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# THE NIAGARA REPORTER

FREE APRIL 18, 2018 - APRIL 24, 2018 VOL. 18, NO. 49 FREE

## La Hacienda in Niagara Falls to Re-Open Under New Ownership

By: Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Closed since March 11th, 2018, La Hacienda Restaurant will open again under new ownership, but with familiar faces.

After the passing of Aldo Evangelista at his restaurant on March 1st, 2018, many wondered if the business would continue or stop altogether. Hope grew when



the popular restaurant re-opened for a few days, but ultimately La Hacienda shut its doors, reportedly for good, on March 11th.

The famous local Italian restaurant, sitting on the corner of Pine Avenue and 31st Street, was truly iconic. It was the landmark – along with the Como Restaurant

and Michael's - were the three mainstays of historic Little Italy along Pine Ave. in Niagara Falls.

The Niagara Reporter learned on Sunday that Niagara Falls businessman George Satarian has entered into a contract to purchase La Hacienda for \$400,000.

(Cont. on pg. 4)

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## A New Day for Non-Biological Parents in NYS

By: Nicholas D. D'Angelo

Throughout the history of our country, the law has often been slow to follow social norms.

(Cont. on pgs. 6 & 7)



## TOP STORIES

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# LOCAL NEWS

## Cuomo Too Busy to Focus on Gaming Stalemate that Threatens to Deal Niagara Falls a Knockout Punch

**Tony Farina**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo may be focused on his re-election bid these days, but what is he doing about the latest stalemate with the Seneca Nation over sharing gaming revenue?

There's not much evidence he is doing anything, and the city of Niagara Falls along with Buffalo and Salamanca--the three host cities for the Seneca casinos--are reeling from the loss of slot revenue more than a year ago.

The Senecas stopped paying the state about \$110 million a year, some of which was shared with the host communities, when the Seneca tribal leaders discovered that a close reading of the 2002 gaming compact did not spell out payments of slot revenue to the state after the 14th year of the agreement. Too bad the state didn't read it, if that's what it says.

To say the state was blindsided would be an understatement. The state insists the Senecas are still ob-

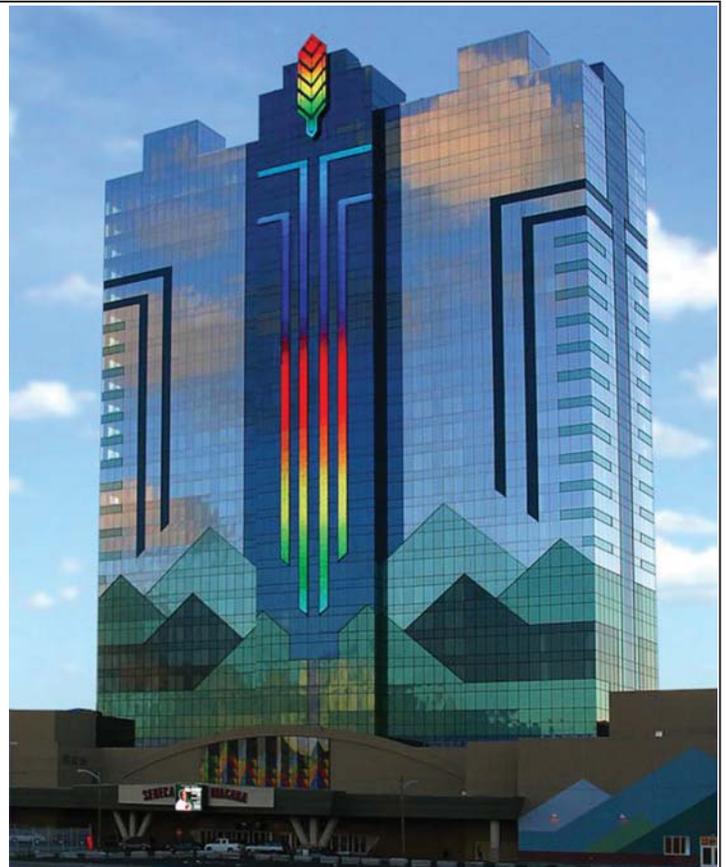
ligated to pay in exchange for their exclusivity, but the Senecas don't agree.

The Senecas have always felt the state never honored the exclusivity agreement by opening other gaming facilities, and with nothing in writing about paying beyond 2016, they stopped. It seems inconceivable the state didn't read the compact after the last dispute, but apparently the Cuomo administration fell short on its due diligence and now there's hell to pay.

The two sides still have not agreed on a third arbitrator to hear the dispute, but there's no agreement in sight on selecting that arbitrator. Meanwhile, Cuomo is raising millions to get re-elected--\$31 million at last count--and the host cities are counting the millions they have lost.

Niagara Falls used \$11 million of last year's \$16 million in casino revenue to come up with this year's budget, but what about next year?

City lawmakers have crafted a



# NIAGARA



# REPORTER

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### Amherst

Tops (3035 Niag. Falls Blvd.)

### Grand Island

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Tim Hortons (2970 Saunders Settlement Rd.)

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Smokin Joes on the Hill

### Lockport

Lockport City Court

Lockport County Courthouse

Tops (5827 South Transit Rd.)

