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NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS FAIR

FREE

OCT 27, 2017 - NOV 2, 2017

VOL. 18, NO. 35

FREE

Mayor Dyster dropped ball with Seneca offer to negotiate with city for casino cash



'I left it up to Governor Cuomo in Albany to negotiate the deal.'



TAX
I'm voting for the Dyster team



Cult receives attention it deserves for practice of branding women like cattle

Mike Hudson

Self-help guru Keith Raniere's NXIVM cult made headlines all around the world this week. From New York to Hollywood, London, Warsaw, Poland, Russia, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Austria, Australia, China, Nigeria, Switzerland, Canada and more. In People Magazine, on CBS News, Fox News, the Huffington Post and dozens of other media outlets, Keith Raniere has finally found the attention he's craved for all his life.

But Mr. Raniere, 57, his financiers, Seagram's Liquor heiresses Sara and Clare Bronfman – who have reportedly given upwards of \$150 million to the cult – Dr. Danielle Roberts, DO, a licensed physician with a little bit of mad scientist thrown in for good measure, and top Raniere aide Lauren Salzman most likely did not bargain for the sort of worldwide attention they received this week.

Because rather than being about the good works of NXIVM, Mr. Raniere's claims of having the highest IQ of anyone on the planet, the cult's outreach efforts in helping people reach their true potential or anything else, the reports centered on Mr. Raniere, Dr. Roberts, Ms. Salzman and the Bronfman's complicity in the practice of branding women like cattle.

With a red hot iron bearing Mr. Raniere's initials.

On the women's shaved pubic area.

Women screamed as others held them down while the iron was being applied. Several went to the authorities following the gruesome torture, but law enforcement and public health officials did nothing. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced last week that a full review would be launched to find out why this



Following in the footsteps of Rasputin and Charles Manson, self-styled mystic Keith Raniere allegedly had such influence over women that they submitted to branding to prove their devotion to him.

was the case.

The worldwide media firestorm broke out after a New York Times investigative series, based on original reporting done by Niagara Falls Reporter Publisher Frank Parlato and credited in the Times, brought the sickening, sordid story to the international stage.

To promote his scam, Mr. Raniere resorts to the same time-worn rhetoric used by snake oil salesman since before any of us were born.

"Human evolution has clearly demonstrated tendencies that vacillate between awe-inspiring rises and cataclysmic falls," he wrote. "As time has passed, our capacity to excel in either extreme has increased, even on the smallest of levels. Each rise, each act of human excellence raises mankind to new heights. Each fall, each act of destruction is a mindless re-



The brands, inflicted on the most sensitive flesh with a red hot cautery tool, allegedly were a combination of the initials of leader Keith Raniere and his accomplice Allison Mack.



Gov. Andrew Cuomo signs a bill on Oct. 21, 2015 enhancing women's rights at the same time his administration was ignoring reports of women being branded by a cult leader.

gression. While many have sensed a need to break away from the primitive patterning that keeps us from a path of continuous progression, few have thought it possible.

"NXIVM is the turning point – a remarkable development in scientific and psychodynamic understanding, education, and technology that can facilitate this transition so the pattern of humanity's rises and falls can actually be broken and transformed."

How the branding of women fits into this hifalutin' mumbo jumbo is uncertain. Suffice to say that there are many damaged and lonely people out there, some endowed with considerable wealth, talent or good looks, who are looking for something, anything, to give meaning to their lives.

And, like a shark, Keith Raniere has the ability to spot those victims in waiting from a mile away.

Nearly 50 years ago Charles Manson formed a cult in the desert outside of Los Angeles, telling the women around him they had to kill people in order to prove their dedication to him. It's a scenario as old as the hills.

In the interest of full disclosure, Reporter Publisher Parlato had a falling out with Mr. Raniere and the Bronfman sisters a few years back. Now the sisters are the star witnesses in the federal case hanging over Mr. Parlato's head.

Albany sources this week confirmed that Gov. Cuomo's review of the torture and branding of women in the NXIVM cult, and the lack of responsiveness by local and state officials, will likely result in criminal charges as well.

Mr. Raniere, the Bronfmans, Dr. Roberts and Ms. Salzman have certainly gotten their 15 minutes of fame. It remains to be seen whether any of them can stay out of jail long enough to enjoy it.

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Dyster rejected Seneca offer to pay casino revenue directly to city

Mike Hudson

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster knew well in advance that the Seneca Nation of Indians planned to end its revenue sharing agreement with the state in March of this year, and rejected an invitation by tribal leaders to enter into discussions that would have resulted in direct payments to the city instead.

The Seneca have vowed to never again pay the state anything in exchange for the "right" to operate their casinos in Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Salamanca, and there is nothing in the 2013 Compact agreement with the state that would require them to do so.

Notwithstanding the Niagara County Legislature's resolution last week urging

Gov. Andrew Cuomo to do something about the standoff, there appears to be nothing the governor can do. Despite the payments ending seven months ago, he hasn't called for a single meeting with the Seneca. He only just got around to filing for arbitration last month, having been threatening to since the impasse began.

But Mayor Dyster knew, numerous sources on and off the reservation confirmed this week.

"The failure of local officials to take the Seneca up on meetings to address any kind of direct payments is a failure of local leadership," said John Kane, a Mohawk and the host of the popular "Let's Talk Native" radio program.

