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NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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SEP 8, 2017 - SEP 14, 2017

VOL. 18, NO. 28

FREE

How about voting this time? Primary Tuesday,
September 12, Polls Open 12 to 9



A
REASON
TO
VOTE



**Fish on
Drugs**



**Victim of
Injustice**

Primary Might Determine Next Niagara Falls City Court Judge

Because the race for Niagara City Court Judge, like all judicial races in New York State, allow candidates to run on all party lines, Tuesday's primary may be more important in determining the next Niagara Falls City Court Judge, than the general election. Primary Day is Tuesday, Sept. 12.

This primary, like all primaries, will determine which candidate represent each political party. The winners of the primary will be on the ballot for the general election in November for the respective party line they win.

In Niagara Falls there are four City Court judges. They are elected for 10 year terms. The position pays \$113,900 a year. There is one open seat this year.

There are three candidates vying for this seat, which is presently held by Judge Robert P. Merino, who turns 70 this year, reaching New York's mandatory retirement age for city, county and state judges.

The three candidates are Alan Roscetti, James Faso and Nicholas Pelosino. All three are attorneys who practice law in the City of Niagara Falls.

Primary May Be Decisive

While judicial candidates may run on every line, voters in the primary can only vote for one candidate on the party line in which they are registered to vote.

Since the primary determines which candidate represents each party in the general election, it is possible that the same candidate may win both the Republican and Democratic lines, essentially rendering the general election moot. Oftentimes primaries are the real election, and the general election is merely a formality.

This is a good argument that for those who care, they should make the effort to vote in the primary.

The primary may see a very low voter turnout and a few votes only may separate one candidate from another.

The role of a city court judge is an im-



Alan Roscetti



Jim Faso



Nicholas Pelosino

portant one in a poor city, with a high crime rate. A judge sets bail, conducts trials, and administers justice, offering leniency to some, second chances to others and stiff penalties for those he judges merit it.

It is a position that requires temperance, and justice, a familiarity with due process, a desire to see the innocent acquitted, the guilty convicted, a desire to balance the rights of the accused with the rights of the victims, and to instill a sense of confidence in the administration of justice, and to really achieve it.

It requires a person who is eager to learn the truth, who does not prejudge prior to hearing all the evidence and that when the jury decides the fate of the accused to set a sentence that is fair. In some cases this means a sentence that seeks to rehabilitate the offender as much or more than merely punish.

The city is fortunate this year inasmuch as there are three strong candidates for the office. Voters are able to become informed voters since each of the three candidates have distinguished themselves, one from another, by outlining their view of the law and its enforcement, and by their history and practice of law.

Primary key to City Court judicial race here, winner take all

Mike Hudson

Because the race for Niagara City Court Judge allows any registered voter to vote for any candidate, Tuesday's primary may well be more important than the general election in deciding who will be the next to don the black robe and preside over a north Main Street courtroom.

Three candidates are involved, Alan Roscetti, Jim Faso and Nicholas Pelosino.

Alan Roscetti, 37, was the first candidate to announce his interest in the seat held by Judge Robert P. Merino, who will turn 70 this year, reaching New York's mandatory retirement age for city, county and state judges. An election to fill a 10-year term will be held in November. The post pays \$113,900 a year.

Mr. Roscetti, an attorney for 12 years, is the son of James C. Roscetti, a well-known Niagara Falls attorney, and works in the family law firm, Roscetti & DeCastro. He said his background as a public defender handling all types of cases gives him the right experience for City Court.

"I believe in what I do, and as a public defender and an attorney in my family's law firm, I am living my boyhood dream," said Mr. Roscetti.

He remembers when he was a fifth grader at Sacred Heart Villa in Lewiston and someone took a picture of him holding a law book.

It was an early sign that this young man was headed for the legal career that now sees him setting his sights on a City Court judgeship.

"In many of the cases I handle as a public defender, there are mental health issues involved," he said, "and in many cases the problems can be diagnosed and the issues resolved in a fair and just way. You have to be able to adjust to the situation and act accordingly. As a judge, it would require the same ability to handle each case firmly but fairly and apply the right legal standards for all involved. That's what I would do."

Mr. Roscetti said his love of Niagara Falls is at the heart of his decision to run.

"Serving on the court would indeed be a high honor and one that I would treat with the utmost respect," he said. "I have lived in the house my grandfather built in Niagara Falls 60 years ago since returning home from college, and nothing would give me greater reward than to serve my fellow citizens on the City Court."

Like Mr. Roscetti, Jim Faso comes from another prominent area family. A Democrat, Mr. Faso plans to run in the Democratic, Republican, Conservative, Independence and Working Families Party primaries.

Mr. Faso lives in Niagara Falls with his wife, Valerie, a teacher at Niagara Falls High School, and their two daughters. He is the son of town of Niagara Justice James J. Faso, Sr.

A graduate of Niagara University and the University of Toledo College of Law, Mr. Faso is a member of the Niagara County Bar Association and is also a member and general counsel for the Niagara County Police and Judges Association.

"Our community recognizes the importance of having members of the legal community serving in our court system that have the experience and maturity to handle the cases presented," he said. "I am ready to do that work starting on day one."

Nicholas Pelosino, a self described law and order man considered by many to be the dark horse candidate in the race, has been a private attorney in Niagara Falls for more than 26 years.

"The decision to run for Niagara Falls City Court judge was one of the most difficult decisions I have ever made," Mr. Pelosino said. "I wavered back and forth for months in deciding whether or not to run for election of this position. In the end, it was my love for Niagara Falls that convinced me to run."