### Niagara Falls

City Hall (basement)

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Frankies Donuts

John Duke Center (1202 Hyde Park Blvd.)

Key Bank (800 Main St.)

Memorial Medical Center (ER)

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.)

### North Tonawanda

Budwey's Market (535 Division St.)

Olympia Restaurant (3312 Niag. Falls Blvd.)

Tops (301 Meadow Dr.)

### 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

Market Place (368 2nd St.)

Rite Aid (214 Lockport St.)

Niagara Falls Public Library (Main St.)

Rite Aid (7804 Buffalo Ave. & 4407 Military Rd.)

Spallino Towers (720 10th St.)

Supermarket Liquor (8438 Niag. Falls Blvd.)

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# Knockout Punch Cont.

casino spending policy if they receive funds, but there's not a shred of evidence any slot money will be coming in anytime soon, if ever.



NF Mayor Paul Dyster

Maybe it would be wiser to try and work something out with the Senecas, but beyond a few meetings, nothing has happened. And why hasn't Mayor Paul Dyster taken a more active position in

this crisis, like going to the extent of meeting with the Senecas himself to try and reach some sort of agreement outside of the arbitration process?

Is he afraid to rattle the governor, who he has supported through thick and thin, including in the Hamister Hotel fiasco that took years to resolve?

Dyster did play a winning hand in the last gaming dispute that ended in 2013 with Niagara Falls receiving \$89 million in overdue casino revenue after Cuomo negotiated a settlement during the arbitration process. But this time, things may be different and there's no hint of any ongoing negotiations.

Things have changed a great deal since 2013. The tax-free Seneca casinos are still bringing in



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo

money but their handle is down by all accounts.

The Senecas are also very likely unhappy over the state's gaming expansion, viewing it as more competition. One of the three new commercial casinos that opened upstate, Del Lago in Waterloo, is reportedly falling far short of projections with one Wall Street rating agency warning it might not be able to pay off its debts. The other new casinos are also coming up short.

But the biggest crisis right now is local, right here in Niagara Falls as the tourist season is about to begin.

There is not enough money to pave roads, incentivize economic development, or do much else. And that includes the Board of Education and Medical Center.

And next year could be much, much worse if there's no resolution of the crisis. And as I said earlier in this piece, no resolution is in sight.



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# La Hacienda in Niagara Falls to Re-Open Under New Ownership Cont.



George Satarian [r] with former State Senator George Maziarz and local businessman Roger Trevino of Niagara Falls Redevelopment.

Previously, reported to have been asking for more than \$1 million for the property, the family tempered expectations after receiving offers for substantially less than \$500,000.

Niagara Falls residents rejoiced at the news that La Hacienda would reopen and under the

management of someone so able as Satarian, who promises to keep the old staff – most of whom have been there for years.

On Social media news spread like wildfire.

“Congratulations George,” said Patricia vis Conti, “for saving our famous La Hacienda I know you will be very successful.”

Molly Cir, a former Niagara Falls resident, said, “when I lived in the Falls it was our go-to restaurant!!”

Residents were ecstatic that Satarian planned to keep the same employees.

“Very happy he will be keeping the employees,” said Linda

Gorman.

Sharon Harshman, who com-



Aldo Evangelista

mented that she was happy to hear the restaurant would re-open for good, said that “keeping the em-

ployees too makes it even better!”

Famed for its sauces, its remarkable pizza, its specialty Italian dishes and its quiet, graceful ambience, it is a great boon to a struggling city to see one of its landmark eateries revived from the pallor of death.

Aldo Evangelista made it his lifework to bring the people of Niagara Falls and visitors alike, and his successor George Satarian is well known as an entrepreneur with a gracious spirit.

If you see Mr. Satarian, make sure to say ‘thank you. Niagara Falls is a better place’ thanks to him and his effort to keep for the people here this timeless, classic restaurant in business.

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# Niagara Falls, Buffalo Business Partnership Off to Good Start

**Tony Farina**

You might say it was a perfect fit.



Former Niagara Falls City Councilman Michael Gawel

That's what former Niagara Falls city lawmaker Michael Gawel and Seneca Vocational High School product Marlon Brown are saying about their re-

cent acquisition of a tire store in Buffalo.

"So far, so good," says Gawel who served on the Niagara Falls City Council and now works as a businessman and CPA.

Gawel, the accountant for the late owner of Dino Tire & Service Center at 1425 Clinton St., Buffalo, joined up with Brown, a father of two and a grandfather of three who formerly worked in the fleet maintenance business, to buy Dino Tire last December and business is thriving.

Gawel says after the previous owner of Dino Tire passed away after running the business for 30 years, his widow was anxious to sell the service center and with the help of Sunbelt Business Brokers, a match was made.

"I just saw it as a good fit," says Brown, "and we moved forward on it. We're open Monday through Friday from from 8:30 a. m. until 4:30 p. m., and from 8:30 until 1 on Saturdays. We do just about everything for

our customers, including tires, brakes, and alignments. We're really doing well and I'm glad we were able to get this done. People can call us at 826-3352 for an appointment."

"Marlon was looking for a partner who could help put the deal together, and I just happened to be available and interested," says Gawel.

