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SHE'S BACK

Further Evidence Seth is Dyster's Boy *Grandinetti Endorses Piccirillo*



By: **Frank Parlato**

Analysis

Former Niagara Falls councilwoman Kristen Grandinetti has endorsed Seth Piccirillo for mayor of Niagara Falls.

"Seth Piccirillo for Mayor. The right man for the job. Committed, honest, and inclusive. Everyone matters. Every voice heard," Grandinetti wrote on Facebook on January 10.

Grandinetti has been a Seth supporter for months, if not years.

(Cont. on pg. 2)

Gooch Addresses Smear by Opponent

By: **Brendan McDonough**

Last week, a reporter called Legislator Jesse Gooch concerning a tax issue that was brought to their attention by Gooch's opponent. Gooch responded quickly that he was well aware of the topic and he and his small business had agreed to a resolution with the State several years ago.

"Like many small business owners, I have had disagreements with the state

(Cont. on pg. 7)

Maziarz's Alleged Bid-Rigging Connection Misses Mark

By: **Tony Farina**

Analysis

Former State Sen. George Maziarz last week accused former top aide Henry Wojtaszek of engaging in a bid-rigging scheme to help a friend's firm win a Niag-

(Cont. on pg. 6)

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THE **CRIME** PAGE 4

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NIAGARA FALLS

Grandinetti Endorses Piccirillo Cont.

She wrote last October, "I stand behind you 100% Seth Piccirillo."

Back in Jan. 2013, the Reporter predicted that Seth was being groomed to succeed Dyster for mayor and was the choice of Dyster's closest ally, Councilmember Grandinetti.

The Reporter wrote, "Sources say that Piccirillo is seen by Dyster and Grandinetti as a go-to man, and potentially their choice to be the next mayor of Niagara Falls."

But what does Grandinetti's endorsement mean for Seth?

Since announcing he is running for mayor – against the immensely popular Robert Restaino – Seth has done as much as he can to distance himself from his boss, Mayor Dyster, claiming he is totally independent. Grandinetti's endorsement is a sign that Seth is indeed the choice of the old Dyster team.

One of the ways voters can judge a candidate is based on those who endorse him. Let's look at some of Grandinetti's achievements over the years.

2009

Grandinetti, an elementary school teacher in Niagara Falls, is hand selected by Dyster to run for council.

She told the Niagara Gazette, nearly 10 years ago, when first campaigning, "I feel that the tide is about to turn in our city, and I want to be on the team that brings about the rebirth."

Grandinetti pointed out that no women served on the City Council.

"It's time to restore some balance to the council and give women a voice again," she said.

After she was elected, her main effort in securing the rebirth that never happened was to blindly follow Dyster's lead. As for giving women a voice, Dyster told her how to vote and she obeyed him.

2011

She was the leading supporter of Dyster's Holiday Market, voting to spend \$500,000 of public money with Idaho huckster Mark Rivers to develop a row of shacks with vendors in it and virtually no customers.

In the end, Rivers pocketed the money. Vendors went unpaid. The whole thing was a disaster. At one point in selling the boondoggle, Grandinetti said she was "over the moon" about the project.

December

Niagara Falls city employees who have health insurance from another job can get a cash payment if they opt-out of the city's health insurance plan. Grandinetti had health insurance coverage through the Niagara Falls School District.

The Reporter broke the story of how Grandinetti had been overpaid \$6,186 for her health insurance opt-out because she was listed as married when she was actually single.

She was required to pay the money back. "I was very surprised when I found out about it," Grandinetti said at the time, "I'm upset and concerned that people would think I would do something like this purposely."

2013

November

She ran for reelection, touting her membership in the Catholic Church and wisely so since Niagara Falls has a large number of conservative Roman Catholic voters.

Just five days after her reelection, however, Grandinetti posted a photograph of an Episcopal Church in Buffalo.

"My new spiritual home," Grandinetti wrote on Facebook. "Though it saddened me to leave the Catholic Church after more than 50 years, I am now a member of a church who loves and welcomes all. I am a proud Episcopalian. This is the Church of the Good Shepherd. And love it... female priest... double love it... she is married" to a woman.

She added: "Too much politics from the pulpit at my old church."

How she would have fared had she announced before the election [instead of after]

that she was leaving the Catholic Church is unknown.

2014

While State and Federal law require that a job applicant's gender, race, ethnicity, or age may not be considered in hiring, Grandinetti seemed unaware of the law.

She, along with other council members were sued for age discrimination regarding firing council secretary Kevin J. Ormsby. In late January, she voted to put 24-year-old Ryan Undercoffer into the council secretary position, after firing Ormsby, 61. She told the media she preferred a "young fresh face."

Based largely on her comment, the New York State Division of Human Rights ruled in Ormsby's favor in his age discrimination complaint. The judge awarded Ormsby an undisclosed sum.

