Advertise your business with the Niagara Reporter!!

Over 10,000 papers printed each week Over 2,000 online subscribers Over 60,000 website visits per month Over 25,000 reached on Facebook weekly





FREE May 23, 2018 - May 29, 2018 NiagaraReporter.com

FREE Vol. 19, No. 2

After Long Ordeal, **Denise Scott-Mejia** Gets Her Life Back, Name Restored



Accidental Gun Discharge, Harming No One, Led Her Through 7-Month Criminal Justice System Odyssey.

By: Frank Parlato

Very often it happens when someone is arrested it makes the front page and when the case is dismissed it is either not reported or buried somewhere in the back of the paper.

Such will not be the case with Denise Scott Mejia. Yes, she was arrested on September 25, 2017 and it made headlines in all the local media

Here is her story:

Better known to folks around here as Dee Scott, she grew up on 10 St. in downtown Niagara Falls. She graduated from Lasalle High in 1993. She later graduated from the University of Pittsburg with a degree in neuro science and psychology.

In 2003, she married Manny Mejia, a coach for the Pittsburg Pirates. She gave birth to her only child, Manny, Jr., in 2004. She and Manny, Sr. divorced in 2007.

In 2010, Dee returned to Niagara Falls because her mother was ill. Dee and her son moved in with her, back to the home she grew up in. She went to work at Seneca Niagara Casino as a dealer. Later she was promoted to a Dual Rate Supervisor. She works there still. Her mother died in 2013.

Dee became a writer in her spare time

and has written six books; her most popular being "Stay In Your Lane," available on Amazon. Her 7th book "A Black Girl's Book of Shadows" is about to be published.

In 2014, she launched her own weekly radio show on Blogtalkradio.com - called 'Stay in Your Lane" and attracted an audience that includes a fan base in the USA and the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Her shows focuses on current events and mental health. She has done more than 200 episodes.

In September 2016, Dee was appointed to a term on the Niagara Falls Human Rights Commission. And just for the record, she had never been arrested before.

The genesis of her arrest might be that she lives in a high crime neighborhood. It has also to do with a gun. Because her house had been targeted by burglars and vandals, she bought a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun. She wanted to be able to protect her son and herself in case of a home invasion.

In January, she decided to come out with a clothing line and hired an old family friend, who, for purposes of this story, we will call "Freddie." Freddie worked with Dee from January to July 2017, when Dee closed down the company. After Freddie was laid off. Dee received mail concerning Freddie's prior employment and, on a day

she had off from work - she decided to drop the mail off to him. From there, she planned to go to a store to buy a hard case for her

She took the rifle with her. She foolishly forgot to unload the gun of buckshot. Dee drove down the alley behind Pierce Ave where the driveway was to Freddie's house. There was Freddie's old Lexus, with windows broken after vandals smashed it, in the driveway.

When she walked up the driveway, she saw a man looking out the window. She thought it was Freddie. She went to her jeep and got her gun to show him. The barrel was pointing downward toward the ground as it should be when carrying a gun and it accidentally discharged a single shot into the gravel driveway. The force of the kickback caused the gun's barrel to rise in

She was startled. Very shook up. She placed the gun in her car. Seeing the man in the window was not Freddie, she left. It was lamentable that a gun discharged and buckshot went into gravel, but it was not an act of violence. It was an accident. She harmed no one. So she thought she was free to go home and compose herself.

The sound of gunfire prompted a call (Cont. on pg. 2)

APOLLO

JOB COSTING \$300 OR MORE

Military Discount

Call Michael White

Attorney at Law

998-7499

MATRIMONIAL LAW PERSONAL INJURY FAMILY LAW

REPRESENTATION YOU

CAN

TRUST



D'ANGELO

ATTORNEY AT LAW

990-3677



FOOD AT THE FOLD

Find Over 20 Coupons & Specials at the "Fold (pg. 6)





Niagara Falls

Denise Scott-Mejia Cont.

to police. The nearby elementary school was locked down. They thought there was an active shooter.

She was driving down Main Street on her way home. Police pulled her over. Four or five police cars were on the scene and surrounded the car with guns drawn. They handcuffed her and put her in back of the police car. Searched her car. Her gun was on the front seat.

She was crying. She told them, "I taught my son gun safety and here I go and have this accident." That may be where they got the notion she said her son loaded the gun. That's not what she meant.

She was arrested and spent the night in jail, charged with first degree reckless endangerment – a felony.

Police made their report and it was available to the media - that witnesses said a female suspect fired a shotgun once into the rear of what appeared to be an abandoned, older model Lexus automobile. And after firing into the car, witnesses said, Dee, "aimed the shotgun up towards the second floor of a nearby building and attempted to fire another round." But the gun did not fire.

The media reported that Dee "told arresting officers that 'her son had loaded the gun for her and that it just went off while she had it in her possession."

From an accidental discharge into gravel, the story became fictionalized into her firing into a car, then trying to fire into a second story window, and blaming the gun being loaded on her son.

She appeared in court for her arraignment. The prosecutor argued for high bail. She was a dangerous woman. When it was argued that she did not make contact with Freddie, the prosecutor spun it and said, "yeah, I would not have any contact with her either - she tried to shoot

him."

Dee was freed on \$10,000 bail.

Following, her arrest, the story got better and better – or worse and worse – depending on your perspective. News reports said, "Investigators said the damaged car belonged to Mejia's exboyfriend and that they are treating the incident as domestic violence related. Detectives did not say what may have specifically triggered the shooting."

The story grew worse on social media. It went from her shooting into her boyfriend's empty car, to "she ran up in a car with a man sitting in it and tried to shoot him"

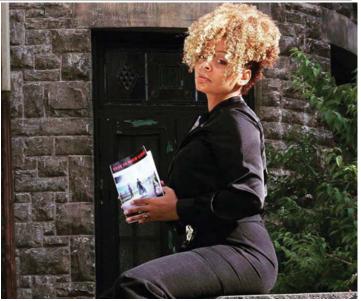
While on bail, a lot of other things changed for her. She did not go to her usual coffee shop. She switched grocery stores to avoid people talking. She was in constant fear that someone would take her child. She shut down her companies because she had to focus on the trial and keeping her job.

