



North Tonawanda
Alderman Rizzo retires...
Will Kiedrowski step in?



NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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April Wheaton

Wind Turbines Debated as Senator Robert Ortt assumes Energy Committee post

James Hufnagel

Following in the footsteps of his predecessor George Maziarz, Senator Robert Ortt was named last week to the state senate's powerful Standing Committee on Energy and Telecommunications, or Energy Committee, for short.

"The (Energy Committee) oversees the development of legislation and policy related to energy and communications sectors. Committee members aim to promote competitive markets, support private investment, streamline regulations, create jobs and keep consumer costs down. Priorities include modernizing the state's energy generation, transmission and distribution; facilitating expansion of renewable and clean energy technologies; and expanding high-speed broadband and other new communication technologies to underserved areas of the state," says the state senate website.

"I truly look forward to serving on the Senate Committee on Energy - on an issue of vital importance to our community and our entire state. With the greatest generating capacity in the state, the Niagara Power Project is a substantial component of the state's energy portfolio, and plays a critical role in the Western New York economy. I'm dedicated to continuing our region's success with traditional major sources of energy - like Niagara and Somerset - while exploring innovative technologies of tomorrow like solar and geo-thermal to maintain and create good, local jobs. I believe we can meet the significant capacity demands throughout the state and that Western New York's workforce and ingenuity will be a critical part of it. We can do this while protect-



Senator Robert Ortt joins a protest against wind energy at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station last year.

ing our environment and ensuring local residents play a significant role in decision-making," said Senator Ortt.

It's important to note that "continuing our region's success with traditional major sources of energy" as Sen. Ortt puts it - at Somerset - undeniably refers to the former AES, now Blackstone Group, dirty coal-fired power plant on the shores of Lake Ontario at the extreme isolated northeast corner of Niagara County.

According to "Find Your Risk from Power Plant Pollution," a 2011 study by Abt Associates commissioned by the Clean Air Task Force, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization, the Somerset coal-fired plant that Senator Ortt is "dedicated to continuing" was statistically responsible in 2010 for 11 deaths, including an estimated 19 heart attacks (at a public health cost of over \$2 million),

170 asthma attacks, 9 hospital admissions (\$200,000), 7 cases of chronic bronchitis and 8 asthma emergency room visits.

For decades, when the air was right, Niagara County shoreline residents could observe a brown pall, occupying an inversion layer immediately above the horizon, stretching clear across Lake Ontario all the way to Toronto.

In addition, while giving a nod in his statement to solar and geothermal in his statement, Sen. Ortt conspicuously does not mention wind power.

The 2015 New York State Energy Plan charts the course to achieve a 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030. The plan's Offshore Wind Initiative "has the potential to become a major source of renewable power for New York (the 15th windiest state in the nation, according to the DEC) that

strengthens our energy system, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and jumpstarts local economic development."

The plan reports reports that, as of 2011, wind was already 9% of New York's renewable electricity portfolio, well ahead of solar and geothermal, and has the potential to fulfill half, read that again, half, of the state's total electricity needs.

Why then did Senator Ortt omit wind energy from his statement announcing his appointment to the Senate Energy Committee? Could it have anything to do with the fact that he's allied himself with a Somerset outfit that calls itself SOS ("Save Ontario Shores"), a group of rural NIMBY's who have been fighting tooth and nail a wind turbine project slated for their tiny, isolated settlement?

SOS, among many other arguments and with Sen. Ortt's enthusiastic support and advocacy, contends that windmills at Somerset would present an insurmountable threat to operations at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, a contention that's thoroughly refuted by the Air Force itself.

"A top officer of the local Air Force Reserve unit said last week that the possible construction of wind turbines in Somerset and Yates will have no impact on operations at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station," reported the Buffalo News on Oct 23, 2016.

Senator Ortt must weigh carefully the needs of local constituents, as they rightly or wrongly perceive them, vis a vis the necessity of limiting pollution, enhancing public health and reversing climate change which, after all, should be among the goals of the Senate Energy Committee.

NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

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Could Kiedrowski Step Back into NT Role?

The ink on North Tonawanda 1st Ward Alderman Phillip "Russ" Rizzo's resignation letter had barely dried Wednesday afternoon at NT City Hall before the rumor mill there began to churn out possible successors.

One of the names rapidly rising to the top of some local oddsmakers, though, is a name familiar to many in Niagara County politics, and certainly in North Tonawanda: Scott P. Kiedrowski, the county Republican Party chairman, former city clerk-treasurer, and current Western Region OTB vice president.

NT's city council will have its hands full in coming weeks. Rizzo's departure is the second high-profile resignation from city government in as many weeks. It follows the surprise departure of Alderwoman Catherine Schwandt, who left because of potential conflicts with her job at the New York Power Authority.

Making matters tougher is that Rizzo, a sort of elder statesman in NT politics, who served on the Common Council in two different eras, bracketing a single term in the Niagara County Legislature, will be, according to both Republican faithful and Lumber City Democrats, difficult for the local GOP machine to replace. The grandfatherly figure—who leaves office after doing battle with a brain tumor—was popular with many in Niagara County's second city.

"Russ was very often 'Mr. North Tonawanda,'" NT GOP Chairman Mike Carney said in a prepared statement. "He also did a fantastic job getting back to his constituents, calling them back, staying on top of their issues. He challenged our Republican-led city government to work as diligently as he did."

To succeed such a popular figure, who won his last race for reelection by 22 percentage points, Republicans may need to tap a known quantity in city politics—particularly in the city's 1st Ward, where city Democrats have long found their most favorable terrain.

As a highly-placed NT City Hall Republican told us Wednesday night, Kiedrowski seems to fit that mold.

"Scottie took 70 percent citywide the last time he ran," the city official said. "That included the 1st Ward, where he won every single district. With him, Republicans won't have to worry about the Democrats skunking us."