"I was able to package the financing and we took ownership in December and now we're open for business servicing the local community and people from all over the area. So far, so good.

So there you have it. A product of Buffalo's East Side looking for an opportunity to own his own business and a well known Niagara Falls politician, businessman, and tax accountant finding common ground and becoming partners.

You might say it is a perfect fit, and both men are enjoying their newfound partnership.

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# Non-Biological Parental Rights Cont.



It took until 1920 for the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to pass giving women the right to vote.

It took until 1954, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, for the U.S. Supreme Court to end segregation in schools and abolish the "separate but equal" ruling from *Dred Scott v. Sandford* that came nearly a century before in 1857.

It took until 2003, in *Lawrence v. Texas*, for the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down a Texas sodomy law and, by doing so, make same-sex sexual activity legal in every state.

It took until 2015, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, for the U.S. Supreme Court to rule that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples throughout the United States.

Suffice to say, sometimes it takes the law a little longer to catch up with certain social norms.

One such social norm the law has been equally slow in recognizing are the rights of non-biological parents, step-parents, or parents in homosexual relationships.

Most of us know someone who has opened their heart to a child who isn't biologically theirs.

A man who steps into a child's life

and becomes his father.

A woman whose husband has a young child that grows up only knowing her as "mom."

A grandmother or grandfather who takes on the responsibility of raising a child. A woman who plans, with her wife, to conceive and raise a child.

The situations are endless, and the bonds these often amazing individuals create with their children are life-changing.

Yet, since 1992, in the State of New York, these non-biological parents have had no rights to the children whom they established relationships with.

In 1992 the Court of Appeals decided a case called *Alison D. v. Virginia M.*, where they held that in the absence of a biological or adoptive connection to the child, an individual was not a "parent" and, as such, could not petition a court for custody and visitation of that child.

Despite numerous judges over the years acknowledging the widespread harm this ruling had on families, it was the law of New York until 2016 when the Court of Appeals, in *Brooke v. Elizabeth*, overruled *Alison D.*

Consider the following examples:

\*\*\*\*\*



David starts to date Liz who has a five-month-old child, Scott, whose biological father had abandoned him shortly after birth. David knowingly assumed the role of dad and fulfilled all of the responsibilities traditionally associated with being a father.

Liz, throughout the entire relationship, held David out as his real father to Scott, her own family, friends, teachers, doctors, and etc., and encouraged relationships to be formed between Scott and David's parents (who became the child's grandparents), siblings (who became the child's aunts and uncles), and extended family.

After five years together, however, the couple separated.

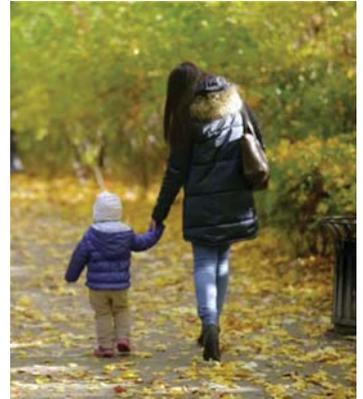
Up to that point, Scott knew no other father, "dad," or "daddy" other than David, and David, for more than five years, had looked at Scott as his son because in every way that mattered, he was.

Not once caring about the devasta-

tion it would have on Scott's life, who was six, Liz attempted to sever their bond and withhold Scott from David.

If this had happened before 2016, David would have had no ability to take the woman to family court in an effort to get custody or visitation of Scott. He would have had no rights, no hope, and no son.

\*\*\*\*\*



Sarah marries Michael who has a one-year-old daughter Nicole. The couple are happily married for three years before tragedy strikes and Michael dies from cancer, leaving Sarah and his daughter Nicole, now four, behind.

Throughout the three years of marriage, and the months leading up to their wedding day, Nicole lived with Sarah.

Being only one when they were married, Nicole grew up calling Sarah "mom" or "mommy," and Sarah always treated her as if she was her own because in every way that matters, she was.

If this happened before 2016, Sarah would have been in the same boat as

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David was in the previous example. Both would have helplessly watched as the biological parent of their child, for no reason that had anything to do with what was in the child's best interest, severed their bond forever.

\*\*\*\*\*

For a family law system built on the "best interests of the child," it's certainly clear that wasn't always the outcome when it comes to non-traditional families.

It is hard to imagine children who grew up with fathers or mothers, or other non-biological parental figures, who were helpless, as that non biological individual but true mother or father was taken away from them.

The children were not able, because of their age or the legal system, to do anything about it.

Happily, the landscape of family law changed in New York on August 30th, 2016, when the Court of Appeals decided Brooke v. Elizabeth and struck down the court's prior ruling in Alison D. that prevented a non-biological parent from filing a petition for custody and visitation of their child.

Since the Court of Appeals' decision in Brooke v. Elizabeth, there have been countless applications made by non-biological parents in both homosexual and heterosexual relationships (the ability for a non-biological parent to petition a family court for custody and visitation applies equally to individuals in both same sex and opposite sex relationships).

Non-biological parental rights is an area of law that is not only close to my heart, but something I have been successful multiple times in arguing on behalf of clients who wished to continue a relationship with their son or daughter.

