

# OPINION

## LETTERS POLICY

- Letters should be typed or neatly printed.
- Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number.
- Letters may be edited for space considerations.
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**Mail:** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, THE LEADER  
PO BOX 1017  
CORNING, NY 14830  
**Fax:** 607-936-9939  
**Email:** sdupree@the-leader.com

Online at [www.the-leader.com/opinions](http://www.the-leader.com/opinions)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ad information incorrect

TO THE EDITOR | I resent Daniel Bristol's untrue remarks of the Town Justice Court system and being a retired officer of the U.S. Air Force, he shows poor judgment in belittling another profession.

I have four grandchildren from one family who has and are presently serving in the Air Force. Three hold the rank of tech sergeant and one holds the rank of master sergeant. One has retired, one has a medical discharge from serving in Afghanistan and two are presently deployed in Guam and Germany. We are proud of our grandchildren for their service in the military and know they are proud to serve.

Mr. Bristol seems to be having problems with a speeding ticket issued him 25 years ago. He admits his address has changed a few times over the years and it took the motor vehicle department until 2013 to find where he was living.

There are certain violations that require a suspension of the drivers license which is done when a guilty plea is entered to a violation and runs for only 90 days at which time the person must go to the motor vehicle department to have the license restored, not at the court.

There are five different laws the court has jurisdiction over and each violation must be recorded in a separate docket. There is also the need of a receipt book to be kept and the defendant will be given a receipt when a fine is paid.

The court is required to send all monies in fines to the proper agency in Albany. The court does not retain or keep any money as Mr. Bristol accused the court of doing.

I served as judge in the town of Corning Justice Court for 25 years before retiring and was acquainted with Judges David and John McCarthy from the Town of Erwin and knew them as honest and respected during their terms in office.

I cannot understand The Leader's neglect of not checking the authenticity of the article before printing it.

**Lester H. Betts, retired justice**

Town of Corning

*Ed. note | The ad written and paid for by Mr. Bristol*

*is running again on page A6 of today's edition.*

### Carson will unite, not divide, U.S.

TO THE EDITOR | I'm excited about Dr. Ben Carson's announcement to run for the 2016 presidency.

He is a God-fearing, God-loving Christian, citizen, statesman and patriot. He is not a politician or politically correct. (Don't you think we've had enough of career politicians?)

He will unite, not divide, and will bring unity and harmony to our land. He will work for "We the People" and will not be a dictator, but will lead with honor, truth and conviction. His desire to make the government live within its means, reduce taxes, follow the spirit and letter of the Constitution and defend life. In his own words, he will repeal Obamacare, which he states is a disaster, and abolish the IRS into fairer systems for all.

Dr. Carson is uniquely gifted, positioned and qualified to unite and lead. He will "fundamentally transform America" for the GOOD of, "We the People", never will he make decisions or laws for political gain.

Our Pledge of Allegiance is more than words to Dr. Carson, it is what he believes our nation must be, "One nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all." - the United States of America.

Dr. Benjamin Solomon Carson will heal our broken land.

**Norma J. Phillips**

Pine City

### Happy residents on Fifth Street

TO THE EDITOR | We have lived in our house over 30 years and have always used our alley to come and go. This alley has been patched over the years but never paved - not even when Al Friess was mayor or while I was on City Council. They say good things come to those who wait and "they" were right. Our alley is now paved and it is awesome.

Thank you to City Council for including the extra funding for city roads and thank you to the City for doing a great job managing the process.

**Tom and Hilda Lando**

Corning

## COLUMN | SEN. TOM O'MARA

# Finding a ride in rural New York



SEN. TOM O'MARA

It's one of those issues that keeps getting brushed aside in New York state government because, well, because it has to do with rural, upstate New York. If you've been thinking that rural New Yorkers have been gaining better traction in a state government dominated, to a large extent, by big city, suburban, mostly downstate powers that be, think again.

And the issue I'm referring to offers a perfect example. There's no denying its importance or its impact across so many rural regions. All you had to do was attend and listen in on a forum I sponsored at the Cooperstown Village Library last week (which, by the way, you can still do by watching a video of it on my Senate website, [omara.nysenate.gov](http://omara.nysenate.gov)). Local leaders and transportation management officials from the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions joined more than 30 of their colleagues from Central and Western New York, the Mohawk Valley, the Hudson Valley and the North Country to testify on how state reforms are negatively impacting public transportation in the rural communities they serve.