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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City Council race a chance for real change in Niagara Falls

Mike Hudson

If you take the view of Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster – that everything in the city is good and getting better under his leadership, you should get out and vote next Tuesday, Primary Day.

Incumbents Kristen Grandinetti and Andrew Touma both agreed that their record, tied to Mayor Dyster is stellar when they spoke at a public forum held at the Earl C. Brydges public library.

The overwhelming message of the other candidates who did appear at the debate was that the city is in dire need of change, and that Dyster and the present City Council are either unable or unwilling to provide it.

"No more reassessments," said Candra Thomason, a former city councilwoman and mayoral candidate.

"They are just another form of taxes ... Buyers are pulling back from buying houses because the assessments are higher than what they are worth."

Candidate Lakea Perry agreed.

"What we need to reassess is the way tax dollars are spent," she said.

"I decided to come here today because if I'm on the city council, I believe I should be able to answer any question that's asked of me ... I passionately love this city, and I want to encourage my son to move back to Niagara Falls," Ms. Perry added.

Candidate Sam Archie, who has been active in city politics for years, pointed to the obvious – in a city that's about to go bankrupt, out of control spending is probably not the best course of action.

"Everybody's got to tighten their belts in City Hall. We can't depend on the casino funds to bail us out, we should have not been doing that for the day-to-day operations of the city," Mr. Archie said. "We need to learn the word 'no.' It starts by saying 'no' to contractors that come in with a low bid because the majority council is going to give them everything they want."



(L-R) Candra Thomason, Bob Pascoal, Sam Archie, Chris Voccio

Pointing to the mismanagement of funds flowing into city coffers from the Seneca Casino Compact, Mr. Archie said there was simply no excuse.

"At least \$120 million of casino finds was used for budgets, which should have never happened," he said.

Ms. Perry agreed.

"Positions (in city government) were created that shouldn't have been," she said. "We should have a separate contract with the Seneca for the services they use. With the bidding process and change orders and RFPs, there is no documentation where the money is going."

Bob Pascoal, who heads up an organization of landlords here, focused on high taxes and poor code enforcement.

"We are going to be attractive to Buffalo. As their property values rise, there's going to be more demand for the property in Niagara Falls ... We are overtaxed," he said. "Right now we are in a situation where we actually punish people for improving their property. When you put on a new roof, put on siding, windows, a driveway, and then the tax man wants to go out and assess you. We are going to punish you by charging more taxes

because you fixed up your property. What it does is it encourages people to keep their property the way that is, and not in a very good state. But it may be beautiful on the inside."

"The council is not fully exercising their powers (in providing financial oversight of the city)," Mr. Pascoal added.

Former Niagara Gazette publisher Chris Voccio said he chose to retire in Niagara Falls because he sees an unlimited potential for growth.

"I could have retired anywhere when I did so at age 50 ... An outsider's perspective may just be what this city needs," he said. "We're going to need the help of the unions in order to get us out of this hole we're in ... The financial advisory board should never have been disbanded ... Consolidation of departments has to be on the table."

And, citing the overabundance of schoolteachers on the city Council, he added:

"We are not following sound budget practices. Teachers are vitally important to civilization. But I'm not sure they have much experience in the budget process."

Mr. Pascoal rightly pointed out that, since the city loses around 1,000 residents a year due to high taxes, high crime and a poor standard of living,

expensive programs designed to lure new residents might not be the way to go.

"We shouldn't be quite so worried about trying to attract new people to Niagara Falls, he said. "The main concern should be to keep the people we have here. If we can keep the people we have here it will be a magnet for other people."

There are nine candidates running in the primary for three open seats on the city Council. Five Democrats and four Republicans. Two incumbents, Kristen Grandinetti and Andrew Touma, are essentially running on their records. They did not appear at the debate.

"I will do whatever it takes to help this city whether I'm in office or out of office," said Ms. Thomason. "I'm hoping that you see her tonight that it doesn't matter whether we're Democrats, Republicans, conservatives or independents. But it matters that we are a community and that we work together."

Mr. Voccio added this word of advice: "When you go into the election, seriously consider voting differently than you've ever voted before."

Mr. Archie was blunt in his agreement.

"If you want real change, then we need to elect a new Council," he said.



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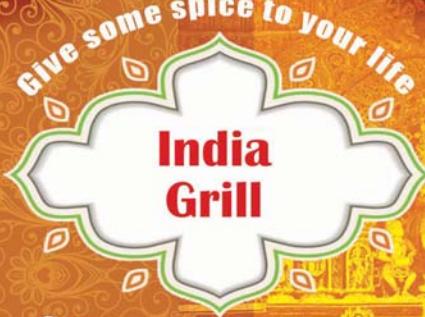
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Film Festival Comes To Niagara Falls



THE BUFFALO NIAGARA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL RUNS SEPTEMBER 20 TO OCTOBER 1 AT FOUR SEASONS THEATER; PUBLIC WELCOME

For the first time ever, The Buffalo Niagara Film Festival (BNFF) will be held in Niagara Falls.

The filmmakers' event, now in its 12th season, will run from September 20 to October 1 inside the six theaters at Four Seasons Theater on Military Road in Niagara Falls.

More than 400 films will be screened. A distinguished panel of judges will vote on the winners of different categories and genres of films. The public is invited to attend.

Hundreds of filmmakers submitted their films for screening and judgement. The BNFF is one of the top ranked film festivals in the USA and an award is considered a felicitous boost for the resume of a filmmaker and a shot in the arm for any film that wins it.