In the meantime, Freddie went to the DA and told them he was not home that day, but he never had a problem with Dee. They were close family friends; she had no reason, he believed, to want to shoot him. They remain friends to this day.

Freddie's insurance company verified the car was not shot by Dee. Freddie had already made a claim for the vandalized car, including broken windows – and they gave the DA pictures taken a month before the gun discharge occurred.

Dee's attorneys ran ballistics on the shotgun. Tests showed there was nothing wrong with the gun. If she had wanted to fire a second shot, as alleged, it could have been fired.

Unable to prove it was anything other than an accidental gun discharge, the prosecutor struck a plea deal with Dee -



Denise Scott-Mejia is photographed with her book titled, "Stay in Your Lane."

disorderly conduct.

On April 24, 2018, after seven long months, the case was concluded. That was a month ago and to date – as far as I know no one has reported that felony charges against her were dismissed.

So that's the story. It may not be important. But we put on the front page for that's where it belongs.

As for the moral of the story. The obvious one is don't carry a loaded gun. But isn't there another moral? About how a person could make a mistake and because of whatever we are – whatever we have

become, our society is quick to assume the worst and wish to punish and seek to ruin. That was almost the case with Denise Dee Scott Mejia.

But there was no mens rea – [no criminal mind] no attempt at hurting anyone. She got hurt pretty good nevertheless.

She had intended during her day off at work to get a case for her gun and enjoy a day of relaxation. Instead what followed was seven months of hell. And perhaps now that the public knows that the case was essentially dismissed with only a disorderly conduct – now perhaps the healing can begin.

NIAGARA



REPORTER

Frank Parlato, Jr.

Publisher & Editor in Chief

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Managing Editor

P.O. Box 3083, Niagara Falls NY 14304 (716) 870-1175 niagarareporter@gmail.com

Delivery Locations by Town/City

Amherst Tops (3035 Niag. Falls Blvd.)

Grand Island Tops (2140 Grand Island Blvd.)

Lewiston DiCamillo Bakery (535 Center St.) Public Library (305 S. 8th St.) Tim Hortons (2970 Saunders Settlement Rd.) Tops (906 Center St.) Rite Aid (731 Center St.) Syros Restaurant (869 Cayuga St.) Village Bakery (417 Center St.)

Lockport Lockport City Court & County Courthouse Save-A-Lot (5770 Transit Rd.) Tops (5827 South Transit Rd.)

Niagara Falls
City Hall (basement)
The Como (restaurant, deli, & airport locations)
DiCamillo Bakery (all locations)
Frankies Donuts
John Duke Center (1202 Hyde Park Blvd.)
Key Bank (800 Main St.)
Memorial Medical Center (entrance to lobby)
Michael's Restaurant (3011 Pine Avenue)
Marketside Restaurant (708 E. Market St.)
Mom's Restaurant (2410 Military Rd.)
Niagara Towers (901 Cedar Ave.)
Niagara Falls Family Court (775 Third St.)
Niagara Falls Police Station (1925 Main St.)
Niagara Falls Public Library (Main St.)
Niagara Falls Public August (1925 Main St.)

North Tonawanda
Broadway Hotel (158 Main St.)
Budwey's Market (535 Division St.)
City Hall (216 Payne Ave.)
Lou's Diner (73 Webster St.)
Public Library (505 Meadow Dr.)
Olympia Restaurant (3312 Niag. Falls Blvd.)
Tops (301 Meadow Dr.)
Roman Café (797 Payne Ave.)
Save-A-Lot (1365 Nash Rd.)

Sanborn Smokin Joes (gas station and store) Tim Hortons (2970 Saunders Settlement Rd.) Tops (2956 Saunders Settlement Rd.)

Tonawanda Tops (890 Young St.)

Wilson Lakeside Market (337 Lake St.)

Youngstown Public Library (240 Lockport St.) Rite Aid (214 Lockport St.) Village Diner (425 Main Street)

Spallino Towers (720 10th St.) Supermarket Liquor (8438 Niag. Falls Blvd.) Tops (Niag. Falls Blvd., Portage, & Military) Tim Hortons (all locations) Wedge Liquors (825 Pine Ave.) Wrobel Towers (800 Niagara Ave.)

All businesses that advertise with the Niagara Reporter will also have the paper delivered there

'Pothole Killer' Takes a Dive

Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Analysis

You often hear residents in Niagara Falls joke about the potholes lining almost every street.

In fact, hardly a day goes by after spring begins where residents do not comment on the poor conditions of our streets.

Some residents joke about planting flowers in potholes that are large enough.

Others, however, laugh about falling into a pothole and not being able to get out.

As ill-humored, or funny, as the pun may be, it finally happened on



Thursday May 17th as the city's

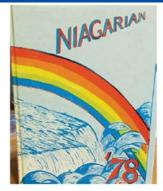
'pothole killer' fell through a sinkhole at the intersection of 18th and South Street.

Let that 'sink in' for a moment.

The sinkhole is said to be caused by ground weakened by a nearby water main break that had not been detected by the Niagara Falls Water Board.

The 'pothole killer' was not damaged in the incident and no one was harmed. The water main and sinkhole have been fixed.

The 'pothole killer' resumed work the following day.



NFHS CLASS OF 1978 40TH REUNION

Friday July 27, 2018 7-11 PM

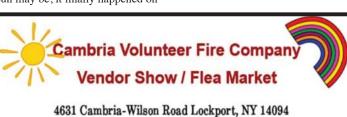
Hyde Park Ice Pavillion Stone Room 911 Ribbons Drive, NF NY

Open Bar, Food, Music, Fun & **Friends**

\$50 per person pre-sale \$65 per person at the door

RSVP by July 1, 2018 to Karen (716-998-2880) or Sue (716-930-6067)

Mail checks to: NFHS Class of 1978 700 Pletcher Rd. Lewiston, NY 14092 Don't miss out on the fun!!!