August

Since the summer of 2011, Grandinetti hosted an annual, all-you-can eat, alcohol and dance party called "Rockin' For Choice" to raise money for Planned Parenthood.

Many voters were disgusted by photographs of people feasting, getting drunk and dancing in celebration of abortion. The band performing was the Tune Babes which some found offensive since many consider a fetus an unborn baby.

October

She posted on Facebook a video of a group of six-year-old girls using the word f*ck as some sort of protest about the way grown women are treated in America, generating another wave of criticism and controversy.

"I'm pretty f*cking powerful," one child says. "And ready for success."

"Women are being paid 20 percent less for the exact same f*cking work," another little girl said.

Grandinetti's obsessive and compulsive Facebook oversharing made her a citywide laughingstock.

2015

April

The School Board of Niagara Falls, since the 1980's, have been conservative and voted to stress abstinence rather than hand out condoms to children.

Grandinetti assessed that the school district's program was failing students. She wanted to have Planned Parenthood supply instructors to teach sex education classes. The district declined Grandinetti's offer.

Grandinetti posted on Facebook, "It troubles me on a daily basis that our School District is so careless as to ignore the data, and continue to refuse COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED to our students. ... They are ... having oral and anal sex to avoid pregnancy, and spreading disease at alarming rates.

"... Agree to educate our children so they can be safe and healthy and avoid unwanted pregnancy. I am tired of my students having to pay the price for our ignorance. It is borderline criminal."

When the School Board read that their kindergarten teacher was publicly calling them, "borderline criminals" they considered firing Grandinetti.

She used Facebook to apologize. She wrote, "I would like to take this opportunity to extend an apology to the Niagara Falls city school district for using language that was rather heavy-handed to get my point across. It was completely inappropriate to refer to them as criminal."

May

The multicolored Rainbow Pride flag, originally called the Gay Pride flag, was officially hoisted by Mayor Dyster at Niagara Falls City Hall in a special ceremony on May 29.

Grandinetti was the force behind the hoisting.

"Awesomesauce!!!" she wrote of the event on Facebook.

June

She voted in favor of a Dyster's parking meter plan that would give away parking revenue to a private company in return for a pittance paid to the city.

Grandinetti said she found the proposal "very confusing" but voted for it anyway. The rest of the council declined to approve it.

July

Planned Parenthood came under fire after a secretly recorded video conversation with the organization's medical director went viral. The video shows Dr. Deborah Nucatola, Planned Parenthood's senior director of medical research, eating salad, sipping wine and talking casually and graphically about harvesting fetal tissue.

"I'd say a lot of people want [fetus] liver," Nucatola says between forkfuls of salad. "And for that reason, most providers ... know where they're putting their forceps. ... the procedure is [to crush] the calvarium, the head is basically the biggest part. Most of the other stuff can come out intact."

At another point, she throws out a price range – "\$30 to \$100 depending on the facility, and what's involved" – for [fetus] specimens.

The outcry was huge against Planned Parenthood but Grandinetti rushed to their defense, posting on Facebook repeatedly.

"If you are someone who is quick to believe the worst at least take a moment and hear the truth," she wrote explaining the value of selling fetuses instead of merely throwing them away.

October

So many and varied were the councilwoman's embarrassing Facebook blunders that, during the 2015 reelection campaign, Mayor Dyster ordered her to stay off social media for months leading up to his reelection.

2016

February

Grandinetti sponsored a resolution honoring outgoing Buffalo Planned Parenthood director Karen Nelson. The Reporter criticized her for obsessing on issues that had nothing to do with turning the city around.

"This paper has cataloged the many ways the administration has wasted the taxpayer casino funds: out of control public projects, high city hall salaries, outrageous overtime, consultants for every possible reason, lawyer fees through the proverbial roof, repeat loans and grants to favored businesses, trash totes at \$2.3 million and – purchased for what was supposed to be decreased trash costs for city residents which instead increased costs and so on."

Grandinetti responded, "I'm saddened by the fact that this publication feels I can only focus on one thing at once. I'm saddened by the fact that because I want to honor someone ... I am once again being called out on the carpet."

Grandinetti withdrew her resolution so as to not "dishonor Ms. Nelson's good name."

March

Former Niagara Falls Mayor Vince Anello came before the council to speak. He was interrupted by the laughter of Councilwoman Grandinetti.

Anello asked what was so funny?

"I wasn't laughing at you, I was laughing at my friend in the audience," Grandinetti replied.

When asked if she shouldn't pay attention to speakers, Grandinetti, barely able to restrain her giggling, declined to respond.

April

After seven years, Grandinetti had never sponsored a single law that passed. She finally came up with a doozy. She proposed to amend a city ordinance that would make feeding a stray cat a criminal offense.