A quick check of county Board of Elections records verifies what we were told. Kiedrowski carried every single one of ten voting districts in North Tonawanda's 1st Ward, often by a two-to-one or better margin, against Democrat Gregg R. Schnitzer. Schnitzer served as secretary to former Mayor Larry Soos, the last Democrat to hold that office in a city where Republicans have come to dominate in recent years.

Despite repeated attempts, the Re-



Scott Kiedrowski, VP of Batavia Downs, Niagara County GOP Chairman and possibly the man who will be selected to replace the retiring Russ Rizzo as Alderman in North Tonawanda, with Rep. Chris Collins.

porter was unable to reach Kiedrowski before deadline.

When the Reporter contacted Carney about the rumors that Kiedrowski might be appointed, the city chairman punted.

"That's a decision both Scott and the Council would have to make," Carney told us. "Obviously, I've known Scott for years, and have a deep respect for him, but the appointment would be a decision for the Common Council, not the party. And I'm sure Scott wouldn't make a decision to apply for that post lightly."

Kiedrowski's political résumé is impressive. A former city alderman, he went on to serve as the GOP's elections commissioner in Lockport for the better part of a decade, before returning to his hometown to serve as clerk-treasurer after newly-elected Mayor Rob Ort defeated Soos and vacated the clerk-treasurer office he had once held.

Kiedrowski went on to comfortably win back-to-back elections for the post, before again following Ort to serve as

the newly-elected state senator's chief of staff.

The stint with Ort was followed by the gig at WROTB—a post where Kiedrowski was reunited with another longtime political ally: former Niagara County Republican Party Chairman Henry Wojtaszek, a local political kingmaker who leaned heavily on Kiedrowski as his elections commissioner.

This newspaper attempted to reach

out to several North Tonawanda aldermen, but only reached new Council President Eric Zadzilka, who represents the city's 3rd Ward. Zadzilka refused to speculate on who would succeed Rizzo, saying only, "Today is about Russ. Tomorrow, we'll start to put together a plan to fill two vacancies. But it would be premature to even speculate."

Sounds like Kiedrowski to us... and not a bad choice at that...



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LUNCH SPECIALS

MORINELLO: CAPITOL HALLS ARE SILENT ON ETHICS REFORMS

The silence is so noticeable you can hear a pin drop.

That's how Assemblyman Angelo J. Morinello (R,C,I,Ref-Niagara Falls) is describing the lack of will or urgency to combat Albany corruption, and enact realistic and meaningful ethics reform during the opening weeks of session. Morinello noted over the last several weeks many state leaders have outlined proposals to spend billions in taxpayer dollars on headline-grabbing proposals without a responsible spending plan to back it up.

Morniello expressed disappointment that proposals from state leaders lacked teeth to combat the pervasive corruption that plagues the state Capitol, instead choosing to focus on proposals like free college tuition for illegal citizens and incentivizing movie theaters to serve alcohol.

"It's troubling to see how many Albany politicians have such short-term memories. I arrived in Albany with high hopes to join an effort in responding to the most critical issue of ethics reform, but it's disheartening to report that so few legislators really take combating corruption seriously," said Morinello. "Senator Ort and I have been working relentlessly on proposals and policies that would protect the taxpayer from abuse by public officials. While others may have set their sights on other priorities, Senator Ort and I have a serious understanding for

the need for realistic ethics reform."

Morinello noted that items that should be on the table for consideration include term limits for all elected officials, limiting the amount of special interest money in the political process by lowering the contribution rate, stripping pensions from officials convicted of felonies pertaining to their position in office, and ending the bid-rigging process that has been the subject of multiple investigations by federal prosecutors over the last year.

Last October, nine members of the governor's economic team were arrested in violation of New York's ethics laws. After shining a light on the Buffalo Billion's development plan, New Yorkers were able to see how deeply rooted corruption is in the decision making processes of the state's government.

Morniello has already drafted legislation that will be comprehensive and realistic, and fill the void left by state leaders in their watered-down proposals.

"We've spent the first two weeks of session passing bills that make political statements but have no bearing on how we're going to make New York more affordable, less taxed and not as corrupt. We have to reverse that trend in the coming weeks because anything less would be disrespectful to New Yorkers."

Letter to the Editor



Mark Briglio
Concerned Citizen of Lewiston

Citizens of Lewiston,

In December of 2015, after the departure of former Supervisor Brochey and my removal by the Board Republicans as acting Supervisor/Deputy Supervisor, the town's cash reserve was liquidated to cover the board's overspending over the prior many years. Then, acting Supervisor Ron Winkley, with Board approval, passed a resolution to deplete the cash reserves for a quick fix and roled the problems into the next year.

Now, in 2016, why didn't the new supervisor and the senior board members look at where they could cut spending without having major impacts on services, and share the results with the public?

The Ice Rink was a poor effort and as we all know, an incorrect one. The fact that \$18,000 was unaccounted for, and suddenly "found" to extend the rink hours, is just shocking and scary. Who is minding the bank? Would any of us lose track of those kinds of dollars—if we had them to start with? Are there areas in staffing that could have been reduced? Were they holding the department heads accountable for looking at their budgets and seeing where they can be more conservative? Why have these questions - and their answers, if they exist - not been shared with the public, and why pass a new Broderick/Bax Tax without taking a conservative approach in spending and hiring or downsizing?

They continue to hire - at least two people this year - and spend more money at the expense of the taxpayers. That is the easy - and I don't like to say it - the lazy answer. Why not run the town like a business and follow some basic business minded processes? In this matter it would have been feasible to demand that each department cut spending and assess headcounts, and discuss making some hard decisions. I cannot answer past this thought because it never happened and they moved right to taxation with no investigation!

I am not saying people needed to lose

their jobs. But when people retire, that is the time to look to save labor costs. After just having forced a tax on us, they replaced two retirees (and I hear that it may not have been people who even live in Lewiston and got stuck paying the Broderick/Bax tax).

Why did this group not bring their decisions to the public and explain to all of us what they were about to do and what other alternatives were out there? I consider myself a conservative Democrat, and the powers that be at Town Hall ran for office made promises that they would take a conservative approach as well, however, raising taxes and not cutting spending is the opposite of that rule.

