling financial data.

His opponent William Conrad is a former member and president of the Niagara Wheatfield Board of Education, and also was the District's Audit Chairperson. Public records reveal that during his tenure the School District experienced serious financial difficulties, including internal audit findings that the District's 2010-2011 budget was out of balance (using more fund balances than the district had), there was overspending of bonds on capital projects, and the District had significant deficiencies in internal controls (Niagara Gazette, 12/7/10).

Conrad was defeated in 2011; when a new school board took over, they had to deal with a \$10.8 million dollar deficit. Taxes were raised by over 14%, and numerous teachers and support staff were laid off. That kind of record is not what the Town of Lewiston needs.

Dennis Brochey has proposed a new budget for Lewiston that holds the line on taxes. Difficult choices have to be made and we need members of the Town Board that will work together to keep Lewiston fiscally healthy. David Sanchez and Keith Ahlas want to end the blind partisanship and bring better days to Lewiston.

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Greek Salad
House Salad

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Veal Parmigiana
Sandwich
Chicken Parmigiana
Sandwich
Open-Faced
Steak Sandwich

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Flan
Chocolate Lava Cake

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Roast Beef
Pork Chops
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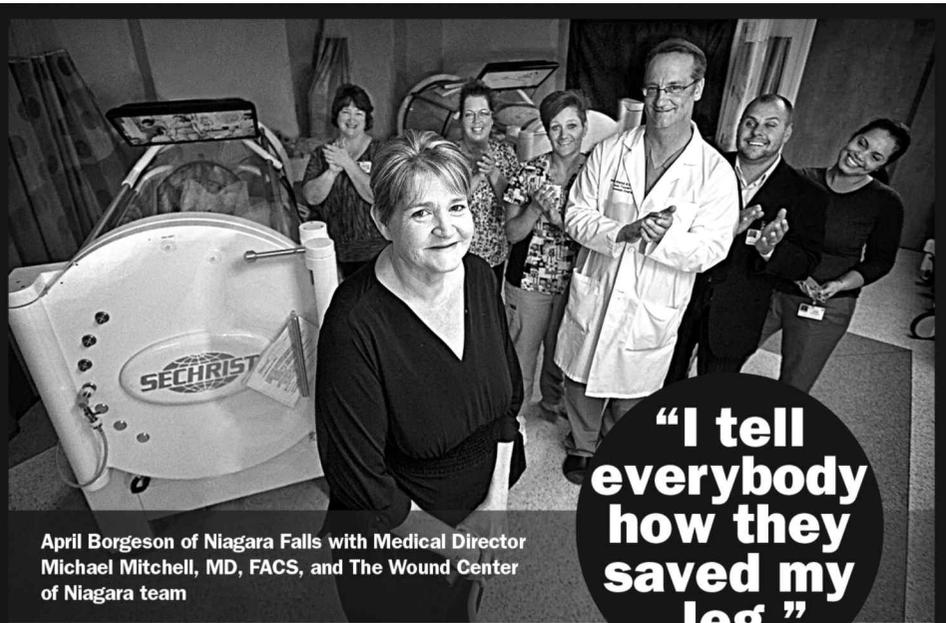
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Wednesday, Oct. 29 - Tuesday, Nov. 04

All sessions are free and are held at the Niagara Wellness Connection Center, Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, Sixth Floor.

- Wednesday:** Meet our Financial Counselor: "Assistance with Benefit Applications and Budgeting," 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Thursday:** Smoking Cessation 9-10 a.m.; Pet Therapy 10:30-11:30 a.m.; YMCA "Yoga" 1-2 p.m.
- Friday:** Co-ed Spirituality Class - "Heavenly Wisdom for Earthly Living," 10-11 a.m.
- Monday:** Healthy Lifestyles - "Diabetes Education" 11:00 a.m.-12 p.m.; Medication Education - "Brown Bag Sessions," 1-2 p.m.
- Tuesday:** Eat Healthy NY! 11 a.m.-12 p.m.; YMCA Yoga, 1-2 p.m.