While the festival is widely known in the film industry, it is not as equally well known locally. Sponsored in part by the Niagara Falls Reporter, the BNFF is produced by Bill Cowell. At the request of the Reporter, Mr. Cowell arranged to locate the film festival in Niagara Falls for the first time in its 12 year history.

Tickets are available online or at the door. Those who want to see new and oftentimes first screenings of films are urged to attend. Many of the filmmakers come to the festival

to be on hand for the screening and meet other top industry leaders who attend the event.

Locals will get a rare opportunity to see the film industry at work up close and in way rarely afforded locally.

"The BNFF is not only for filmmakers and screenwriters but for film-lovers in general," said Mr. Cowell.

The festival is attended by numerous celebrities and noted film industry leaders some of whom are looking for emerging talents both in acting and in various other expertise in the industry.

This year a screenplay competition open to both professional and amateur filmmakers will be judged by successful screenwriters. A seminars on Hitchcock Suspense, will be hosted by writer, and independent filmmaker, Jeffrey Michael Bays. The film screenings include features, shorts and music videos.

Director, actor, producer, and acting coach Tom Todoroff is offering an intensive, two-day acting workshop. The public can sign up to attend.

In addition screenwriter John Stepling will be on hand as will, Actress and producer Nikki Moore; Film, TV, and stage actress Holly Fain; Actress Lynn Lowry; Actor, screenwriter, director, producer and jazz vocalist Robert Davi; Martial arts legend and film choreographer Frank Dux; Actress and filmmaker Catherine Oxenberg; And others

The Four Seasons Cinema is located at 2429 Military Road, Niagara Falls.

Tickets are on sale now. For more info visit: www.thebnff.com or call 716-297-1951.

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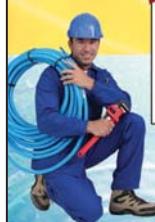
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[While all three candidates are worthy], The Reporter supports Alan Roscetti

Alan Roscetti has our support.

The general position of the Niagara Falls Reporter is that we rarely, if ever, make endorsements for political candidates. One of the main reasons is that, we believe people should think for themselves and make up their own minds.

So, rather than endorse a candidate for Niagara Falls City Court Judge, the Reporter will merely tell our readers who we support and why. Before we do that, let us just tell voters that we think all three candidates appear to be good men with good records and decent motives.

James Faso has been around a long time and has run into a lot of people; virtually everybody knows him or has heard of him. His father is a well respected judge in the Town of Niagara. Nick Pellisino is also a good lawyer and has made a name for himself for his legal work.

But for our part, we are supporting Alan Roscetti.

That probably already seems fairly clear based on the stories we have written about him. It is fair to say, we know him and have seen his work.

We also know his father, James Roscetti, who is one of the finest, most dignified and honest men we have come across in Niagara Falls. His son is just like him.

We support Alan Roscetti because we know him, we like him, and we judge him as competent. In fact, as a lawyer we have every reason to know he is not only extraordinarily competent, but we have rarely witnessed



Alan Roscetti, Esq.

anyone who goes the extra miles like he does – even on cases where he represents the poorest clients.

He is resourceful and energetic and in trial he is damn good on his feet. He has won some cases, for poor people, the kind of people who normally don't get much service or justice from public defender, that seemed remarkable to us. He brought out the truth- the real evidence – not lawyers tricks – but the facts that proved that an innocent client was in fact provably innocent.

Testimonial letters the Reporter received confirmed what we already believed: Alan Roscetti has had considerable trial experience

and went beyond the role normally undertaken by a public defender. It seems like he honestly cares that his clients get justice.

So many public defenders just ‘meet em and plead em’, that is they rush to get a plea bargain without ascertaining if the client might be innocent and should get justice at trial.

He is a thoughtful candidate as well. He is given to great thinking on alternative forms of resolutions to cases, like drug court and mental health court.

While he is no slouch when it comes to protecting victims, and punishing the guilty, he is practical enough to know that some people deserve a second chance: if they can be rehabilitated, it is a far better thing to do so, rather than punish them to the point that when they get out of prison they are only fit for more crime or a life of permanent dependency on welfare.

Alan is also an energetic candidate. He seems to have appeared on more radio talk shows and podcasts and answered more questions from voters. It seems that anyone who wants to know where he stands has plenty of chances to find out. We like the way he answers questions: they come from his mind and heart. He does not have preplanned statements, but talks straight, like one of the people.

That may be in part because he is one of the people of Niagara Falls. He went to Duke University then the University of Buffalo Law School. And he came home: He chose to live in this city. Right off the bat, right

after law school he moved to the city and bought his first house on Seneca Avenue in 2003. He lived there until he purchased his grandfather's house in 2009. He is sending his own son to the city's public school system so he has faith in the future of this city.

His family is in a sense Niagara Falls; what it was and what it could be. He owns and lives in his grandfather's old house, built by his grandfather over 60 years ago. His grandmother (Peunic/Klaja) lives in the same home she was born in over 90 years ago. His law firm has been in the same office on Main Street since 1948.

While we do not believe length of time lived in a city should be the determinant of who is best qualified to serve as a judge for a city, it does indicate a sense of dedication to and a likely knowledge of its people, and its standards and its challenges. His opponents came to live here more recently. Mr. Faso bought his house in Niagara Falls in 2013. Mr. Pelosino purchased his home in 2016. Maybe that is not important.

The Niagara Falls Reporter believes that all three candidates are sincere and worthy. We urge voters to think for themselves. For our part, we support Alan Roscetti. We think he will make a superior judge, one that may be long remembered for his regard for truth and dedication to not only the letter but the spirit of the law. A judge in the sense from the past, who uses common sense and considerable humanity to dispense justice.