For more information, or if you need help protecting your rights as a parent and to help you fight for your child, visit [www.LawNiagara.com](http://www.LawNiagara.com) or call Nicholas D. D'Angelo, Esq., today at (716) 990-3677.

Nicholas D. D'Angelo is an attorney in Niagara & Erie County whose practice focuses on matrimonial law, family law, criminal defense, personal injury, and general litigation matters.

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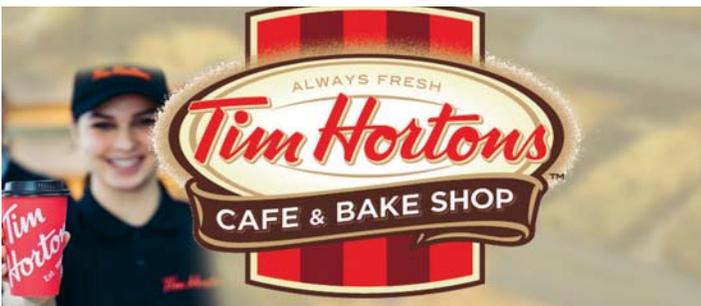
## Don't Rely on Backup Alarms to Stop Backovers

A co-worker being seriously injured or killed on the job from a backover is a preventable tragedy. However, backing construction vehicles were responsible for killing 24 construction workers and injuring 50 more at U.S. worksites in 2016. When used in combination with LIUNA members who have been trained as spotters, technologies like backup alarms and cameras can help stop backover incidents. But even more can and should be done, such as the use of internal traffic control plans. These vital programs help separate workers on foot from construction vehicles and set rules for backing construction equipment on highway work zones and other sites.

Internal Traffic Control Plans (ITCPs) can protect workers from being struck by construction vehicles by establishing "driving zones" with specified areas for access and egress. These defined traffic routes can minimize the need for vehicles to back up. This is important because nearby construction workers are at risk for serious injury every time a piece of heavy equipment is put in reverse. A well-designed and enforced ITCP helps ensure that all workers on foot are aware of driving zones and also establishes a process to alert them when vehicles will be backing. Construction sites are fluid environments and an effective ITCP must be updated as projects progress. A few key components in an ITCP are:

- Designing worksites to minimize or eliminate the need for backing vehicles and equipment
- Using spotters when backing around workers is necessary
- Using Barrels, barricades and cones as well as retro-reflective devices to guide vehicles and equipment
- Signs informing workers where it's safe to walk

Backup alarms are important safety features, but they can be hard to hear above the noise of a construction site or if a worker is wearing hearing protection like ear plugs or ear muffs. They also don't protect against blind spots, which are notorious in large construction vehicles. Blind spots are a major factor in incidents involving construction equipment striking a worker. In highway construction, blind spots are responsible for about 22 worker deaths every year. Rearview cameras can make a difference and can be retrofitted to construction equipment. As these devices become more cost-efficient, it's possible their use in construction will increase and eventually become mandatory, as it is for cars, buses and trucks manufactured after May 1, 2018. There is no silver bullet, but the construction industry can get there through proper planning, work zone setup, best practices like ITCPs and better technologies.



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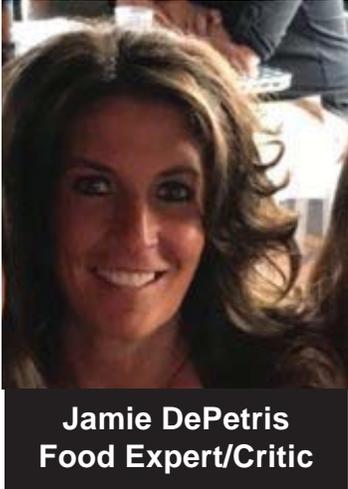


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<p><b>Jimmy's Bar</b> 3044 Niagara St. 345-3779</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL</b> 1/2 Tray Pizza &amp; 20 Wings ... <b>\$21</b> Try our Steak &amp; Cheese Subs!!</p>	<p><b>The Niagara Sausage Co.</b> 5611 Lockport Rd. NF, NY   298-4422 Open @ 9am (Mon, Wed-Sun)</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b> <b>50 CENTS OFF</b> PER POUND ON ANY SAUSAGE Valid till: 4/30/18</p>	<p><b>Fuji Grill</b> Niagara Falls JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE 283-6888 283-3888 7310 Niagara Falls Blvd. fujigrillny.com</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b> <b>\$5 OFF</b> Purchase of \$45 before tax <b>\$10 OFF</b> Purchase of \$65 before tax **not valid w/ other offers** Exp. 5/31/18</p>
<p><b>Marino's Subs</b> Call to order 716-282-2456 1412 Pine Avenue Niagara Falls, NY</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL</b> 1/2 TRAY or 18" NY STYLE PIZZA + 1 ITEM &amp; 20 WINGS <b>\$22.00</b></p>	<p><b>GRANDMA D'S PIZZERIA</b> Pizzas, Wings, Subs 2500 Niagara Falls Blvd. NF, NY   216-6693</p>	<p><b>SPECIAL</b> <b>\$10</b> LARGE PIE CHEESE &amp; 1 ITEM WE DELIVER!! Exp. 4/30/18</p>	<p><b>David's</b> Home of The Steak Hoagy 8442 Niagara Falls Blvd. NF, NY   (716) 283-3322</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b> <b>50% OFF</b> ANY ORDER MAX VALUE \$6 Exp. 5/31/18</p>
<p><b>MOM'S Family Restaurant</b> 2410 Military Rd. NF, NY   (716) 283-6667</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b> <b>15% OFF</b> YOUR ENTIRE ORDER NOT VALID W/ OTHER OFFERS Exp. 5/31/18</p>	<p><b>Judi's BAR &amp; GRILL</b> 2057 Military Road NF, NY   297-5759</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b> <b>10% OFF</b> FOOD ORDER OF \$20 OR MORE **not valid Sunday's**</p>	<p>Advertise your business in our "Food at the Fold!" Call (716) 990-3677 <b>\$30 Per Week</b></p>	