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Letters to the Editor

Reader Calls BS on Jayne Park STOP THE PRESSES!

Let me get this straight: when the Jayne Park reconstruction -that's what it is folks, don't let the fancy names fool you- plans were originally drawn up, the city was to come up with \$145,000 to match the grant.

The residents clearly stated they didn't want any work done, PERIOD. And the mayor said "The people have spoken, Jayne Park will stay the way it is."

So, two years later, the mayor and one of his minions come forth with a "scaled down" plan. If the plan has been "scaled down" as the city planner and mayor say, then I have two questions:

1). Why are we still going to contribute \$145,000 to the reconstruction of the park if the plans have been scaled down?

2). How in the name of fiscal responsibility can the city council ok \$269,000 to Scott Lawn to do what, if there is already a scaled down plan?

Now the big question: we're supposed to match a grant of \$145,000. With the original design "scaled down" as the mayor and city planner claimed, why do we still have to match that grant, especially since a scaled project should cost less, and where is the money coming from for Scott Lawn?

Are we contributing \$145,000 and an additional \$269,000 for Scott Lawn or are we going to add an addition \$124,000 to the \$145,000 to make up the amount awarded to Scott Lawn?

And what about the matching \$145,000 we're supposed to be getting?

Is this job going to cost \$290,000 including Scott Lawn's fee, or is it going to cost \$290,000 and \$269,000 for Scott Lawn?

The mayor, the city planner and the mayor's three toadies on the city council should all be ashamed of themselves.

They're spending money like drunken sailors without any thought to what they're doing to the city's bottom line. Jayne Park is a peaceful, left-to-nature type of park. It is what the homeowners want.

It would be nice if the council took the time to visit the dead rose garden at Hyde Park, looked at the veterans' memorial, steps from the garden and realize that spending a few thousand to fix up the rose garden and structure would be a much better and cheaper investment that the entire city can enjoy.

Dyster, DeSantis, Grandinetti, Touma and Walker need a reality check.

These are the people who are driving the city over the precipice! Shame on all of you!!

**Judy Harfield
Niagara Falls**

Roberts is Wrong, Ceretto is Right! Says Independence Party Chairman

I must take exception to misstatements and disinformation in a letter to the editor in the October 18 Lewiston Porter Sentinel by Lewiston Democratic Chairwoman Diane Roberts.

As an attorney, Ms. Roberts should

know better than anyone that, while she is entitled to her opinion, she is not entitled to her own facts.

In Ms. Roberts' highly-partisan screed attacking Town Board candidate Beth Ceretto, she dishonestly stated that Mrs. Ceretto is the Niagara County Independence Party's chairwoman. That is not the case, and never has been. Mrs. Ceretto is the party's former secretary, and volunteers at many of our party-building events, but she has never held nor sought the party's chairmanship.

The other content of Ms. Roberts' attack piece are open to debate as well, but I will just offer my own observations about Beth Ceretto, having known her for years: she is the epitome of the political independent, committed to her community and her neighbors first, rather than partisan ideology. Beth does have some strong views on some subjects—she's no fan of tax increases and wasteful spending and as a successful small business owner, she certainly will work hard to keep Lewiston a business-friendly community. And, yes, it is true that she is a supportive wife, whose husband has a demanding job, and who believes in him and what he stands for. But she is also a truly independent woman, and those of us who know her know that she'll always vote her conscience.

Beth Ceretto is the Independence Party's nominee because she represents our party's values. We're pleased the Republicans and Conservatives respect those values, and Beth's commitment to them, enough to make her their candidate as well.

Beth Ceretto once told me that to her, Lewiston is family. I hope that, on Nov. 4th, her big Lewiston family gives her the chance to help improve their community.

**Susan Agnello Eberwein
Chair NC Independence Party**

Give Ward the Award for Sal Maglie Stadium

We are writing regarding the most recent developments regarding Mr. Ray Ward and the future management of Sal Maglie Stadium.

