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THE NIAGARA REPORTER

FREE May 29th, 2019 - June 4th, 2019 NiagaraReporter.com Vol. 20, No. 3 FREE

Restaino for Mayor



Primary Day | June 25th

HISTORY MADE AT NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

Niagara's top honors awarded to same student for first time ever.

By: Tony Farina

Britini Margaret Anne D'Angelo, of Niagara Falls, was awarded two top honors at the 3:00 PM Niagara University Commencement Exercises at Artpark on May 18th, 2019 and made Niagara University history.



D'Angelo had found out Wednesday evening, May 15th, at the Senior Formal that she was the recipient of this year's Niagara Medal, which she was nominated for and then voted on by her Niagara University senior class peers.

(Cont. on pg. 2)

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Niagara Falls

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June Primary Looms Close for Mayoral Candidates

By: Tony Farina

With Memorial Day in the rearview mirror, the summer tourist season is officially under way in Niagara Falls and with the primary election just around the corner (June 25), the race for mayor will begin to come into focus as the candidates make their case in print and across the airwaves.

The big race, of course, is the Democratic primary for mayor with the winner

(Cont. on pg. 3)

Continue the Struggle or Throw in the Towel?

By: Robert M. Restaino
Candidate for Mayor of NF

One persistent question that is often debated by the under-40 year old generation in many communities just like Niagara Falls is simply: "Is it time to move?" Conventional wisdom seems to imply that if the jobs are more plentiful and the quality of life more appealing somewhere else then the answer is to leave. Last summer President Trump even

(Cont. on pg. 3)

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History Made Cont.

The Niagara Medal is awarded annually to a graduating senior who exemplifies the spirit of St. Vincent DePaul, has proven to be a motivated person and student leader with his/her peers, and has been involved inside and outside of the classroom with a combination of academic and co-curricular activities with student clubs, organizations and other community initiatives.

After receiving her dual Bachelor degrees, her BFA in Theatre Performance and her BA in Communication and Media Studies, she was awarded the medal again at the May 18th Commencement. However, after receiving the Niagara medal by the Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., D. Min the President of Niagara University, Dr. C. Henrick Borgstrom, Ph.D, Associate Provost and Professor of Modern and Classical Languages, asked D'Angelo to "not go anywhere just yet."

He went on to say that D'Angelo was also the recipient of the Senior Medal, which is awarded to a graduating Senior who has obtained the highest academic record. Borgstrom then added that this is the first time in Niagara University's history that a single student has received both awards.

D'Angelo earned an impressive 4.0 while obtaining her dual Bachelor of Arts degrees and her minor in American Sign Language and Deaf

Studies accumulating approximately 168 credit hours at Niagara University. D'Angelo said she feels Blessed Beyond Belief to have been able to go to Niagara University, which was a dream come true for her since she was a young girl.

She stated that Niagara University is not only where you go to obtain an amazing education by outstanding professors, serve others through volunteering and mission work, and join fun and interesting clubs, but also where you can meet some really incredible people and define yourself.

D'Angelo stated she cherished her time at Niagara and will always Bleed Purple.

"Receiving both awards was absolutely surreal," said D'Angelo. "It's something I could have never dreamt of and honestly I was speechless. I felt honored to be chosen by my peers and for my hard work to be recognized. I am honored to be the first recipient of both awards."

D'Angelo will be touring with Missoula Children's Theatre around the country bringing theatre to children of all ages for one year. Upon completing her tour she plans to head back to Niagara and continue to pursue a Masters in Regular Education and then another in Special Education.



Britini Margaret Anne D'Angelo, brother of Managing Editor and local attorney Nicholas D'Angelo, is pictured holding both diplomas as well as the medals she was awarded.

NIAGARA

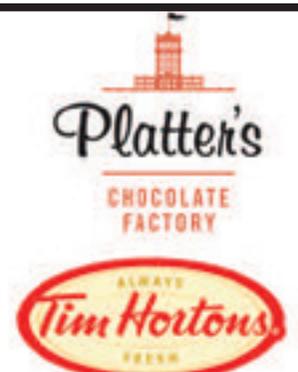


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Sanborn: Smokin Joes (gas station and store) & Tim Hortons

Wilson: Lakeside Market

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

June Primary Cont.



Mayoral Candidate Seth Piccirillo seeks to try and distance himself from many of the policies and practices of his predecessor, Mayor Paul Dyster.

becoming an odds-on favorite to defeat Republican candidate Glenn Choolokian in November and become the next chief executive of the city after 12 years of Paul Dyster.