# Restaurant Review: Judi's Bar & Grill



**Jamie DePetris**  
Food Expert/Critic

fashion while we were there.

It should come as no surprise to you that I had their specialty dish! It's called the "Best of Buffalo" and comes with both of their best foods combined on one plate; Beef on Weck with six chicken wings served with chips, celery, blue cheese & horseradish.

The wings have to be one of the best in Niagara Falls. There's just something about their medium wings that's different and unique. They are fat, juicy, crispy, and I absolutely love them!! I guarantee you will love them too!!

I had never had their beef on weck before today, but you can bet that I will the next time I'm here too!

It was served on a kimmelweck roll with just the right amount of au jus to make the inside moist.

The beef was fresh, tender and cooked just right.

Believe me when I tell you, I've had many things at Judi's, but these items just stand out! Sooo good!!

In an effort to feel "healthy," I also had the Sierra Vista Chicken Salad. Fresh Romaine with marinated grilled chicken, tomatoes, red onions, avocado, black beans, jalapenos and shredded jack cheese. It comes with a jalapeno ranch dressing on the side.

Now this is my all time favorite salad pretty much anywhere. It is served in a huge deep bowl. Everything combined is a perfect match.



The Sierra Vista Chicken Salad



Judi's famous chicken wings

It has freshness and a bit of heat and the avocado mixed with this creamy dressing makes this my all time favorite salad. If you are a salad eater, you need to try this!

We truly enjoyed our lunches and will be back very soon!

Judi's also has an amazing backroom that holds 24-26 people comfortably. It can be used for parties,

get together, fantasy football, paint nights, karaoke, and more. It is also bright, inviting, and has endless possibilities that it can be used for.

All in all, Judi's is a great place to come to eat, drink or have a party. Stop in there soon and say hi to Judi, Tom or Maria! You will be so glad you did, and you may just become a regular.

Tell them Jamie sent you!!

Judi's Lounge, Bar & Grill is located at 2057 Military Road across from the Prime Outlets.

Judi's has been here for over 38 years, which means they must be doing something right!

I had the pleasure of having lunch with a friend there this past week and I am so glad we did.

The first thing that I noticed upon walking in was that Judi's has had a major face-lift!

It's bright, inviting, warm, and cozy with a gas fireplace. I maybe wouldn't have enjoyed the fireplace so much if it hadn't snowed in the middle of April. I guess that's spring in Niagara Falls for you!

Judi's is owned and operated by Tom, Judi, and their daughter Maria. All of which happened to be working behind the bar in some form or



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# NATIONAL NEWS

## Reporting by Parlato Credited With Arrest of Cult Leader

### Tony Farina

The dogged determination of businessman-turned-journalist Frank Parlato, using the same no-holds-barred reporting he used to end the Maid of the Mist monopoly on both sides of the border by owner Jimmy Glynn just a few years ago, has paid off again with the arrest of the alleged mastermind of an Albany-based sex-slave cult called NXIVM.

Parlato, who once worked briefly for NXIVM and has been involved in a long-running legal battle with the cult, is being credited in numerous media accounts with spurring the probe by the U. S. Attorneys' office in Brooklyn, leading to the arrest of cult leader Keith Raniere last month in Mexico on sex trafficking charges and forced labor conspiracy.

Raniere was arraigned last Friday before a federal judge in Brooklyn and held without bail pending a preliminary hearing April 27. Among those in the courtroom was former television star Catharine Oxenberg who has said her daughter, India, was among the women inducted into Raniere's secret society.

A federal complaint alleges Raniere turned his female followers into slaves who were branded with his initials and coerced into having sex, activity that was first brought to light by Parlato's reporting last June in the Niagara Falls Reporter and on several of his websites.

In a report on March 28, shortly after Raniere's arrest, the New York Post identified Parlato as the reporter who first broke the story last June of women being forcibly branded as part of the NXIVM "sorority." Parlato had worked for NXIVM in 2007 and 2008, and for some time has been relentlessly pursuing the shocking activities of the self-help group's abuse of women once he learned from members and former members the extent of the slave-like branding and forced sexual activity.

In addition to the Post, the New York Times, Rolling Stone, and numerous other publications and broadcast media have frequently quoted Parlato's

reporting in their coverage of the Albany group which first gained national attention last October with a New York Times story headlined "Inside a Secretive Group Where Women Are Branded," the first in a series of stories that followed Parlato's lead from months earlier.