Brother of pharmacist says Kendzia was arrested on sole word of a drug addict; trial will show the truth

Walt Kendzia

My Brother is Innocent, I know!

For sixty years, my brother, Bob Kendzia, has given dedicated service to the community in which he lives, to his church where many people know him, and to a city that he loves and supports. He helps his neighbors, his friends, his family, and, especially, his customers. He has worked to build his business and his reputation of caring for over 60 years while taking care of his own family.

I have always known Bob to be a kind and generous person. He spent long hours at his store taking care of his customers and trying to fill all their requests.

He takes pride in treating his customers as if they were family. He has always had their best interest at heart. You can always walk into his store and talk to whatever pharmacist is on duty, and talk to them like they were a brother or sister. Do we go to Walmart or Rite Aid and hangout out and talk to the pharmacist like a friend? Do the pharmacists from those stores go to church with us, go bowling or golf with us? Do they sit down and play a

game of cards with you? I don't think so. You are lucky if you know the full names of the pharmacists from those stores. Bob could be found any day of the week doing all of those things with his customers.

Can you do those things with a drug addict whose only interest is filling their own needs?

The woman who is accusing my brother went into the pharmacy to get her regular opioid medications.

She was not asked by Bob to take her clothes off!

However, that is what she went to the local police force and told them. Something doesn't sound right here – does it?? Where does the woman that is trying to ruin Bob's career get the right to accuse someone of something so unprofessional??

After she made this ludicrous statement to the police, Bob was questioned by them and the DEA, put in leg chains and handcuffs and taken out of his place of business!!!

How could they embarrass him in that manner? He was put into the back seat of a patrol car and taken to jail where



On the word of a disgruntled drug addict with a history of abusive behavior and multiple arrests, respected pharmacist and businessman Robert Kendzia was arrested. When the trial is complete and the accuser is proven to have committed perjury, one only hopes she will be arrested and local media will devote as much space to proclaiming his innocence as they did reporting his arrest.

he sat in a jail cell and was not given an explanation as to why he was there!

On the sole word of a drug addict!

What if another professional person was alleged to have said "I won't do that until you take your clothes off?" Would the police haul them away without giving them a reason and do the same thing to them as they did to my brother?? What is this country coming to?? He is already being called guilty and crucified by the television stations, the radio and the local newspapers.

Guilty until proven innocent ?? Doesn't sound right to me or to many others!

He hasn't had his day or his say in court yet!!

Thanks Law Enforcement!! You have taken away my brother's hard earned reputation in the community!! Yet when the truth comes out, it will be a very different story than what has appeared in the media so far.

Walt Kendzia

New study finds high levels of drugs, antidepressants in Niagara River fish

Mike Hudson

Everyone knows Niagara Falls has a serious drug problem. But a new study shows that the problem isn't confined to humans. Even the fish in the Niagara River are swimming around high.

In the study, researchers detected high concentrations of drugs and their metabolized remnants in the brain tissue of 10 fish species found in the Niagara River.

This vital conduit connects two of the Great Lakes, Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, via Niagara Falls. The discovery of antidepressants in aquatic life in the river raises serious environmental concerns, says lead scientist Diana Aga, PhD, the Henry M. Woodburn Professor of Chemistry in the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences.

"These active ingredients from antidepressants, which are coming out from wastewater treatment plants, are accumulating in fish brains," Dr. Aga says. "It is a threat to biodiversity, and we should be very concerned."

Two recent spills at the Niagara Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant contributed hundreds of thousands of gallons of drug-laced water to the river's delicate ecosys-

tem.

"These drugs could affect fish behavior. We didn't look at behavior in our study, but other research teams have shown that antidepressants can affect the feeding behavior of fish or their survival instincts. Some fish won't acknowledge the presence of predators as much."

When changes like these occur in the wild, they have the potential to disrupt the balance between species that helps to keep the ecosystem stable, says study co-author Randolph Singh, PhD, a recent UB graduate from Dr. Aga's lab.

"The levels of antidepressants found do not pose a danger to humans who eat the fish, especially in the U.S., where most people do not eat organs like the brain," Dr. Singh says. "However, the risk that the drugs pose to biodiversity is real, and scientists are just beginning to understand what the consequences might be."

The research team included other scientists from UB, Ramkhamhaeng University and Khon Kaen University, both in Thailand, and SUNY Buffalo State. The study was in the journal Environmental Science and Technology.

Dr. Aga has spent her career developing techniques for detecting contaminants such as pharmaceuticals, antibiotics and endocrine disrupters in the environment.



The opulent Niagara Falls Water Board administration building.

This is a field of growing concern, especially as the use of such chemicals expands. The percentage of Americans taking antidepressants, for instance, rose 65 percent between 1999-2002 and 2011-14, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

Wastewater treatment facilities have failed to keep pace with this growth, typically ignoring these drugs, which are then released into the environment, Dr. Aga says.

Her study looked for a variety of pharmaceutical and personal care product chemicals in the organs and muscles of 10 fish species: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rudd, rock bass, white bass, white perch, walleye, bowfin, steelhead

and yellow perch.

Antidepressants stood out as a major problem: These drugs or their metabolites were found in the brains of every fish species the scientists studied.

The highest concentration of a single compound was found in a rock bass, which had about 400 nanograms of norsertraline — a metabolite of sertraline, the active ingredient in Zoloft — per gram of brain tissue. This was in addition to a cocktail of other compounds found in the same fish, including citalopram, the active ingredient in Celexa, and norfluoxetine, a metabolite of the active ingredient in Prozac and Sarafem.