Rob Morreale in his first year of office has been the only Board member to question and challenge the irrational business practices and lack of conversation surrounding the tax increase, the hiring of attorneys from outside of Lewiston at great expense, and the hiring of employees to replace retirees rather than putting on a hiring freeze until finances get straightened out. We certainly would all do those kinds of things if it were our own money—why are the elected officials treating taxpayers' money this way? I think it's time the public steps up and make their voice heard during the next elections.

I know that I will be voting to make some changes and look at business-minded conservatives to be part of our local government.

I don't understand why senior board members continue to agree to spend more and not make any cuts and expect the people of Lewiston to absorb the eventual liabilities of their poor choices, and weak managerial skills in forecasting and budgeting.

It's time for some true changes in 2017. If they cannot follow basic business rules prior to making decisions that impact every citizen, then they need to be replaced. It's time to elect more business-minded people to government in Lewiston. They should explore the size of government and its spending practices before inflicting higher taxes on our citizens.

Thank you.



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Local Leaders Blast Cuomo for Shifting Cost Burdens to Local Taxpayers

Local leaders are said to be fuming about Gov. Cuomo's State of the State address—delivered, unconventionally, in Buffalo—after he inserted a demand that local governments hold referenda ostensibly designed to cut local tax bills.

"Cuomo's plan doesn't cut [excrement]," a frustrated county official told us Wednesday. "Meanwhile, he's the biggest cost-driver in the state."

The plan, which Cuomo trotted out at the Buffalo State of the State speech, would require county leaders to devise ways to consolidate or share services with the municipalities inside their borders. While that sounds commendable enough, county budget officials we talked to said the impact of any likely service sharing would be negligible across tax bills.

"You're talking about saving the taxpayers far less than a penny per \$1000 on their tax bills," one county budget planner told us. "That's what this accomplishes—we could, maybe, save money on the cost of snowplow blades. Meanwhile, Cuomo has pushed off millions of dollars in state program costs on us and we can't do a thing about it."

County leaders are privately circulating a PowerPoint presentation, delivered by County Manager Richard E. Updegrove just last month, showing that nine state-mandated programs eat 99 percent of property tax revenues raised locally.

"That's a partial list," one budget planner added.

Unsurprisingly to readers of this periodical, Medicaid's \$43.7 million local price tag tops the list. That may not be the one that vexes county lawmakers the most, however.

"We're still shocked by the Governor's arbitrary decision, in 2012, to shift the cost of Safety Net—the state's non-federally-mandated welfare program—to county taxpayers," Randy Bradt, R-North Tonawanda, the County Legislature's majority leader, told us Thursday. "The net effect has been to, over five years, hit Niagara County taxpayers with an extra \$10 million tax bill."

The local share of the Safety Net program has been averaging around \$7 million annually since 2012, when Cuomo ended a formula that had, since the program's inception, split the costs of the welfare benefit 50-50 between state and county government. Cuomo's 2012 budget changed that to a 71 percent county - 29 percent state split.

"This is a very inconvenient truth for Gov. Cuomo," Bradt told the Reporter.

Bradt confirmed that county lawmakers and appointees had been reexamining the list of nine costly state-mandated programs that, at \$76.8 million, eat up virtually the entire local \$77.6 million property tax levy.

Two county leaders we spoke to also dismissed a Buffalo News editorial favoring Cuomo's plan, noting that the Wednesday editorial admitted in its first paragraph that Cuomo's plan was unlikely to work.

"The Buffalo News is so partisan that they praised a plan they admitted throughout their editorial was badly designed," one top Republican told us. "The News even admitted that, by excluding school districts,

and ignoring the huge cost of state mandates, the plan does nothing."

The News editorial's exact verbiage was actually stronger: "[Cuomo's proposal] pays no mind to the unfunded state mandates that fall like acid rain on local governments." Despite this, the editorial dripped with praise for the Queens politician currently occupying the governor's mansion.

The plan did come in for some demented praise from one Democratic county lawmaker, though, who told the Reporter, "The nice thing about being in the minority is we don't have to figure out how to pay for it." When asked if local Democrats would criticize Republican efforts to characterize Cuomo's mandate as inadequate, the legislator answered with a shoulder shrug and a grin.

Local politicians aren't alone in their distress over Cuomo's plan, either. The New York State Association of Counties—the powerful lobbying organization that pushes back on New York State's New York City-controlled government—sent out an alert criticizing Cuomo's plan shortly after he hatched it.

In a tersely worded statement, Association of Counties Deputy Director Mark F. LaVigne said, "The largest expense for counties continue to be state mandates. ... For most of these programs counties are required to follow strict state rules about what services must be provided, including the amount and duration of benefits. It is also important to note that counties in most other states do not have to administer such a large number of state programs using locally raised tax revenues. If the Governor wants to reduce property taxes, then the State has to act to reduce the costs imposed on counties."

The Association of Counties holds one of two annual planning sessions later this month in Albany, and have already reached out to local officials saying they intend to roll out a plan of action for the State Legislature to counter Cuomo.

Still, despite the frustration of Cuomo's plan, one longtime GOP operative told us what he believes is at the heart of what he termed Cuomo's unsolicited effort to "shift the blame for New York's high taxes to local municipalities."

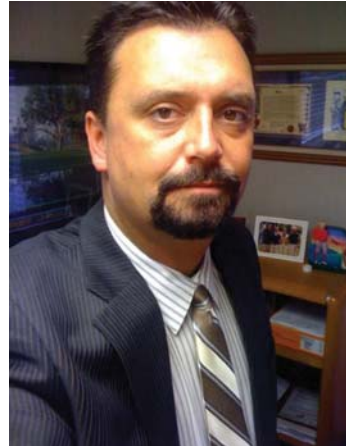
"Andrew has daddy issues, OK? And Mario never got to be president. This is Andrew's first shot at running in 2020," the GOP operative said. "He's got some delusional idea that by doubling down on Hillary's and Bernie's far-left-wing ideas, he's going to do better than they did against President Trump."