We were surprised when the Niagara Falls Reporter called and started asking many questions about Mr. Ward's past dealings in Alabama.

We choose not to judge Mr. Ward for what happened years ago. We have gotten to know him thru this past baseball season as he attended most of our home games with his son. We have found him to be genuinely excited about the future of Sal Maglie Stadium. His plans to include "little league" play show his vision and heart for young people in our community. Much of that enthusiasm includes his plan to "paint up, fix up" a stadium that really needs some "TLC."

We do not know the details of a pending management agreement with Mr. Ward but based on our understanding from discussions with him, we see no downside for the City of Niagara Falls. Mr. Ward will be investing his funds for much of the work and will pay the City rent.

As the biggest "stake holder" at the stadium we would be pleased to work with Mr. Ward if the City of Niagara Falls awards him the management contract for Sal Maglie stadium.

We have begun signing contracts with collegiate baseball players for next summer's season and look forward to a management award soon.

**Cal Kern
Niagara Power President
Kenneth W. Knight
Niagara Power Board Chair**

New Form of Governance In Village Of Lewiston

I have carefully considered the candidacies of the people running for office this November, and I thought so highly of the candidacy of Johnny Destino for State Senator that I decided to support him, which included placing his campaign sign on my front lawn in the Village of Lewiston.

Much to my surprise the sign was stolen from my lawn.

I use the word "stolen" advisedly, since no one came to my door and told me to remove the sign, nor did I received any notification that I should not be displaying the sign. But someone removed it without my permission.

I then placed another sign there, thinking maybe rowdy kids had stolen the other one. Again to my surprise and disgruntlement, the second sign was stolen from my lawn during daylight hours so I pretty much figured it wasn't just kids' pranks

I began to wonder why this happened and thought perhaps there was a village ordinance against political signs being displayed. I went down to the Village Hall and asked if there was an ordinance. I was told that there was no ordinance prohibiting signs, but there was a "gentleman's agreement" that no political signs would be displayed in the Village of Lewiston.

In all my studies in college and universities, I never encountered mention of a form of government that was determined by a "gentleman's agreement." I have seen and heard of many strange things in government, but I thought our behavior in society was always governed by laws, acts, ordinances, and by the rule of law. All of these are part of a formal system where elected officials vote on and adopt these various forms of governing rules of law.

But what is a "gentleman's agreement"? Does that have any valid basis of governance in a so-called democratic society? Why has the Village of Lewiston chosen this form of government to dictate to the residents of the Village how they must conduct themselves? Are they so forward thinking that they have stumbled on this new form of government that will benefit us all so much that we need to abandon the means we have depended on from the founding of our country?

Or is this yet another way that we find to be shrouding the will and voice of the people in our local governments? Apparently if something doesn't please "the gentlemen" who made this "gentlemen's

agreement" then we cannot do it.

By the way, it was "both parties" that made "the agreement." Think about that! Does that mean that there is no allowance for any other party except "both parties"?

Think about all that this says about how things are done when the political machines take over and people are not allowed to exercise free speech. Think about what can go on when "both parties" agree to something. Think about but the secrecy and loss of transparency that is apparently skirting the rules of law that have been legitimately established.

That is one of the reasons I chose to support Johnny Destino; I want transparency in government; I want to get rid of back room rules; I want to get rid of "gentlemen's agreements" that skirt due process. I want an honest person representing me in the state legislature. I want Johnny Destino to be our state senator!

**D. Germain D. Ludwig
Professor, (Ret)**

Ortt Not What He Says He Is

I think it's time to set the record straight about Rob Ortt.

Ortt says he will work to repeal the SAFE Act and never signed the Mayor's Against Guns Pledge. What a clever bit of doublespeak that is. He may have never physically signed it, but he is listed as supporting it on the Mayors Against Guns List, and is listed in an article in the Lockport Sun and Journal as signing the letter, along with Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster. He even has a web page up supporting it: <https://neighborland.com/ideas/north-tonawanda-demand-a-plan>.

