

# The SHOPPER

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## Weekly connection

# Greater than Niagara

The most powerful force I have ever seen or heard has to be when we twice visited Niagara Falls the thunder of the water rolling down the cliffs and smashing into the rocks below is rather earth shaking.

It's so loud and intimidating to the ear and mind that one naturally feels a little jittery standing at the rail around the edge looking down at the sight. Another major force of power is the roar of a jet airplane as the engines come to life upon take off.

I've probably taken off and



By  
**SCOTT CERNEK**  
*Columnist*

landed in an airplane close to a hundred times and I'm never completely at ease. There's something about the incredible decibels of noise that one of those monsters makes that makes one realize the enormous amount of power that is being generated.

I suppose I would have the same feeling if I were ever to see a rocket launch from Cape Canaveral. People who have been there have told me that it is so powerful and loud that it takes one's breath away.

I was just amazed this past week after reading the story of the night Jesus was betrayed in John chapter 18. The story tells of how much power Jesus had at His disposal and how He held it all back that night.

First of all the gospels tell us that a very large number of

soldiers came to the Garden of Gethsemane that night to arrest Jesus, literally there were between 300 and 600 Roman soldiers that came to find Him. The great band of soldiers arrived with Judas, the betrayer, and the Roman police to capture the Lord.

They had heard all about His miracles and power and they thought they could out muscle Him, I guess. When they arrived in the garden where Jesus was praying that night, He stepped forward and asked them who they were looking for.

They said they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth. Something all together amazing happened right then. Jesus answered them and said, "I Am He." Now in the Old Testament when Moses asked God what His name was, God said, my name is "I Am that I Am."

God became known as "The Great I Am" in scripture from that point on. Now on the night Jesus is being taken into custody, He uses the same title for Himself as He answered them. Immediately

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# • Connection (Continued from front page)

all the soldiers and police lurched backward and fell to the ground the Bible says. Then Jesus calmly stepped forward and surrendered Himself to them.

What is so astounding about this passage is that it proves that Jesus was indeed God in the flesh. It proves it because of the amazing power that shot forth when He said the words, "I AM, He". You see that night and throughout the

next day, Jesus was holding back universe creating power that He could have used to exterminate them in an instant.

Jesus had power that spoke the universe into existence and created every miraculous thing we see, feel, touch, taste and smell. By knocking them down and stunning them and then stepping forward in surrender, He also proved that He went to the cross of His own will.

He surrendered not because He had to, but because He chose to. That's how much He loves each one of us. In Philippians 2, we read that Jesus set aside His power and glory to become a humble servant and give His life on a cruel Roman cross to become the

sacrifice for the sins of all who will trust in Him for salvation and eternal life.

God's love is the most powerful entity in the universe. God's love is this strong, and it is true just as sure as Jesus walked this earth, did miracles, died on the cross and

walked out of the grave resurrected and victorious over death three days later. During this time of shut down on the earth, God is giving us all yet another chance to reflect and receive His great gift before it's too late.

Until next week, God bless.

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## Police beat

The following arrests are on file at the Loves Park and Machesney Park Police Dept. Readers are reminded that suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

### Loves Park

**April 6**

4800 N. second St. – Devon L. Riley, 27, on charges of criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct (not drunkenness)

**April 7**

4800 N. 2nd St. – Devon L. Riley, 27, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with a sus-

pended/revoked driver's license, driving under the influence of alcohol, and defective equipment

6224 N. 2nd St. – Joshua J. Phillips, 42, on charges of driving under the influence of drugs

6055 John Ct. – Larry J. Nixon, 29, on charges of operating an uninsured motor vehicle with no registration, failure to reduce speed/too fast for conditions, traffic sign violation

**April 9**

6229 John St. – Thomas S. Vojtech, 38, on charges of violation of an order of protection and probation violation

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**March 10**

516 Olive Ct. – Nathanael E. Fansler, 37, on charges of violation of an order of protection and probation violation

### Machesney Park

**April 5**

111 Gilbert Ter. – Malik D. Vronch, 18, on charges of disorderly conduct (not drunkenness)

5016 Terrang Trail – David Ortiz, 34, on charges of assault and disorderly conduct (not drunkenness)

**April 6**

8121 Elm Ave. – Melinda M. Williams, 31, on charges of domestic battery and interference with emergency equipment

**April 7**

N. 2nd St./Ralston Road – Oskar Estefan Ramirez, 25, on charges of failure to reduce speed/too fast for conditions/vehicular hit-and-run, and resisting/obstructing an officer

**April 8**

368 Greenspire Dr. – Adam C. Kain, 32, on charges of aggravated domestic battery

**April 10**

9833 N. Alpine Road – Joshua J. Wilcox, 27, on charges of criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct (not drunkenness, and attempt to locate/foreign warrant

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