More than half of the fish brain samples had norsertraline levels of 100 nanograms per gram of brain or higher. In addition, like the rock bass, many of the fish had a medley of antidepressant drugs and metabolites in their brains.

Evidence that antidepressants can change fish behavior generally comes from laboratory studies that expose the animals to higher concentrations of drugs than what is found in the Niagara River. But the findings of the new study are still worrisome: The antidepressants that Dr. Aga's team detected in fish brains had accumulated over time, often reaching concentrations that were several times higher than the levels in the river.

In the brains of smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, rock bass, white bass and walleye, sertraline was found at levels that were estimated to be 20 or more times higher than levels in river water. Levels of norsertraline, the drug's breakdown product, were even greater, reaching concentrations that were often hundreds of times higher than that found in the river itself.

Prozac and its active ingredients also pose a problem.

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An open letter to the Niagara Falls Water Board

Scientists have not done enough research yet to understand what amount of antidepressants poses a risk to animals, or how multiple drugs might interact synergistically to influence behavior, Aga says.

The study raises concerns regarding wastewater treatment plants, whose operations have not kept up with the times, says Dr. Aga, a member of the UB RE-NEW (Research and Education in Energy, Environment and Water) Institute.

In general, wastewater treatment focuses narrowly on killing disease-causing bacteria and extracting solid matter such as human excrement. Antidepressants, which are found in the urine of people who use the drugs, are largely ignored, along with other chemicals of concern that have become commonplace, Dr. Aga says.

"These plants are focused on removing nitrogen, phosphorus, and dissolved organic carbon but there are so many other chemicals that are not prioritized that impact our environment," she says. "As a result, wildlife is exposed to all of these chemicals. Fish are receiving this cocktail of drugs 24 hours a day, and we are now finding these drugs in their brains."

The problem is exacerbated, Dr. Singh says, by sewage overflows that funnel large quantities of untreated water into rivers and lakes.

Since May of 2017, a half billion gallons of combined sewage and storm water had flowed into local waterways, including the Niagara River.

To: Gretchen Leffler, Colleen Larkin, Renae Kimble, Nick Forster and Dan O'Cal laghan,

Niagara Falls is being waterboarded.

In general parlance, waterboarding is a form of water torture in which water is poured over a cloth covering the face and breathing passages of an immobilized captive, causing the individual to experience the sensation of drowning.

But in our fair city, it constitutes control of our water supply by a group of political hacks, apparently answerable to no one, who represent a clear and present danger not only to human beings but to every fish and animal living in the Niagara River ecosystem.

Since its creation in 2002 by then-Councilman Paul Dyster, former Mayor Irene Elia, sacked Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte and former State Senator George Maziarz, the Niagara Falls Water Board has been a malignant cancer on the community it was ostensibly designed to serve.

Constant rate hikes and hidden money have been two of the smaller problems. The two years residents in the 72nd Street section of the LaSalle neighborhood endured winters without any running water whatsoever, the stench of the Buffalo Avenue neighborhoods around the Wastewater Treatment plant and, most recently, this past summer's major, double dip, wastewater spills into the mighty Niagara have been far more serious.

Now, a new study headed up by the University of Buffalo's Diana Aga, PhD shows that the brains of the fish in the Niagara River show unusually high levels of drugs like Zoloft, Prozac and other antidepressants, essentially turning our fish into drug addicts.

Sport fishing is a major industry along



Angler holding Lower Niagara River steelhead

the Niagara River, and anything that harms this important revenue stream can only be more bad news for the embattled Niagara Falls economy.

Take it up with Mayor Paul Dyster, the self-proclaimed "green mayor" who has now become one of the biggest polluters of the Niagara River in recent history.

You, the Niagara Falls Water Board, have allowed this to happen.

And, as usual, the people of Niagara Falls, Lewiston and Youngstown, along with the flora and fauna that depend on the Niagara River for sustenance, have been the big losers.

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Sam Archie

For City Council

How do I intend to make a difference for the city of Niagara Falls and our residents?

I plan to ACT!

A: Accountability

As residents, you deserve leadership that looks out for your best interests. Each vote or resolution I make will be based on my responsibility to protect how your tax dollars are spent.



C: Communication

My door will always be open to listen to your concerns. I believe that strong two-way communication is vital for effective government. I am here to represent you.



T: Transparency

Government works for the people. You should be in the know about policies, decisions, and issues that impact you and your quality of life. I will be open and honest about what's going on at city hall.



Meet Sam Archie
Candidate for
Niagara Falls City Council

I'm Sam Archie. I'm a lifelong Niagara Falls resident, father of Chris, Eric, and Nick, and husband of the former Jeannette Woolson.

There is no better way to really understand a community than to be immersed in it. My involvement in many community groups has given me good insight to our community's needs. Here are some of the organizations I've been proud to be part of, past and present:

Past

Hyde Park Little League, Coach and Board Member
LaSalle Kiwanis, President
Cataract Lodge#240 I.S.D.A, Vice President
Hyde Park Business Association, Member

Present

Center City Development, Board Member
N.F.M.A.F and Boots, Brews, and Bacon Music
Fests, Volunteer
Niagara LaSalle #132 Freemasons, Member

#ItsAboutYourMoney

716-940-5238 | 2133 North Avenue,
Niagara Falls, NY 14305 | archie4nfcouncil@gmail.com

Paid for by Friends of Sam Archie

State Standardized "Common Core" tests poor measure of Educational Achievement, says local expert

Patricia Dobrasz Munnikhuyzen

The New York State Education Department's boasts of improvements in the Common Core standardized test scores for 3rd-8th grade students have zero value to education. However, they are useful for politicians.