Saturday - June 2, 2018 12 Noon to 5 PM



** Food / Coffee & Soda Available in Kitchen**



" ADMISSION IS FREE"

If you would like to be a vendor please Contact Christina (716) 804-4507



Kitchen & Bar LATE NIGHT 24 FOOD CRAFT LIVE MUSIC ON BEERS WEEKENDS Wednesday-Saturday: Opens at 5pm Sunday: Opens at Noon "Best Brunch in Town" 223 FERRY AVE. NF, NY | (716) 600-2337





Lewiston, NY 14092

DealRealtyOnline.com

Deal Realty Memorial Day "Collect For Vets"

As a tribute to the soldiers who have fallen, Deal Realty will have a float in the VFW Memorial Day Parade in Lewiston on Monday, May 28th. Deal Realty agents will be picking up clothing and non-perishable food donations for Vets along the parade route.

Donations Accepted At:

Memorial Day Parade, along the parade route Deal Realty Office, 451 Center St., Lewiston aul Hutchins Agency, 245 Portage Rd., Lewiston Chris Fit Personal Training, 400 Witmer Rd., Niagara Falls

ANALYSIS

"Whaddaya Mean There's Nothing to do in Niagara Falls?"



STEMBox RACE: As Gaskill Preparatory School 7th grade student Neville Parchment speeds down the gentle incline of Pine Avenue in his #6 car in front of the Niagara Arts and Cultural Center, LaSalle Preparatory School student Vincent Schiro was pretty juiced in talking about his participation in the STEMBox Car trials on this past Monday as he waited for his opportunity to ride down Pine. The main race event will be just one of the events planned for the upcoming Memorial Day 2018 Weekend Extravaganza, which will have something for everyone to do.

Young Schiro said of the event that, "It's pretty cool. Kids get to build cars and

they get to race it." He said that he got involved said that he saw it at his school and it was on the morning announcements, "And so, it looked cool so I just signed up for it, and brought a few of my friends and we just made a car."

Actually, Schiro and friends joined in to make the 8th car that will be participating on Pine Avenue on Monday, May 28th, 2018 in the finals. The setup for the event will be at 9:00 a.m., the race itself at 10:00, and a good time with Kicking-It-With-the-Cops food and refreshments.

The timely event was the idea of Darne Hamilton and was carried by me, Ken Hamilton, to teacher's union president Marcus Latham, who in turn fleshed out this year's event with preparatory schools STEM Coordinator Richard Clark, school psychologist Bryan Rotella, and Niagara Falls teachers Mike McGrath, Ed Wisniewski, Richard Benator and Kris Green, and myself. This year's cars were obtained through a grant written by Stan Woiton.

With the projected success of this event, Maryvale Schools Superintendent Joseph D'Angelo has expressed an interest in participating in next year's event, as well as Niagara-Wheatfield. Arrangements will soon be made to make the competition open to other Niagara County school districts as well as those on Grand Island and Maryvale.

When Schiro was asked if he had



learned anything, which is the whole point of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math STEMBox races, he responded, "We learned how to put wheels on a car and build a racing car." Schiro then expressed an ongoing willingness to continue in the mechanics of the event.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE and AVM@NF CEREMONIES: Great events are scheduled for Saturday, May 26th, 2018.

While most Niagarans won't remember the days when, in celebratory cowboy attire, the Oklahoma-born Mayor E. Dent Lackey rode his white stallion down Main Street in the lead of the huge parades of yesteryears, hopefully modern Niagarans won't forget the Memorial Day parades down Pine Avenue in recent years either. Ken Tompkins and his crew have Pine Avenue decked in the Stars and Stripes on every lamppost between Main Street and

Robbins Drive in preparation of what could be the largest parade that the city has ever had. More than 100 marching groups will be participating. To the delight of thousands of spectators and cheering kids, the parade will step-off from the City Market at 10 o'clock a.m. with the last of the marchers reaching the American Veterans Monuments at (Hyde Park) Niagara Falls at around noon.

Spectators are encouraged to continue into the park to participate in the ceremonies of recognition of those military men and women who gave their lives in the cause of world freedom. The annual event usually lasts about one-hour.

TETHERERD BALLOON EVENT ON MEMORIAL DAY SUNDAY: On Sunday, May 27th, 2018, 3:00 p.m., the Niagara Falls Veterans Monument Commission, in conjunction with Otto Rendanz and M. J. Colucci funeral homes, will be holding a tethered balloon Family Memorial Service for all residents of Niagara Falls and the surrounding area. The purpose is to allow families to share both their military and non-military losses in the last few years with each other and to "let go" our grief and celebrate the memories. All are invited to hear interfaith prayers and songs, and to enjoy the company of each other.

"Whaddaya mean, there's nothing to do in Niagara Falls?" As Mike Hudson said about the news that exists in the city, I say the same about the amount of activities, "There's lots to do in Niagara Falls!"



5 Day Productions is a full-service audio production company, specializing in custom cables & assemblies and pro audio retail as well as design, installation, and support of professional technology solutions. Driven by a genuine passion for what we do, we make it our mission to create astonishing audio, video and lighting integration solutions that bring venues to life and enhance all aspects of the user's sensory experience. We are built on a solid foundation of hard work and integrity. Just looking for a couple pieces of gear? We can do

are built on a solid foundation of hard work and integrity. Just looking for a couple pieces of gear? We can do that too! Our product line card includes over 1400 major AVL brands & manufacturers. Visit our website and shop our custom products and pro AVL inventory.

/16-8/0-334

WWW.5DAYPRODUCTIONS.COM



LIGHT DUMP TRUCK SERVICE & MINI EXCAVATION

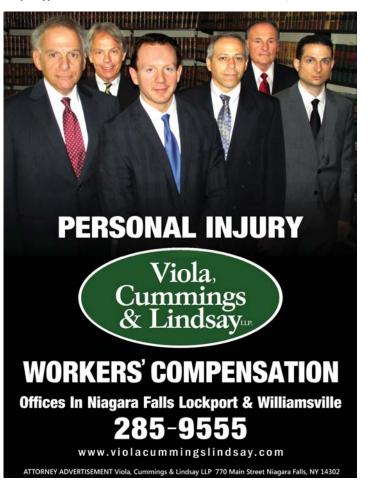
- HOMEOWNER NEEDS:
 STONES, DECORATIVE
 STONES, TOPSOIL & MULCH
- LAWN ROLLING / SNOW
 PLOWING
- ASPHALT PAVING & REPAIR

(716) 545-0489

- . LITE DEMOLITION WORK
- . SKIDSTEER WORK
- 24 Hr. Answering Service

LICENSED & INSURED

10% MILITARY AND SENIOR CITIZEN Discount!