A New York Times headline seems to bear out our contact's thoughts.

The Jan. 9 Times banner screamed "Andrew Cuomo Raises His Profile, Stirring Talk of a 2020 Run."

That news, which predated Cuomo's local cost-cutting referenda talk, came after another major Cuomo announcement: "free" state college for everyone.

"Great. He's going to turn Millennials' college bills into another unfunded mandate for us to figure out how to pay locally, and thinks that America will give him the nuclear launch codes for doing it," our Republican contact said. "Where do I go to donate to Trump's reelection effort?"



Randy Bradt



Mark LaVigne

Letter to the Editor

BUDGETARY FUNDS	APPROPRIATIONS (EXPENDITURES)	GENERAL FUND TRANSFERS	REVENUES OTHER	PROPERTY TAX
A GENERAL FUND	\$90,406,029	\$2,747,673	\$61,302,015	26,366,341
AT TRAIN STATION	330,402		192,000	138,402
CD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	300,899		0	300,899
CE SURFACE LOT FUND	770,070		770,070	0
CR PARKING RAMP FUND	971,740		971,740	0
GC GOLF COURSE FUND	1,072,602		661,230	411,372
L LIBRARY TRANSFER	1,897,000		0	1,897,000
T TOURISM FUND	2,560,000		2,560,000	0
V DEBT SERVICE FUND	7,851,243		7,851,243	0
GRAND TOTAL:	\$106,159,985	\$2,747,673	\$74,308,298	\$29,104,014

	2016	2017	INC/(DEC)
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY PROPERTY TAX =	\$28,732,191	\$29,104,014	\$371,823

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T TOURISM FUND	2,560,000		2,560,000	0
V DEBT SERVICE FUND	7,851,243		7,851,243	0
GRAND TOTAL:	\$106,159,985	\$2,446,774	\$74,609,197	\$29,104,014

	2016	2017	INC/(DEC)
AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY PROPERTY TAX =	\$28,732,191	\$29,104,014	\$371,823

THIS... Needs to be reduced by \$300,899

THIS... Needs to be reduced by \$300,899

Dan Davis
Niagara Falls

They stopped talking to me so maybe they would answer to you.

This year's budget included a request for \$500,899 in Casino funds for Community Development. This amount was to come from a \$10.9 million "Transfer from Tribal Revenue." At the same time, an additional \$500,899 was (for some unknown reason) added to the tax levy for the same request.

The budget hawks got a hold of this and reduced the amount of the Property Tax Re-

venue for Community Development to \$300,899 (They never touched the \$10.99 Million where it was supposed to have come from).

So, \$300,899 remained to be covered by Property Tax.

After the budget was adopted, they seem to have realized they made a mistake and printed a revision to the Property Tax levy. In that revision they moved \$300,899 to the "Other" column and THEN MYSTERIOUSLY added it back in to keep the levy the same.

They have STILL not touched the \$10.9 Million in Tribal Funds - which should have also been reduced by \$200,000 to reflect the cut in funds going to Community Development!

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center Gala a Ringing Success

Tony Farina

The Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center's marquee event, the Premier, was a star-studded success last Saturday night at the Seneca Niagara Casino, attracting close to 1,000 people who clearly had a wonderful time contributing and mingling with some of the area's biggest names as well as many guests from the everyday world.

Ch. 2 news anchor Maryalice Demler once again served as emcee and she kept things moving quite nicely after the guests had enjoyed a superb dinner, introducing Memorial President and CEO Joseph Ruffolo who outlined the major advancements at the Medical Center, including the opening in 2016 of the new Golisano Center for Community Health, the result of the \$3.5 million lead gift from former Sabres owner Tom Golisano.

Ruffolo also spoke of the contributions to the hospital and the community by the gala's top award recipients, attorney James Roscetti and Dr. Komal Chandan. Roscetti, a partner in the Roscetti & DeCatro law firm, also serves as chairman of the board of the hospital. Dr. Chandan, a family practice physician, currently serves as medical director of Memorial's Schoellkopf Health Center.

It would be near impossible to name all of the celebrity guests in attendance, but they included:

-Henry Wojtaszek, political power broker and president and CEO of Western OTB

-Niagara Falls Mayor Paul Dyster, Lewiston Mayor Terry Collesano, and former Lewiston Mayor Dick Soluri

-Former State Sen. George Maziarz
-Niagara County Legislator Dennis Virtuoso

-Paul Grenga of the One Niagara Welcome Center

-Restaurateur Russ Salvatore

Memorial Medical Center is the only hospital in Niagara Falls and the leading teaching hospital in Niagara County. The 171-bed hospital has an adjacent 120-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility (Schoellkopf) and outpatient centers in Niagara Falls, Lewiston, Town of Niagara, Wheatfield, Grand Island, and North Tonawanda.

This fall, Memorial will admit its first patients to an all-new \$4.3 million inpatient Cardiac/Stroke Care floor, featuring 25 rooms and a rehabilitation therapy facility to encourage quicker patient recovery.

Judging from Saturday night's turnout, people throughout the area have come to recognize and appreciate the role that Memorial is playing in the community when it comes to health care. It was an event that shined brightly and helped focus attention on the good work that this facility is doing for all of its patients.



James Roscetti and Dr. Komal Chandan... Memorial Gala honorees with their awards

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Anthony Villani: Business Person of the Year
Capital management Group of Niagara: Business of the Year

Niagara County Legislator
Jason Zona 5th District

A small, square portrait of a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and blue tie. He is smiling at the camera.


Henry and Caroline Wojtaszek... attend Gala



Mayor Paul Dyster... enjoys gala dinner



James Roscetti and Michael Roscetti... father and son at Gala



Michael and Michele Gawel... at Memorial dinner



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Dick Soluri and Paul Grena...
enjoying Memorial Gala



James Roscetti and George
Maziarz... honoree with former
state senator.