Governor Cuomo, for example, wants a justification to privatize more public schools, and billions of dollars are at stake to be made by Cuomo backers. Caught in the middle, our children are being used as pawns. Many parents, myself included, can see through this scheme. Parental involvement has somewhat loosened Cuomo's grip on the State Education Department (SED) and purposeless and expensive testing, but more needs to be done. Politicians and test designers are profiting generously at taxpayers' and our children's expense thanks to the spring standardized NYS Common Core Tests. That is the ONLY purpose that the tests serve.

Initially, state testing started as part of former President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" program, which by law mandates state testing. The program wasn't very effective, but it didn't hurt districts either. Unlike the current tests, No Child Left Behind had a benefit, in that teachers graded their student's tests and could determine what needed to be tweaked. Obama rebranded the name "Race to the Top," and dangled money out to states as bait to implement the Common Core. Governor Cuomo took it. The money wasn't enough to pay for its implementation in public schools and taxpayers had to pick up the difference, which was substantial.

Governor Cuomo put a twist on the program by introducing it in our schools before training teachers as other states did. He then used the test scores to hurt schools and teachers, which was not done with the tests associated with No Child Left Behind. Parents immediately took notice of the negative changes and the altered culture of the schools, as well as their children's attitudes about school, and investigated, tracing the most detrimental changes to Governor Cuomo. At the time, it was not known that Mr. Cuomo was aiding others' hidden agendas, enabling them to use public education as a vehicle for those agendas, having as many public schools as possible declared "failing" based on the tests in order to justify eventual privatization. Some speculated that Mr. Cuomo sought the Democratic nomination for president and wanted education to be the centerpiece of his campaign among his accomplishments as governor.

Teacher-designed tests are a much more accurate tool for student assessment in grades 3rd-8th. If the SED wants to reflect failing schools, they adjust the formula to reflect that, and vice versa if they want to show improvement.

Furthermore, the test scores have zero prescriptive value as far as informing a school district on which direction to take instruction. The scores are released the next summer, with very little specific information about what students did well or poorly on. Once again, it's important to remember that these tests have little to do with education and everything to do with politics.

I am a parent that joined about 250,000 other bipartisan parents of 3rd-8th grade students across the state in refusing these tests to try to regain local control. Our refusal numbers led to many changes, such as special education students who still take the tests getting their normal testing accommodations,



Mrs. Munnikhuyzen is a middle school teacher and served on the Wilson Central School Board

fewer days of testing for all students, the drop of sensitive inBloom data mining of students and their families, and a law that prevents the faulty test scores from ever becoming a part of their transcripts prior to high school.

It should be noted that the high school tests cannot be refused. I'm a parent of two high school students now, but I continue to advocate against the Common Core because the Common Core Regents test scores affect my children deeply. My children are doing well and are in a wonderful school district (Wilson), but I want better for them than what the school district is forced to teach. In addition, my children, like many, may attend out of state colleges, and their transcripts will have to compete against students from non-Common Core states.

If the high stakes state tests were not determining the fate of schools, teachers and high school Regents results, teachers could use common sense and improve the poorly written standards. Instead they are forced to teach narrow and poor material because it will be reflected on the test results. Therefore, we have a heavy test prep culture in our schools and a resultant teacher shortage. The traditional Regents were much better assessments of high school students, and teacher-designed tests for elementary and middle school students.

The SED may be boasting about improvements on the state 3rd-8th grade tests, but they are not valid claims. Can you imagine a farmer stapling fruit onto a tree and then claiming that he grew a great crop? The SED is "fruit stapling" the state test scores to meet its own agenda which, of course, is Gov. Cuomo's. The insanity of the SED testing our kids with bogus tests, wasting both taxpayer dollars and instructional time better spent in other ways needs to end. Test refusal rates have hovered around 20% for the past three years despite 40,000 students aging out each year.

Parents have become attuned to education matters like never before, to the extent that Governor Cuomo knows that he has botched up education in NY and lost the support of many. He is trying to obtain the Democratic nomination for the next presidential election. While many will benefit from "free college" in NY, many are of the opinion it was done by him to gather support in an area, education, that he has been abusive to. He hasn't put the interests of the children of New York State first, but has used them to further his agenda at their and taxpayers' expense.

Parents of children in grades 3rd-8th grade, please continue to refuse the state spring tests to help curb this insanity and return local control... and Common Sense, not common core to public education.

Bulletin-Game Changer-Bulletin: North Korea... Truth Or Consequences?



**J. Gary
DiLaura**

**The Right
Side**

When Saddam "Insane" Hussein convinced the United States and our allies that he was in possession of weapons of mass destruction and would use them against us, what did our President do? He killed the bastard and wiped out his regime and army, and did what he swore to do...he protected, defended and preserved his country!

"But Saddam lied", you say, and he didn't have weapons of mass destruction. Well, Saddam played Truth or Consequences and LOST! You see, weapons of mass destruction are a real thing, not a computer game and if a president played the games, these dictators, supreme leaders, and in general tyrants play, he will get some of us killed. Now, if we could decide who those victims should be ... maybe it wouldn't be so bad...but we can't! So, it could easily be you or me or our kids!

I believe that Kim Jung-Un has convinced the United States that he has weapons of mass destruction, and has convinced me, at least, that he intends to use them against us and our allies.