The not physically signing it is his way to cover up that he did sign the letter and was listed as a member. He only changed his stance after he saw it was going to hurt him in the election.

Looking at Ortt's campaign financials. I see almost no local contributors. The few that are are mostly from Erie County and special interest groups in Niagara Falls. I see donations of \$5000, \$10,000, \$16, 800 from NYC donors. Who is he going to owe if he gets elected?

Ortt lied about signing onto the Safe Act Pledge, he takes money from NYC interests and Land Hoarders/Development obstructionists like NFR, is backed by political hacks that led us to our present state and he has never reduced taxes in NT.

In fact he raised them 7.9% in his first year, and has raised water and sewer rates. His idea of economic development is Tattoo Parlors and E Cig Shops. Ask anyone in NT if they are paying less.

On the other hand there is Johnny Destino, who has taken no downstate money, has always been on the right side of the Second Amendment and is not a career politician.

To me this seems to be pretty clear. I am supporting Destino and if you don't want NYC controlling our lives like they do now, I would suggest you think about it too.

**Robert Krause
Niagara Falls**

Preparing Your Home for Winter

Willie A. Price, C.S.I.

As homeowners or renters, we are always trying to find ways to save money around our homes on everything from utilities and maintenance to groceries. We sometimes find ourselves running out of ways to save or pinch that penny, after we have made those major repairs or clipped several envelopes full of coupons. This article is going to help you find a few more ways to save money and at the same time help you maintain and improve your home.

The first and most important steps are to check and stop water and air leaks. If water and air leaks aren't stopped first, other weatherizing measures like insulation will be a waste of effort and money. Fortunately there are low-cost winterization kits available to get you started or you can pick up individual items at your local hardware store.

Stopping air leaks in a home can save as much as 40 percent on your heating and cooling costs. Stopping water leaks can save you hundreds or even

thousands of dollars in future repairs. The first thing you want to do is start installing CFL (compact fluorescent light) bulbs in rooms most frequently used. CFLs use one-fifth to one-third the electric power, and last eight to fifteen times longer.

Now, before you start sealing up your house with latex caulk (white & clear), you might want to give your house or apartment a good cleaning. Get into those small dusty areas, this will also help you notice areas that might be in need of attention or need a minor repair. You'd be surprised at what you might find during the cleanup.

Once this is done, you can start caulking around door and window frames to start reducing drafts. Instead of replacing kitchen and bathroom aerators, try cleaning the screens of any buildup on them. You will be surprised at your savings.

(Willie A. Price, a real estate investor, Inspector and consultant, is the author of articles on investing, property management and property inspections.

Contact: WillieAPrice@aol.com)

Cuomo Book Plunges to #28,113 on Amazon Best Sellers List

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is running for re-election next Tuesday. And while he is likely to be successful in his effort, his new autobiography, "All Things Possible," continues its downward spiral.

Last week we reported its ranking on Amazon.com, the world's largest seller of books online, dropped from #3526, when it first came out, to #11,578.

As of press time this week, it plunged to #28,113. Reportedly, only 945 books were sold worldwide the first week. This does not augur well for Harper Collins, Cuomo's publisher who paid him a \$700,000 advance. In order to earn back the advance, the book would have to sell 255,474 copies at its list price of \$18.33, if Cuomo is getting standard author's royalties of 15 percent.

Cuomo, acknowledging sales have been flat, says that, after his re-election, he will promote the book.

On Amazon, of 584 reader reviews, 547 have been one star (the lowest) rating. Last week we published excerpts, and while the book continues to plummet, the reviews keep getting worse. Here are some more:

**** Not nearly long enough!** It only lasted two days in the bathroom. The paper was too slick, just like the governor!

**** Why is there a shaved monkey on the cover?**

****Makes a great Christmas gift for insomniacs.**

****This is a wonderful book.** The pages seem to stay warm all the time and this is great for outhouse use during those cold months.

****I love this book.** It is just the right thickness to stand upon so I can reach the upper shelves in the kitchen.

****Fantastic book!** I found it while looking in the Health & Personal Care de-

ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

Setbacks and Success in Politics and Life



partment between the Cottonelle and Angel Soft!

