

OPINION

COMMENTARY | STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA, R-BIG FLATS

Kicking the costs (and taxpayers) down the road

If one thing has become clear in New York State government, it is the admonition many of us shared well before the start of the 2019 legislative session, warning taxpayers: Hold on to your wallets.

Following the elections last November, when New York State government fell under one-party, Democrat control, Governor Cuomo crowed that he felt "liberated" without a State Senate Republican Majority left to stand in his way. The governor's feeling was shared, undoubtedly, by the longstanding Assembly Democrat majority and, of course, the new Senate Democrat leadership.

Especially, it appears, when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars. The state comptroller recently reported that state spending under the 2019-20 state budget increased by nearly three times the current inflation rate.

According to an analysis from the Empire Center for Public Policy (empirecenter.org) – an analysis, by the way, which relied on the comptroller's recent update on the state's short- and long-term financial picture – the new state budget "hikes spending 5.7 percent, projects a \$14 billion debt increase over five years, and is balanced by an accounting gimmick."

In short, the state of New York's finances, combined with the hard-left direction of New York State politics, does not look pretty for future generations of state taxpayers.

Liberated, indeed. Consider just a small

sampling of what the Democrats' newfound power to spend taxpayer dollars freely has produced over the past eight months:

- The "DREAM Act" to provide taxpayer-funded college tuition assistance to illegal immigrant families;

- Significant reform to the state's electoral process, including early voting, an unfunded mandate that promises to increase costs for local taxpayers and enhance the risk of voter fraud;

- Increased spending on Medicaid by upwards of \$1 billion.

On the way? Using taxpayer dollars to finance political campaigns, commonly known as public campaign financing, at a cost projected to be in excess of \$200 million of taxpayer dollars each election cycle. Legalizing recreational marijuana and creating a big new state bureaucracy to oversee the legalization. Maybe even a state-level, universal health care system that many believe will simply break the bank.

Additionally, let's not forget the recently enacted, so-called "Green New Deal" that, among other actions, seeks to make New York's electricity 100% carbon neutral over the next two decades. It may be a new deal but I'm not sure it's a fair deal for future taxpayers or energy consumers for whom the cost of energy will rise. It is a massive undertaking. It calls for a huge investment in new technologies and infrastructure with no cost/benefit analysis whatsoever.

At a legislative

See COMMENTARY, A5

ANOTHER VIEW



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vaping hooks people to nicotine

To the Editor, In Albany County, there is a proposed bill (S428A) that would prohibit all flavored e-liquids used in vapes that aren't menthol or tobacco flavored.

Flavored cigarettes, and now e-cigarettes, have been a longtime ploy to get generations hooked to nicotine, and the NYS Department of Health found that in between 2014 to 2018, e-cigarette use in teens rose from 10.4% (2014) to 27.4% (2018). One study found 1.3 million more teens tried vaping in 2018 compared to 2017, the largest increase in a study that measured substance use the National Institute of Drug Abuse has seen in 44 years.

A Chemung County youth survey from 2017 had an average of 21.5% of students in grades 8, 10, and 12 trying vapes – how many more teens in our community tried in 2018 if the national average went up by 1.3 million in just one year? While many claim vaping helps smokers quit, several studies have shown that not to be true, with most becoming dual

users. In fact, teens who start vaping are four times more likely to start smoking within 18 months (Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health Study) and some e-liquids marked omg of nicotine actually contain substantial amounts (NCBI). For more information please contact the Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition.

Allison M. Ballance Horseheads

Government tosses veterans away like trash

To the Editor, Veterans Affairs police are recently under fire for falsifying records, assaulting veterans, causing death, plotting murders and not reading veterans their constitutional rights.

A veteran from Bath VA is due in federal court for drug possession.

Were his rights read to him?

Was a search authorized? This veteran belongs in drug court not federal court. The VA will put veterans on mind-altering drugs, take no responsibility for their actions, and prosecute veterans.