Memorial Day Parade & Civic Engangement



For the past two years, Niagara Falls City Councilman Ken Tompkins has built quite an impressive parade organization when it comes to the Memorial Day Parade.

It seems like every hour alright, maybe every other hour - he and his wife Terry are consistently posting within the many social media forums to inquire about group and civic participation in the parade as well as updating the community about donors and etc.

At first glace, the job description of a city councilman does not include parade chairperson,

but Ken has somehow written it in. In all seriousness, I think the community outreach that Councilman Tompkins has performed in his short tenure in office should be acknowledged and admired.

Civic engagement – in every sense – is what we need in this city. This ranges from attending City Council meetings (which are every other Wednesday in City Hall starting at 6:00pm - with the next meeting being THIS Wednesday, May 23rd) to volunteering in neighborhood cleanups or keeping up with your local block clubs (Norma Higgs serves with the Niagara Beautification Commission and Niagara Falls Block Club Council and can be found via Facebook).

Being involved in the community is rewarding. You have the opportunity to meet new people that are invested in where we live and want to see Niagara Falls look better and actually BE

Complaining on social media does not make the problem go away. Grab a shovel. Organize

your neighborhood. Attend a city council meeting and sign up to be a speaker. Call your local legislator and ask questions.

I believe that one of the main reasons people do not initiate contact with groups to volunteer is fear. Whether that is fear of rejection or fear of the unknown, those that overcome it (just like I had to myself) will find the opportunity to give back more rewarding than they could have imagined; not to mention fun.

Or perhaps the reason you haven't gotten involved is because you lack the contact information or event information. I have found that once you get your foot in the door, it becomes easier to be informed about the upcoming events.

Call, email, Facebook, or visit your local officials office because they will certainly know where there are events and volunteer opportunities. Or better yet, do your own thing, on your own time, and ask your neighbors to join you. Even if it's that one Sunday a month after your religious practices and coffee

time, you're still making a difference by getting out, contributing, and putting something good back into our community.

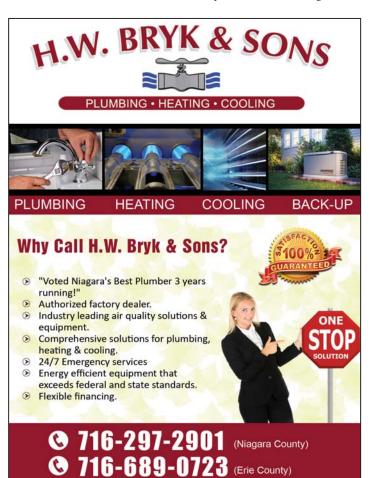
This city desperately needs YOU. What are those old cliches..."Rome wasn't built in a day" or "many hands make light work." They both apply to our current situation in Niagara

Stretch out your hand, volunteer, and be part of something bigger than yourself. Today is the day.



5380 Chew Road Sanborn, New York

PROPANE











Home, decks and driveways. 10% off. Call for prices.

CALL NOW AND SAVE!



Lou's Home Maintenance And Repair

579-7397

Call us also if you want to repair or replace:

- - · Plumbing
- Chimney
- Windows
- · Siding • Doors

Electrical + Drain Cleaning



FOOD AT THE FOLD



COUPON

ORDER OF \$20 OR

829 Main Street NF, NY | (716) 235-6359



0% YOUR ENTIRE ORDER

795 Rainbow Blvd. NF, NY | (716) 284-9778

Highlighting **Small Businesses Throughout Niagara County**



Open Tues - Sat @ 4pm







NF, NY | 215-6217 CITY-WIDE DELIVERY







236-7030

2 Pizza Pie slices & Soda \$5.50 (includes tax)

Dine-In or Take-Out

COUPON



2501 Pine Avenue | ORDER OF \$20 OR MORE

.UCKY'S BAR

2500 Military Rd., Niagara Falls

You don't need

371-2991



930 Lake Road (18F) Youngstown, NY | 745-1010

COUPON **BUY ONE GET ONE** $\frac{1}{2}$ off breafast

Like us on Facebook!! Open 7 days a week starting at 6am!!

Twisted (lives Restaurant & Bar

333 Rainbow Blvd. NF, NY | 215-6222 "Best happy hour drink specials in Niagara Falls"

SPECIAI VERY THURS. NIGHT STARTING @ 3PM 25 CENT WINGS \$5 PIZZAS Like us on Facebook!!

VENTRY'S

PIZZA SHOP

OUR ONLY LOCATION

TUES / WED \$10

\$30.00

1/2 TRAY CHEESE PIZZA WITH ONE ITEM **PICK-UP ONLY**



2410 Military Rd. NF, NY | (716) 283-6667

PO

YOUR ENTIRE ORDER

aco's Pizzerila e

COUPON

ANY PIZZA & WING SPECIAL OVER \$20

ROCCO'S wiches & Cater

Monday-Friday: 11am - 6:30pm Saturday: 11:30am - 6pm Sunday: Closed

NF, NY | 297-7248

0 R **\$2 OFF** ANY SUB OR SANDWICH

DINE-IN OR TAKE-OUT!!

2057 Military Road

О NF, NY | 297-5759

FOOD ORDER OF \$20 OR MORE "not valid Sunday's"

CRAFI Kitchen & Bar 223 Forty Avenue

NF, NY | 600-2337 24 Craft Beers on Tap

BEER **ONE-TIME USE*



3044 Niagara St. 345-3779

\$2 Tuesday's \$2 Well \$2 **Drinks Beers**

Try our Steak & Cheese Subs!!

The agara Sausage Co.