"No cat shall be fed, sheltered, maintained or harbored that is not domesticated," Grandinetti's proposed law stated. "No person shall harbor, maintain or feed any unlicensed

or stray cat."

Under her proposed legislation, cats would no longer be permitted to "interfere with garbage receptacles," or to "defecate, urinate or dig" on any property not belonging to the cat owner.

Grandinetti's ordinance went so far as to provide fines and threaten jail time for people who fed cats or allowed their cats to leave their property.

She became the target of disdain by cat lovers across the country, following an article about it in the Reporter.

Her more sensible council colleagues decided against the cat ordinance.

May

Grandinetti was found to be operating an illegal bed and breakfast in her Orchard Parkway home. Only after it made headlines in the Reporter did she take steps to comply with city law.

She posted a defense claiming she was being picked on.

"Everybody can sleep tonight and look for something else to torment me about," she wrote. "I filled out the Bed and Breakfast paperwork with code enforcement... Because of my position I am subject to SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT."

2017

March

Grandinetti often appeared bored during council meetings and spent her time texting friends and posting on Facebook.

After a lengthy city council presentation, she was overheard saying, "I wanted to jab a pencil through my head."

Her texting and posting on Facebook got so bad that Councilman Kenny Thompkins sponsored a resolution to ban the use of cell phones at council meetings.

Grandinetti admitted she used multiple devices during meetings, including her cell phone. "I am a woman. I can multi-task," she said.

July

Grandinetti advised local filmmaker Ken Cosentino to leave the city if he didn't like the way Mayor Dyster was running it.

"If you don't like where you are, MOVE, You are not a tree," Grandinetti posted on Facebook.

Dozens of people fired back at her with disgust. She was quickly turned into a meme circulating the Internet.

September

Grandinetti was running for reelection, hoping to win a third term.

After eight years in office, it was evident that people were questioning her competence and integrity.

She lashed back on Facebook, writing, "I am saddened by the amount of people who believe the nonsense they read. I don't not appreciate being called a thief. I do not appreciate being accused of illegal activity.... I love this city and would not hurt it or any of you."

November

She lost her bid for a third term. In a field of six candidates, she came in dead last. She was the only woman, but somehow her woman's voice was not desired in this city.

Someday perhaps, when lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children are free to utter the f-word in the Protestant church of their choice, when the sale of dead human fetuses raises no more of an eyebrow than the sale of fish fillets or corn in a can and when American soldiers march into battle beneath the passive pastels of the Rainbow flag, Grandinetti's work will be done.

Meantime she is endorsing the candidate that best reflect her ideals to turn the tide in our city – Seth Piccirillo.

Vote accordingly.

Where's Waldo ... Er, I Mean Ezra?



Ken Hamilton

From all indications, by the end of the year the city may have lost the services of the bright, inquisitive, obviously ambitious, up and coming City Councilman Ezra Scott. In fact, due to the difficulty of trying to catch up with him and find exactly what electoral plans he has, we may have already lost him. Scott has made himself very, very scarce; so much so, that it is easier to find Waldo than it is to find Scott!

To win his first election, Scott had to wear out a pair of shoes by walking the city with a huge affable smile on his face, petitions and campaign material in his left hand, and the hands and hearts of the city's voters in the other hand. That was tough enough to do in the warmer weather, but how ominous would it be now for upstate candidates to go door-to-door in goulashes while carrying clipboards loaded with iced-over petitions in one hand and a snow shovel in the other, he would now have to wear himself out to do so.

So then, where is Scott? Here's what we do know: Scott did indeed present himself at the Niagara Falls NY Democratic City Committee seeking its endorsement for mayor. Because there would then be three mayoral candidates that were on the same committee, to subsequently and cohesively work for the surviving candidate at primary's end, the committee chose to have an open and endorsement-free primary campaign.

With current Mayor Paul Dyster's exiting declaration of "three's enough", the Democratic mayoral campaign is known to consist of only attorney, school board member and former judge Robert Restaino, and of Director of Community Development and Code Enforcement Seth Piccirillo. Piccirillo had earlier declared that he would run for mayor whether Dyster stayed in the race or not.

But Scott would have made a very interesting entry, being – to my memory – only the 4th African-American to have taken a shot for the seat in the city's more than 125 years of history. That list would include Renae Kimble, Norton Douglass and the always interesting Carnell Burch. But the question that everyone still asks about the normally high-profile councilman is, "Where's Ezra?"

While the Democratic mayoral primary campaign is an open one, it still remains one that should have at least a modicum of coherence, and that should be in the committee's chairperson, Lisa Vitello; but she said that while she knew that the other mayoral and council candidates were, "... out there following the process," she had hoped to have had, "... more information at this time on where [Scott] was, but don't."