The VA has killed 300,000 vets and not one person prosecuted. The U.S attorney was transporting and using illegal drugs as they refused to prosecute

him.

The two tier justice system needs to stop. The criminal justice system should be remembered for the lives saved not destroyed.

James Yakym Mishawaka, Ind.

Praise to road crews

To the Editor, I have lived on Hillcrest Drive in the Town of Erwin for decades.

During that time, the care and safety provided for Hillcrest Drive by the Town of Erwin road crew has been an absolute joy.

In very bad weather, I can usually go up and down my steep road even when people in the valley struggle.

In addition to the attention given to Hillcrest Drive, these workers are gentlemen. I have seen them be pleasant in the face of adversity.

Thank you guys, Laurel O'halek

Finding a new kind of vision

To the Editor, Hello. I was born in Poughkeepsie, NY, and graduated from equally diverse Beacon, NY.

I served as a Rehabilitation Specialist for 9 years at Letchworth Developmental Center for the developmentally disabled. I was a

Minister in this community for 24 years.

In 1985 I lost my eyesight, for the first time, due to diabetic complications. During two long years of blindness I searched out help at New York University Hospital, Boston Medical Center and finally Johns Hopkins Hospital.

It was at the latter that a brilliant young Doctor Michels had just brought a new surgery back from Europe and I regained partial functional vision. During my stay at JHH I also gained spiritual vision, an epiphany of sorts, related to physical illness, disability and humanity. Sickness/disabilities affect all races, classes, political affiliations and religions. My roommate was a dear African-American Baltimore resident who was homeless. He greeted me every morning with, "Good morning, my son."

Neither one of us could see. We definitely came from different experiences and, more importantly, our doctor was there to bring sight back to both of us. Every city has its challenges and difficulties but in the end the inhabitants represent American endurance and diversity.

Thank you, Baltimore. God Bless. Rev. Rick Price Big Flats

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Sat. 8/3	3:15, 6:15, 8:45
Sun. 8/4 - Thurs 8/8	3:15, 6:15

Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs and Shaw
(Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham, Idina Eiza) PG-13 (2 Hr 14 Min)

Fri. 8/2	3:30, 6:30, 9:15
Sat. 8/3	3:30, 6:30, 9:15
Sun. 8/4 - Wed. 8/8	3:30, 6:30

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OBITUARIES



**Sherman Monroe
"Dutch" Craumer**

Sherman "Dutch" Craumer, age 93, died peacefully on July 29, 2019.

Dutch was born and raised in Corning, N. Y. After graduating from Corning Free Academy, he attended Norwich Military University in Vermont and served as an Air Cadet in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II.

He graduated from SUNY Cortland with a B.S. and M.S. in Physical Education. At Cortland, he was an All-American football player and still held three unbroken records at the time of his death. He was inducted into the Cortland Sports Hall of Fame in 1999.

At Cortland, he met and married Margaret "Woody" Wood, a marriage that lasted over 50 years until the time of her death in 2001.

Following Cortland, Dutch worked in the NY State School system and then at the University of Maryland where he spent four years as an instructor and Assistant Football Coach while pursuing his Doctorate in Physical Education which he received from National Christian University. During this time they had two children, Ernie and Beth.

In 1963, Dutch and family moved back to Corning so he could become Director of Athletics and a professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at the newly built Corning Community College. They also owned a sports summer camp, Camp Pinewood, in the Catskill Mountains from 1966 to 1974. Dutch retired from teaching in 1989.

During his lifetime, he was extremely active in non-profit and community activities. He was active in Kiwanis for over 60 years. In 1993 he was elected Governor of the NY State District Kiwanis for 1993-1994, served as President of the Past Governors Council in NY State and was also as President of the 1993-1994 International Governors Class. He also gave his time to the American Heart Association and other Corning-based charities. He was elected into the Corning-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame in Contributors in 1988. In his late 70's he competed in the NY State and National Senior Olympic Games, winning gold medals in badminton at both events.

