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Libertarians To Interview Restaino for Endorsement

By: Tony Farina

Analysis

The Libertarian Party candidate won enough votes in the 2018 gubernatorial race to win a ballot slot for the party and while they may be small in number, their Niagara County chairman is eager to run candidates and cross-endorse others seeking office in the November election.

The party has its first-ever candidate running for office in North Tonawanda for the office of clerk/treasurer.

"We'll run our own candidates and be cross-endorsing," says Chairman Charlie Flynn, former vice chairman of the state Independence Party from 1998 - 2006.

Among those who could possibly receive the party's cross-endorsement is Robert Restaino who already has the Democratic, Conservative, Independence,



and Green Party lines for mayor of Niagara Falls.

The Libertarian Party will be interviewing candidates from Aug. 6 - Aug.

(Cont. on pg. 3)

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 Niagara Falls

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The Bakery Restaurant Is Top Shelf

By: Tony Farina

It started out as a nightclub 50 years ago and 25 years later featured table phones to help diners connect -- if they so desired -- in a warm and delicious environment filled with the wonderful -- and romantic -- aromas of top-shelf dinner spe-

(Cont. on pg. 6)

I Did Not Leave the Gazette. The Gazette Left me!

By: Ken Hamilton

Let me make this clear for those who have asked me, "I didn't leave the Niagara Gazette, the Niagara Gazette left me!" And it's alright. I was not a Gazette employee, I was a stringer and worked from home -- or wherever else I might have been when an idea hit me or an experience emerged. I searched my files and so far the earliest article that I could find was from 1984 on

(Cont. on pg. 3)

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Glenn A. Choolokian Candidate for Mayor

Like every community across the country, Niagara Falls is suffering some of the effects of a down economy. Niagara Falls is certainly at a crossroads. Our residents are looking for work, looking for safe streets, and looking for leadership. It is said that you can learn the most about a leader in times of difficulty.

I am running for mayor in an attempt to bring to City Hall what I so desperately have looked for in our leadership: the willingness to make tough decisions; a desire to manage the taxpayers' money as if it were their own; and the principles, trustworthiness and integrity to be a true representative who listens to constituents and makes decisions in terms of what is best for our city, and not themselves or special interests.

Quite frankly, there is no trust or goodwill right now.

As your next Mayor, I will have a pro-business agenda that focuses on economic development, quality growth and public safety. I will bring the same fiscal discipline I have practiced in private business to city government. A city is just like a business, but our customers are the people, you and me. We pay our taxes and it's our right to demand that the governing body act in the best interest of the people. It just sometimes appears that they just flip a coin when they pass ordinances or make decisions.

As your next Mayor, I will have an opportunity to raise my voice on

behalf of the people I represent in an effort to bring us together to solve our collective problems, ensure that the community's issues and concerns are heard loud and clear by those who can make changes in policy, and restore faith in our local political system. I will also work to make sure that those of us who have long been neglected by the system will instead truly have an opportunity to shape the system.

It's important for our city leaders to make and keep the promise to live within our means, hold taxes steady and continue to promote new jobs and development. I believe that we must work to preserve Niagara Falls past while focusing on the future.

By continuing to grow and expanding our tax base we will be able to keep our taxes steady and give the tools and resources needed that our law enforcement agents, firefighters and city workers need to perform their best.

During the course of my campaign, I've seen and heard many observations about what is wrong with city government. Yet the political will has been lacking to significantly change the landscape of Niagara Falls. Too many in town have an interest in leaving it be.

In order to address wasteful spending and clear out the cobwebs, our city needs bold, new leadership unattached to the special interests that have placed our city where it is today. I can bring that.

The drive my parents instilled in me, has given me the professional experience and acuity to handle legisla-

tive matters as your next mayor.

My vision for Niagara Falls? Plentiful job opportunities and a growing small and large business base. Improving the infrastructure needed to support growth. City leaders who smartly manage taxpayer dollars and do not simply increase taxes or create new fees when they cannot make tough decisions.

A city bustling with activity. Safe neighborhoods where families and visitors can enjoy our beautiful natural environment. A city that can educate, develop, attract and retain the next generation of workforce.