They were invited to gather at this central location in Cooperstown by me and my colleague, Senator Jim Seward, who represents the Cooperstown area.

The specific issue - and I've been working on it for a few years including holding a similar forum in Albany in early 2013 when

or efficient in their rural communities.

That's the crux of the issue. What we heard last week in Cooperstown was a reaffirmation that what's going on just isn't working and, more to the point, it's putting rural public transportation for the disabled, the elderly, the rural workforce and others who depend on it, at risk. We discussed the shortcomings of the new system, including the elimination of existing transportation routes, the future of locally based cost-efficiency initiatives, and the overall disruption of services.

New York's ongoing Medicaid redesign effort is causing major changes in public transportation systems throughout the state, but especially in rural, upstate regions. As we heard, a number of these local systems are being put at risk by Albany's attempt at a blanket, statewide approach to their management and operation. Or, to put it another way, you can think of the transportation network as a wheel and Albany bureaucrats are taking a spoke out of that wheel.

It's a developing crisis for many rural residents. So we're trying to bring more widespread attention to the changes underway, fully assess the consequences for our counties, and do what we can to ensure that the impact on rural public transportation at least receives a full and a fair hearing.

That's the goal: a full and fair hearing from the Cuomo administration on the future of these

critical rural transportation systems. What's occurring at the moment is too often lacking in common sense, unnecessarily costs too much and doesn't appear to be the best use of state resources.

Will anyone in Albany listen?

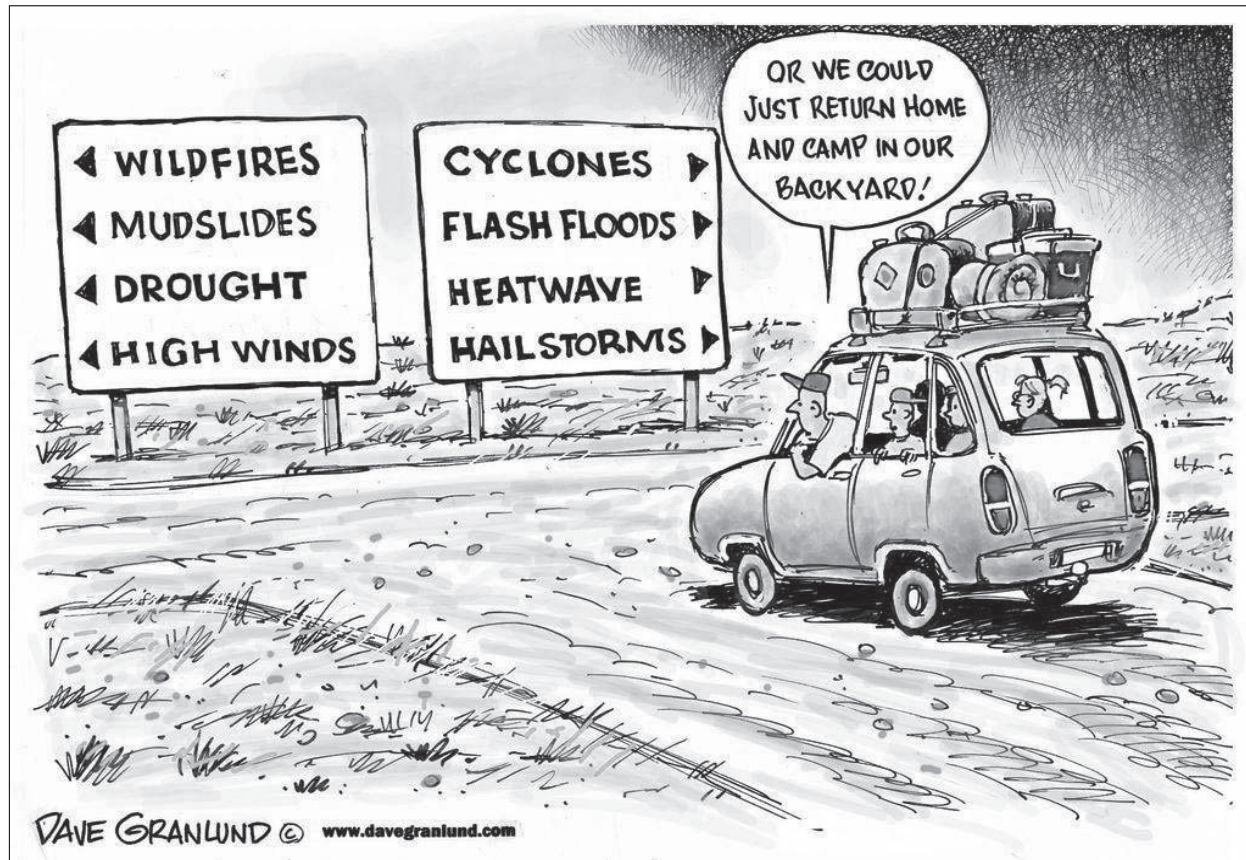
Legislation (S.5794/A.8202) I sponsored was given unanimous Senate approval earlier this year. It would reconstitute the state's "Interagency Coordinating Committee on Rural Public Transportation" in order to establish an active, collaborative forum for local representatives and state agency officials to fully examine the impact of state-level action on public transportation in rural regions. The committee would be charged with taking a look at and issuing an annual report to the governor and the Legislature on a range of issue areas.