After his arrest by Mexican authorities in a plush villa near Puerto Vallarta, Raniere, 57, was extradited to Texas and then moved to Oklahoma before his transportation to Brooklyn for his arraignment.

The FBI has also raided the home of Nancy Salzman, NXIVM president, as well as another home in upstate New York which Parlato believes belongs to a NXIVM-linked doctor, Brandon Porter.

"I've had the occasion in my experiences with NXIVM and with present and former members to learn just how far Raniere and his band have gone in their abuse of woman, many of them falling prey to the brainwashing supervised by Raniere and his top followers," said Parlato.



Photo of Keith Raniere in the back of a police car.

"The horror stories of lives lost and the pain and suffering of loved ones is just heartbreaking. I just needed to expose this group for what it is, and fortunately, authorities finally acted."

Among those at the villa in Mexico when Raniere was finally arrested was Smallville actress Allison Mack

who, according to Parlato, was heavily involved in the torture and branding of "slaves," and he believes she will also be arrested shortly.

According to the federal complaint on Raniere's arrest, as reported in Rolling Stone, NXIVM is run like a multi-level marketing scheme with members "encouraged to keep attend-



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## Parlato Cont.



Sketch of Keith Ranieri appearing in court where he was denied bail.

ing classes and to recruit others" into the group.

Classes can cost up to \$5,000 for a five-day workshop, according to the complaint which alleges that many members descend into debt from the cost of the courses. And members are also expected to celebrate Ranieri's birthday during a weeklong celebration known as "Vanguard Week," with Ranieri known as Vanguard.

According to a federal detention memo and from Parlato's own knowledge, Seagram's heiress Clare Bronfman has financed Ranieri's operations for years, providing him millions for private air travel costs and other needs, including an island in Fiji.

"Whether from Hollywood or from anywhere USA, women were seduced into the cult and turned into slaves for

the pleasure of Ranieri," said Parlato. "It has inflicted great pain on many people and that's what drove me to keep trying to expose the cult's activities and bring them to an end. Finally, it appears that has happened."

The reporting by Parlato that led to the federal investigation of the NXIVM cult and the arrest of Ranieri follows his work in 2015 that exposed the relationship of Maid of the Mist owner Jimmy Glynn with the Canadian government which gave Glynn a monopoly on both sides of the river for his iconic boat ride.

The result of that reporting was that the Canadian government opened up the boat tours to public bidding and secured a huge windfall in payments from the new operators totaling \$500 million over 30 years compared to the \$81 million Glynn had agreed to pay

under the old contract before he was ousted in the bidding process.

The new Canadian operator also agreed to pay New York State \$100 million more than Glynn over the next 30 years if he won a bidding competition but was blocked by a back-room deal between the governor and the Glynn people without a bidding process. But it did result in a new rate for Glynn on the American side that is three times more in boat revenue for the state over 30 years.

Sometimes, it takes a lot of hard work to move people and governments to take action, and it takes a firm resolve to make the case and give it exposure even when it is met with little or no response. In the Glynn case, it took many, many months of reporting

to convince Canadian officials they were being taken for a ride and that an open bidding process could pay huge dividends for years to come. New York State could have done even better had they taken that same open-bidding path, but the back-room deal saved Glynn.

As for NXIVM, Ranieri took Parlato to court, alleging he had been defrauded in a Los Angeles real estate deal. Parlato counter-sued and the civil action is still pending. But Parlato not only fought back in court, he used his dogged reporting skills to ferret out the inner workings of the cult and expose their deeds in story after story until the federal investigation was finally commenced. A lesser effort would not have succeeded.



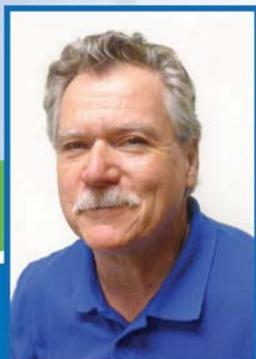
Photo of Keith Ranieri's initials that were branded into the skin of more than fifty women.

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# ANALYSIS

## Buckle Up Niagara Falls, It's Going to be a Bumpy Ride

Niagara Falls reduces infrastructure spending in wake of casino payments stopping.

### Nicholas D. D'Angelo

After a rough winter, spring is often a difficult time to find smooth roads in the City of Niagara Falls.

Normally the City does an adequate job of repairing the problem areas and paving the roads most in-need of replacement by the summer's end.



2018, unfortunately, is not going to be a normal year.

Mayor Paul Dyster recently

released that the City of Niagara Falls plans to pave 15 streets in 2018, which would use \$1.8 million in state aid.

However, and as Mayor Dyster noted, it would have been "twice as many roads" had the casino money come in.

This announcement comes after an announcement in the beginning of April that the city's "pothole killer" would be delayed in hitting the streets as well.

"We instituted a spending freeze on all non-essential expenditures to try to hold on to cash through 2017 and we continue that into 2018," said Mayor Dyster.

"There are going to be some significant impacts and I think some of them are, as the weather warms, people are going to notice in their neighborhood."