As your next mayor, I will work with residents and business owners to develop a clear vision of where our city is headed and make sure my actions are consistent with that vision. We need leaders who will focus on the long-range health of our city and not on short-term schemes designed to gain political clout. Most of our resident's concerns are centered around protecting and improving the city's public services. Simply put, the people of Niagara Falls want a better quality of life.

Too many of our most talented and motivated young people leave the city because they feel their options here are limited. I am running for mayor because I want to help the city of Niagara Falls flourish into a place where young people want to stay here and grow their families in the future.

Over the next couple of months I will be releasing a highly detailed plan focusing on how I will fix many problems that has plagued our city for



Former democrat and current republican mayoral candidate Glenn Choolokian.

so many years.

Hopefully this campaign will give me the opportunity to usher in new ideas that focuses on identifying ways to inspire, empower and motivate our city residents.

Niagara Falls has tremendous potential, but to fully realize the promise that Niagara Falls holds will require massive amounts of hard work and determination. There has been much talk recently about change, but how effective are these philosophies if "action" is not included. I believe with my combination of business and city government experience and my fresh energetic perspective all these things will help me to become very successful in the steps needed in the recovery of our city. Remember Choolokian is your only Chance for Change.

NIAGARA



REPORTER

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Lockport: Lockport City Court, County Courthouse, Save-A-Lot & Tops

Niagara Falls: BankOnBuffalo, City Hall (basement), The Como (restaurant, deli, & airport locations), DiCamillo Bakery (all locations), Frankie's Donuts, John Duke Center, Key Bank (800 Main St.), Memorial Medical Center (entrance to lobby), Michael's Restaurant, Marketside Restaurant, Mom's Restaurant, Niagara Towers, Niagara Falls Family Court, Niagara Falls Police Station, Niagara Falls Public Library (both locations), Rite Aid (7804 Buffalo Ave. & 4407 Military Rd.), Save-A-Lot, Spallino Towers, Supermarket Liquor, Tops (all locations), Tim Hortons (all locations), Wedge Liquors, & Wrobel Towers.

North Tonawanda: Bishop Gibbons, Broadway Hotel, Budwey's Market, Carousel Park Apartments, City Hall, DMV, Kimek's Tavern, Lou's Diner, Platter's Chocolates, Public Library, Olympia Restaurant, Tops, Roman Café & Save-A-Lot

Sanborn: Smokin Joes (gas station and store) & Tim Hortons

Wilson: Lakeside Market

Youngstown: Anchor Spirits & Wines, Bandanas Bar & Grill, Public Library, Rite Aid, Village Diner

Gazette Cont.

then-presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, 35-years ago. Perhaps it was time to go. I am, however sure, that I had submitted a couple of letters to the editor before then.

But some folks have asked me if the reason that I was let go was because I was also writing for the Niagara Reporter. I don't know.

But what I do know is that I asked managing editor Matt Winterhalter before I started writing for the Reporter, and he said that he didn't have a problem with it if I didn't submit the same story to the Reporter that I submitted to the Gazette – fair enough. If you have any questions about why, then you'll have to call 7162822311 Ext. 2259 and ask Matt.

In response to a question posed to me on Facebook stating that I was the only regular black news and opinion writer that the Gazette had (outside of sports) and asking for what that I thought might have been a reason for no longer being needed, I responded that it may have been in coincidence with an event that took place on Facebook.

There, I was being harassed by a militant lesbian who was making the false allegations that I was homophobic. The militant lesbian based her "fact" upon the event of the 2011 Gay wedding on Goat Island where I spent 15-minutes with 9 pastors whom each I knew, who were protesting it. In total person-minutes it came to about 135 person-minutes. The illogical part of her assumption was that despite me also spending 3-1/2 hours

with approximately 400 gay couples, their supporters and other onlookers for a total of 84,000 person-minutes. In essence, for every 2-minutes that I spent with the pastors, I spent a 1,000 minutes as a photojournalist with those who were celebrating the gay wedding.

Crazy, isn't it? But she kept mentioning that I worked for the Gazette; as such, I find it hard to believe that she didn't get other unreasonable gay militants to flood the phone lines at the Gazette as leftist are apt to do.