Like I said, the legislation received Senate approval on June 16th. No action was taken by the state Assembly leadership. Nor have I heard the Cuomo administration publicly weigh in on its importance.

All of which signals to me, unfortunately, that last week's forum won't be the last time we have to go to bat for rural New Yorkers on this issue.

- State Sen. Tom O'Mara represents New York's 53rd Senate District, which includes Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



## First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Risks to resources too great to frack

To The Editor | Thank you, Beth Williams, for your editorial regarding Tom Reed's absurd comment about using gelled propane in the fracking process. You have my complete agreement regarding Thomas Reed as a congressman and his comments on fracking. He obviously has no clue as to the potential threat to our most abundant natural resource, our fresh water supply. New York has more fresh-water resources than any other state in the country and perhaps any region in the world. To risk polluting our water would

be a devastation to the whole country. There is no amount of financial compensation to risk polluting our fresh bodies of water. There is no guarantee that our lakes, ponds and rivers would be safe from accidents or mistakes or fracking companies taking risks and cutting costs for the sake of greed. Our Governor Cuomo and Joe Martens, director of the DEC are to be congratulated for placing a ban on hydraulic fracturing in New York state.

**Paul Wolfe**  
Hammondsport

### Obama treaty weakens America

To The Editor | Suppose your worst enemy comes to you and tells you he hates you. Suppose he tells you the first chance he gets he will kill you and your entire family. Then this same enemy comes to you and asks you for a gun and you give it to him. It's insane that someone would do this. That's exactly what Barack Obama has done to the American people and our ally Israel with his nuclear treaty with Iran. When not only Republicans but members of his own Democratic party have vehemently opposed this treaty he has gone ahead and bypassed Congress. This treaty with virtually

no restrictions will allow the terrorist Iranian state to develop the means to destroy us. Barack Obama is more concerned with the welfare of our enemies than our allies. Barack Obama is more concerned with the welfare of illegal aliens than our veterans and those dependent on Social Security. His fundamental changing of America is to reduce the greatest nation on the face of the earth to a third-rate Socialist state. It is my guess that Israel will use its own means to deal with Iran. Who will fix the damage caused by our own autocrat and chief?

**Thomas Greven**  
Corning

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**Publisher**  
Rick Emanuel | Group Publisher  
936-4651, Ext. 303

**Editorial**  
Stella DuPre | Managing Editor  
936-4651, Ext. 361  
sdupree@the-leader.com

**Circulation**  
Corinne Mulligan  
Customer Service/ Sales Manager  
936-4651, Ext. 328

**Advertising**  
Adam Mingos | Ad Director  
936-4651, Ext. 388  
amingos@the-leader.com

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**Retail** 936-4651, Ext. 653

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