"This offer was not only rejected, it was considered too much of a risk to en-



Gov. Cuomo and his lawyers negotiated a pact with the Senecas that didn't include payments past 2016. Perhaps the city of Niagara Falls should sue him for incompetence and see about getting him disbarred.



"We don't want to speculate about what happens if somebody doesn't meet legal obligations that we fully feel will be met," Mayor Paul Dyster told a local news outlet back in March, the best he could come up with even with previous inside knowledge of the Seneca's decision to stop payments.

ertain," he added. "If state officials really believed they would be successful in arbitration, the process would have begun by now."

For the past nine years, the mayor has been squandering casino cash to plug gaps in the general fund budget, hand out raises to city workers and hire even more city workers, patch potholes, promote rock concerts, festivals and other attractions that couldn't pay their own way, hire legions of outside consultants and lawyers and throw money at fly-by-night developers.

In the end, he spent nearly a quarter of a billion dollars and, when former city Controller Maria Brown called him on it, he fired her.

He couldn't fire state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli though, who earlier this year issued a blistering audit of city finances that predicted Niagara Falls

would be completely broke by December.

In a recent interview, Dr. Dyster's buddy in Albany, Gov. Cuomo, laughed out loud when it was suggested that the state might bail the city out in the wake of the loss of casino revenue. He jokingly suggested that the city might need to bail him out instead.

"Arbitration will not bring revenue sharing back and Western New York should be glad about that," Mr. Kane said. "A billion dollars was sucked out of the region over the term of revenue sharing, and a billion more would be over the next seven years if the governor had his way."

And Mayor Dyster, who has spent not insignificant sums of casino revenue of canoe launches on Cayuga Creek, Cayuga Island and at Hyde Park, now finds himself up the creek without a paddle.



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Baby steps approach to budget won't help in closing \$12 million shortfall

Mike Hudson

"Baby steps."

It's a term used in Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-Step programs to warn those with substance abuse problems not to try and take on too much at once.

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster and his reliable rubber stamps on the City Council, Kristen Grandinetti and Andrew Touma, have a substance abuse problem. The substance is money, your money, and now they're trying to make it appear as though they're taking the baby steps approach towards making everything better here.

"The day the budget came out, I said this is exactly what would happen," declared City Council candidate Sam Archie.

What happened was this:

Mayor Dyster's proposed 2018 budget contained a line item doubling the police club uniform allowance. Councilmembers Touma and Grandinetti miraculously "discovered" that this failed to take into account recent union agreements that

include uniform allowances being rolled into an employee's base pay.

More than 300 city employees were recently given whopping raises by the mayor, Ms. Grandinetti, Mr. Touma and lame duck city Councilman Charles Walker.

The subsequent elimination of the item included in the Council's recommended budget amendments will net an additional \$143,916 in savings.

"We will continue to carefully review the 2018 proposed budget line by line to identify any and all cost savings," Ms. Grandinetti said with a straight face. "Faced with our current financial situation, we owe it to ourselves and to the taxpayers in order to maintain a level of fiscal responsibility for the future of our city."

A scathing audit of city finances issued by state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli warned that Niagara Falls would be dead broke and unable to make payroll by some point in December of this year, and that the difference between the 2018 Dyster-proposed budget and actual revenue coming in from property taxes,

state and federal aid and other sources would create a \$12 million shortfall.

City Controller Daniel Morello slapped himself, Kristen Grandinetti and Andy Touma heartily on the back.

"Over the last several weeks, my office has spent a great deal of time with councilmembers to deliver a fiscally sound and satisfactory budget for the people of Niagara Falls," Mr. Morello said. "I am pleased to see this level of collaboration from our elected leaders."

For his part, Mr. Touma was also in a self-congratulatory mode.

"I look forward to continuing to work with Controller Morello and my fellow councilmembers to identify necessary cost savings to produce a fair and balanced budget for the residents of the city of Niagara Falls," he said.

Both Ms. Grandinetti and Mr. Touma also support Mayor Dyster's proposed tax increases, which would jack up rates by three percent for residential properties here and 14 percent on business properties. That would add another \$2.7 million to city coffers in 2018, leaving the mayor short by only a little more than \$9



Councilmembers Grandinetti and Touma, pictured here with Mayor Dyster, support his proposed tax increases on businesses and residents. They are up for re-election in less than two weeks.

million.

Niagara Falls is already the most heavily taxed municipality in relation to property values in the most heavily taxed state in the nation. Residents and businesses have fled in droves, often just abandoning the buildings they made their lives and livelihoods in, throughout Paul Dyster's nine year reign of error.

Even an administration initiative to actually pay people to live here was an utter and complete failure.

When former city Controller Maria Brown warned of the impending crisis, Dyster fired her.

With the council election looming in November, did Dr. Dyster insert line items in the budget that could be "found" and eliminated by his favored incumbent candidates, Kristen Grandinetti and Andy Touma?

Lots of people here think so. It's an old Niagara Falls trick.

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Dyster, Grandinetti nickel and dime public library in alleged budget process

Mike Hudson

Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, who fancies himself a PhD in something or other, and City Councilwoman Kristen Grandinetti, who likes to think of herself as an educator and works as an elementary school teacher, have joined forces to strip the Niagara Falls Public Library of \$92,000 in funding which, in turn, will trigger a \$120,000 loss of state funding for the embattled institution.

The resulting shortfall will force the library to eliminate at least two positions, and force the LaSalle branch library to close two days a week.