I have spoken with several of those from Buffalo and Niagara Falls whom might otherwise be considered his advisors, and they have said that they have not heard much from him themselves; but having been

involved in politics for more than 40-years, that's only what such people are apt to say anyway, though I believe it to be mostly true. They all said that they would have liked for him to have done another term as a councilman before climbing into the mayor's chair. He may have been well-advised to have done so, and by so doing, he might have ultimately gone much further in government as a result.

But who knows with Scott. As I had said, ambitious, smart and affable – he asks a lot of questions of a lot of diverse sources before coming to a decision. Though I didn't support his initial run for city council, I surprisingly soon found him to be comparable in the understanding of his duties in his 3rd year to be on par with what it seemingly took long-term former Councilman Charles Walker four full terms to reach. I can only imagine the amount of good that Scott's initially naive but continuing improvement could have brought.

But it may not be too late. Given some very positive opportunities and upcoming events in his personal life, now may be the time for him to echo a part of the career of former Buffalo mayor and former President Grover Cleveland by taking a break from political office and coming back a more refreshed and stable family man. And who knows, perhaps Scott can run for the council in two-years and likely win. After all, even during Charles Walker's first run for council and during a call-in radio show, a woman said of Charles that she would vote for him again because she thought that he did a great job during his first tenure. Those who voted for Scott in the first place are likely to vote for him again; especially because, unlike the caller who thought that Charles was actually one of his own same-last-named predecessors, Councilman Andrew Walker, people know who Ezra Scott is; and many, even now, would likely even vote for him as mayor – if only they can find him!!!

Election Time

By: Kenny Tompkins
NF City Councilman

As most of you know, it's time for me to run for re-election for City Council. This year, there are several people who have tossed their hats in the ring for one of the two seats on the ballot. I hope that my record and community involvement are enough to earn your vote so I can continue to represent all of the people of Niagara Falls.

While most people are aware of the race, few understand the work that goes into getting a candidate's name on the ballot. I'd like to clarify how this works, so that everyone has a better understanding of the election process.

Once you've decided to run, the first step is to reach out to the party chair people and let them know your intent to be a candidate for a particular office. Once this is complete, you need to register with New York State to receive an ID number that will be attached to your campaign bank account and any official records so your campaign financial activity can be monitored.

Expressing your intent to a party doesn't guarantee you have their full support. Most parties require candidates to present before their committees to ask for their endorsement. There are no guarantees that you will receive a nod, regardless of whether you are registered with that party. In fact, there are many variables committees use to decide which candidates they back. I am grateful to have been endorsed pre-primary by three different parties.

The next step is absolutely vital, and also why I am writing this article: Petitions.

Each party has a specific number of signatures from registered members of that party that a candidate must obtain to be on the ballot. This is why we have all been walking and knocking on your doors this past week. We will continue passing petitions for the next few weeks. Yes, this is earlier than before, since NYS moved the primaries up from September to June. The primary is the first election of the season, in which each of the respective party's members determine which candidates make it to the November election on the party lines. Think of it this way. Getting on the ballot for the primaries is like advancing to the final four in March Madness. Winning a primary election is like advancing to the championship game.

Please remember that signing a petition is not a vote for or even a statement that you're supporting that individual. It is simply allowing them to complete the steps to get on the ballot for the primary. I have great respect for all that try to run. I know how hard it is on themselves and their families.

After petitions are filed and verified, your name will be placed on the primary ballot. At this time, we will usually knock on doors to introduce ourselves to the people, explain our platforms, and ask for their vote at the polls.

After the primary is when you will see the most action from those who win the party races. We knock on all doors again to reacquaint ourselves with the voters. Getting people interested and out to the polls in November is always a challenge, which is why every candidate has to make sure enough people hear his or her message.

This year is a big year for Niagara Falls! We have a mayoral race, two council seats, and all four legislative seats up for re-election. My advice is to get to know each of the candidates. Ask questions when they come to your door. I personally know them all and know they all have good intentions or they wouldn't be attempting this.

I hope this clears things up a bit and helps get folks to answer the door when we come knocking. Your signature is important and come June and November, I hope I am one of your choices on the ballot.

Spanbauer Seeks Council Seat in Falls

John Spanbauer, a lifelong resident of Niagara Falls and former administrator at Niagara University, has announced his intention to seek a seat on the Niagara Falls

City Council. He will run on the Republican line in the upcoming primary election.

In making his first bid for a council seat, Spanbauer, 59, said he believes the city needs strong leaders who will come to the table with new ideas. "I look forward to being an independent voice on the council, representing our youth, seniors, veterans, and all the neighborhoods of the city," he said.

Spanbauer holds a Master's in Education from Niagara University, where he is currently an adjunct professor in the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management and a part-time supervisor with the school's recreation department. He started his career in 1983 at the Niagara Falls YMCA as Director of Youth and Director of Program Operations, before he began his distinguished tenure as a full-time administrator at Niagara University in 1988, overseeing the recreation facilities and club sports program. In addition to his responsibilities, Spanbauer was also a member of the University's Crisis Response Team, Title IX Investigator, Chair of the University Building Safety

Team, and Chair for the Club Sports Advisory Committee. He also served on many Human Resource search committees and is a graduate of the Leadership Niagara program.