5611 Lockport Rd. NF, NY | 298-4422 Open @ 9am (Mon, Wed-Sun)

COUPON

5

SUMMER PACKAGE

wiji Goill Niagara Falls JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE 283-6888

283-3888

0 Purchase of \$45 of \$65 before tax



Niagara Falls, NY

SPECIAL

1/2 TRAY or 18" NY STYLE PIZZA + 1 ITEM **& 20 WINGS** \$22.00



2500 Niagara Falls Blvd.

SPECIAL

NF, NY | 216-6693 WE DELIVER!! Exp. 5/31/18



8442 Niagara Falls Blvd. NF, NY | (716) 283-3322 L

Advertise your business in our "Food at the Fold!"

Call (716) 990-3677

\$30 Per Week

Restaurant Review: La Cucina

Tony Farina

If you are in the mood for old world Italian dining at its simple and elegant finest, you might want to visit La Cucina Di Mamma at 795 Rainbow Blvd. in Niagara Falls where chef and owner Angelo Morinello may have just the right stuff.

As Italians would say, the food is "delizioso," whether we're talking popular favorites like spaghetti and



Owner Angelo Morinello.

meatballs and eggplant parmigiana with pasta or appetizers like bruschetta or fried calamari. Or you might want to give Angelo's specialty a try, the rice balls, breaded and fried, stuffed with meat, peas and mozzarella and covered in fresh tomato sauce. I did and they were "molto delizioso."

Angelo grew up in Lewiston but now makes his home in the Falls, and he took over the restaurant a couple of years ago when the former owner, Filippo Villella, retired and moved south.

While he studied business in school, Angelo says his heart is in cooking.

"I've traveled to Italy three times to learn about the food," says Angelo, "and I can say this, in Italy the pasta is about the pasta, not the sauce, and that's something I put into practice at my restaurant."

I took up Angelo on his acquired forte, and I can tell you his meatless sauce with pasta was terrific.

There is room for about 30 guests at La Cucina which is open every day until about 10 p. m., and diners can eat and relax while being serenaded by Angelo's vinyl record

collection featuring Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Jerry Vale, and the great Italian operatic tenor Luciano Pavarotti. And there is a fine collection of wine to help you savor your meal and relax and enjoy the outstanding entertainment being piped in for your pleasure.

"Our specialty here is very simple, light, and elegant," says Angelo in describing the atmosphere inside his spotless restaurant. "We want people to come here, whether they are from the area or tourists from across the world, and enjoy a taste of Italy in a warm and friendly environment."

As a longtime investigative reporter, writing a restaurant review is not my specialty. But I stopped into La Cucina a few days ago for a quick bite and wound up staying



for some time, visiting with Angelo, and enjoying a great meal. And the prices are moderate. I highly recommend it.

COUPON



825 Pine Ave. (Pine & 9th) Niagara Falls, NY

> Mon-Wed: 9am-10pm Thurs-Sat: 9am-11pm Sunday: 12pm - 9pm

COUPON

Exp. 5/29/18



Mr. Jacks Sunday Tues.-Sat. & Co. Haircuts, perms, colors, shampoo and sets 3028 Niagara St. 282-0810 Niagara Falls, NY

Cute CUSTOM PILLOWS, TO MATCH ANY MOOD OR STYLE

CALL ME TODAY: Tammy Simmons 716-251-0959



LOGO, NAME, DATE.

2 FOR \$25 PILLOW SALE!!!





Operated by C.R.B. Holdings, Inc. Owner: Robert W. Burns

8500 Niagara Falls Blvd. (716) 297-1641

2248 Niagara Rd. (716) 731-5346

3024 Pine Ave. (716) 285-0410 2720 Military Rd. (716) 297-3947

621 10th Street (Inside NFMMC) 2970 Saunders Settlement Rd. (716) 731-5151

NOW OPEN.

4700 Military Rd. (716) 297-4232



North Tonawanda

Band Shell Ribbon Cutting

Brendan McDonough

People in North Tonawanda will now have one more place to enjoy outdoor concerts. The Mayor Along with other city officials held a ribbon cutting ceremony to launch the opening of the new Band Shell. It is located at Raymond Klimek Veterans Park on River Road and is designed for people of all ages to

"This year when we do our easy listening concert series, we will be entertained and watching with this new beautiful venue and an equally new beautiful Band Shell," said Rich Andres, Niagara County Legislature.

Money to pay for it came from a grant from the Niagara River Greenway Commission. The structure is made from solid cedar wood and cost just under \$ 100,000 to build. For many it is a welcome addition to the neighborhood. "I think it is wonderful, the more opportunities the better for us to take advantage of the nice parks in our area, I will be here attending the different events at the Band Shell," Deb Wachowicz, North Tonawanda Resident.

It not just a place for concerts, organizers say they plan to have exercise classes here, religious services, a family fun night is also planned here in August. Before this was built, an old trailer was brought in every week for the various events, but it got damaged during a wind

In addition to having several family fun events, many hope the new band shell will also help to bring the commu-

nity together.
"When we talk about banding, we bring people together, we band animals to sometimes count them, when you are married you wear a wedding band because it brings us together, it is a symbol

of coming together. A band is bringing people together here at the Park we are going to do a lot of banding this sum-mer," said Mayor Art Pappas

For veterans it is a place that they hope many people will come to and enjoy different events but also a time for people to remember those soldiers who paid the ultimate price. "We have been developing this into a veteran's area, the more events can have at Veterans Park the better, so that when people attend a band concert or theatrical production, can also walk over to the monuments and pay homage to the men and women that served in the armed forces," said David Jakubaszek, Honor Guard Member.

City officials have a few finished touches to make at the Band Shell. Some planters and a sign will be added. Giving people across North Tonawanda one



more place to come together. To all of you, this is your band shell, this this your park. Especially to our veterans. This is a great investment to Raymond Klimek Veterans Park, it's another way we can pay testament to those who have worn the uniform and served our country," said Senator Robert Ortt 62nd District Senator.



ATTENTION FORMER **EMPLOYEES OF:**

Bethlehem Steel, Carborundum Company, Electro Metallurgical (Union Carbide), Hooker Electrochemical (Occidental), Titanium Alloys Manufacturing (TAM) and Lake Ontario Ordnance Works

Have you or a family member been diagnosed with a cancer that may have been caused by exposure to radiation in the workplace?

If so, you may be eligible for benefits under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (EEOICPA).

