

Benedict for judge is Benedict for justice

GUEST EDITORIAL BY CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS MAYOR ROBERT RESTAINO

For over a year, our community has persisted through an unprecedented pandemic. Through the selfless actions of many wonderful people, we have witnessed the greatness of humanity. In the service of others, residents have shown compassion, perseverance, unity and optimism that better days are just ahead.

With those better days approaching, both the public and private sectors are facing a host of challenges left in the wake

of this pandemic. Public servants are working hard to safely provide essential services that many of our residents rely upon every day, and I applaud their commitment to our community. As Woodrow Wilson once said, "There is no higher religion than human service. To work for the common good is the greatest creed."

One essential service for our community is the efficient administration of our criminal justice system. As a practicing attorney for over 35 years, I understand the impact that the

criminal justice system has on our community. Victims and their families deserve answers and a just resolution. The accused deserves due process and a fair trial. The community deserves to feel safe and protected. Every person affected by the criminal justice system deserves to have confidence that the system is operating in a fair and efficient manner.

The pandemic has caused a severe backlog of cases in our criminal courts. Trials have been suspended for over a year, and even now there are strict limita-

tions on how they can proceed.

In addition to the effects of the pandemic, two more judges who oversee the criminal justice system in Niagara County will retire at the end of this year. It is imperative that our next Niagara County judge be prepared on their first day to maintain the efficient administration of the criminal justice system for this community. Victims, their families, the accused, and this entire community deserve efficient justice.

Mike Benedict is the candidate for Niagara County Court judge

with the proven experience and qualifications for this position. He has handled thousands of criminal cases in his career, including over 20 criminal trials. Mike has worked as a defense attorney, prosecutor, and confidential law clerk to a county judge.

In short, Mike will be prepared on day one to serve our community. He will work hard to ensure that the criminal justice system is both fair and efficient.

Please join me and vote Benedict for judge on June 22, because Benedict for judge is Benedict for justice.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station vies for new service mission

BY JOHN A. COOPER SR.
Chairman, NIMAC

For the past 25 years, the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and the civilian community have enjoyed a healthy relationship of mutual support. NIMAC's success and relationship with the NFARS is applauded across the USAF as an example of how a military affairs council should operate. It is what makes our community unique within the military community.

This summer, six bases are competing for their own new Air Force Reserve tankers: Beale AFB and March Air Reserve Base, California; Grissom ARB, Indiana; Niagara Falls ARB, New York; Tinker AFB, Oklahoma; and Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. The winner will get 12 KC-46As to replace their Strato-tankers.

Site surveys will be conducted this summer and each base will be assessed against operational

requirements, potential impacts to existing missions, housing, infrastructure and manpower. The Air Force plans to pick its preferred locations this fall.

Unlike active-duty installations, service members stationed at the NFARS depend for the most part on community housing, hospitals, schools, grocers and retailers. The value of this relationship provides 3,000 jobs and well exceeds \$250 million annually to our community. The presence of

the military in our community also brings cultural diversity and provides opportunity for our community to enter into military service and serve in this region.

NIMAC continues to work with leaders at the local, state and federal level to stay on top of issues that may affect the NFARS. We are pleased to report the positive news that has resulted from our combined efforts.

We remain ready to not only protect our base, but see the

installation grow. Historically, our funding has come largely from our local municipalities. We have also been the recipient of New York state grants over the years. However, with the change in state funding priorities, that is less certain. As a result, today more than ever, we need your support to promote and position the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station and Niagara as the best place for the U.S. Air Force and their families.

Comments on municipal hiring practices

Known as the equal protection clause, the broad wording and application of the Fourteenth Amendment has expanded to hold all discrimination against any person or group as constitutionally prohibited. In fact, this broad application, over the years, has expanded to forbid discrimination as it relates to employment. The Supreme Court has held that governments can't selectively pick and choose designated areas where it would hire future employees. To

establish such a practice, under the Fourteenth Amendment, would constitute discrimination to those future employees living in areas not under consideration for employment.

In order to camouflage this discrimination, governments have established residency requirements for employment that specifically states that only individuals living in hand picked areas would be considered for employment. The Supreme Court has held that by imposing

such a policy is a violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and is a blatant display of discrimination.

Knowing or not knowing that establishing such a policy, why would a government consider imposing such a policy? The answer to that question can only be answered by those government officials choosing to establish an employment policy that discriminates.

The facts of the matter is governments are entrusted with

following the law and one of the things they swear to uphold is the constitution, and under the constitution employment discrimination no matter how you dress it up is prohibited in the United States.

I am reminded of an old Italian proverb: At the end of the game the king and the pawn go back into the same box. There

is no separation or discrimination. They are equal. Equality when considering employment shouldn't be a selective process.

When considering employment government has a responsibility to apply the law equally and without discrimination.

Paulette Glasgow Lewiston

Guard your dog; keep mail carriers safe

Did you get bitten at work today?

On average, nearly 15 mail carriers per day will say, "Yes."

Postal Service officials report that in 2020, 4,935 letter carriers experienced dog bites or dog attacks. With deliveries every day, including Sundays and holidays, carriers continue to experience dog bites in urban, suburban and rural settings.

In Buffalo, 10 postal employees were victims of dog attacks in 2020. The good news is that the number of dog incidents went down by 24 percent from the previous year. But there is more to be done. So far in 2021, Buffalo has had 4 postal employees who are victims of dog attacks.

Dog attacks and bites are 100 percent preventable when dog owners remain vigilant and properly restrain their dogs.

To ensure mail carriers' safety,

dog owners must securely lock their dog in another room until a delivery exchange is done. If outside, dogs must be leashed at a distance from the mailbox.

When a carrier feels unsafe, mail service could be interrupted, not only for the dog owner, but for the entire neighborhood. When mail service is interrupted, mail must be picked up at the Post Office.

Service will not be restored until the dog is properly restrained.

With your help, we can keep our carriers, your neighbors and your dogs safe. Thank you for protecting your pet and our mail carriers as we continue to bring packages and correspondence to your door each day.

*Roselle Murrell
Buffalo Postmaster*

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RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF PORTER

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