Dutch loved to play golf and was a member of Corning Country Club. He volunteered as an announcer at the Corning LPGA for years and was well known at this event for his extremely colorful outfits that always featured knickers and knee socks. He also was a life-long hunter, spending a

significant amount of his time with his family in the pursuit of white-tail deer at his beloved "Beagle Club" on Spencer Hill. Dutch later gave a portion of the land to the College for the President's House.

During his later years, Dutch relocated to St. Simons Island, Georgia where he had wintered for two decades. He was active in Kiwanis as well as golf during that time. Most recently he lived with his daughter and son-in-law, first in NY State and then in the Tampa, FL area. Dutch is survived by his son and daughter, their spouses, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He loved his family and took a special interest in keeping current on the activities of each and everyone of them.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to Kamp Kiwanis - Dutch Craumer Memorial, 9020 Kiwanis Rd., Taberg, NY 13481.

**Eileen "Midge"
Mahoney Kowalski**

Passed away on the 23rd of July 2019 in Richmond Vermont from complications stemming from adenoid cystic carcinoma.

She is preceded in death by her parents Bernard J and Eileen F Mahoney and brother BJ Mahoney III of Aldie VA and her loving husband of 54 years, Richard J. Kowalski, MD. She is survived by her son Dr. Richard Kowalski Jr of Lovettsville VA; daughter and son-in-law Cindy and Gary Anderson of Middletown, MD; daughter and son-in-law Linda and Kevin O'Neal of Richmond, VT; son and daughter-in-law David and Carol Kowalski of Corning, NY; daughter and son-in-law Michelle and Matt Weegar of Syracuse NY; and son and daughter-in-law Robert and Amy Kowalski of Tacoma, WA. Midge was the proud Grandmother to 10 grandchildren: Richard J III and Kristin Kowalski (Tsigounis); Rachel, Lauren and Danielle Anderson; Michael, Kaitlyn, Joseph, and Prescott Kowalski; Connor Weegar; and two step-grandsons: Ethan and Kaden O'Neal; and Great-Grandmother to Yianni Tsigounis. Midge was always active in her church choirs, singing and playing guitar. She was a member of Our Lady of Mercy's folk choir in Potomac, MD; Saint Raphael's choir in Potomac MD; Saint Mary Our Mother folk choir in Elmira, NY and Saint Patrick choir in Carlisle, PA. She worked as a Dental Assistant in VA, DC and NY; as a secretary at Montgomery College in MD and as a Real Estate secretary in Potomac, MD.

Midge attended church at Saint Jude's Catholic Church in Hinesburg, VT.

Funeral Mass Monday August 12th at 11:00 AM at Saint John the Apostle in Leesburg, VA.

Burial to follow at Union Cemetery in Leesburg VA. Reception to be held in the Fellowship Room of Saint John the Apostle at 12:45 PM.

Ella Mae Mueller

Pulteney | Ella Mae Mueller, 91, of the Stuart Rd., passed away Thursday

August 1, 2019 at the Taylor Health Center.

Ella had been a vineyardist.

Surviving are her son and his fiancée, Frederick "Phil" Mueller Jr. and Susan Smith and several nieces and nephews.

She was pre-deceased by her husband Frederick P. Mueller, Sr. in 2016, and her sisters and their husbands, Alberta and Richard Lathrop, and Anne and Howard Travis.

Friends may call Tuesday, August 6th, from Noon until 1pm at the LaMarche Funeral Home of Hammondsport.

Funeral services will follow at 1 pm, Rev. Don Peek will officiate, and interment will follow at Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Hammondsport. In lieu of flowers, memorials should be made to the Pulteney Vol. Ambulance Corp.



**Michelle M.
Fitzsimmons (Millie)**

Michelle M. Fitzsimmons (Millie), age 55 of Caton, NY passed away on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at her home.

She was born on December 7, 1963 in Elmira, NY, the daughter of Shirley (Messenger) Aldrich and Charles (Chuck) Aldrich. Chuck was the father he didn't have to be and she loved calling him dad. Michelle was a graduate of Corning West High School, class of 1982. She worked for the Town of Caton as a Town Council member.