"We have hit a brick wall and I think the city is going to hit its wall next year," said Carmen Granto, president of the Niagara Falls Public Library's Board of Trustees. "Since 2009, our budget has grown one percent. The city's budget has grown 10 percent in that same time."

Mr. Granto said a proposed cut to the library's budget would result in losing its status as a regional library.

"It doesn't make sense not to invest and triple your money," he said. "Unless we want Medina or North Tonawanda to be the central library, we've got to straighten this out. What sense does it make to lose staff that you didn't have to pay for?"

The cuts would necessitate closing the LaSalle branch two days a week. Mr. Granto said that the 1927 agreement with the Village of LaSalle that made it part of the city stipulates maintaining the library.

He said 170,000 people visited both libraries last year. "It's a gem of the city that's available to all the residents. They use it for job searches, getting help with taxes, people who don't have a home, who don't have a place to stay for a little bit. We are open to the public."

The Earl C. Brydges main library building on Main Street downtown is about three times too large, according to Councilwoman Grandinetti.

"It's been an albatross since day one because it wasn't built properly," she said. "If we could see an end and another direction it would be easier for me to justify cur-



Carmen Granto

rent-to-current funding."

Mr. Granto said the old Red Cross building was one site being considered as a new home for the library and spoke of merging the library's artifacts collection with the Niagara Falls History Museum's site at the new train station.

He also said there was talk to make the library its own entity and "our budget can go to a public vote up or down and it gets out of your hands."

Library Director Sarah Potwin said the library was going to start issuing passports in an effort to generate new revenue.

"We'll be open nights and weekends," she said.



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



A century ago, the LaSalle Library shared this building with a post office and the village police department. It will soon close its doors two more days a week, due to the city's financial mess.

According to librarian Linda Giarrizzo, "For our LaSalle branch there has been talk of cutting hours by a third. There has also been talk of cutting the materials budget for both libraries--which is books, audio-visual (DVDs, CDs), and programs for adults and children."

Library funding has been a political football in Niagara Falls for years, and was at least in part responsible for the resigna-

tions of former library directors Betty Babanouri and Michelle Petrazzoulo Dukette. Both of those resignations occurred while Dr. Dyster was mayor.

At the time of her resignation, Ms. Babanouri – who became library director when Jake Palillo was mayor – said Paul Dyster was the absolute worst mayor ever when it came to library relations.

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Residents on new Upper Mountain Road housing development: "Not Now, Not Here!" Is local government stalling, wearing down citizen opposition?

James Hufnagel

The debate over a new, high-density housing subdivision proposed for the town of Lewiston seems to be winding down, as only a handful of citizens attending the Lewiston Town Board meeting Monday evening voiced opposition to the new construction.

For the third public meeting in a row, Supervisor Steve Broderick announced that the board intended to again defer voting on approval of the 80.2 acre, 107 unit project on Upper Mountain Road, east of Bronson Drive, comprising four apartment houses and 91 "patio homes." He did not specify as to when the vote might take place, possibly at a fourth, or subsequent, meeting.

Wikipedia defines a patio home as being "...part of a unit of several houses attached to each other, typically with shared walls between units, and with exterior maintenance and landscaping provided through an association fee..."

"Targeted buyers are primarily those who do not want to be bothered by external maintenance typically associated with home ownership..."

Indeed, it appears from preliminary

plans that most of the patio home components of the dense, urban-style compound (in fact, the project is officially designated as a "P.U.D., or "Planned Urban Development") will share walls, occupying lots somewhere between 1/2 and 1 acre in size, depending on how much of the acreage that is federal or state wetlands is drained to accommodate the structures.

The planned development is in the context of other newly-built or proposed developments being developed elsewhere in Lewiston, including French Landing, Oak Run, Riverwalk, Saddlewood, and Bri Estates which, while primarily in the town of Niagara, may greatly impact traffic on Miller Road in Lewiston.

This proposed housing complex, which has yet to be named, is to be located across Upper Mountain Road from the massive 1,900-acre, 22 billion gallon Niagara Power Project reservoir elevated more than 30 feet above the surrounding landscape.

"They're making fools out of you guys, because they're not giving you straight answers, they're really not," Marguerite Dimino of Bronson Drive informed the board on Monday evening.



Lewiston resident Dr. Elizabeth Doherty expresses concerns to the town board over the impact on her neighborhood and the environment of yet another new housing development.

"(The increased traffic is) a detriment to children playing because it's unsafe. I want to know about the house right at the entrance coming off of Bronson Drive... and the (head)lights going directly into the home... Not only would lights go directly into the home, but a failed vehicle would also go into the home..."

Ms. Dimino also spoke to what she considered a lack of forthrightness on the part of developer Rubino Brothers/Ranchview LLC of Williamsville, NY, which has grown rich building dense subdivisions around rural Western New York since 1991, giving them pastoral names such as "Amber Meadows" and "Campbell Meadows."

She contended that traffic studies only included Upper Mountain Road, not the residential Bronson Drive, and questioned whether the New York Power Authority (NYPA) had been contacted regarding potential blasting that may need to be performed across the road from the massive 1,900 acre, 22 billion gallon Niagara Power Project reservoir. Then she referenced a letter she had received from Councilman Al Bax:

"Thank you, Mr. Bax, for the letter. In it you said 'Lewiston is second to none when it comes to our quality of life.'