Actively involved in the community, Spanbauer, a LaSalle resident, volunteers at St. George's community outreach programs and for the WNY Special Olympics basketball program. He served as a trip leader for a service mission to Panama with Niagara University's Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Spanbauer is a past member of the Niagara County Community College Health Advisory Board and the Niagara Falls Human Rights Commission. He is a current board member of the Hyde Park Golf Club.

Spanbauer is the recipient of numerous services awards, including Big Brother of the Year from Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and the Vincentian Mission Award which is given annually to a Niagara University employee who demonstrates the values of St. Vincent DePaul in serving people's basic spiritual, material, and education needs.

"My goals as a city council member would be to focus on fiscal responsibility both in expenditures and revenues," Spanbauer said. "I will fight to restore and improve core city services such as street and



park maintenance and address public safety issues, as well as expand recreation services for youth and adults. I also want to see a highly functional relationship between members of the city council and the city's administration, while giving residents a bigger voice in our government."

"I pledge to be the checks and balances for the tax payer and a change agent for the city of Niagara Falls," Spanbauer concluded. "I have always been an independent voice and will bring that independence to the city council."



THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the gas station on Buffalo Avenue in the evening hours of Tuesday, February 26th, 2019, for an armed robbery. According to reports, a masked gunman entered the store and placed a black gun on the table and demanded cash from the register. After being given all of the cash, the gunman escaped on foot.

-Niagara Falls Police arrested 25 year-old Eduardo Rodriguez for the rape and assault of a 27 year old female on Wednesday, February 27th, 2019. The incident took place on the evening of Saturday, February 23, 2019 at an apartment on 10th Street. Niagara Falls Police say they were initially investigating a stabbing, but after interviewing the victim on Monday, they learned that she was also held hostage and raped. Niagara Falls Police Detective Kelly Rizzo says that the victim was able to escape the apartment by using a wooden ladder to climb out of a basement window. She then was able to make it to the hospital where she collapsed. Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center staff stabilized the victim before she was transferred to ECMC. Rizzo says that he believes that if this crime had occurred even a block away, the victim would have likely not survived the attack. The victim is listed in stable condition at ECMC. Rodriguez was

arrested at ECMC after checking himself into the psychiatric unit. Police believe he did this to avoid being arrested. He was arraigned in Niagara Falls City Court this morning and is being held without bail. In addition to the rape and assault charges, Rodriguez was also charged with a parole violation. He was out on parole for a prior burglary charge.

-Town of Niagara and County Sheriff's responded to the Sunoco Gas Station at 6730 Packard Road for an armed robbery in the early morning hours of Saturday, March 2nd, 2019. According to reports, a gunman entered the store and demanded money after brandishing a gun.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the Travelers Lodge at 5930 Buffalo Avenue, after an armed robbery. According to reports, a North Tonawanda man ordered food for delivery. A man later arrived, but did not have any food. Rather, he had a gun and robbed the man \$700.

-Niagara Falls Police and Medical responded to a stabbing at Packard Court in the afternoon hours of Sunday, March 3rd, 2019. According to reports, a woman assaulted another individual with a knife but later fled. Police are continuing to investigate the incident.