In one corner in the Democratic primary is Seth Piccirillo, a top-level aide to Dyster for the last six years who currently serves as the city's director of community development and code enforcement officer. Piccirillo admitted early on in his campaign that one of his biggest challenges will be convincing voters he is not an extension of Dyster. Given the city's financial problems and the roller coaster years under Dyster, it is plain to see why Piccirillo is trying to escape Dyster's shadow.

Looking to put an end to the Dyster hold on the city by knocking out Piccirillo is Niagara Falls School Board President Robert Restaino. A lawyer and former city judge, Restaino told this newspaper more than two years ago that he had been thinking about a mayoral run for a long time and this year he is making that run.

Restaino said during that January 2017 interview that he didn't have a crystal ball when it comes to the future, but that he believes that people need to come together and work together to re-energize the city.

Restaino says cooperation has worked for the school board and that it can work for the city, pulling in ideas and new energy from a variety of sources to get the city moving again.

The former judge also believes there is still outstanding development potential to be harvested, thanks in part to state-driven dollars, and that the city "must court the industries of the day, be in the hunt" to bring those opportunities to life and help create jobs and the

seeds for a new beginning.

As for Piccirillo, he's been busy in recent days defending his development actions as a city official, particularly his effort to have the former Johnnie Ryan building saved from the bulldozer by designating it as a landmark after the owner and would-be developer had already obtained a demolition permit. Wisely, the council rebuffed Piccirillo's designation and the developer can move forward as he sees fit.

No matter who wins the mayoral primary and who eventually becomes mayor, there will be no easy road ahead with many challenges to be overcome. The casino cash from the Seneca Nation is still not flowing despite last January's arbitration panel ruling, and the Senecas are still fighting that decision.

In a column in the Buffalo News last Friday, Seneca President Rickey Armstrong summed up the Nation's position in seeking a federal review of the arbitration panel's decision, writing "the Seneca Nation is simply trying to hold New York State to the deal that they made," a reference to the operation of state-operated video lottery terminals within the nation's exclusivity area. In effect, the Senecas claim the state has diminished the exclusivity value written in the compact while the Senecas have honored their compact obligations.

So, as of this writing, there is still no certainty when or if the revenue-sharing payments will begin to flow again, leaving Niagara Falls, Buffalo, and Salamanca, the three host casino cities, out of a limb.

To make matters worse for Niagara Falls, the city is still waiting for the \$12 million the state promised to loan the city if the Seneca money didn't materialize to plug the current budget. How all of it will be eventually resolved, and what will happen after the compact expires in the not-too-distant future will fall into the lap of the next mayor.

Some might say, who would want the job? Well, there are three candidates out there who want it, and on June 25, the Democratic primary winner will have time to get ready for November and get his team organized to take the reins of government from Dyster in January. We wish all the candidates the best and urge voters to listen to what they have to say as we approach decision time.

Towel Cont.

endorsed this strategy when he stated that economics would dictate that Americans were "going to have to start moving" from the nation's struggling cities and places like Upstate New York. President Trump emphasized this last July, when he said: "I'm going to explain you can leave. It's okay."

In the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s chemical, carbon, and paper manufacturing provided living wage jobs for the adult population of Niagara Falls. Even though in a state of decline, the aircraft industry, dominated by Bell Aircraft, was still providing great jobs. Tourism was a seasonal endeavor for those who desired to be self-employed. However, due to the development of new technologies, the increasing cost of operating very old production facilities, and severe recessions the economic stability of Niagara Falls collapsed.

What was the strategy developed by City Hall to deal with this economic decline? What was usually offered to entice the companies to stay? Property tax abatements, I.D.A. loans, and the promise of more low-cost hydro-power provided a temporary fix, but the inevitable still occurred. The strategy coming from City Hall was shortsighted and a reliance on what had always worked in the past. Rather than looking for ways to save the "old" industries, City Hall should have challenged itself to find ways to bring new jobs based on new technologies to Niagara Falls. Rather than looking to save one company that formerly employed hundreds of people, City Hall should have been offering inducements to five or six companies that employed 50 people each.

Where was the economic development strategy that capitalized on the cross-border commerce existing between the Province of Ontario and the State of New York, commercial activity estimated at over \$30 billion annually! Where was the planning that focused on capturing some of the logistics firms that supported this cross-border economic activity? Where was the collaboration with government leaders in Erie County designed to lure some of the health care related firms that would "spin-off" from Buffalo's enormous medical campus? This lack of vision has led to a multi-million dollar structural deficit, 1 out of 4 of our city residents living at or below the federal poverty level and 55% of our children under 5 years of age living in poverty, with no activity from the current administration to focus on expanding our local economy.