"Think about our quality of life on Bronson, Saddlewood, Upper Mountain and what a change this is going to make in our quality of life.

"And as for you, Mr. Broderick, I think you set the tone on how this project has been handled. The residents of the area have been frustrated... on how this latest project has been handled because of your attitude, that this matter is a done deal.

"You have had an excuse for and discounted and dismissed each and every concern which a large number of residents has expressed. You have defended the potential buyers, validated

both them and their realtors, but have no due respect for citizens... basically just given us a bunch of earwash. As the town supervisor, you have been extremely one-sided. You have simply forgotten who you represent, and that is the citizens and their concerns, of the town of Lewiston..."

Mr. Broderick responded to Ms. Dimino with a simple "thank you."

Her husband Joe Dimino followed with "You guys know who I am. You know where I've lived. Most of you have been to my house... You've seen my concerns grow... We've heard this plan is just a 'concept' Well, I have a concept. My concept is 'No.' The majority of residents are opposed to this... Certainly if there are people in favor of it, let them show up and voice their opinions much

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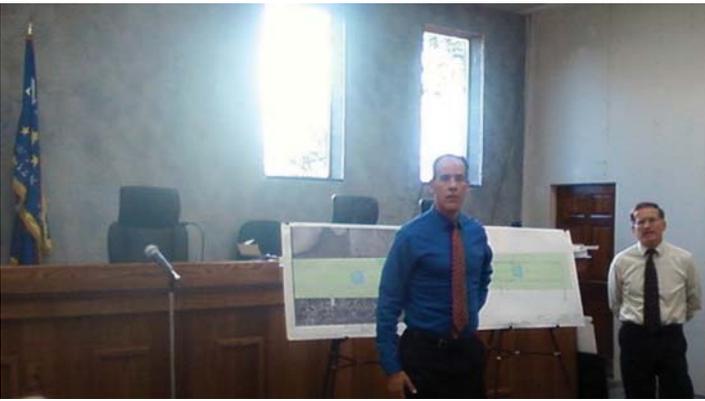
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Scores of Miller Road and Colonial Drive yards in the town of Niagara feature lawn signs opposing Bri Estates which, like the Upper Mountain Road/Bronson Drive project, epitomizes suburban sprawl.



President Michael Metzger of Metzger Civil Engineering of Williamsville, NY (right) is working with Rubino Bros./Ranchview LLC., on the Upper Mtn. Road project. With attorney Sean Hopkins (left), they don't look too happy about being photographed last month at the town of Niagara, pushing a similar project, Bri Estates.

like the people who are opposed to it. my backyard.' Well, considering the history that Lewiston has with past devel-

opers, I'd like to change that... to 'Not Again.' With what we've gone through with these developers... drainage issues, real estate market questions..."

Mr. Dimino then presented the board with a petition, "Formal Objection to the Upper Mountain Planned Unit Development under consideration" which he said had 100 signatures of local property owners.

And in a refrain heard recently by the town board of Niagara with regards to Bri Estates, one woman told the Lewiston solons that "If I wanted to live in the city, I would have moved into the city."

Paul Swisher of Carriage Lane, who said he had been told, a year ago when he moved here, that new development was "unlikely," but then found out one of the new houses would be ten feet from his lot line, stated, "I came here with my wife because we love Lewiston.

If I wanted to live on top of somebody, and sit in traffic waiting to go to the grocery store, I would go to Williamsville. I have friends in Williamsville...

"Lewiston has character... maybe the taxes would go down a little, I'd be very surprised if that would be the case, but for me, paying a little bit more for space, beauty, that's why we're here... the casual dismissal of our concerns, I take offense to."

Several more citizens spoke in opposition to the development. Three or four swore as to the integrity of, and quality of work done by, the Rubino's, Joe and John.

It's worth noting that one of the three major impediments to economic growth and quality of life identified in the 2011 Western New York Regional Economic Development Strategic Plan was suburban sprawl.

Canadians demand resolution to Dyster's sewage pollution problem

Mike Hudson

A rehash of the War of 1812?

A violation of the 1909 Canadian-U.S. Boundary Waters Treaty?

An international incident?

All of the above?

The Niagara Falls, Ontario, Council met this week to demand that Niagara Falls, NY, Mayor Paul Dyster and the city Water Board do something to stop overflows of raw untreated sewage into the Niagara River that borders the United States and Canada.

On five occasions since July 29, millions of gallons of foul smelling black sludge have been discharged into the basin beneath the falls themselves, horrifying tourists, particularly those on the Maid of the Mist and Hornblower Niagara excursion boats who were unfortunate enough to be traversing the basin at the time the discharges occurred.

The discharges originated at the Niagara Falls, N.Y., Wastewater Treatment Plant, where officials have come up with excuses as flimsy as a half inch of rainfall to justify the ongoing environmental disaster.

Niagara Falls, Ont., Mayor Jim Diodati said his city is finishing up the third great tourism year in a row, welcoming millions of tourists from around the world.

He said many of the tourists do not know there are two cities carrying the name of the

cataract and may not care. However, they do care about the images of sewage overflow showing up in the Niagara Gorge with an odor covering both sides of the border.