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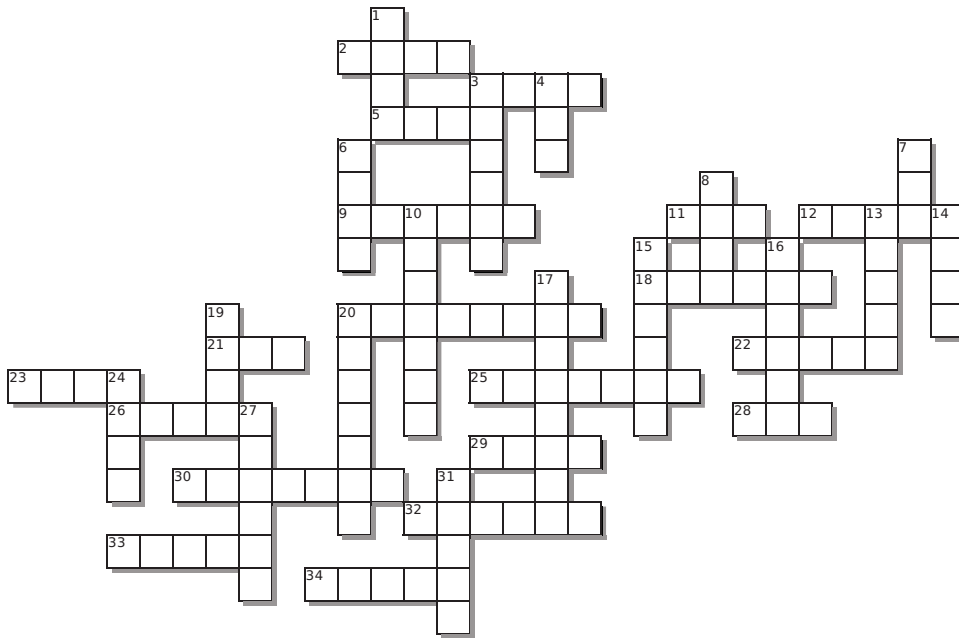
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Niagara Falls Crossword



ACROSS

- 2 Bad art and beer blast location
- 3 Dyster libation
- 5 Hydropower thief
- 9 Reporter meal ticket
- 11 Ortt and Nichols
- 12 Hamister hovel
- 18 \$43 million station occupant
- 20 Ubiquitous street feature
- 21 Berti and Morinello
- 22 Infamous parkway namesake
- 23 Ceretto and Accardo
- 25 Famous ignored figure from the past
- 26 Another famous ignored figure from the past
- 28 ____ Niagara
- 29 "fahgettaboudit" avenue
- 30 email ruer
- 32 Urban renewal mayor
- 33 Maid Mogul
- 34 Two of three highest in the state

DOWN

- 1 Street that's seen better days
- 3 daredevil conveyance
- 4 pop, beer, cake and candy card
- 6 Touma and Cuomo
- 7 ____ Niagara
- 8 ____ Niagara
- 10 \$28 a ride "Discover Niagara ____"
- 13 ____ McGoats
- 14 infamous canal
- 15 He skated on 4 misdemeanors
- 16 Buffalo Billionaire
- 17 Brand of canned fruit
- 19 Baby daddy milieu
- 20 Third of three highest in the state
- 24 Bed tax beneficiaries
- 27 Grandinetti desire
- 31 One of three highest in the state

Niagara Falls Jokes

When construction crews unearthed metal barrels while finishing up expansion of the south Moses Parkway traffic circle, Mayor Dyster dropped everything and rushed over there - he thought they might be kegs.

Two men are in a Niagara Falls bar. One says "A girl I met in Buffalo gave me a sexually transmitted disease." His friend replies "You're lucky. I've got Obamacare. I have to pay for it!"



The Niagara Falls City Council was concerned.

It's been almost a year since the new parking meters were installed on the streets, and so far, the Dyster administration hasn't reported any revenue from them whatsoever. So Council Chairman Charles Walker called up Mayor Dyster and asked him for an accounting.

"It's like I told you people when I convinced you to vote for them," said the mayor, "in one year, those meters will have paid for themselves!"

Tomorrow, Donald Trump takes the oath of office and will become the most powerful individual in the world. You can read all about it in the newspapers, as well as the Book of Revelation.

A cannibal went into the butcher shop to buy some brains to make for her family for dinner that night. She looked at the display of brains and saw that Buffalo brains were \$4.95 per lb, the average Niagara Falls brains were \$4.90 per lb, but Dyster supporter brains were \$450.00 per lb.

She gasped and asked the butcher if the price of the Dyster supporter brains was a misprint.

"No ma'am," answered the butcher. "That is the correct price."

"Well, why are the brains of Dyster supporters so expensive?" exclaimed the cannibal.

"Do you know how many Dyster supporters it takes to get a pound of brains!?" replied the butcher.

Q: What are McDonald's employees now asking customers in Niagara Falls?

A: Can you afford fries with that?

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

St Francis of Assisi

WERE YOU WRONGLY ACCUSED BY THIS MAN?



**Former Assistant US Attorney
Anthony M. Bruce**



Upon information and belief, court records, document review, and eyewitness testimony, Anthony Bruce suborned perjury, obstructed justice, deceived the courts, recklessly and blatantly disregarded evidence that pointed to innocence, lied by omission and committed outright fraud and perjury as a regular pattern of conduct during his notorious 38 year role as an assistant US attorney and sent an unknown number of innocent people to prison. This heretofore 'dirty little secret' was known by a certain number of people in the legal community and Bruce barely escaped being disbarred and prosecuted in the past.

Up until now, no one had the temerity to publicly challenge this allegedly 'villainous bully' until Frank Parlato, who claims to have been falsely accused by Bruce, brought Bruce's alleged misconduct to light in a series of articles in this publication. Bruce's alleged blatant prosecutorial misconduct in the Parlato case has prompted other defendants and lawyers to contact Parlato who now has a growing body of evidence that the conduct Bruce showed in his case was not singular. Other victims are and will be going on record in coming articles. Were you or your family victimized by Bruce too?