Over 30 years ago, the leaders at City Hall developed a waterfront revitalization plan that recommended the removal of the Robert Moses Parkway as the principal way of opening up the vistas of the Niagara Gorge and creating a new dynamic for the tourism industry. As was the case with so many planning studies for Niagara Falls, this one found its place on a shelf and the case for removal was barely made. Where was the advocacy from City Hall with the governor and state legislature? Where was the political will to advance competing arguments to the continued maintenance of this ill-conceived roadway? Instead the local leadership was bought off with a form



Niagara Falls Mayoral Candidate Robert M. Restaino.

of gambling that denied this community a real share of the financial gain from that enterprise.

My candidacy for mayor is based on the notion that the political and social capital exerted by Niagara Falls, its immediate suburbs, and Niagara County can be a force that transforms the economy of the western portion of our county first; then advancing that growth throughout the county. Yes, removing the parkway is finally underway, but the collaborative effort of Niagara Falls and its neighbors will be what is needed to make sure that the development of environmental tourism is done right. And the leader of this advocacy must be the mayor of Niagara Falls.

So when the millions of tourists who annually visit the Falls are finished walking around the state park, the opportunity for these people to access the gorge must be in place. The development of the infrastructure to get these visitors safely and efficiently in and out of the gorge will be the responsibility of a variety of state government entities. And the individual making sure that everything is in place for this new economy will be the mayor of Niagara Falls. The mayor will be the one to clearly explain the concept of where this city is headed.

My first job as mayor will be to rebuild the trust that must exist between the people of Niagara Falls and City Hall. Trust is the essential ingredient that makes communities thrive and convince people it's worth getting involved in civic life. When communities thrive socially and culturally, then the economy follows. Developers will risk investing in a city because they know its leadership is focused and won't change the rules of the game during the course of the project or to suit preferred parties, persons or groups.

It is difficult (and dangerous) to believe that one has all the answers to all the problems, we're seeing how that plays out in Washington and Albany, suggesting solutions isn't just about quick answers, just to say "look at me I have a plan" it must be appropriate to the problem at hand. When you hear someone spout off on an issue without speaking with the professionals in the field, or worse yet propose an idea over which they have no control, one has to wonder if that individual can really understand the problems in our city.

It all comes down to the central question of my campaign: "Who is best prepared to govern?"

Robert M. Restaino is a candidate for mayor of the city of Niagara Falls.



THE CRIME

WEEKLY HEADLINES

-U.S. Border Patrol agents responded to the Whirlpool Bridge in the evening hours of Tuesday, May 21st, 2019, after reports of someone swimming from Canada to the US and entering the country illegally. A man from Spain was arrested by agents after reports he successfully crossed the Niagara River from Canada by swimming across. A life vest and swim fins were recovered near the shoreline just south of the Whirlpool Bridge in Niagara Falls, NY.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to 1000 Portage Road in the early morning hours of Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019, for reports of a robbery. Medical was requested as a victim sustained serious injuries.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 600 block of 37th Street in the early morning hours of Wednesday, May 22nd, 2019, after a homeowner came outside to discover that the tires and rims on his truck were stolen.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1900 block of Falls Street in the early morning hours of Thursday, May 23rd, 2019, for reports of a larceny to a vehicle. According to reports, tires were stolen from the front tires off of multiple vehicles.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1500 block of Ferry Avenue in the early morning hours of Friday, May 24th, 2019, after a man was robbed of his wallet. According to reports, the victim was threatened with potential physical harm to his person.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1500 block of Pine Avenue around 4:00am on Friday, May 24th, 2019, after reports of shots fired. According to police, one person was grazed with a bullet and was transported to the hospital for medical assistance.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1300 block of South Avenue for a traffic stop. According to reports, four occupants, including the driver, ran from the vehicle. The vehicle was towed.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1600 block of Niagara Street in the early morning hours of Sunday, May 26th, 2019, for reports of an attempted home invasion. According to reports, injuries did result from the incident.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to the 1800 block of Ontario Avenue in the early morning hours of Sunday, May 26th, 2019, for reports of shots fired. According to reports, a woman's car was shot at as she drove her car down Ontario Avenue. She was able to drive home and call police. The car was struck and at least one bullet casing was found at the scene. No injuries were reported.

-Niagara Falls Police responded to Jordan Gardens in the late afternoon hours of Sunday, May 26th, 2019, after reports that a child had been shot in the head with a BB gun.

'Is Elder is' or 'Is Elder Ain't' Going to be Mayor?