"Niagara Falls, USA, Niagara Falls, Canada - most people, as a matter of fact, don't even know there are two Niagara Falls," said Mr. Diodati. "The fact that they say Niagara Falls in the same sentence is definitely not a good thing. Niagara Falls and Nick Wallenda, that's great. Niagara Falls and Ryan Seacrest and Kelly Ripa, that's a good thing. But definitely we don't want to have sewage in that same sentence."

Mayor Diodati said that the Ontario government, as well as the Canadian federal government, is taking the matter most seriously.

"Wayne Gates, our member of Provincial Parliament, has requested to address the City Council and he told me one of the things he wants to talk about is the discharging into the Niagara River of sewage," said the mayor. "So he's brought it up already in Toronto, at Queens Park, and at the Provincial Legislature."

Mr. Gates has been very vocal in demanding the provincial government push New York State to do something about the sewage problem - something he can do as a member of the legislative minority in the provincial government. Mr. Diodati said an image of Niagara Falls as a gorgeous

spectacle is an important asset that needs to be protected.

Meanwhile, on this side of the river, the silence has been deafening. Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said little of consequence about the problem and Niagara Falls, N.Y., Mayor Paul Dyster has been keeping a low profile on the issue.

In a city well known for environmental

disasters since the Love Canal catastrophe of 1976, Dr. Dyster originally ran on a platform of being a "green" mayor who would champion the environment here.

The reality is that he's been anything but. In fact, he may go down in history as the pollutingest government official ever to hold office here.



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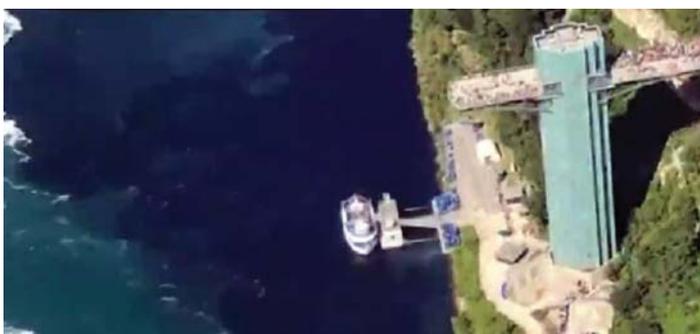
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KEEP IT TO YOURSELVES! The Canadian government is demanding answers regarding recent sewage spills in the Niagara River.

Not another faith based initiative! ReNU Niagara eyes 5th, 6th Streets

Mike Hudson

Back in Sherwood Forest, Robin Hood's motto was, "Take from the rich and give to the poor." Not a bad objective, but one that's been revised by Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster.

"Take from the working poor and give to the non-working poor," might well be his motto.

Last week, residents on 5th and 6th Streets between Ferry Avenue and Niagara Street received mysterious fliers inviting them to public meetings staged by a shadowy group calling itself ReNU Niagara. The strangest thing was that, although those blocks on 5th and 6th only account for about 20 homes apiece, the meetings were staged on different days.

It turns out that ReNU Niagara is yet another faith based, not-for-profit initiative, this time sponsored by the Niagara University, a Roman Catholic institution. Mayor Dyster has a long record of supporting religious programs specifically designed to separate taxpayers from their money.

There was Isaiah 61, which received close to \$1 million in foundation, corporate, public utility, federal and city taxpayer grants - in connection with an alleged housing rehab scheme. After citations from the city's Code Enforcement Department, a



Tom Lowe, dressed to impress in one of his nicest t-shirts, represents Niagara University and the city of Niagara Falls at UB's Center for Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness inaugural "Social Innovation" conference this past April.

house that collapsed into its own basement because the people who were working on it didn't know what they were doing, and zero progress on the refurbishment of a long-shuttered Highland Avenue fire house the city gifted them and paid them to rehabilitate, little has been heard of the organization.

And then there was NOAH, the self described "faith-based, urban and suburban and racially diverse community organizing coalition of over 22 congregations, labor unions and community organizations that collaboratively work for positive social change in Niagara Falls and Niagara County."

They seem to have taken the money, including a \$137,000 federal grant, and run as well.

According to the NOAH president, Rev. JoAnne Scott, "NOAH tapped into the interests and the resources of local unions, the Mayor and Catholic Charities.

"This program will provide essential tools that will help build our people and will revitalize our community," she added.

That sure didn't happen!

Who can forget the "Beloved Community," which sank \$80 million into building 215 units of public housing in the city's North End? Yet another Dyster-supported faith based initiative to pick the taxpayers' pockets?

In a city where a decent house can be bought for \$40,000, the "Beloved Community" spent more than \$372,000 a unit on condos, every dime of it coming from the taxpayer.

Thomas Lowe, 30, the director of ReNU Niagara, is also close friends with Community Development Director Seth Piccirillo and Mayor Dyster, and has been recognized for the leadership role he has been taking in making changes in Niagara Falls.

He received his bachelor's degree in English with a minor in arts administration from SUNY Fredonia in 2009, before returning to Niagara County to serve in the AmeriCorps VISTA at ReNu Niagara. By 2013, he had worked his way up and taken over as director.

Mr. Lowe also has served on a volunteer basis as the chairman of the Niagara Beautification Commission.

He also played a role in the development of the failed "Live NF" initiative, a program that was started to offer incentives to bring

recent college graduates to Niagara Falls. ReNU Niagara also promotes a scheme called "Pints 4 Progress," which encourages people to meet casually over drinks and food and promote their ideas about projects to benefit Niagara Falls.