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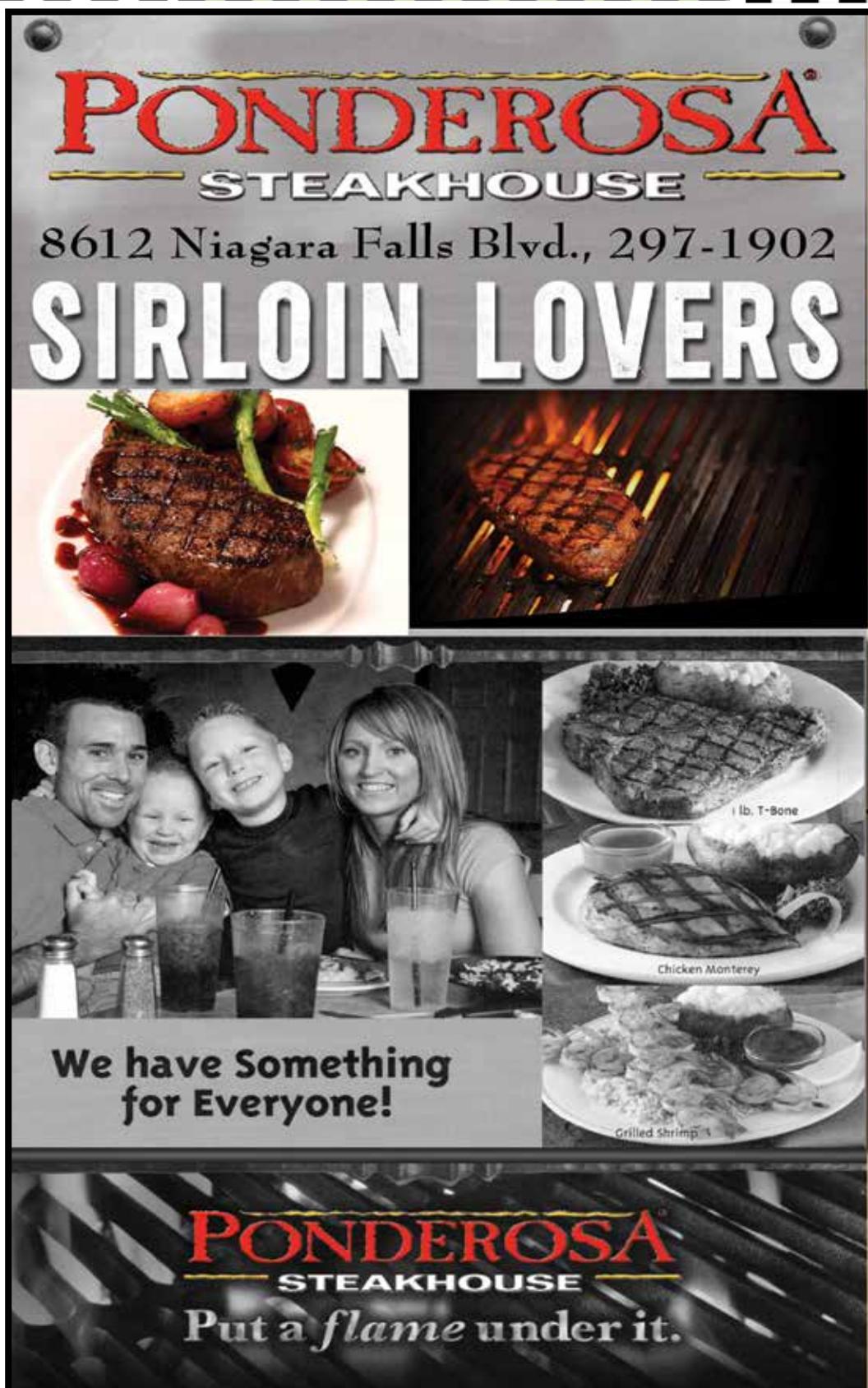
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\$699 Breakfast Buffet
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PONDEROSA
Expires: 06/30/19
Cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, discount or promotional offer. Tax not included. Valid for up to party of 6 at participating Steakhouses.



NORTH TONAWANDA

Maziarz Cont.

ara County grant-writing contract back in 2012, but the owner of the company who received that bid denies any ties to Wojtaszek in connection with winning that contract.

Tom Lewis, who owned Four Points DBA at the time, tells this newspaper he responded to an RFP in late 2011 or early 2012, was interviewed by a panel that included Niagara County Manager Jeff Glatz, and was awarded the contract in April of 2012.

"That was it," said Lewis in a telephone interview about the charges leveled by Maziarz. "I was the sole proprietor, did about 12 grants and won six, including one to help the Niagara Falls air base which was worried about being closed at the time. I would say we were extremely successful, winning about \$2 million in grants during that period."

In a news conference last week, Maziarz claimed an FBI interview with former Niagara County Republican Chairman Mike Norris back in 2014 is the basis for his bid-rigging allegations even though the

document he produced, apparently obtained from files he received from the state attorney general's office from their case against him, led to nothing.

In that document that Maziarz showcased at his news conference, Norris says Wojtaszek wanted to get Four Points and another former Maziarz aide, Rick Winter, the grant writing contract. But Winter was not part of Four Points then, or now, according to Lewis who was the sole proprietor.

"I don't know where he [Maziarz] is getting that," said Lewis this week. Lewis said Bridget Corcoran formed Four Points LLC in 2013 after he moved on, followed by Melinda Boeskin, Wojtaszek's former legal secretary.

Boeskin owned the company in 2014 - 15 when Wojtaszek served as a legal adviser and helped out on projects, earning a salary of \$2,000 a month.

Lewis now owns a trucking company in Niagara Falls and Wojtaszek is now president of Western Regional Off-Track Betting.

Niagara County District Attorney Caroline Wojtaszek has requested the 8th Judicial District Administrative Judge Paula Feroletto to appoint a special prosecutor to investigate Maziarz's charges against her husband, but a spokesman for the court said Monday the earliest a decision would be made is Wednesday, March 6, because Judge Feroletto is out of town.

In cases like this, a district attorney from a neighboring county would be selected although we have learned that Erie County DA John Flynn is not interested, given his long history probing claims by Maziarz that his massive campaign chest had been looted by his staff. Flynn brought no charges following his probe.