The EEOICPA provides monetary compensation and medical benefits to individuals who became ill as a result of working in the nuclear weapons industry. Survivors of qualified workers may also be entitled to benefits.

The EEOICPA is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor. For additional information contact the New York Resource Center toll-free at (800) 941-3943 or visit our website at https://www.dol.gov/owcp/energy/.

ROUBLE?



998-7499

SUPER LAWYERS

NIAGARA REPORTER

Personal friend of the Gecko[®].



1330 Niagara Falls Blvd | Tonawanda, NY 14150 Across from the Boulevard Mall

















Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. Boat and PWC coverages are underwritten by GEICO Marine Insurance Company. Homeowners, renters and condo coverages are written through non-affi liated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2018. © 2018 GEICO

8612 Niagara Falls Blvd., 297-1902

Tonawanda's 26 Unique Spots Featured on Walking Tour

By: Brendan McDonough

The history of the Tonawanda's runs deep and now people will be able to learn more about both Tonawanda and North Tonawanda. City officials announced the kick off The Heritage Tour of the Tonawanda's 26 unique spots are featured in the walking tour, and people will be able to see and hear what the history is at each location.

"At each location you will be able to listen to an online narrative of each location describing the history of that particular site, many of the locations will afford you the opportunity to get out an explore," said Cathy Oddo, Executive Director, Chamber of Commerce.

The project was funded thanks to a grant from the William G Mayne Community Enhancement Program. From the Gateway Harbor to Webster Street people can learn about what's old and what's new in the area.

"Everyone contributed, from deciding on the sites to gathering the historical facts, then working with the cities for the construction and installation of the signs, even with the smallest details everyone helped out," said Everlyn Zupo, Chamber of Commerce.

Actors dressed as the founding fathers helped to kick off the ribbon cutting ceremony on the Webster Street bridge. Before the ceremony they got in a canoe and rode across the canal.

"This kind of a tour you are going to learn so much, even if we have lived here all of our lives, just these 26 points on this brochure, I have learned more myself, even though I have lived in both cities all of my life," said Mayor Art Pappas.

In the early 1800's people first began arriving to what is now known as the Tonawanda's. Over the years it has experienced many changes and historical leaders says it's important for people to learn about what many people now call the Western Gateway to the Erie Canal.

"We were the lumber capital of the world, the music capital of the world. We have the Rivera Theater, which to my knowledge has the only theater organ in the United States. So wonderful things have happened here. There is many things in North Tonawanda that many people forget about because they are here every single day," said Joe Muridura, Local Historian.

Some of the stops along the tour include Old Tonawanda High School, St Francis Chapel and Long Homestead to name a few.

Highlighting the best of both Tonawanda and North Tonawanda and giving people a rare look into the history behind some unique places.

"Dating back to when our 2 cities were founded our histories get intertwined and to this day both me and Mayor Pappas are friends, we like to work together for the better of both of our communities," said Mayor Rick Davis, Tonawanda.

Following the ribbon cutting and kick off the walking tour a reception was held at Webster's Bistro.

'Say No To Child Abuse' Fundraiser

By: Brendan McDonough

They came to bid and to say no to Child Abuse. Inside the Sikora American Legion Post in North Tonawanda people of all ages came out to take part in the basket raffle. The event was hosted by the Erie-Niagara Sunrise Exchange Club and says money raised from the event will help support 3 local organizations.

"There is a whole bunch of things that people do not realize that they are doing and that they are actually abusing their children. So, we want to bring awareness of what child abuse is and hopefully one day with the help of these agencies we can see an end to child abuse," said Joanne Guercio, Event Organizer.

From physical abuse, mental abuse to neglect, they say child abuse come in many forms and it is a growing problem all over. For many residents this is one way they say they can do something to help those who need it the most.

"I believe this is something great for

"I believe this is something great for the community to join against child abuse

We have Something

for Everyone!

Put a flame under it

and to raise money for this. No child should ever be abused," said Darlene Woods, North Tonawanda Resident.

At the event they had theme-based baskets for people to bid on. As well as a lottery frame valued at 300 dollars. Also available was food and drinks for people to purchase. Organizers say they are hoping to raise over 3000 dollars for the agencies.

"There are over four thousand reports of child abuse every year in Niagara County and the number keeps going up. That is just the reported cases we know about, we also know it's not always reported. It's a significant issue every where and I we serve children from every corner of Niagara County," said Ann Marie Tucker, Child Advocacy Center.

Also, up for grabs was a cake with 175 one-dollar bills around it, for many it's a way to help a good cause and have fun at the same time.

"I am a big basket auction fan and I like to help a good cause. I go to tons of benefits, to help and I like to help. I ride

for Roswell every year and I enjoy it," said Nina Fox, North Tonawanda Resident.

Helping raising awareness and helping to fight child abuse one basket and one day at a time.

"I am supporting child abuse prevention. Those children need advocates and the organization here are advocates," said Joanne Mierzwa, North Tonawanda Resident.

For more information about child abuse prevention and education you call contact the Exchange Club at 716-381-5087.





National News

People Magazine, Vice, Oxygen, & More Give Parlato Credit for Busting Sex Cult

Media all over the world are giving Reporter/Publisher Frank Parlato credit for taking down the vicious and sinister NXIVM cult. His reporting, in the Niagara Reporter, and his other media outlets, led to the arrests of cult leader Keith Raniere and top assistant, actress Allison Mack. People Magazine said,

"Journalist and blogger Frank Parlato says he worked for Nxivm between 2007 and 2008, but was never himself a member of the Upstate New York-based group. In recent years, Parlato has written more than 1,700 critical posts about Nxivm and Raniere on his website, and says he has been sued multiple times by the group, which he along with one former member describe as a 'cult.'

Parlato, who has developed a large network of Nxivm sources over the years, was the first person to report about the alleged branding of female members and wrote that Mack's arrest was imminent days before it happened."

Vice News also did a piece on Frank Parlato which aired on HBO last week. An excerpt from their story is included below:

The story of alleged cult NXIVM has all the makings of a binge-worthy docuseries. A secretive leader who allegedly had women branded with his initials, wealthy heiresses who helped finance the organization, and a Hollywood actress accused of luring fresh recruits.