"Pints 4 Progress is what ReNu was meant to do and that's giving a voice to the community," Mr. Lowe said. "It's empowering them to get involved and make decisions. We see new people every time. We've had 17 events and none of them have turned into a negative criticism of a project. They workshop the idea and try to implement it and make it successful. It's people who love this city and want to see it improve. It's genuine positivity and optimism."

How long has Mr. Lowe's taxpayer-funded operation been a presence in the Falls?

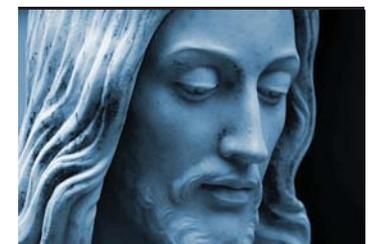
"We've pretty consistently been in operation for 10 years. It was opened in 2006 by HUD (the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development) as a Community Outreach Partnership Center," he said. "It was federally funded for the first three years. Niagara University internalized the program after the federal funding ended."

The organization's accomplishments over the past decade remain obscure, however. When pressed, Mr. Lowe slipped easily into the language of the bureaucrat.

"Our mission, our bottom line, is capacity building," he said. "We are kind of the front door to the university in the community. We work less with students and faculty and more with organizations and residents. If a resident has a project idea, our door is open."

Likewise obscure is what the organization wants with the residents of 40 homes on 5th and 6th Streets, between Ferry Avenue and Niagara Street.

Somebody should ask Mayor Dyster. He'd probably know. But he won't speak to the Niagara Falls Reporter.



"Such was the will of the Father that his Son, blessed and glorious, whom he gave to us, and who was born for us, should by his own blood, sacrifice, and oblation, offer himself on the altar of the cross, not for himself, by whom "all things were made," but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps."

St Francis of Assisi




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Former Lewiston Supervisor sets the record straight on taxes

Ron Winkley

Former Supervisor
Town of Lewiston

Former Supervisor Dennis Brochey, presently residing in Las Vegas, is trying to influence this year's Town election by posting on Facebook and writing "Letters to the Editor" with incorrect and distorted information about the lack of a town tax in 2015 for the 2016 budget year. It seems that he is making an effort to place blame on Republicans.

The facts are, that in the fall of 2015, then-Supervisor Dennis Brochey (before he resigned and moved to Vegas) presented his budget to the Town Board for review. His proposed 2016 budget did NOT include a tax. One of the main duties of a supervisor is to prepare, present and recommend a budget. As the budget process continued, the town tax was not recommended by Mr. Brochey, nor was it included in the preliminary budget.

Mr. Brochey quit Lewiston, leaving Deputy Supervisor Briglio to pick up the financial pieces, and again no town tax was recommended, nor even presented.

After I was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Brochey, and newly elected William Geiben was appointed to fill the resulting vacancy, intense conversations took place about the budget for 2016. It determined that it was just too late to initiate the much needed town tax that would have stabilized the Town of Lewiston's finances for the upcoming year.

When Steve Broderick took office in 2016 he pledged to thoroughly review the town's financial situation and make recommendations in a timely manner "to right the ship."

Mr. Broderick made tough recommendations and the current board did the right thing. They stopped using fund balances and stopped relying on revenues that were unpredictable. The next year's realistic budget included a town tax and was unanimously approved by the board.

The purpose of this letter was to set the record straight. Supervisor Broderick and the Town Board of Beth Ceretto, Alfonso Marra Bax, Robin Morreale and William Geiben should be commended for doing the right thing.



Ron Winkley



Steve Broderick



Dennis Brochey

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\$6.99 Breakfast Buffet
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I PREDICT...



**J. Gary
DiLaura**

The Right Side

I predict that the FBI will open a major Criminal Investigation on the Obama Administration; probably, a RICO case targeting, treason (the Uranium One deal) along with numerous Hobbs Act violations, money laundering, influence peddling, espionage, sabotage, bribery... you name it... President Obama and his Band of Thieves did it! The racketeering organization is actually the State Department, but for political reasons, they will name the Clinton Foundation as the criminal enterprise, which it is!

I firmly believe that the corruption in Obama's administration is so vast, so involved and caught up so many in his "House of Horrors" that once the first arrests are made, the Band of Thieves will trip over their feet trying to get in to cut a deal! The sale of uranium to a nation that has 1500 nuclear missiles aimed at the USA is... TREASON... a death penalty crime, no statute of limitation!

You simply cannot do all the criminal things these people did and get away with it forever.

If we picked just one person randomly, like Uma Abedine, for example... she

is out on a limb! She transmitted and received SAP, Top Secret communications in unsecured manners. She stored confidential US official communications on her personal computer that was shared with her husband, the Weiner, at their home! Those are all felonies. So what are we waiting for? Good question. I would get an arrest warrant for her and a search warrant (again) and drag her in, in handcuffs, and get her to flip!

John Podesta, same deal, he used his personal computer for everything. We put loyal Navy men in the brig, for unwittingly taking pictures on a sub and innocently showing them to their family; pictures that I am certain wouldn't divulge any top secret info! Unlike what Hillary and her staff did... she and her staff blatantly violated their Nondisclosure Agreements (NDA) over and over again. The young Navy sailor wasn't even cleared for SAP communications, nor did he receive any nor did he compromise any. Hillary and her entire staff did, and did it with reckless abandon, repeatedly. And I don't care what James Comey says... he is wrong, and worse, corrupt... those are felonies and no criminal intent is needed when it comes to SAP communications. All that is required is to violate that NDA, read it!