If no district attorney wants the case, an attorney could be appointed with the cost borne by the requesting county, in this case Niagara County.

Maziarz pleaded guilty last March to filing a false instrument in order to allow him to secretly pay a former staffer. He had been facing

five felony charges brought by his former political enemy, Eric Schneiderman, the former attorney general who resigned in disgrace in May of last year after being accused by several women of physical assault.

Henry Wojtaszek said in a statement after Maziarz leveled his charges that his former political mentor "is using his former title to manipulate the media to do his political dirty work for him, since the legal system has rejected his false accusations."

Wojtaszek, who shared political power with Maziarz for years, said the former senator is obsessed with trying to settle political scores with his enemies.

"He has made these baseless accusations over the last two years and the New York State Attorney Grievance Committee has dismissed his complaints," said Wojtaszek, a statement repeated by his wife in her call for a special prosecutor even though the charges have been fully reviewed by state and federal prosecutors.

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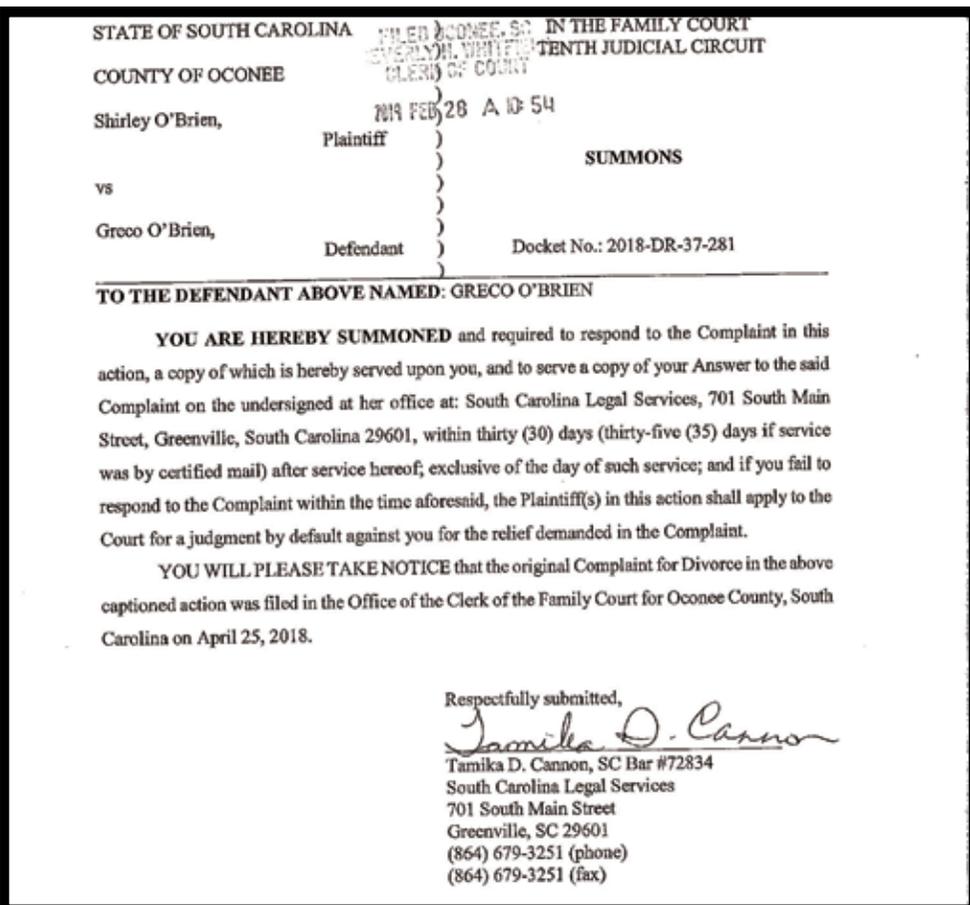


regarding cumbersome regulations that are a burden to both employers and employees,” Gooch said. While these type of disagreements between businesses and NYS Department of Taxation happen all the time, Gooch pointed out that He has already accepted the responsibility for this disagreement and rectified this issue with the State almost a decade ago. “I have learned a lot during my time in business and have addressed this issue head on,” said Gooch.

Gooch wants to point out that he has come forward with his business’ tax information to prove he has nothing to hide. This issue is not recent and Gooch provided documentation from his firm’s accountant to show that he was current on all his

payments to the state of NY.