BE NOT AFRAID: If you were a victim of Bruce join the ranks of victims who are fighting back and contact us. Your inquiry will be kept confidential. Your name will never be used without your written permission. Our goal is to prevent prosecutorial misconduct which so often occurs but goes unpunished. It can only be stopped when there is a consequence for prosecutorial misconduct. Absolute power corrupts. Prosecutors have virtually no checks and balances on their conduct unless the people themselves stand up for justice. Contact Parlato at **716-990-5740** or email **news1926@gmail.com**. All calls and emails kept confidential.

"When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations." *Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.*

Contact Parlato at **716-990-5740** or email **news1926@gmail.com**.
All calls and emails kept confidential.

RIZZO TO EXIT NT COUNCIL

Alderman: 'Accomplished What I Set Out to Do'



NORTH TONAWANDA—Alderman Phillip R. "Russ" Rizzo will retire from public service next month, and released the following statement:

"Serving my neighbors in North Tonawanda has been the greatest privilege of my life. I have always strived to deliver effective representation for the 1st Ward and principled leadership for our city as Council President.

In particular, I'm proud that on my watch, we alleviated flooding issues on Witmer Road, gave our auxiliary police the tools they needed, and continued our progress in redeveloping North Tonawanda's downtown into an upscale destination.

"As many of you know, I have had my

fair share of challenges this year, but was recently given a clean bill of health by my doctor. While I have loved working to make NT a stronger community, this gave me the opportunity to reflect, and I came to the realization that I had accomplished all the goals I set when I first decided to run for office.

"That realization, and a belief that our city would be well served by bringing in some fresh ideas, is why I have decided to make February 2nd my last day in office. I wish Mayor Pappas and my colleagues on the Council success in all things, and I leave with nothing but love for this great city and her people."

NT REPUBLICANS LAUD RIZZO'S RECORD IN OFFICE



NORTH TONAWANDA—The decision by longtime political fixture Philip R. "Russ" Rizzo to retire from public life marks the end of a great career in civic service, and is a bittersweet occasion for local Republicans and the North Tonawanda community, the head of the Lumber City's Republican Party said tonight.

"Russ Rizzo's passion for improving this community and helping his neighbors always set him apart as a leader," NT Republican Chairman Mike Carney said, after Rizzo informed him of his decision to step down from the city's Common Council, just days after declining to seek another term as the body's president. "He will be sorely missed."

Chairman Carney pointed to Rizzo's record, including his success, during his sole term as a county legislator, in brokering a deal between the city, Wheatfield, Niagara County, and state representatives, to alleviate flooding on Witmer Road—something Rizzo has long held up as his proudest accomplishment—as evidence of the lawmaker's tenacity.

"Russ didn't believe people when they told him something was too ambitious," Chairman Carney said. "He saw government's job as fixing problems and protecting

homeowners."

Chairman Carney then rattled off a list of Rizzo's boldest accomplishments, including spearheading initiatives that redeveloped the marina at Gratiwick-Riverside Park and secured a long-term lease to open a restaurant there, efforts to equip auxiliary police and the Gratiwick Hose volunteer fire company, and his strong advocacy for re-launching the Canalside Concert Series.

"Russ was very often 'Mr. North Tonawanda,'" Chairman Carney said. "He also did a fantastic job getting back to his constituents, calling them back, staying on top of their issues. He challenged our Republican-led city government to work as diligently as he did."

Chairman Carney added that he wished Rizzo happiness in retirement.

"Russ has earned some time for himself and his family," Chairman Carney said. "He made our community a better place to live; now he deserves to go out and enjoy that fact."

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--
Swami Vivekananda

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**J. Gary
DiLaura**

**The Right
Side**

These are my opinions and the opinions of a lot of Americans...

What a relief... we again have a President who was born here, is a Christian, believes in: our Rule of Law, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, free enterprise, a strong military, loves our veterans as well as all other Americans, and who knows how to pronounce "Corpsman"! He has an original, verifiable, unaltered birth certificate, a legit Social Security card, and an unaltered Selective Service card! He will proudly show you his college records and probably his passport! He knows how to create businesses and jobs... he knows how to recognize and appoint patriotic, capable Americans to his staff and jobs critical to our security,

and will not appoint ANY radicals or militants who want to "change America" to any positions, especially "CIA Director" or "Homeland Security" or "Chief Advisor"!!

He will not support any white militant or black militant or red militant or any other radical "asshole" who wants to make America something it is NOT! He will call out liars, for what they are... liars. He will ban fake reporters and fake news media that report opinion as fact, lies as truth and alter what the White House reports... from attending White House Press Conferences and travel with the President! He will do that with the support of Americans who believe in freedom of the "truthful" press and who want to know the real news and not what opinions Chris Matthews, George Stephanopoulos, Chuck Todd or others like them have!

He will put the health, welfare and the security of the American people and our country first and foremost and not Spotted Owls, Smelt and outrageous environmental beliefs! Instead of Political Correctness he will utilize Common Sense when deciding how to utilize our God-given, enormous natural resources and who and what should NOT be allowed into the United States. It is NOT



a right for non-citizens to enter the US, it is a privilege that we the people grant to those we want here.

We have the Right to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" which means we have the right to use our cost effective, readily available, clean energy resources like coal, oil, natural gas and our advanced nuclear technology!

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ANY religion or group or ethnic origin of people or individuals who want to enter our country to change our government or Rule of Law by force, violence or intimidation! That includes anyone who preaches or practices a tyrannical form of government against our Rule of Law with no separation of Church and State and demands death to those who refuse to comply!

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Attempted Smear of Elected Official with Opposite Political Views Fails

Frank Parlato

Recently the Reporter/Artvoice received an email alleging that a prominent, local elected official (LEO) had child porn on her Twitter page.

Calling her a "sicko" and saying she "should be nowhere near children", the email referenced a retweet by the LEO which we were assured contained an illicit photo of a little girl.