Michelle will be remembered for her strength, No BS and say it like it is attitude. She loved her three kids fiercely and her granddaughter Khaleesi was the biggest joy in her life. She was always showing off new pictures or videos to anyone she knew. She was really excited to meet her newest Granddaughter Hunter. She loved her hometown Caton and being a true Catonite. She loved Country music and George Strait. She loved flower gardening and it showed with the vast flowers that surround her home.

Michelle is survived by: her Partner Bill Depew, three children Leeanne (Conor) Merchant of Mooresville NC, Lisa (Jerry) Heichel of Mansfield PA and Pete Fitzsimmons of Caton, her mother and father Shirley and Chuck Aldrich of Caton, Sister Audrey Trout, Brother Art Miller (Cherrie Soper), Brother Mike Miller, Sister Rhea (George) Campbell, granddaughter Khaleesi Merchant and step granddaughters Makayla and Adriana Heichel. She was so excited to meet her granddaughter Hunter due later this fall. She has many nieces and nephews she loved unconditionally and many Aunts, Uncles and Cousins that will miss her very much.

Michelle was predeceased by her brother William (Bill) Miller.

Family and friends are

invited to visitation on Tuesday, August 6, 2019 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Caton United Methodist Church, 11186 Hendy Hollow Road Corning, NY. A funeral service will immediately follow at the church at 6:00 PM. At the conclusion of the funeral service, all are invited to a celebration of life downstairs in the fellowship hall.

In lieu of flowers, bring a dish to pass for Michelle's celebration of life and enjoy time with the family and celebrate the memories we all have.

Kind words and memories may be shared at: www.CarpentersFuneralHome.com.



John M. Bobrick

John M. Bobrick, age 92, of Corning, NY died Tuesday, July 30, 2019 at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA.

John was born on November 18, 1926 in Corning to Peter and Helen (Zubaly) Bobrick. He married Shirley Peterson on June 16, 1951 at St. Patrick's Church in Corning. John was a graduate of Corning Free Academy and served in the United States Navy from 1944 - 1946. For over 35 years, John worked for the US Post Office as a rural carrier.

He was an avid golfer and hunter. John enjoyed going to the national reunions all over the country for those who served on the aircraft carrier USS Rudyerd Bay (CVE-81). He was a member of the Elks and Corning Country Club as well as a lifetime member of the VFW. He volunteered as an Altar Server for St. Vincent's Church for many years.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; daughter, Diane (Jeffrey) Parish of Rochester; son, John Bobrick of Corning; grandchildren, Courtney (Michael) Chiazza and Alex Parish; several nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by his siblings: Peter, George, Anna Kolcun, Mary Wiener, and Helen Bonik.

At John's request there will be no services.

John's family has entrusted his care to Haughey Funeral Home, Inc.



WORK

From Page A1

repaired," Wagner said. "It's something we have been doing for the past several years. The prep work will continue this week to get ahead of milling and paving work."

Milling and paving on the city's Northside is scheduled to begin Aug. 13, Wagner said. Work on municipal Lot 13, at the corner of Tioga Avenue and Centerway, behind Three Birds restaurant, will begin Aug. 12 and be completed by Aug. 16.

Wagner said milling and paving work on Diatreta Lane, from Wall to Cedar streets, is scheduled to begin Aug. 19. Street upgrades on the city's Southside are scheduled to begin Sept. 4. The entire project, weather permitted, is scheduled to be completed by Sept. 24.

In 2012, the city adopted a \$31 million, 14-year street maintenance plan that would increase taxes 2 percent annually, or about \$100,000, to upgrade streets.

City Manager Mark Ryckman said in 2015, the city changed how it

approaches road work, focusing on milling and overlay work instead of the more expensive full reconstruction, allowing more streets to be upgraded each year.

"We continue to make progress on improving the drivability of our streets," Ryckman said. "This has been made possible by the additional \$100,000 the City Council has been allocating each year, and our decision to focus on less costly mill and overlay work."