****Only way to improve the book** would be a 1000 sheet, 2-ply edition

****You know, I bought this book** because the cover art convinced me it was going to be the next big vampire novel. I was shocked to discover the book was full of instruction on leeching off of your host.

****I hadn't realized that they found** a way to make paper from feces

****I tried using it as kindling, toilet paper, leveling my coffee table, and to pick up my dog's s***.** It basically was completely useless. About the only thing it was good for is the picture on the front to scare the neighbor kid.

****\$18.33 seems an awful lot to pay** for toilet paper. If his face was printed on each sheet... I mean page, it would up the novelty value.

****Crapacular.**

ELECTION



★ ★ ★ 2014 ★ ★ ★ ★

TOP REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4

✓ Voting is a way to speak your mind and let your voice be heard! When we vote, we are actually telling elected officials and lawmakers how we feel about education, public safety, social security, health care, and other important issues. It was through elections that we voted in officials who were champions for civil rights. Voting is our chance to make a difference in our own lives and within the world.

✓ One voice, one vote really does count! There is power in numbers, and when we vote and get our family members to vote, we can truly make a difference. If you don't vote for what you believe in, others will – and you may not like the outcome.

✓ Our children are depending on us to represent their voices too! That's how we make our concerns about schools, safety, housing, and other issues heard. When we vote, we are looking out for our kids, and their futures.

✓ Voting changes communities! Do you ever wonder why one neighborhood gets passed over for things it needs, while another seems to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we can get results that we can actually see.

✓ Voting is a way of honoring our history! As long as our country has existed, there have been people who did not want us to vote. There were several freedom fighters that stood up for the right to vote. It's now our turn to stand up and vote to preserve the honor of those who went before us.

✓ Last but not least, voting gives you credibility! Often times, we voice our concerns to elected officials, but if we aren't voting, our concerns may not matter at all to them. Voting can actually give you the credibility to make your concerns a top priority for legislators.

LET'S REMIND OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS HOW THEY GET THEIR INCOME, HEALTH INSURANCE AND COMFORTABLE LIFE STYLE. LET'S REMIND THE POLITICIANS WHO THEY WORK FOR.

ON NOVEMBER 4TH - VOTE.

GO ★ ★ ★
VOTE!

Dr. Wadhawan Named Chief of Cardiology at Memorial

Sachin Wadhawan, M.D., has been appointed chief of the Department of Cardiology at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

Dr. Wadhawan, who joined Memorial's medical staff in 2012, is a member of Buffalo Heart Group, LLP, and a graduate of University College of Medical Sciences, India, and Government Medical College, Amritsar, India.

He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Buffalo School of Medicine and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Wadhawan is board certified in cardiology, nuclear cardiology, echocardiography and internal medicine. He replaces Robert Neufeld, M.D., F.A.C.C., who has led the Department of Cardiology for the past decade. Dr. Neufeld will

continue to practice as a member of the Buffalo Heart Group.



Dr. Marshall Joins Medical Staff At Falls Memorial



Jonathan Marshall, D.O., an interventional radiologist, has joined the medical staff at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center.

A graduate of Niagara University and Midwestern University-Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Marshall completed residency training in

radiology, pediatric radiology and nuclear medicine in Chicago and clinical fellowships in interventional radiology and cross-sectional imaging at Ontario medical centers including St. Joseph Health Care, Victoria Hospital and University Hospital in London and Juravinski Cancer Centre in Hamilton.

On staff at Erie County Medical Center since 2012, Dr. Marshall holds board certification from the American Osteopathic College of Radiology. He is a member of the Radiologic Society of North America, American College of Radiology, American Osteopathic College of Radiology, American Osteopathic Association, Canadian Osteopathic Association and Canadian Interventional Radiology Association.

Dr. Marshall is seeing patients at Memorial's Summit Healthplex (Wheatfield) and River Road (North Tonawanda) offices and is accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, please call 694-0535.