Examining LEO's Twitter page, the Reporter found a plethora of political tweets and retweets in praise of Hillary Clinton, and Barack and Michelle Obama. Scrolling back to mid-2014, Artvoice found the retweet in question. It was a picture of a little girl, laughing, wearing an oversized, loose-fitting dress. Had it not been for a comment above the picture, "nip slip", we would not have noticed the child's dress would, if worn by a woman, be hanging too low (A 'nip slip' is when an adult female nipple accidentally slips out from under a loose-fitting garment).

The tweet had initially been sent to the LEO by a teenage girl. A second comment above the child's picture, "warning leaked nudes attached," made it seem that this tweet was intended as some kind of juvenile humor, but it was such that it might attract the perverted as well. Why did LEO, an adult, retweet it?

At first blush, it looked like LEO might be guilty of (at the very least)

retweeting something vile, masquerading as some sort of sick humor. "Nip slip" and "leaked nude" as captions to a picture of a little girl with her dress which slipped down low.

In response to our query, LEO explained that she did not realize the picture was on her Twitter page. In fact, she could not see it, she said, because the teenager who had sent it had for some reason blocked her. The picture was invisible on her Twitter account to her, yet visible to others.

The girl in the picture, she further explained, was her daughter, at age three, taken years before. Her retweet of it was directed to the teenage girl, a friend of her daughter's, who somehow had the picture, made the juvenile comments, and tweeted it.

LEO said, "I did not intend to retweet the context of the text, but was simply asking... where she obtained the photo."

By the time the Reporter/Artvoice looked into this, the photo (thanks to the teen) had already been discussed by some of her political opponents, and alluded to, it is believed, on social media. LEO said it had been mentioned on the radio.

She told us, "I strenuously object to any inference, innuendo or allegation this innocent family photo constitutes child pornography. [The] child who wrote and posted the language associated with this picture ... told me she was just joking

around with her peers."

After she found out that others could see the picture on her Twitter page (which she had been blocked from seeing) LEO made her Twitter page private.

"We live in a terrible world where irresponsible people promulgate half-truths, rumors, innuendo and malicious gossip with no care for the consequences of their actions or the people they hurt. Thank you for your journalistic integrity," she wrote to Artvoice.

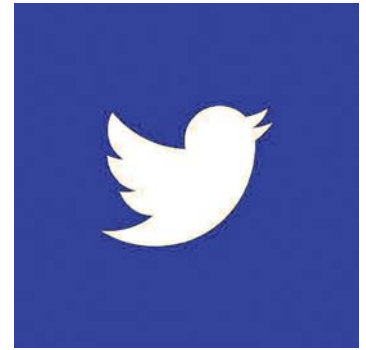
It would have been an easy matter to have simply published a screen shot of LEO's Twitter page (with the little girl's image blurred, of course) including the "nip slip" and "leaked nude" comments linked to the picture of a child which appeared as LEO's retweet.

This might have lighted up social media and gotten talked about in coffee shops, bars and around water coolers, and LEO would have been left to explain.

It would also been the height of unfairness.

We mention this only because the story changed upon more and fuller examination and inquiry. LEO looked guilty, then stupid, then innocent or wrongdoing, which was the truth after all.

Regardless of our political beliefs, the truth is always fair, and above all must be our only goal.



Twitter is an online news and social networking service where users post and interact with messages, "tweets," restricted to 140 characters. Registered users can post tweets, and anyone can read them. There is a glitch in the Twitter system which allows one user to block the tweets from the sight of another user yet allows the rest of the world to see the post - right on the user's twitter page. That's what happened to LEO. A post with a picture that her enemies were saying was child porn was not visible to her on her own Twitter page but visible to everyone else not blocked by the user who sent the original tweet with the picture to LEO.

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Tuscarora History subject of Lewiston talk



Neil Patterson, Sr.

Neil Patterson, Sr., a member of the Tuscarora Council, will present "Little Known Facts in Tuscarora History" at the Lutheran Church at 915 Oneida St., Lewiston on Thursday, January 26 at 7pm.

Much of local Tuscarora history has been written by white people, with little or no input from the Tuscaroras.

Council member Neil Patterson, Sr., will present Native American viewpoints on a number of interesting topics and issues that have impacted the Tuscarora Nation over the centuries.

Mr. Patterson is from the Sand Turtle Clan and a member of the governing Tuscarora Council. He is a retired millwright and worked as a consultant during the construction of the new Tuscarora Nation House. In addition, he has been the coordinator of the Tuscarora Nation Picnic & Field Days for over 30 years. Neil and his wife, Francine, a clan mother, have three children and five grandchildren.

In 2009, Neil began a four-year collaboration with the Historical Association of Lewiston and the Village and Town of Lewiston to complete the Tuscarora Heroes Monument in time to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the heroic actions by Nation in saving the lives of local Lewiston settlers.

This event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.

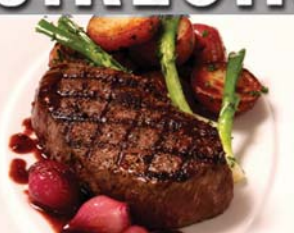

Come join us, and review fascinating Tuscarora history with his presentation.



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Obituaries & In Memoriams

DENNIS J. MORABITO JR.

Entered into rest January 16, 2017



MORABITO - Dennis J. Jr. Of Tonawanda, entered into rest January 16, 2017, loving son of Lorraine (Darwin) Pyc and the late Dennis J. Morabito Sr.; dear brother of Michele Morabito; fond stepbrother of Chad (Amy) Pyc and Brandon (Elizabeth) Pyc; also survived by several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Relatives and

friends may visit the LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME (Northtowns Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd. near Eggert/Sheridan Dr., on Friday from 3-8 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church, 263 Claremont Ave., Tonawanda, on Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock. (Please assemble at church.) Entombment Mt. Olivet Cemetery. Online condolences at www.lombardofuneralhome.com

RONALD A. GRIFFO SR.