But before all that was public, back in 2007, NXIVM, correctly predicting in advance the firestorm of press that lurked ahead, hired Frank Parlato to help with its public relations.

They hoped he might go after detractors of the group accusing it of being a cult. He ended up exposing the story that made the alleged cult famous: that it had a secret sorority that was branding female "slaves" with leader Keith Raniere's initials.

"I turned on an instant and said this is more than a cult. This is a deadly cult.

This is more than a kooky group. This is a crazy group, a criminally insane group and it's not just Raniere," Parlato said.

Raniere and actress Allison Mack have since been arrested and face sex trafficking and forced labor charges. Both have pleaded not guilty.

NXIVM denies its a cult and says it's working with the authorities to demonstrate Raniere's innocence. Their lawyers wouldn't comment for this piece.

Oxygen.com also did a comprehensive piece on Parlato's reporting of NXIVM:

He's charged with fraud, conspiracy, money laundering and obstructing the IRS. But that didn't stop him from bringing justice to a man he says is the true danger to society: The alleged leader of a sadistic sex cult.

Frank F. Parlato, Jr., a newspaperman and blogger in upstate New York, spent years fighting to expose Keith Raniere, who is accused of branding and enslaving female followers of his organization, NXIVM.

Raniere once employed Parlato as the group's publicist — giving him access he'd later use to help bring NXIVM down.

That's only one of many strange twists in a tale that started more than a decade ago and has now led to Raniere, 57, facing federal sex trafficking charges. He will be arraigned in Brooklyn on Friday.

Parlato, meanwhile, was indicted in 2015 by federal prosecutors in Buffalo in a separate case.

He's charged with defrauding the IRS and two of the alleged cult's financial supporters, Clare and Sara Bronfman. The sisters, who are daughters of the late Seagram liquor magnate Edgar Bronfman, were among Rainiere's followers and gave more than \$100 million, prosecutors say

Parlato says he told FBI agents about NXIVM's crimes in 2015 — before he



Photo of Frank Parlato while being interviewed by Vice.

was indicted, and years before Raniere would be busted.

"The branding and the blackmail had just begun," he says, referring to his 2015 tip. "None of the branding and blackmail would have happened if the government wasn't so incompetent."

Parlato — who owns the Niagara Falls Reporter and Buffalo's alternative weekly, Artvoice — first revealed the group's branding ritual in June 2017 on FrankReport.com, a blog dedicated to exposing Raniere and his alleged crimes.

"Before that," Parlato says, "no one was paying attention. It was the branding that made people understand what was really going on."

Using sources tied to the group, Parlato posted hundreds of stories exposing secrets about NXIVM's alleged ritual sex, abuse and financial fraud. Parlato continues to update the blog nearly every day, now posting stories about the case against Raniere — and even the case against himself.

Raniere's former live-in girlfriend, Toni Natalie, praised Parlato for finally letting the world see behind the curtain of NXIVM.

"If it were not for that man we wouldn't be having this conversation today," she told Oxygen.

"Frank represents a voice" for her and other survivors, she added. "He speaks our truth."

Parlato's journey with the group began in 2007, when Raniere hired him to be NXIVM's publicist, based on the recommendation of a friend. Raniere publicly portrayed NXIVM as an executive coaching program, and styled himself as its guru.

"I came on the scene and they told me he was a celibate monk," Parlato recalled. "He would walk into meetings barefoot, in jeans and a t-shirt. He would spout on the meaning of life, and the women would swoon."

"Everyone seemed chipper about their life," he added.He said Raniere befriend-

ed him and paid him \$75,000 a month, an amount that could not be independently confirmed.

Besides the Bronfman sisters, NX-IVM attracted another famous name
— "Smallville" actress Allison Mack, who was recruited in 2010. On Thursday, the Albany Times Union confirmed that Mack is the person identified as Raniere's "co-conspirator" in the criminal complaint against him.

The attorneys respectively representing Ranire, the Bronfman sisters and Mack did not return requests for comment from Oxygen. A spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Buffalo also did not return messages.

While Mack may have assisted Raniere, Parlato says, Raniere "was everything in NXIVM. Everything had to be approved by Raniere. All of the women deferred to him."

Parlato said he had a "slow awakening" to the truth about Raniere, eventually discovering that his charismatic boss "spent most of his days" having sex with his followers.

But he had a hard time accepting that Raniere could be up to anything sinister.

That changed in 2008, when Parlato learned that Raniere blew through more than \$100 million of the Bronfman sisters' money. After that, he says, the Bronfman sisters "came to me looking for \$5 million. They wanted to know what happened to it."

Parlato says he found about onefourth of the missing cash in Los Angeles with a business partner of Raniere, who invested it in real estate holdings under his and Raniere's name.

But soon afterward, in February 2008, Raniere fired Parlato, he says.

Though the sisters had agreed to pay him \$1 million for his efforts on their behalf, Parlato says, "Raniere's people asked for the money back."

"I told them I earned it. I told them to sue me for a fair resolution," he said.

While he was being sued in civil court



Sketch of Keith Raniere after he was arrested by the federal government.

NIAGARA REPORTER MAY 23, 2018 - MAY 29, 2018



Sketch of Allison Mack after she was arrested by the federal government.

by the Bronfman sisters. Parlato was holding the Bronfman sisters' money in an escrow account in case they won. Because of that, he says, he didn't pay taxes on it.

Federal prosecutors in Buffalo didn't see it that way.

In November 2015, they dropped a 19-count indictment charging Parlato with defrauding both the Bronfman sisters and the IRS. "The scheme," the office said, "involved more than 15 shell companies, 50 bank accounts, and multiple attorney trust accounts."

Parlato insists he's innocent and that Raniere and his followers "wanted to punish me."

He says Raniere uses the Bronfman sisters to "go after all their enemies." Raniere's ex-girlfriend Natalie, who

was sued repeatedly by Raniere after she left him, also said the group uses "the legal system as a stalking device. They use the legal system to punish people. They litigate you into submission."

What happened to Parlato, Natalie says, is "what happens with people who don't follow Keith's orders.'