What's the next step? If you want to wait and see if this nut-bag is playing Truth or Consequences and see if he really can launch an H-Bomb to your doorstep, as long as you are a very long distance from me ...give me your name, address and I'll send Kim an email with your info and tell him that you dare him and you said that 'Kim is a girl's name,' and his parents were a mule and a donkey and they gave birth to a 'Jackass'.

If Kim really detonated an H-bomb as he says...it's a VERY big techno game changer. An A bomb is a fission device like the bombs used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in August, 1945. Eighty thousand people died in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki, INSTANTLY! Some 192,000 people died total from the detonations and radiation. The 'smaller' of the two bombs was the Hiroshima bomb (Little Boy) which yielded 16 kilo-tons from 2...that's TWO pounds of U-235!!!



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

An H-Bomb is a fusion bomb which uses an A-Bomb as its detonator! That should scare you, as it is that much more powerful than an A-Bomb!

If Kim were to detonate an H-Bomb, 180 miles in the air, over the west coast, as an EMP device it would kill the Electric Grid probably over the entire West Coast and 1/3 of our Nation's Grid would go "down" as would every airplane within its "influence" range, including military planes! Your generators won't work, neither will your pumps, cars, trucks, electric medical devices. If he gets off three, he could kill about 90% of our Grid. We would be without power for years ... medicine, refrigeration, food, natural gas, propane...everyone dependent on insulin would die in 3-4 months. About a dozen or so critical, huge, transformers

that cannot be built in the US and take two years to build in the best of times, as well as millions of pole transformers, will melt!

The thing we have to keep in mind is this: If Kim could fire an H-Bomb, on a missile, from a portable launcher, set up on a commercial tanker, 100 miles off our shores, would he? That's 20 minutes out! Are you willing to take that chance?! He doesn't need an ICBM capable of leaving our atmosphere, traveling in space, then re-enter and detonate 180 miles up. That is all a distraction...in my opinion! He will launch from ships off your coasts! There is no possible defense for that!!! If you don't think he could get that close...think about how close he got to two US Destroyers with a tanker and a container ship! Were those "tests"?

The President must obtain Congress backing

to launch preemptive strikes on North Korea, and consider a Declaration of War, to knock out Command and Control Structures, known launch sites, airfields, nuclear sites, locations of Kim, leaders, soldiers...an all out attack to totally disable North Korea, period! Stop, search or sink all ships leaving North Korean ports no matter what the flag!!! Do what we can for South Korea but...America comes first...put a temporary halt for inspection on all ships approaching our coasts, sink or board any ships within 500 miles that refuse to stop!!!

IT'S THAT SERIOUS IF NORTH KOREA OR IRAN, FOR THAT MATTER, HAS AN H-BOMB!!!

Prepare to defend yourselves as we must go on the offensive...N. Korea is for real!!! My Opinion...

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Valid for up to party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.

Put a flame under it.

Incumbent Grandinetti Emphasizes Family, Community

Kristen M. Grandinetti

Dear Fellow Niagara Falls Voters:

We are at the homestretch... less than a week until the SEPTEMBER 12 primary. The POLLS are open from 12:00 noon until 9:00 pm. There are three (3) City Council seats available. I am asking for your vote for one of those seats.

I am SHAPED BY THE PAST, it made me who I am - I am WORKING IN THE PRESENT, for a good life for all of us.

I am BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE, with our children in mind. I am a daughter, sister, aunt, cousin and friend - I am a teacher, a public servant, an activist, a believer. I love Niagara Falls, I truly do. I believe in our future.

I will tell you the truth, even when it is difficult to do so. I will speak truth to power. I will do my best for you.

I will represent and respect you, ALL OF YOU. There is so much more I want to do for our community.

A little about myself: I was born and raised in Niagara Falls. My father was an immigrant/refugee, who fled Italy because of political oppression. He was orphaned here when he was twelve, but stayed to fulfill his father's dream of becoming an American citizen and building a life here. My mother's family, also of Italian descent, settled in Niagara Falls as well. My parents were hard working, respected members of this community. Sadly, we lost my mom when I was just nine. It was then my Dad became the most important person in my life.



Kristen Grandinetti

I acquired my values from him, as well as his work ethic and his dedication to family and community. He loved Niagara Falls, and he was the most patriotic American I ever met. He considered it an honor to be an American citizen.

He was unique for a man of his background and generation; he believed that my mom, myself and my sisters were every bit as worthy and intelligent, and had just as much to offer as did my brother. He had a great respect for women.

With the love and encouragement of my dad and my siblings, I was encouraged to not give up, to hold fast to my dreams, to give back and to be respectful of ALL those around me, and to understand it is never too late to enrich your path.

I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve

you because of my life experiences. I have been involved in family businesses, and operated two businesses of my own. I spent years in the hospitality, tourism, and service industry. I faced great financial challenges when, after being laid off, I went back to school to fulfill my dream of becoming a teacher. I am a homeowner and I continue to operate a small business of my own.

Being a teacher, I have a deep understanding of the needs of the families and children of our community. I have seen the positive changes that have occurred in both our city and our school district. I am so proud to live here, teach here and serve this community.

I have learned so much since joining the City Council. I am able to see the "BIG PICTURE", which is something I couldn't have said before. I understand that it is often difficult to accomplish our goals, so I appreciate the NEVER GIVE UP attitude instilled in me by my family.

Money is tight right now, but we will prevail. We will get through this together, and come out stronger and better than before.

I remember when Niagara Falls was bustling. I realize that many factors worked against us, and I know that it took 50 years to break it down, and we can't fix it overnight. But if we stay the course, have patience and stick to the plan we will get it done. There will be bumps in the road, sometimes we will take the scenic route, but I believe with all my heart we will get it done. And I would like to continue to work for you, the people of Niagara Falls.