The blatant way the Clintons laundered money will be their downfall - greed always is! As I said over 2 years ago about Hillary, anyone who would steal silverware from the White House is their own worst enemy. Give them enough rope and they will hang themselves... and she and Mr. Holder and President Obama and Ms. Lynch sure did! Like she said after the CNN debate... "If Trump wins... we're F...ed". And she is correct!

Trust me, neither she nor Bill is going to get a walk! Neither will Mr. Holder or Ms. Lynch. I also believe, President Obama will be charged, eventually, with something. It depends on who and how many people talk... and talk they will... mark my words!

This "FBI Informant," if he isn't killed, is going to open a lot of doors for investigators. It's up to the FBI, led by the President, to get very aggressive! Start by putting the source in a "protected" environment, remember 5 people close to the DNC and Hillary; and a Supreme Court Justice, died mysteriously!

If Mr. Mueller and Mr. Rosenstein are smart they will resign, now! How can they not be "conflicted"? Mr. Mueller was FBI Director and Mr. Rosenstein was in charge of the bribery, Clinton Foundation "matter"... how did that work out? It looks like a \$2 million bribe was paid and maybe three people went to jail... did you hear about that? President Obama and Eric Holder kept it quiet!

While Mr. Mueller was director, the ground work was being laid for the Uranium One deal. There were a lot of players, RoseAtom, Urasia, Uranium One... they are all interwoven with Russia conspiring to gain control of the US uranium and investors and executives and Russia are common factors... along with the goal of getting US uranium, what a coup for Mr. Putin, and he pulled it off!!!

Uranium One has the license to mine uranium in the US, and Russia gained control. In 2009, Ian Telfer, Chairman of Uranium One, donated \$1 million to the Clinton Foundation through his "family" charity the Fernwood Foundation. Mr. Telfer was also a major investor in Ur-

Asia. Between 2008 and 2010 Uranium One and former UrAsia investors donated \$8.65 million to the Clinton Foundation!

Why? ...because Uranium One has the license to mine uranium in the US, and Russia bought the uranium and the Clintons! About 20% of our uranium, and the Clintons got \$9.85 million, plus, plus, plus! They and their foundations ended up with HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS that they had control over! They paid their expenses, their daughter's wedding, their salaries but, hey, it's called a Foundation so they can keep 90% as long as they donate 10%... you think so? I guess we're going to find out! When Hillary finds out she's heading to jail... she will suffer a "stroke" and become too ill to stand trial... want to bet?

Eric Holder and President Obama kept secret the fact that Vladimir Milkin, a Russian nuclear official, "did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire... with other persons... and agree to obstruct, delay and affect commerce and effect the movement of a commodity (enriched uranium) in commerce by extortion" from 2009 to January, 2012. In 2014, Mr. Milkin received two years in prison, for using bribes to acquire the same America uranium that Hillary "sold"!

In a report on 10-17-17 from "The Hill," the House Intelligence Committee Chair, Rep. Mike Rogers from Michigan, said "he was never informed about the breathtaking Russian efforts to manipulate America's enterprise."

President Trump, because of these unbelievable revelations, must, as the Chief Executive of the US, take control and say, "Enough is enough, I am taking control of this matter by ordering the following steps":

1. Order Attorney General Sessions to un-recuse himself or step down.
2. Order Deputy AG Rosenstein to step down due to his obvious conflict of interest.
3. Put Special Prosecutor Mueller and his investigation on hold, due to the same conflict of interest.
4. Order the Dept. of Justice and FBI to reopen the Uranium One/Clinton Foundation/ email investigation, as a RICO case, seat a new Grand Jury specifically for the RICO investigation, and aggressively pursue same.

Order that the FBI to retain all evidence collected during the Uranium/Clinton Foundation/Email investigations and place a protection detail on this so called informant.

Important Message for Niagara Falls Taxpayers

From The Committee to Stop the Reassessments & Continuous Tax Increases



We, the taxpayers, must unite to "Stop the Reassessments" at the voting booth on November 7th.

We must vote for all three of the candidates that we know are against the reassessments!

WE MUST VOTE FOR ALL THREE CANDIDATES LISTED BELOW

Sam Archie ***Robert Pascoal*** ***Chris Voccio***

There are six candidates running for three City Council seats.

We finally have the opportunity to elect a City Council majority that is against the next huge tax increase called reassessments. Vote for Sam Archie, Robert Pascoal and Chris Voccio.

Touma & Grandinetti led the charge to reassess us last summer and they will do it again if re-elected. They want to raise our assessments on average from between 17 and 40%. **We must not vote for them!**

Committee to Stop the Reassessments & Continuous Tax Increases

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Registered Apprenticeship

The US and New York State Departments of Labor recognize and monitor registered skilled apprenticeship programs in NYS and throughout the United States. The Laborers' International Union of North America publicly promotes our successful model of labor-management registered apprenticeship programs to combat the growing emphasis on employer programs supported by taxpayers.

What is Registered Apprenticeship?

It's a job. Apprentices start working from day one with incremental wage increases as they become more proficient. It's on-the-job learning and education. Registered Apprenticeship includes on-the-job learning from an assigned mentor combined with technical training provided by apprenticeship training centers, technical schools, community colleges, and institutions employing distance and computer-based learning systems.