Being as short-staffed as newspapers are apt to be, little doubt that I was a lightning rod because of the tenacity and honesty in which I dig into social and political ails wherever they may lie and then proposing solutions. It was my experiences that allowed me to see what to others were obscure.

In my 1996 endorsement interview for New York State Senate against incumbent Anthony Nanula, the Buffalo News in essence said that Ken Hamilton understands the long-term ramifications of public policy. Upon reading that, Niachlor Plant Manager Jim Sanders put it, "They came within a hair's-breadth of endorsing you."

Unlike most people who write in media, whereas they have had a front row seat on such events, I have sacrificed myself and spent most of my life in the arena as an agent of change and as a newsmaker.

Additionally, writing for more than one news source isn't new for

me -- if that is the reason that the Gazette left me. There was a time that I wrote for the Gazette, had my own show on WJLL, and wrote for the Buffalo Criterion and for www.PoliticsNY.net, all at the same time. In fact, while writing for the Gazette, as with the Reporter, I am still a guest host on WBEN's Beach and Company that has an audience that is many times larger than the Gazette's circulation.

Undoubtedly, a result of so doing, with the pen and microphone in hand, I was able to help rebuild and start churches; effect public schools, a public-charter and a parochial school along with their curriculums; to save the local library system; build basketball courts and a skateboard park; facilitate monuments, rename streets, effect ordinances in Niagara Falls and Buffalo; to bring the Silver Alert Program to Niagara County as a board member for the Alzheimer's Association of Western NY; initiated the largest international kite festival ever in NYS with the Homan Walsh reenactment and the Arch of Kites at the Rainbow Bridge, and so, so much more – things that newsmen and columnist just generally don't do'

But in all of that, as a past president of the Niagara Falls Chapter of the NAACP investigating racial equity in education, and a past VP of the Area One Community Preservation Corporation building home ownership units in the city's north-end, being a significant contributor the United Way and Niagara Community Center and Girls Club, I never once thought that I would have a lesbian

call me homophobic, nor – if it was the case – to be let go by the local daily newspaper.

But this is America, and I don't own a newspaper. I wish the Gazette success, as I also wish for the Reporter. As media organs, they both, as is the Buffalo News and even other smaller newspapers, all add to the function of the whole body of public thought.

I consider Matt, Mark Scheer, Phil Gambini, Michele DeLuca and so many others of their staff of over 35-years – including former publishers Peter Mio and especially Terry Shaw, through whom I held the record of once having the most front page stories in a single month of any contemporary Gazette writer due to a series on local African-American success stories. I am almost sure that the decision to leave me was more at the corporate level than among them.

But now, as a former Gazette writer, I ironically join that brilliant writer and former Gazette staffer Mike Hudson, through whose efforts at starting the Reporter, and through whose words having greatly added awareness of so many wrong things that were once complacent among Niagarans, he wrote his books. I hope that I will be able to now take the time and write even more than did he, and only hope to write them half as well as he wrote his. Perhaps in so doing, insensitive out-of-towner publishers and militant lesbians will better understand the world in which many of us live – especially ultra-conservative liberals like myself.

Libertarian Cont.

8 in Niagara Falls with Restaino scheduled for an interview on Aug. 6 with Kathleen Ligammari, chairman of the Niagara Falls committee and secretary of the party.

The Libertarian platform, says Flynn, is socially liberal and fiscally conservative.

"We believe the government should have the least possible role in people's lives," says Flynn. The chairman says there are about 250 members of the newly formed Libertarian Party in Niagara County

with the door open to new members.

The first Libertarian candidate running for office in Niagara County is Nick Phelps who is bidding for the job of clerk/treasurer against incumbent Mark Parish, a recent appointee. Phelps and Francis Law are the first and second vice presidents, respectively, of the party. The treasurer is Brian Owczarzak.

The Libertarians will hold a \$99-per-person summer get-together and rally at Oppenheimer in Wheatfield on Wednesday, July 31, at Shelter 22.

Niagara Falls Awash With Political Activity

By: Tony Farina

Analysis

The Niagara Falls City Committee's big soiree will be over by the time you read this (Tuesday, July 23), but expectations were high among the party faithful for a big turnout at the Hyde Park Stoneroom.