Tom Proctor Joins WJLL 1440-AM Morning Program Team

Three-time ALL WNY Music Award Winner (2012, 2013, 2014) for Best Radio Broadcast – The Thomas Loop Radio Show will air Wednesdays at 10:00am on WJLL-1440AM debuting Nov. 5 at 10am.

Featuring host Tom Proctor, the Wednesday live show will join the WJLL lineup of Tom Darro (7-10 Monday-Friday), and the Vince Anello Show (Tuesday & Thurs-

day at 10am). Proctor's show will feature area musicians, sports, on-air personalities and journalists. While guests are in studio – Proctor will feature a handful of tracks from local and area musicians in Western New York.

Listeners can call in live at (716) 297-1059.

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Your hosts: Chris Churakos & Jeff Taylor.



City Hall Jokes, While Never Funny, are Fun to Tell

Pistol Pete

What wonderful things can be said of Paul Dyster that Paul hasn't already said about himself?

This Dyster stipend nonsense has gotten out of control. We understand the mayor has offered Seth Piccirillo a \$5000 bump in salary if he'll just shave every day.

Around city hall Seth is referred to as "Dyster's beard." Literally.

We hear Mr. Piccirillo has run out of department heads to shout at. The last time we saw him he was chastising a homeless person in the city hall parking lot.



Seth is the only Dyster department head with two reserved parking spaces: One for his car and one for his ego.

Mr. Piccirillo denies having a large ego. He said, "Everyone's jealous that I'm smarter and more creative than they are."

Seth Piccirillo was hired to run Community Development but has now



branched out to direct Planning, Public Works and Code Enforcement. Rumor has it that he's going to name himself Chief of Surgery at Memorial Medical Center.

Political observers say Seth wants to be mayor of Niagara Falls. We hear he's holding out for Emperor.

But enough on Seth.

The Hamister's hotel has been devel-



oped in stages: First it was The Ritz... then The Hyatt... It's now called "Hamister's Hourly Honeymoon Hot Tubs."

And this Christmas, Dyster is bringing back

the Holiday Market - he's just paid Isaiah 61 \$500,000 to rehab 20 sheds

In January, Piccirillo will pay NCCC culinary grads \$5,000 to move into them.



But enough on Seth.

After reading Gary DiLaura's "Martial Law, Ebola and Obama" just one question - how does he write anything in that straightjacket?

You'll agree that Senior Planner Tom



DiSantis' office is worth the money - when you see the concrete walkways and the private canoe launch outside his window.

The DeSantis office makeover actually makes sense - he wants to retire with one completed project.



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Mission Calls for Thanksgiving Volunteers

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. – The Niagara Gospel Rescue Mission will celebrate its 4th Annual “Feed the Falls” events again this Thanksgiving and Christmas Days. They anticipate delivering up to 1800 traditional holiday dinners to needy individuals, shut-ins and families throughout area neighborhoods.

Roughly 300 volunteers, including members from several WNY area churches, are expected to help prepare and deliver meals throughout Niagara County.

Janet Scott, Project Coordinator tells of one family last year who came back from delivering meals very ex-

cited. “They had made a Thanksgiving dinner delivery to an elderly woman and discovered that her Thanksgiving table had already been set with her best holiday decorations, but sadly, just for one person. They felt very thankful, being privileged to spend time with her as they visited and had opportunity to pray with her. It truly brought joy and companionship to her lonely heart that day!”

Executive Director Shaun Smith said, “This is very common; we never know what we’re going to find when our volunteers knock on that door. We need to remember that God calls His people to visit the needy, elderly, and

lonely, and to provide help, hope and healing for anyone in need. It’s exactly what the Mission is all about every day. This is truly a great way to connect God’s people with those in great need.”

The Mission will open a special “Meal Hotline” and begin taking calls in early November. If you would like to volunteer, or contribute food or financial support for this year’s “Feed the Falls” event, contact Janet Scott, Project Coordinator via email at volunteer@niagaramissions.com, or by calling the Mission at (716) 282-0432.