I thank you for your consideration.

Try India Gate for Something New

Though it is hard to say that things are boring these days, there is always room for a little excitement. And all it takes to get it is to go a little ways down the road.

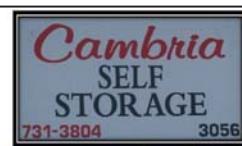
India Grill, located at 2117 Military Road in Niagara Falls (across from the Outlet Mall), offers its catch phrase, "give some spice to your life." Their offerings can certainly do that.

They have two specials, which include getting a free chicken entree when you buy any entree for \$30 or more, and every Sunday and Thursday, if you buy two entrees, you get a third for half off.

Now that football season is officially underway, they are offering Indian-style chicken wings (it is India Grill, after all). You can make your Sunday tailgate party a bit different from the next guy.

They offer dine-in and take-out service, which makes a surprise dinner possible and reasonable.

You can also stop in to eat, though you may want to make reservations. Call 716-524-2142 to make a change and add some spice to your life.



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Roscetti Explains True Purpose of Drug Courts and its role in Niagara Falls

Alan James Roscetti

The Niagara Falls City Court offers additional "Quality of Life" courts.

Last week I provided an overview of Mental Health Court to give our residents some insight and understanding of the system. This week I'd like to discuss Drug Court and its purpose.

In 1989, Drug Court was established in Miami in response to the crack epidemic. Jurists in Miami realized that the endless cycle of addiction, incarceration and recidivism needed to be broken to reduce drug use and drug-related crime.

In Niagara Falls, under the direction of Chief Judge, Mark Violante, Niagara Falls Drug Court was implemented in 1997. Since its inception, thousands have participated in it over the years. Many have successfully completed the program and moved on to a better lifestyle. The object of Drug Court is to identify defendants where substance abuse dependencies appear to have significantly contributed to their commission of crimes and, if eligible, place them in court-monitored treatment.

The basic concept behind drug courts involves a dramatic intervention by the court in cooperation with an entire team including the defense, prosecution, treatment, education, and law enforcement. In return for a promise of a reduced sentence, appropriate non-violent addicted offenders are placed in an individualized court-supervised treatment plan which is

closely monitored by the judge. The rules and conditions of participation are clearly stated in a contract entered into by the defendant, the defense attorney, the district attorney, and the court. Weekly report dates with the court guarantee that defendants are keeping their end of the bargain, to comply with treatment and to refrain from using drugs. The threat of going to jail is sometimes the best inducement to get people addicted to drugs to quit.

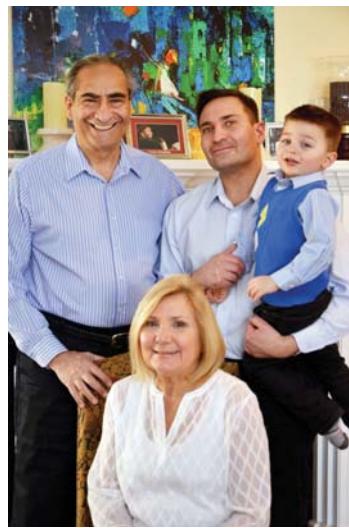
The results have been largely positive and drug courts have gone into operation all over the country.

New York State leads the nation in the expansion and institutionalization of drug courts into daily court operations. The benefits of the program have been well recognized and documented. As of January 1, 2016, there were 141 drug courts in operation, 89 in criminal courts, 33 in the family court, 4 in town and village courts and 15 drug courts solely for juveniles. Through January 1, 2016, over 93,000 individuals have participated in New York State court drug treatment programs and over 42,800 have graduated. In addition, 867 drug-free-babies have been born to drug treatment court participants while in the program.

For more information, feel free to contact me at 716.308.1433

Alan James Roscetti is a candidate for Niagara Falls City Court Judge. For more information on his campaign, please visit www.voteroscetti.com or go to www.facebook.com/VoteRoscetti

Roscettis Support Their Son for Niagara Falls City Court Judge



James, Alan, Alexander and Paula Roscetti

excellent Judge; fair, firm, respectful, honest and compassionate.

He has the ability and experience for the position, and those same traits make him an excellent father to his son.

Alan attended Duke University for his undergraduate degree. He could have stayed in the south, but he made the decision to return north, go to the University at Buffalo Law School, and to live in Niagara Falls to work with his father's firm and reside in the home his grandfather built in 1950 on 28th Street. With his son, there have been four generations that have lived in that house; which by coincidence is a block away from the house where his mother was raised and where his grandmother (Sophia Peunic) has resided for over 90 years.

Alan was a member of the Boy's and Girl's club and played little league baseball, soccer and basketball in the City leagues.

So, we are confident when we tell you he knows Niagara Falls and its residents, and is the best qualified candidate for the position of Niagara Falls City Court Judge.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Jim & Paula

James C. Roscetti
Paula (Peunic) Roscetti

TOP REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12

- ✓ 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.



ALAN JAMES
ROSSETTI

FOR NIAGARA FALLS CITY COURT JUDGE

Alan James Roscetti

is a candidate who is:

- ✓ Honest
- ✓ Experienced
- ✓ A family man
- ✓ A long-time resident
- ✓ Dedicated to the community
- ✓ Professional
- ✓ Active
- ✓ An excellent listener
- ✓ Values our Veterans



A Candidate who is
**THE RIGHT
CHOICE.**

www.VoteRoscetti.com