The City of Niagara Falls has

not received any revenue from the Seneca Nation in 2018.

The dispute is currently in arbitration.

"They're still searching for a third arbiter, but who knows how long that will take or who the arbiter is going to decide is right," said Councilman Chris Voccio.

In 2017, when Niagara Falls received \$16 million in casino revenue, \$11 million and change of which went toward the 2018 budget deficit.

"There is approximately \$11.2 million of casino funds being used as a revenue in the City's 2018 budget," said Councilman Ezra Scott. "I am not saying that we cannot use casino funds as a revenue in our budget - this does help with property tax relief - however, I feel \$11.2 million is a very large amount especially when the City only received a total amount of \$16.7 million from



its 2016 local share."

"It is a great disservice to our residents to not be able to provide essential services, especially with what they have to pay in property tax to live here."

At their meeting on April 11th, 2018, the Niagara Falls City Council put in place a "Casino Spending Policy."

The policy including holding back 5% of any revenue in a "reserve fund" and splitting the remaining monies to everything else (i.e.: paying off debt, infrastructure, economic development, and etc.).

However, the policy is meaningless unless the City of Niagara Falls receives any future payments from the Seneca Nation.

As for a plan/policy in the event Niagara Falls never sees another dime from the Seneca Nation? City Council Chairman Andrew Touma said, "we're not sure."

"Everything's on the table at this point," he said. "That means [looking at] possible additional revenue sources and could possibly mean cuts through attrition."

While city officials sort out their plan for possible future payments by the Seneca Nation, Niag-

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Niagara Falls residents continue to feel the ill effects.

"I'm not happy that we are doing so few roads this year," said Councilman Tompkins.

"The citizens deserve better than this," continued Tompkins. "Since we aren't getting casino revenue due to the dispute with the Senecas, I would have expected that our mayor would have, at a minimum, thought outside the box asked the Seneca Nation to enter in a separate agreement for the police and fire protection that we provide! Even if we can't negotiate terms for revenue sharing, I have been told by lawyers that discussing compensation for police and fire protection would be permissible."

"Instead of hammering away at Governor Cuomo and being on TV every week, our mayor stands idly by watching and points his finger at anyone other than himself for who to blame."

"We need to get creative. We need to ask for a cut of parking at State Parks or get compensated for the value of the Seneca's land. Everything is on table. This city can't keep taking away from the residents who continue to be this administration's top choice to shoulder all the burden."

"It's unfortunate that our roads are in such a state of disrepair," said Councilman Chris Voccio.

"If casino revenues in the past had been dedicated to enduring items like infrastructure and economic development, our roads would be in better shape. Our budget has become so weighted towards personnel expenses, around 80% of it, that there's little left over to use for roads. We need to right-size government and re-set our priorities."

"Niagara Falls is a major tourist destination where people come for all over the world," said Councilman Scott. "Tourism is a major industry here and what kind of impression do we want to leave on our visitors if the condition of our roads, and other enhancements

where casino funds were used, are not kept up?"

"For the City to become self-sustaining again, the current administration needs to have in place right now a five to seven year financial plan," said Scott. The goals and objectives in the plan should be realistic and attainable and not something that just looks good paper."

"This financial plan must show how City officials plan on decreasing the amount of casino fund revenue being used to balance the City budget without placing a burden on property taxes and making sure we provide the essential services."

Councilman Scott couldn't have summed it up any better, stating, "the real loser here is our residents."

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# NEW YORK NEWS

## New York Working Families Party Endorses Cynthia Nixon for Governor in 2018 Primary

Nixon also received endorsements from "Make the Road Action" and New York Progressive Action Network.



The New York Working Families Party has officially endorsed Cynthia Nixon for Governor in her primary battle with Andrew Cuomo. In a statement released earlier today, the Working Families Party said,

"We're pulling out the stops to get out the vote for Cynthia Nixon for Governor. As a long-time advocate for progressive values, Cynthia is committed to fight for a better, more equal New York. We can build a movement that can win, but only if we all come together."

Cynthia Nixon responded, saying

"I am so incredibly excited to

have earned the endorsement from the Working Families Party, the heart & soul of communities across the state. Together, we will fight to end the racial, economic, and educational inequality that deprive so many working and middle class New Yorkers of opportunity.

With the Working Families Party by our side, we will fight for equitable schools, good jobs, single-payer health care, subways that actually work, environmental justice, and an end to mass incarceration.

It's time for a New York that belongs to all of us — for the many, not the few."

## Marc Molinaro Files Ethics Complaint Against Cuomo



Marc Molinaro, candidate for Governor, filed in the past few days an explosive JCOPE complaint, calling on the commission to investigate Cuomo's multiple violations of the Public Officers Law echoing Troopergate charges that rocked the Capital a decade ago.

"Abusing state resources to advance a political agenda was at the core of Troopergate scandal and that is what Andrew Cuomo has done not once, but repeatedly. It's time he is held accountable for his actions violating the public's trust," said Molinaro.

In the first charge, evidence presented at the trial of the Governor's top aide, Joseph Percoco, indicated that he made

837 calls on 68 different days from his Executive Chamber desk phone in Manhattan despite his being on leave to serve as campaign manager for Cuomo 2014. This complaint alleges that Percoco's actions were taken with the Governor's knowledge, permission and direction.