Ken Hamilton

Perhaps the state's board of election's web site calendar and its confluence with the nation's Memorial Day is a harbinger of things to come when it comes to the dark horse candidacy of USAF Sgt. Jeffrey Elder's trek to the corner office of City Hall as mayor. That calendar says that the Air Force One steward must either turn in his independent (with a small "i") self-nominating petitions between May 21 - May 28 (Tuesday), or either have them bound and post marked by then, to be placed on the bottom of the ballot in November' election.

But will he have collected the 5,000 good names and addresses on those petitions in order to be considered for the mayoral spot? Who knows?

As I said a few weeks ago about his campaign, he is being very hushed about it; and well he should. If he is smart, and I don't consider him to be a dummy, he would wait until the last minute on Tuesday to have them clocked in at the very last minute after the board of elections close, denying both the Robert Restaino and Set Piccirillo camps as much time to scrub his petitions as possible.

A petition scrub is one whereas each camp combs the Elder petitions to disqualify as many signatures as possible, hopefully forcing Elder out of the race for mayor. It's not that Elder can actually win Mayor Paul Dyster's seat, but because Elder is an African American, and Niagara Falls' African-American voters overwhelmingly vote for the Democrats, it is possible for him to pull enough votes from Piccirillo if he wins his primary and Restaino stays in the race for Republican mayoral candidate Glenn Choolokian to be the next mayor of Niagara Falls.

Elder will not be in the prima-

ries.

Elder has been very quietly collecting signatures and it is rumored that he has collected three-times the number that is needed. But the people who are passing his petitions are not the savviest of petition collectors, allowing any and everybody the opportunity to sign.

Why wouldn't they be savvy? If you are being paid by the total number of signatures signed, rather than by the number of good signatures, then which way would you go in either getting them signed or signing them yourself?

But as I have previously said, though Elder has little chance to win, he can actually rudder the outcome by what he does if and after his petitions prove good. He can negotiate a position with any and all of the candidates – because that's how politics often work in a city where alliances and elections are not decided by how much someone can help a candidate, but by how much a person can hurt the aspirations of another.

Is Elder is or is Elder ain't going to be the mayor. By Wednesday morning we should know whether or not it is a "memorial day" for Elder's hope of becoming either the mayor or just a player or not – if he actually turns in his properly prepared petition package; it will be sometime after the challenges to the signatures by his opponent's camps if his candidacy is affirmed.

Watch the Niagara Reporter website to follow this story throughout the week. While the race may soon turn nasty, at least Elder brings some other kind of interest to it.



Potential Mayoral Candidate Jeffrey Elder.



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NORTH TONAWANDA

Service at the Sea Ceremony

Brendan McDonough

On the bridge connecting North Tonawanda to Tonawanda community officials and military leaders payed tribute to fallen soldiers at the annual "Service at Sea" ceremony. It's a chance for them to take time out and encourage others to remember those who paid ultimate for our freedoms.

"Memorial Day isn't about those of us Veterans, but those who have been taken too soon," said Rick Davis, Mayor of Tonawanda. "We stand here honoring those who made it possible for us to stand here today."

More than two dozen people gathered at the Renaissance Bridge to attend the event to memorialize and remember loved ones taken too soon.

"Memorial, what do we mean by Memorial? Even in our own families we have our own way of having a memorial and we memorialize our loved ones because we do

not want to lose contact. We do not want to lose the ties that our family and friends have had," said Art Pappas, Mayor of North Tonawanda.

John Branning, Superintendent of Ships at the Buffalo Naval Yard, was the guest speaker. He spoke about the ships at the park and the rich history it has to offer. Also telling others to write down their experiences and help preserve a piece of history, for the next generation.

"You have heard me say the word legacy many times and it is up to you to pass it down," said Branning. "Especially to you veterans. Each year we lose thousands of veterans, the problem is when each one of us pass, we take our experiences with us. Please when you get home use a take recorder or write down your stories. Sit your veteran down, it is just too important."

The ceremony ended with the tossing of a bouquet of flowers in the canal by Gold Star mother Sally Urban, whose son, Lance Cpl. Timothy Serwinowski, was killed in Afghanistan in 2010.



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Memorial Day Parade



Brendan McDonough

With one foot in front of the other local residents and elected officials marched across Tonawanda in the annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade started at Main Street and then proceeded throughout the town and ended at Tonawanda City Hall on Niagara Street.

It may have been a smaller parade than usual, but that certainly did not take away from what it meant to those in participating and in attendance.