"Expecting a lot of excitement about our candidates this year for the council," said Vice Chairman Michael Gawel.

As we have previously reported, Chairman Bill Carroll has high hopes for the GOP's chances to win control of the City Council with incumbent Kenny Tompkins and political newcomer John Spanbauer. If they win, they would join Chris Voccio on the council and give Republicans a 3 to 2 majority.

Still not certain about the GOP's candidate for mayor but Glenn Choolokian, a former mayoral spoiler as a write-in helping Paul Dyster win re-election four years ago, is pitching for the nod but so far, it hasn't happened. Maybe by the time you

read this, it will have happened, or maybe not.

Niagara County Democrats attracted about 200 to their picnic last week at Gratwick Hose in North Tonawanda and Chairman Jason Zona is also bubbling with excitement, especially when it comes to legislative races where Republicans hold an 11 to 4 majority. Democrats are hoping to score in November and Zona is very high on several of his party's candidates, especially Erik Herbert in the 7th District.

Expect lots of political drama and wheeling and dealing over the weeks leading up to election day in November as the parties strive for power and make their pitch for public support.

One of the biggest questions still unresolved is whether Democratic primary loser Seth Piccirillo will support the winner, Robert Restaino, and not campaign on the Working Families line which could hurt Restaino in a possible four-way race. Piccirillo says he needs more time to decide, but he needs to decide quickly for the party's sake.

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THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to 20th and Independence Avenue in the evening hours of Sunday, July 14th, 2019, after receiving calls for a domestic disturbance and possible suspect with a loaded gun. According to reports, the 911 caller reported that a female was screaming inside a house and was being followed by who was carrying a long gun on his shoulder. When officers arrived on scene they observed a male matching the description given by the 911 caller. Upon approaching the male and asking if he was armed, the suspect refused to answer then attempted to walk away from officers. While attempting to detain the male, his 16-year-old sister tried to hit one of the arresting officers while screaming "don't touch my brother." The juvenile was taken into custody along with her brother who was identified as Dequan Moore.

-Residents of Deveaux were alerted to a suspected suspicious person last week after a series of home invasions. Reported incidents increased as of July 2019, prompting police to issue a public warning to residents. Incidents predominately occurred in the 2700-2900 blocks of McKoon Avenue.

The suspect has been described as a black male, light-skinned, approximately 5'9"-6'0" tall, medium build, 30-45 years old and normally gains entry via unlocked windows or unlocked doors. He has been observed sitting inside the residences when victims are asleep but, oddly, has not attempted to cause physical injury. The suspect has returned to the homes on multiple occasions when residents are out leaving all of the doors to the home open. Niagara Falls Police announced that they captured the suspect over the past few days.

-Niagara Falls police responded to a reported robbery attempt near 25th and Ferry Avenue in the afternoon hours of Wednesday, July 17th, 2019. According to reports, two individuals were arrested after



failing to get away with the planned heist.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to 66th Street between Lindbergh Avenue and Girard Avenue for reports after receiving reports of shots fired between two vehicles. Several residents in the area reported hearing up to six shots fired. Police were able to recover at least one bullet casing on 66th Street very close to the elementary school. There were no reported injuries or property damage.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the McDonalds drive through on Pine Avenue in the early morning hours of Sunday, July 21st, 2019, after receiving reports that one male and one female, in separate vehicles, were passed out blocking the drive-thru lanes in their respective vehicles. When officers arrived on scene they found the male passed out at the wheel near the first window and the female whose vehicle was up on the curb near the first speaker. Both drivers were subjected to field sobriety test and failed. They were both placed under arrest and brought police headquarters.

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Bakery Restaurant Cont.



cial, especially seafood and steak which are still the specialties.

"We're still going strong," says Bakery Restaurant owner Kevin Young who along with his wife of 55 years, Valerie, and his sons, David, who has taken over as manager, and Kevin Jr., have enjoyed an amazing run serving people from near and far. Word of their outstanding food spreads quickly, and attracts the local folks and tourists alike, all looking for just the right dinner spot.

The Bakery, located at 3004 Niagara St., is an extremely popular restaurant because it serves great food in a friendly and pleasant atmosphere with owners and staff eager to please.