"Joe Percoco answered to one person, Andrew Cuomo, and based on the ruling in the Troopergate case, Governor Cuomo's supervisory capacity over him makes him guilty of violating the Public Officers Law," said Molinaro.

In the second charge, Molinaro called on JCOPE to investigate the use of state resources in connection with the April 4 Democrat Unity summit, held at the Governor's office at 633 3rd Avenue in Manhattan.

"Governor Cuomo likes to say that 'he is the government,' he apparently believes it because he uses taxpayer dollars to host his political events," said Molinaro.

"Once upon a time, New York's Attorney General did the job regardless of party, today JCOPE needs to follow their own precedent and do the right thing."

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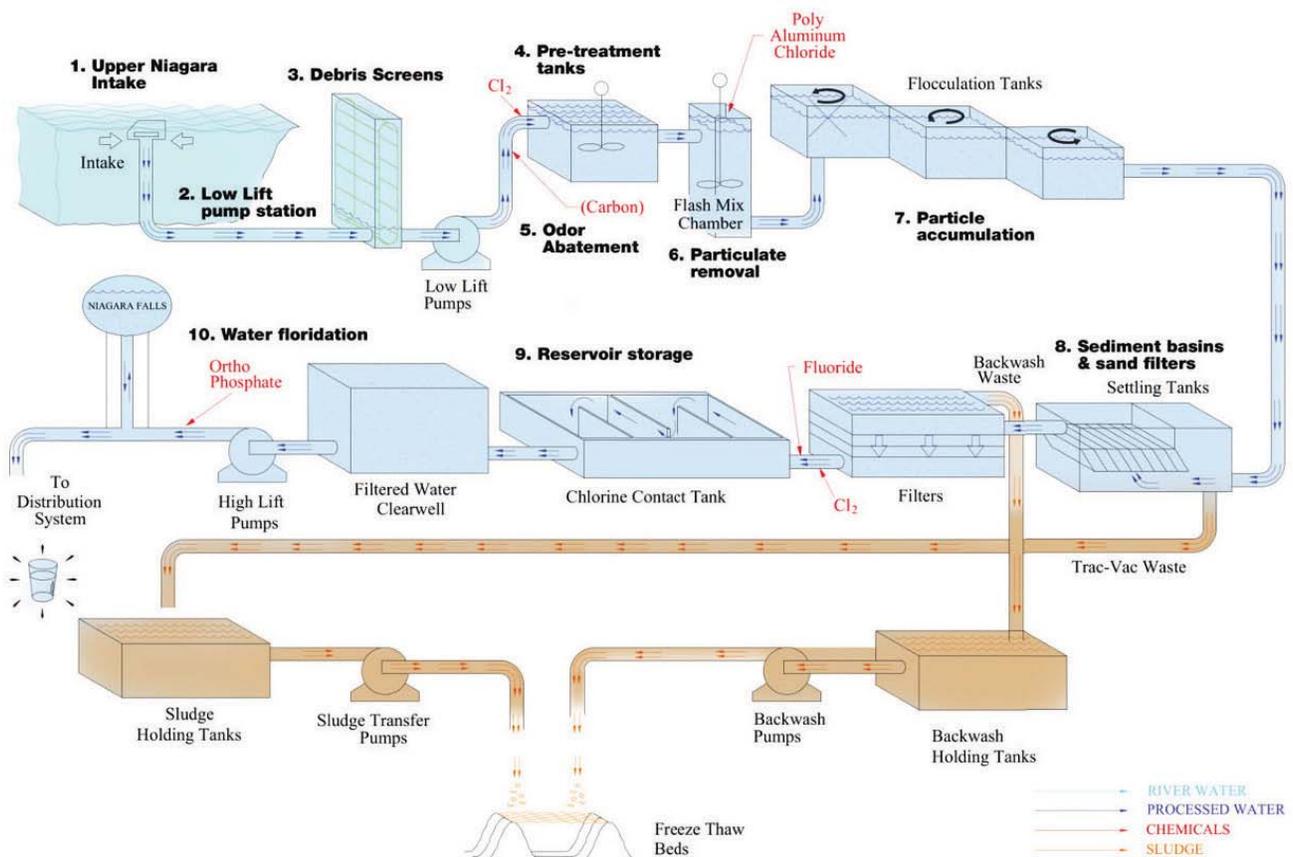


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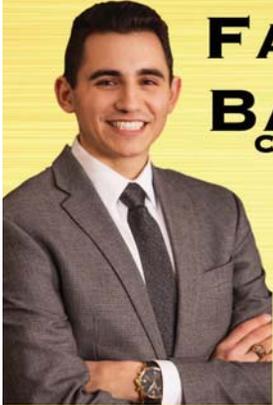
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NO JOB IS TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL. MAKE THE CALL & LET US TAKE CARE OF IT ALL!! **310-9882**



**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

**GOLD PACKAGE** (\$115 MONTHLY)

2 JOBS PER MONTH FOR TOTAL OF 2 HOURS

- INCLUDES ALL FROM SILVER PACKAGE
- 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 MONTHLY)

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)

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