It's a credential. At the end of the apprenticeship, all apprentices receive a nationally recognized credential. Some apprenticeship programs offer interim credentials as apprentices achieve important milestones during their apprenticeship.

What are some advantages of Registered Apprenticeship?

The benefits to employers are: more highly skilled employees, reduced turnover rates, higher productivity, lower investment in recruitment, a more diverse workforce, a new pool of workers and the creation of career pathways. The benefits to registered apprentices are: being nationally recognized and portable credentials, improved skills and competencies, higher wages as skills increase and career advancement.

Registered Apprenticeship programs are operated by partnerships of employers, labor management organizations and government. Apprenticeship sponsors – employers, employer associations and labor-management organizations – register programs with federal and state government agencies. Sponsors provide mentors, on-the-job learning opportunities and required technical instruction to apprentices. Incorporating Registered Apprenticeship directly into your workforce development system will strengthen your local and regional economy by offering highly trained and educated residents. Let Registered Apprenticeship be your competitive advantage. Laborers' Local 91 accepts apprenticeship applications the first Tuesday of every month from 8 AM – 12 noon at our training facility located at 4500 Witmer Industrial Estates Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

A Message from the Lewiston Republican Committee

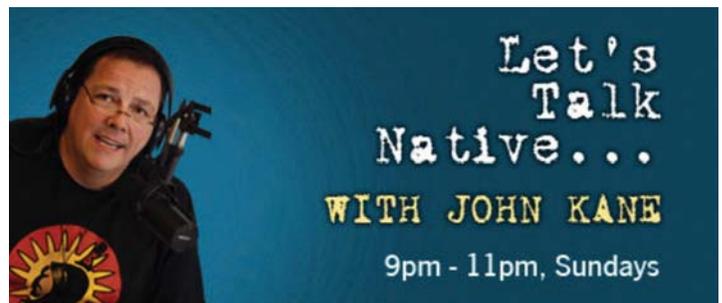
Lewiston Republican Committee Chairman Karl Frankovitch announced today that as this campaign season comes to a close, we are proud of our slate of experienced and proven candidates for Niagara County and the Town of Lewiston. Our incumbent Niagara County candidates Becky Wydish and Clyde Burmaster, with Lewiston Town incumbent candidates Supervisor Steve Broderick, Councilman Alfonso Marra Bax and Trustee Vic Eydt, bring decades of honest, prudent and transparent government experience. This Republican team brings an unparalleled level of

county-town cooperation and dedication to community service.

Frankovitch stated that "This is the best group of candidates we have been blessed with in my experience as a citizen of Lewiston, and our candidates will continue to tirelessly reach out to all residents with our message of transparent fiscal responsibility and sensible accountable government."

All our citizens are encouraged to exercise their precious right of self-government and vote on November 7th at your local polling place.

Gov. Cuomo divorced from reality, refuses to accept that State's theft of Niagara Falls casino funds has ended



John Kane

Once again the Western New York media insists on promoting the Governor's narrative on the now expired revenue sharing agreement. And in doing so continues to suggest that only the Governor can make it alright.

The Governor did not "declare" a breach; he merely charges one. That would be for arbitration to determine, if it ever really occurs and is seen through to the end.

The compact did not grant the Seneca Nation exclusive rights to operate casinos; Seneca sovereignty does that. The "exclusivity" part is what the State offered for revenue sharing. The Seneca casinos were never dependent on the State's so-called concession. No one else could do casinos in Western New York but Native people.

The Seneca Nation did not declare an end to revenue sharing payments, the compact from 2002 only had payments listed through 2016. It's what was agreed to, written and remains unchanged to today. The State knew it, Niagara Falls knew it and anyone who ever cared to read the agreement knew it as well. The payments are not "frozen" or suspended or held back; they are over and there is almost nothing the State can offer that will bring any kind of revenue sharing with them back.

The failure of local officials to take the Senecas up on meetings to address any kind of direct payments is a failure

of local leadership. The offer is neither a requirement nor necessary for the Senecas to operate. It is genuinely their continued offer and promise to be good neighbors. This offer seems not only rejected but considered too much of a risk to entertain: too scared of Albany perhaps?

If State officials really believed they would be successful in arbitration, the process would have begun by now. The Governor has dragged his feet from the beginning on this issue. He could have sought a revision in the compact language before the compact renewed with the existing language, but he knew that would not be successful so he pretended he didn't know the language was there or what it meant.

He also could have responded immediately when the Senecas called the State and cities on putting revenue in their 2017 budgets. He dragged his feet on using the compact's dispute resolution clause and even now is dragging it out by creating a distraction over the location for arbitration; he wants NYC rather than WNY.

Arbitration will not bring revenue sharing back to the State and Western New York should be glad about that. A billion dollars was sucked out of the region over the term of revenue sharing and a billion more would over the next seven years if the Governor had his way. The tens of millions that came back from the State in the old agreement paled by comparison to what the State kept. Losing that revenue was far more impactful to the region than what trickled back.



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BECKY WYDYSH Niagara County Legislator
STEVE BRODERICK Supervisor, Town of Lewiston
ALFONSO MARRA BAX Councilman, Town of Lewiston

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- ✓ *Alfonso Marra Bax - Councilman*
- ✓ *Victor Eydt - Councilman*
- ✓ *Becky Wydysh - N.C. Legislator*



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