Entered into rest January 18, 2017



GRIFFO - Ronald A., Sr. Of Kenmore, entered into rest on January 18, 2017, beloved husband of Paula (nee Terrieri) Griffo; devoted father of Rachel Griffo, Ronald A. (Jacquelyn) Griffo, Jr.; loving son of the late Bart

and Jennie Griffo; dear brother of Marlene Potwora and the late Bart (Kathi) Griffo Jr.; also survived by relatives and friends. Relatives and friends may visit the LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME (Northtowns Chapel), 885 Niagara Falls Blvd. near Eggert/Sheridan Dr. on Saturday from 2-5 PM for a gathering in Ronald's memory. Online condolences at lombardofuneralhome.com

DONALD G. MCGRATH

Entered into rest January 18, 2017

McGRATH - Donald G. of Amherst, NY, passed away on January 13, 2017. Beloved husband of 34 years and best friend of Roslyn (nee Filadora) McGrath; devoted and revered father of Kevin Pascal McGrath, Esq. (Kristin) of New York City; and Donald (Susan) McGrath of Rancho Santa Fe, CA, Brian (Kimberly) McGrath, MD of Clarence, NY, Robin (Edward) Sofio of Charlotte, NC, Allison Deckman, CPA of Chattanooga, TN; dear son of the late Gabriel and LaVada McGrath; benevolent brother of Diane (late Francis) Sheehan and the late G. William (late Jacqueline) McGrath; loving son-in-law of Concetta (late Pascal) Filadora; wonderful brother-in-law of Marianne (Alfonso) Oddo and Patricia

(Gregory) Joseph; kind grandfather of Isabella, Taylor, Michael, Max, Matthew, Casey, Alec, and Brady. Caring relatives and friends may visit the LOMBARDO FUNERAL HOME, 885 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY, on Thursday from 2-7 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Christ the King Church, 30 Lamarck Drive at Main Street, Snyder, NY, on Friday morning at 9:30 AM. Please assemble at church. Interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Mr. McGrath was a practicing lawyer for 54 years and served in the U.S. Army. Flowers are gratefully declined. If desired, donations may be made to the City Mission or to the Erie County Bar Foundation in memory of Mr. McGrath's enduring dedication to the legal profession.

Former Legislator Ceretto apparently not to answer for alleged campaign ethics breaches



Assemblyman John Ceretto's not too happy about being one of the only state legislators to lose his seat last year. Luck for him, his pension will continue to flower in his new State Parks position, a reward for his 2015 defection from the Republicans to the Democrats.

James Hufnagel

When Richard Nixon left office some 45 years ago, he was spared criminal prosecution thanks to a presidential pardon issued by his successor, Gerald Ford.

To the best of our knowledge, John Ceretto has received no such pardon from the outgoing Barack Obama. So why isn't Ceretto being investigated for campaign law violations allegedly committed during his futile re-election bid this past fall?

In late October, 2016, less than a month before the election that was ultimately won by challenger Angelo Morinello, a former Ceretto employee blew the whistle on possible illegal activities which included, according to news reports, "several" campaign meetings held in Assemblyman Ceretto's office, where invitations to a political fundraiser were allegedly created on government computer and printer and mailed using state postage, as well as the alleged use of an office phone to solicit campaign donors.

"That clearly is a violation of the Public Officers Law," stated Assemblyman Brian Kolb, leader of the Republican minority, "He (should) be subject to an ethics investigation."

How does the Reporter know that ex-Assemblyman Ceretto is not being investigated? Because we asked the very same "disgruntled past employee" (Ceretto's words), who leaked the potentially incriminating emails to the local press that effectively ended his legislative career, if there was any word on whether Ceretto is the subject of a probe into his questionable campaign practices.

If there was an ongoing investigation of Ceretto's apparent transgressions, it stands to reason that by now, the one-time Ceretto chief of staff who exposed his wheeling and dealing would have been interviewed, by either the NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics or the state Attorney General's office but, according to the former key aide, no such communication has taken place.

Did she think an investigation might be forthcoming?

"I would bet no, since he lost the election."

The accusations against Ceretto don't stop there. An email emanating from the keyboard of Ceretto aide Robert Nichols, impugning Senator Robert Ort, was copied to an individual named Alex Sutherland, a staffer for the state Assembly leadership. Fancying himself some kind of shrewd political operator, Nichols muses about how about a certain state budget request for the city of Niagara Falls might impact his boss's electoral prospects, directly making political points on official state email. Sutherland admonished Nichols, "In the future, nothing political in nature can be discussed through state email," nailing down the fact that a violation did occur.

However, not only did Ceretto not fire Nichols after all his chicanery was exposed, but Nichols remained on staff through the remainder of Ceretto's term, even accompanying him on occasion to community events, albeit where the two men were pretty much shunned.

Around the same time Ceretto and Nichols were playing fast and loose with campaign regulations, the state Legislative Ethics Commission last year fined disgraced Assemblyman Dennis Gabryszak \$30,000 for using office resources, including phones, computers and printers, to aid his political campaigns, the very same infractions of which John Ceretto appears guilty as sin.

Not only does it appear John Ceretto is going to escape scrutiny for cheating that took place prior to his ignominious defeat, one of only two of 150 incumbent Assemblymembers who were bounced from office last year, but Ceretto was rewarded for his conniving with a cushy State Parks patronage position literally days into his forced retirement.

Of course, if you're a connected politician in New York State, that's often the way things go, as City Councilman Charles Walker found out this month, plea-bargaining four misdemeanor counts for failing to file campaign contribution reports down to a single violation, incurring a \$250 fine. He was subsequently named City Council Chair.

Welcome back, my friends, to the show that never ends...



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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Name of LLC: **Perfect Seal
716, LLC**

Date of filing of Articles of Organi-
zation with the NY Department of State:
September 2, 2016

Office of the LLC: Niagara County
The NY Secretary of State has been
designated as the agent upon whom pro-
cess may be served. NYSS may mail a
copy of any process to the LLC at: 1278
95th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.
Purpose of LLC: Any lawful purpose

1/12/17, 1/19/17, 1/26/17, 2/2/17, 2/9/16, 2/16/17

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