Ryckman said as the overall condition of city streets improves over the next few years, the focus will shift back to complete reconstructions where necessary.

"This year's street paving continues the significant progress made over the past number of years," said Mayor Bill Boland. "It's a priority adopted by the City Council and the results are showing throughout the city."

Work is also underway to upgrade city alleys that have long been in poor condition, Wagner said. City crews will upgrade sections of several ailing alleys over the next two months.

ROAD WORK

Streets

Wallace St.
Wallace St.
Dunbar St.
Dunbar S
Prichard Ave. Ext.
Buffalo St.
Stimson St.
Dwight Ave.
Ferris St.
E. William St.
E. William St.
E. Pulteney St.
Riverside Drive
Watauga Ave. Ext
Columbia St.
E. First St.
E. First St.
W. Fifth St.
Hamilton St
Oakwood Drive
E. Fourth St.
W. Sixth St.
W. Sixth St.
W. Sixth St.
State St.
Summit Ave.
Park Place
Aurene Lane
Aurene Lane
Tarentelli Lane
Powderhouse Rd.

From - To

W. Pulteney-W. William
W. William-Hillvue
W. Pulteney-W. William
W. William-Hillvue
Wardell-Winfield
Townsend-Reynolds
Cutler-Reynolds
Seneca-Buffalo
Riverside-E. William
Bridge-Ferris
Ferris-Warren
James-end
Bridge-Ferris
Conhocton-Steuben
First-Second
Cedar-Wall
Wall-Chemung
Washington-State
W. Third-W. Fourth
Grannan-W. Fourth
Pearl-Chemung
State-Chestnut
Chestnut-Walnut
Walnut-Pine
end-W. Sixth
Pine-Cedar
end-Summit
Walnut-Chestnut
Chestnut-Tarentelli
Aurene-W. Market
city line-W. Sixth

Alleys

DL & W Lane
Dragon Lane
Engraved Lane
Diatreta Lane
Diatreta Lane
Intarsia Lane
Intarsia Lane
Mill Lane
Brown Street
Lower Pace Rd.

From - To

Dodge-Flint
Field-Fox
Washington-State
Pine-Cedar
Cedar-Wall
Chemung-Pearl
Pearl-Columbia
E. Second Ext.-Canal
Sunset-end
section to city line

CONCERT

From Page A1

Nights, and I think they're great community events—but I've decided to take a break this summer from the Political Pundit Nights and try to do something a little bit different for the community, sort of a change of pace," said Coleman. "So I thought about the Arctic League, and I think the Arctic League is one of the best charities in the United States. It's a great, great charity. There's really nothing like it."

Coleman said if the turnout is good, he plans to organize another concert next year.

"I'm hoping this is a success so I can do it every single summer," he said. "I want this to be the first of many over the years."

Tickets for the show are \$10 a piece or two for \$15. Tickets are available now at the Elmira Heights Theater Box Office.

Those who buy two tickets will receive two free tickets to a future movie of their choice at the Heights Theater.

"That's a really good bargain for a great cause," said Coleman.

COMMENTARY

From Page A4

hearing earlier this year examining the governor's proposed budget, I raised the specter of

state borrowing and debt, particularly the burden being kicked down the road to future generations of decision makers and, especially, taxpayers.

New York already has America's highest state and local government

debt per capita. Most of it is accomplished through state borrowing, significantly adding to future state debt and, most egregiously, being heaped onto the backs of future taxpayers who will have to deal with it long after Governor

Cuomo and most current legislative leaders have left office.

I said it then, I'll say it again: The new, Democrat direction for New York State is producing billions upon billions of dollars of short- and long-term

spending requiring billions upon billions of dollars in new taxes, fees, and, especially, borrowing for future generations of state and local taxpayers.

So, yes, hold on to your wallets.

The short-term pursuit

of a hard-left, socialist, liberal political agenda appears to be the priority over a long-term, sustainable future for upstate, middle-class communities, families, workers, businesses, and taxpayers.