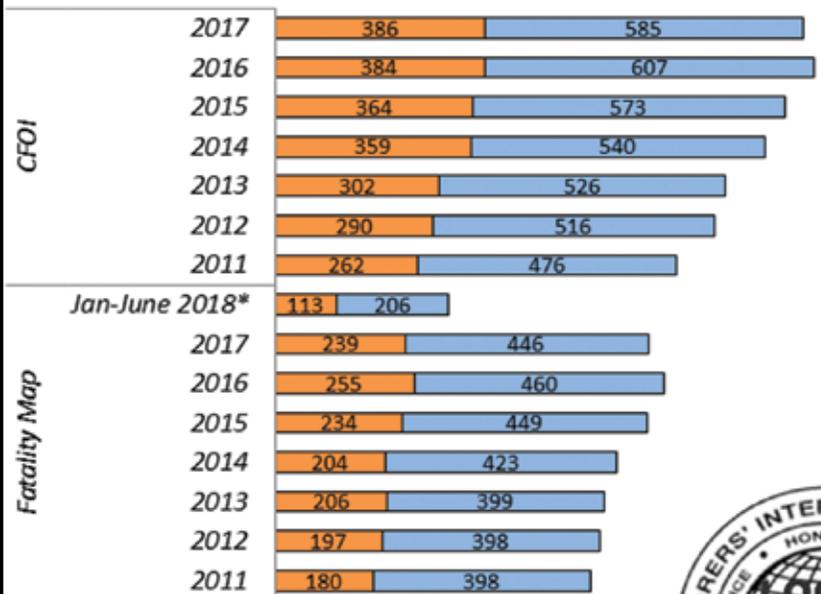
“People who are running for office try to use this type of misinformation to ruin another person just to get elected. It is unfortunate that some candidates for political office feel the need to dredge up non-issues in order to make their candidacy more relevant. These type of misleading attacks are exactly why people hate politics,” said Gooch. “I’m a businessman who got interested in serving our community because I want to make it a better place for my son and my family. If trying to destroy someone’s reputation by misinforming people is your idea of politics, perhaps you are in this for the wrong reasons,” said Gooch.



Annual Number of Construction Fatalities in the USA

Fatality Map Records and BLS CFOI Data

■ Fatal Falls ■ Other Fatal Injuries



Fatality Data Sheds Light on Occupational Safety and Health Trends

Every year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) releases its annual workplace fatality report. While this data lags a year behind today’s workplaces – data for 2017 was just released in late 2018 – it’s still an important source of information for identifying trends in occupational safety and health. The results of this report help drive action at OSHA, research agendas at agencies like NIOSH and safety initiatives at companies across the U.S. For example, after last year’s report found that trench fatalities had spiked 30 percent, OSHA announced a new special emphasis program for trenches and excavations.

Analyzing the data from 2017 reveals both positive news and several areas of concern. Overall, workplace fatalities – including those in the construction industry – decreased slightly from 2016. That being said, construction remained one of the most dangerous industries with almost 19 percent of all workplace deaths. Fatal falls were at their highest level in the 26 year history of this report, accounting for 17 percent of all worker deaths. It’s distressing to see that while other major sources of worker fatalities are declining, the number of deaths caused by slips, trips and falls continues to rise. This should be of particular concern to employers in construction, with slip, trip and fall hazards being so pervasive on construction jobsites.

The report calls attention to several groups of workers who are at greater risk for being killed on the job than their peers. We know that older workers don’t get injured as often as their younger coworkers, yet the report found that when older workers do get hurt on the job, those injuries are more likely to be serious or fatal. Workers in the 55-64 age group had a 24 percent higher fatality rate than the average worker. Digging into this data each year helps occupational safety and health professionals understand where workplace safety is improving and where it’s lagging behind.

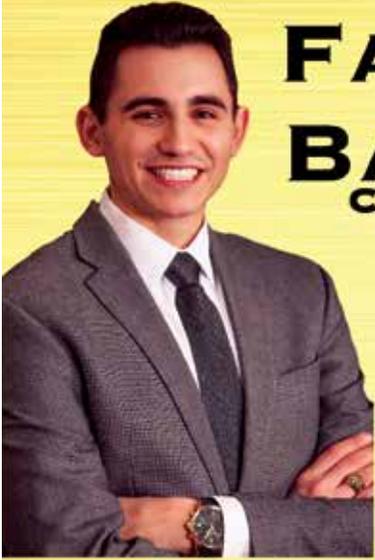
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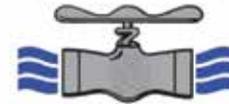
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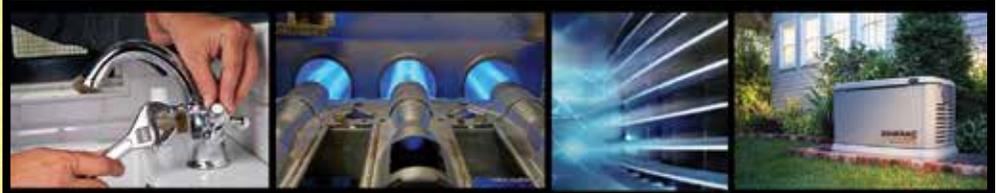
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