Peace Activist Opposes Niagara Falls Air Base Use of Drones Speaks to ‘Drones in Our Community? Why We Must Say “No!”’

Monday, November 3, at 7pm, peace activist Mark Colville will speak at Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center (341 Delaware Ave, Buffalo) on "the war crimes perpetrated in drone bases; those standing up against them; and the price to be paid if we allow drone use to spread."

Colville, 53, is a member of the Amistad Catholic Worker house of hospitality in New Haven, Connecticut, where he lives with his wife, Luz Catarineau, four children and a community of friends. Colville has collabo-

rated with the Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars.

He is currently awaiting sentencing for an act of civil resistance in which he attempted to deliver flowers and a People's Order of Protection for the People of Afghanistan to the commander of the 174th Attack Wing at Hancock Airbase in Syracuse. His sentencing hearing is Dec. 3 and he faces two years and 45 days.

The Niagara Falls Air Base began its new mission on

April 1, 2014.

According to Colville, "Soon they will be assassinating, maiming, and terrorizing innocent people around the world. The military claims they will be doing the same thing as their counterparts at the Hancock base. The Resist Militarism! Task Force of the WNY Peace Center, sponsor of the event, says, “No they won’t. We don’t need assassin jobs in WNY.”

Destino-Ortt Debate Set Wednesday

The second and final debate between Johnny Destino and Robert Ortt, who are competing to replace retiring State Sen. George Maziarz in the 62nd District, will be held Wednesday night (Oct. 29) at 6 in

the auditorium of the Earl Brydges Library, 1425 Main St., Niagara Falls.

Destino, a Niagara Falls School Board member and practicing attorney, and Ortt, the mayor of Niagara

Falls, will take questions during the debate via email at niagarafallsselection@gmail.com.

from the Tautological News Bureau

Man Dies After Being Murdered During Apparent Home Invasion
July 19, 2011 9:41 AM

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ARVADA, Colo. (CBS4) – Police in Arvada are looking for suspects after a man was killed during a possible home invasion on Monday night.

The crime happened just before 10 p.m. at a home on the 4800 block of W. 60th Avenue.

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But a bad day for whoever did the layout ...

DAILY NEWS

A great day for kids

But approaching storm moves fireworks show, Kids' Night to Saturday

RULING RELEASES SEX OFFENDERS

SEX justice vs state's lifetime parole law is unconstitutional

The Daily News of Newburyport (MA), 7/3/14 stupidest.com

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I like Mrs. Edwards. She is my teacher. I like when she does Meth with us

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revised and improved

Tear Jerker of the day

During many Palo Altans said the project was too big and moving too fast.

“It just seems to me that a billionaire can come in and get whatever he wants and run roughshod over average millionaires like myself,” said Crescent Park Neighborhood Association presi-

[See ARRILLAGA, page 18]

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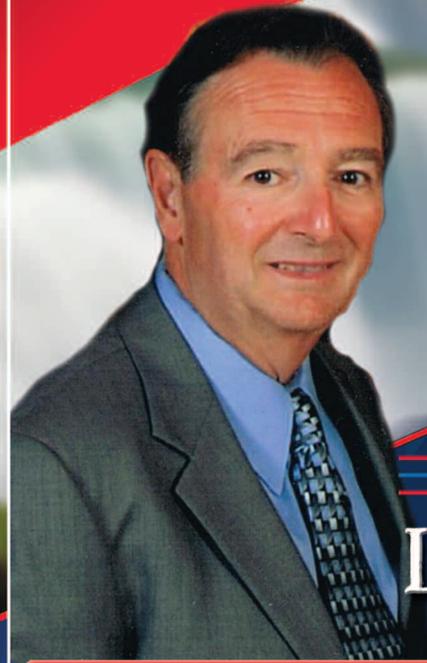
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Paid for by Bill Conrad for Lewiston Town Council

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Will watch your town finances without sacrificing your services

Will serve all of Lewiston's residents, not political interests



15 A

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