Federal prosecutors in Brooklyn seem to agree. In the criminal complaint against Raniere, they allege that Clare Bronfman repeatedly attempted to have criminal charges filed against a former "slave" who spoke out publicly against the group.

Parlato lives in Buffalo but is now spending in time in Florida, where he goes to escape Buffalo's brutal winters. He's due back in court in Buffalo June 7.



CLASSIFIEDS

Attention residents of Niagara Falls, you have the right to bare arms! Join Harris Restaurant & Catering on every fourth Sunday of the month at 3pm, located at 630 10th Street, Niagara Falls, NY, to learn

more about: gun safety courses -application assistance free range training -consulting on firearm purchases

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of LA HACIENDA RESTAURANT & PIZZA LLC

LA HACIENDA RESTAURANT & PIZZA LLC. filed Articles of Organization with the NY State Secretary of State ("NYSSS") on May 4, 2018; the LLC is located in Niagara County; XVISS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it can be served; a copy of any process served upon NYSSS will be mailed to the LLC at 2902 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301; the purpose of the LLC is to engage in any lawful act of activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of

Arts. of Org. have been filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY).

Office location: Eric County.

Office address: 1866 Webb Rd., Grand Island

NY

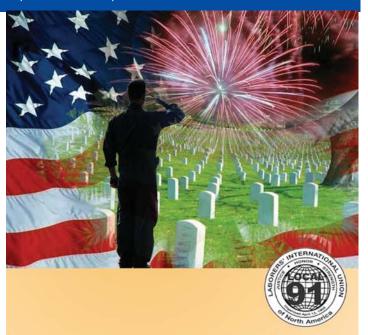
SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207.

Purpose: Any lawful activity

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a license, number "Pending", for a beer, liquor and wine, has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, liquor and wine, at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 3019 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, Niagara County, New York for on premises consump-

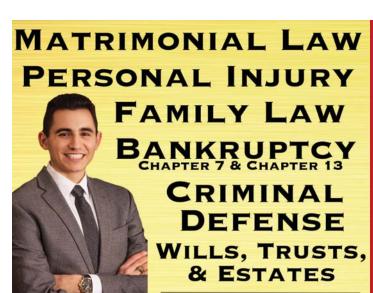
La Hacienda Restaurant & Pizzeria LLC



We Are the Land of the Free Because We Are the Home of the Brave

Memorial Day is a U.S. federal holiday wherein the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces are remembered. The holiday, which is celebrated every year on the final Monday of May, was formerly known as Decoration Day and originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the Union and Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died while in the military service. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries.

Memorial Day is not to be confused with Veterans Day; Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving, while Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans. On Memorial Day, the flag of the United States is raised briskly to the top of the staff and then solemnly lowered to the half-staff position, where it remains only until noon. It is then raised to full-staff for the remainder of the day. The half-staff position remembers the more than one million men and women who gave their lives in service of their country. At noon, their memory is raised by the living, who resolve not to let their sacrifice be in vain, but to rise up in their stead and continue the fight for liberty and justice for all. For many Americans, the central event is attending one of the thousands of parades held on Memorial Day in large and small cities all over the country. On Memorial Day, remember and honor the men and women who gave their lives for our freedoms in this great nation. Thank them, not the reporter, for giving us freedom of press. Thank them, not the poet, for giving us the freedom of speech. Thank them, not the politicians, for ensuring our right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. It is the Soldier who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag. Remember, Freedom isn't Free. Thousands have paid the price, so that we can enjoy what we have today. Thank you for ALL you have given US and for ALL we have today as a result of your ultimate sacrifice.



Representation YOU can TRUST

NICHOLAS D. D'ANGELO

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1990-3677

WWW.LAWNIAGARA.COM



Home Maintenance ENTERPRISES,

No JOB IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL. MAKE THE CALL & LET US TAKE CARE OF IT ALL!! 310=9882













SILVER PACKAGE (\$90 MONTHLY)

2 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL OF 2 HOURS

- CLEANING GUTTERS
- FIXING WINDOWS OR SCREENS
- FIXING MINOR PLUMBING LEAK
- REPLACING KITCHEN FAUCET
- REPLACING LIGHT BULBS
- UNPLUG SINKS
- CHANGE OR REPLACE **FURNACE FILTER**
- HANGING **CURTAINS/BLINDS/PICTURES**
- RAKE YARD
- CHANGE LOCKS (2 PER CALL)
- REPLACE TOILET SEAT

TREATING YOUR HOME AS **OUR OWN SINCE 2002**

GOLD PACKAGE (\$115 MONTHLY)

2 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL OF 2 HOURS

- INCLUDES ALL FROM SILVER
- INSTALL WINDOW (2 PER CALL)
- UNPLUG TOILET
- FIX SWITCHES OR OUTLETS
- REPLACE SINK
 CLEAN FURNACE
- REPLACE SMOKE DETECTOR OR CO (4)
- **RE-ROUTE CABLE FOR TV**
- FIX HOLE IN WALL (UP TO 12")
- REPLACE MIRROR
- Move Furniture in House
- ASSEMBLE STORE FIX SIDING **BOUGHT PRODUCTS**
- INSTALL DRYWALL (3 SHEETS UNFINISHED)
- FIX MINOR FENCE PROBLEMS
- REPLACE INTERIOR DOOR

PLATINUM PACKAGE (\$135

3 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL OF 3 HOURS

- INCLUDES ALL FROM SILVER & GOLD
- PACKAGES INSTALL CEILING FAN
- (WIRING MUST BE PRESENT) • REPLACE HOT WATER TANK
- REPLACE EXTERIOR DOOR
- FIX GARAGE DOOR
- JUMP START VEHICLE
- . PAINT ROOM (12' BY 15')
- CLEAN SEWER
- REPLACE SHOWER FIXTURES
- CLEAN WINDOWS (4, DOUBLE HUNG)
- REPLACE LIGHT FIXTURE (2 PER CALL)
- FIX ROOF LEAKS (1 SQUARE)
- INTERIOR PAINTING (1 HOUR)
- **VEHICLE TOW WITHIN 15 MILES** REPLACE TOILET
- FIX TILE (ONE SQUARE)