Last week a friend and I popped in unexpectedly and were given first-class treatment and amazing food, served with just the right touch by our waitress, Christine Britton. We both dined on steak sandwiches and I also had a bowl of super clam chowder (yes, it was Friday). The food was excellent, and my friend is the fussy sort who had nothing but high praise for her dinner. She loved it!

Kevin has let son David manage things for the last 20 years as he has taken a little time to enjoy life

as he moves into the senior phase, one I am quite familiar with. But despite the problems in the city, Kevin is optimistic things will turn around in Niagara Falls, maybe not today or tomorrow, but within the next five or 10 years.

"Business is good and we just had a record-breaking week," he told us as he stopped by our table for a quick chat. Later, he talked about new hotels springing up around town and the jobs created by the casino where he worked managing the restaurants.

Kevin helps son, Kevin Jr. in marketing the Bakery and of course the best-selling point is the high quality of the facility, the staff, and the food.

We would certainly encourage anyone looking for a wonderful dining experience to check out the Bakery on Niagara Street and many other fine restaurants in the Falls, like the Como, Fortuna's, and Michael's to name a few.

There's more to see in Niagara Falls besides the great wonder cascading over the falls every day. There's a world of fine restaurants waiting for you to visit and the Bakery is certainly one of them.

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A Focus Four for Health Hazards in Construction

Every year, about 1,000 construction workers are killed on the job. Most people are familiar with the Focus Four – falls, electrocutions, struck-by and caught-in/betweens – the four hazards that kill about 90 percent of construction workers. Yet far more construction workers suffer chronic injuries or illnesses from exposures on the job. Health hazards in construction don't often get the attention they deserve, in part because many of them never get counted at all. It takes years for many of these chronic illnesses and injuries to first develop and then be identified. In several ways, the impact of these conditions is more widespread than the Focus Four. The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Construction Committee recently published a guide which identifies four health hazards in construction, what can be done to prevent the injury or illness, which trades are most affected and how trade groups and safety and health professionals can help. This article examines the four health hazards identified in greater detail and gives examples of how labor and management can reduce risk for workers.

Manual Materials Handling

Injuries from manual handling of construction materials account for about 30 percent of all work-related injuries in construction and half of medical costs. AIHA's Focus Four for Health suggests employers focus on the weight of the load, ease of handling, awkward postures, the time/distance it must be carried and the pace or amount of handling per shift.

Noise

Hearing loss is extremely common among construction workers after 15-20 years on the job. Hearing loss and other health effects can be avoided by identifying high exposure tasks and taking steps to make them quieter (e.g., buying or renting quieter equipment) or wearing hearing protection while doing the task.

Air Contaminants

Construction workers are exposed to many chemicals and other substances on the job that can damage their health. Employers should start by reviewing Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to determine the health risks of products used on site and what effects they can have on the body. Exposures are best controlled by using local exhaust or vacuum systems to capture the dust or fumes.

High Temperatures

Most construction work is still done outdoors, but even indoor work can be hot, such as asbestos abatement in protective clothing or work in boiler rooms. Every year, about a dozen construction workers die from heat exposure. AIHA's Focus Four for Health document contains practical information for contractors and workers on how to address these health hazards and reduce the risk of chronic injuries and illnesses in construction.



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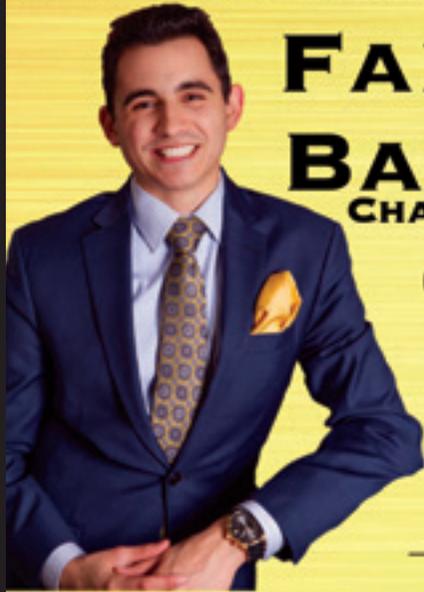
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Friday-Saturday 11:30am - 10:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm - Last NYRA Race



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