“Memorial Day it honors the fallen soldiers, airmen and marines,” said Matt Kyler, Tonawanda resident. “It is so important to take time and remember them. I have 2 young sons and I want to make sure that they get educated on the sacrifices that others made.”

This year there was a band, a float, as well as a number of elected officials marching in the parade.

“The parade kind of turns the day into kind of a joyous time as

well as a solemn time,” said Art Pappas, Mayor of North Tonawanda. “After the ceremonies people get together with family and friends and they enjoy it but the real meaning still comes out.”

For many residents coming to watch the parade has become an annual tradition.

“I love coming every year,” said Barb Olivieri, Tonawanda resident. “It is a very short parade but I have friends that march and I love coming out to watch them.”

For Olivieri, it’s a chance to see people she knows and remember those who paid the ultimate price; something she says the younger generation is not doing enough of.

“A lot of younger people do forget about Memorial Day and it is very sad,” said Olivieri. “The younger generation does not realize what people have done to fight for our freedoms.”

But with parades like this one they are hoping to keep those memories alive and honor soldiers who paid the ultimate price.

Heart of Niagara

Brendan McDonough

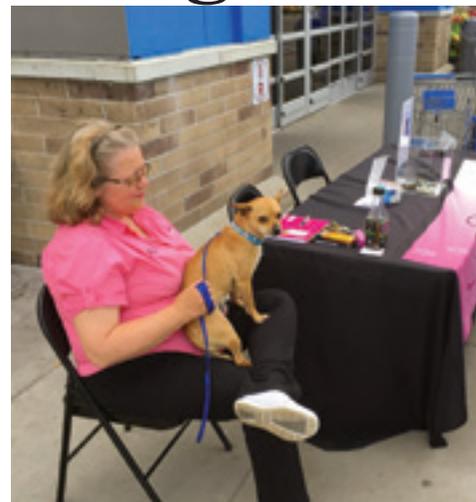
Outside Walmart in North Tonawanda they weren’t shopping but hoping to help those four-legged animal companions, who need it the most.

This past weekend the animal rescue group called the “Heart of Niagara” held one of several fundraisers they will be holding this summer.

“This is an adoption event as well as a chance for us to get supplies that we might need,” said Kathy Nowakowski, Managing Director

They currently are not taking in any cats because they have no foster homes for them. So, they are only taking in and adopting out dogs. For them education is the key.

“It’s not hard to find homes for these animals. It is a lot of work. We really want to educate people about the importance for spaying and neutering your animals,” said



Nowakowski.

Some of the supplies that are needed include: Chicken flavored Purina One Dog food, Purina dog chow, Purina puppy chow, Lysol cleaner, paper towels, bleach and dawn dish soap.

The organization says they will be holding fundraisers on just about every weekend throughout the summer.



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The benefits to employers are: more highly skilled employees, reduced turnover rates, higher productivity, lower investment in recruitment, a more diverse workforce, a new pool of workers and the creation of career pathways. The benefits to registered apprentices are: being nationally recognized and portable credentials, improved skills and competencies, higher wages as skills increase and career advancement.

Registered Apprenticeship programs are operated by partnerships of employers, labor management organizations and government. Apprenticeship sponsors – employers, employer associations and labor-management organizations – register programs with federal and state government agencies. Sponsors provide mentors, on-the-job learning opportunities and required technical instruction to apprentices. Incorporating Registered Apprenticeship directly into your workforce development system will strengthen your local and regional economy by offering highly trained and educated residents. Let Registered Apprenticeship be your competitive advantage. Laborers’ Local 91 accepts apprenticeship applications the first Tuesday of every month from 8 AM – 12 noon at our training facility located at 4500 Witmer Industrial Estates Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

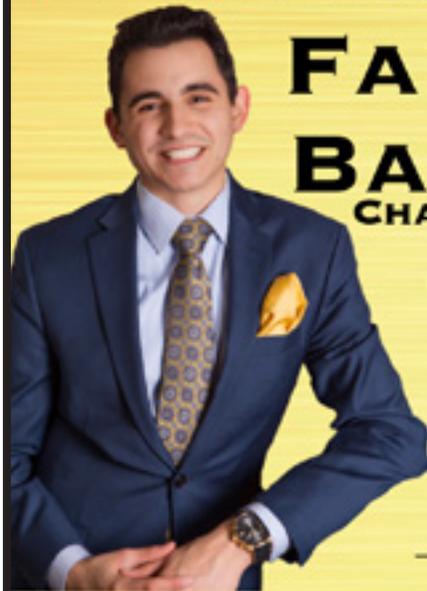
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