

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

Hold on to your wallets, New York

Last November, Governor Cuomo announced that he would make a strong push in 2019 to provide New York State drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants.

My response at the time was this: "Here we go in the new New York State. Governor Cuomo and the new State Legislature are getting ready to blow through stop signs protecting the rights and safety of hard-working, law-abiding, lifelong, responsible residents. Buckle up, look both ways, and hold on to your wallet, this state's about to get taxed and turned upside down at breakneck speed."

Less than one month into the 2019 legislative session, with the governor fully encouraging a state Legislature under one-party (his party) Democratic control, I'm afraid "here we go" was a serious understatement on my part.

Not long ago, Governor Cuomo proclaimed that he feels "liberated" without a Republican Majority in the state Senate around to block his vision for New York's future.

Consider what this vision has produced over just the past few weeks in Albany, including:

- The "Reproductive Health Act" to significantly expand abortion in New York State;
- 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;
- A proposed 2019-2020 New York State budget that eliminates critical Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) funding for upstate municipalities, puts at risk critical agricultural funding, offers no serious mandate relief, raises spending on Medicaid by \$1 billion, seeks higher taxes and fees, and includes many other troubling (and expensive) proposals.

On the way? Using taxpayers dollars to finance political campaigns, commonly known as public campaign financing. Legalizing recreational marijuana and creating a big new state bureaucracy to oversee the legalization. An ongoing attack on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding, responsible gun owners. A state-level, universal health care system that many believe will simply break the bank.

At a recent legislative hearing examining the governor's proposed budget, I raised the specter of state borrowing and debt, and particularly the burden being left to future generations of decision makers and, especially, taxpayers. New York already has America's highest state and local government debt per capita.

Now Governor Cuomo and his Democratic partners in the Legislature are eyeing the so-called "Green New Deal"

See O'MARA, A5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paper carriers deserve thanks

To the Editor,
The person who delivers newspapers is, for most customers, anonymous. He or she drives by early in the morning and places each newspaper in its proper spot and drives on.

I have long been grateful for my carrier. This person is absolutely reliable.

I go to get my Leader each morning, knowing that it will be there, as surely as the sun has come up. But when we have a blizzard, as we did last weekend, it is especially appreciated that the carrier still came.

I would like to express my thanks to this hard-working person, and remind all who subscribe that adding a tip to your payment is one way to let your anonymous carrier know you think of him or her on their appointed rounds in the dark.

Gary P. Brown
Hammondsport

Supreme Court not ruling for the people

To the Editor,
"Military Can Implement Transgender Ban" was the Corning leader bottom headline on 1/23.

Well what do we expect from the GOP nominated men who lack intelligence and are willing to disregard the United States of America's Constitution which gives its citizens rights.

Nowhere in the Constitution does it say that the Supreme Court or this Nation can discriminate or TRUMP and his cronies. Period!!!!

I say "unintelligent" because they are using ancient tribalism to make a decision instead of the Constitution. Any learned person who has truly studied

their religion should know that homosexuality or any of its offshoots is not mentioned in for instance the Bible. The word was not even coined until the 18th century by a German. The mention of "homosexuality" or any other derivative thereof refers to the Goddess worship at the time. The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was inhospitality; being thrown out into the desert was akin to killing someone.

Paul also was not referring to same sex relationships but the worship of other gods and goddesses and their rituals.

So, we haven't come very far have we? Just like women's reproductive rights, men need to back off from their egos and come into the twenty-first century!

This is just stupid! People deal, meet with, etc. LGBTQ people every day and may not even know it. We now have gay mayors and Representatives. The Roman Catholic Church had gay popes. Bet you didn't know that.

So I say to our Supreme Court, you represent the people of the United States which includes LGBTQ people not just the bigoted members of Congress.
Flo Fender Pine Valley

Who is "Tom"?

To the Editor,
"I'm Tom", an arrogant, narcissistic campaign slogan taking for granted the vote of trusting constituents.

With his condescending attitude Tom has dumped his warm and fuzzy clap trap on us for too many elections. We have time to consider replacing this falsely home-spun Washington "good ole boy" whose frighteningly empty promise is "I'm Tom"!

I supported with signs Tom Reed for his first two terms, voting recently over

the socialist movement. It appears he has been usurped by the Washington "good ole boys", the Republican "Cowardly Corrupt", hanging onto the donkey's tail, swallowing their personally profitable socialist crap.

Remember when we said Obama couldn't solve the problem of terrorism if he could not name the enemy, "Extremist Islamic Terrorists" based on the premise you cannot solve a problem if you cannot identify it.

Congressman Reed refuses to recognize corruption (waste, fraud, abuse, incompetence and deception), the underlying cancer of all problems in Washington DC.

Corruption taints, no, pollutes everything coming out of our Federal Government. Laws, news, ideas people etc., are corrupted by the extremely toxic environment. When Reed glorifies his results, if there really are any, they are immersed in devastating corruption. Reed takes not the low hanging fruit to aggrandize "Tom", but the rotten fruit festering on the swamp floor.

Reed brags about his over two hundred town hall meeting. Those meetings only a song and dance minstrel show, merely a marketing ploy to say he did something, yielding only corrupt contaminated contrivances.

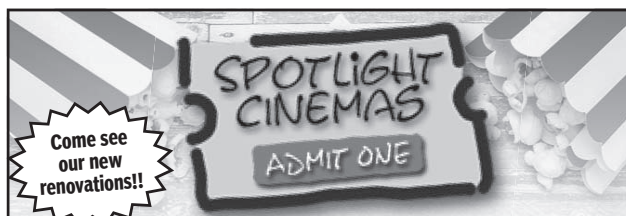
He fakes listening while formulating long rehearsed canned answers he spouts, not really hearing what the people are saying. His blindness to Washington corruption the proof!

Tom Reed has become a comfortable member of the cowardly corrupt Republican Party led by the nose by an aggressively corrupt socialist Democrat Party!

Gerald J. Furnkrantz
Millport

NOTIFICATION OF CLOSING A COUNTY BRIDGE

The CR22 bridge over the Canisteo River, in the Town of Cameron, will be closed to all traffic **beginning on February 4th** for approximately 8 months. The bridge, BR#22-1, BIN#3333290, will be replaced by a new bridge. There will not be an onsite detour. The detour for cars, single unit trucks, school buses and emergency vehicles will be the CR110 bridge crossing in Cameron Mills. The detour for all other trucks and multi-unit vehicles will be the CR21 bridge crossing in Rathbone and then to CR80. These detour routes will have detour signage prior to the bridge closure.



SHOWTIMES: FRI. 1/25 - THURS. 1/31	NO 9:00 SHOWS TUES. THRU THURS.			
PG-13 GLASS	1:30	4:20	7:05	9:50
R SERENITY	1:35	4:30	7:20	9:30
PG-13 UPSIDE	1:15	4:15	7:05	9:40
PG-13 AQUAMAN	1:10	4:00	6:50	9:45
PG MARY POPPINS RETURNS	1:25	4:10	7:00	9:35
PG THE KID WHO WOULD BE KING	1:15	4:05	6:55	9:20
R THE MULE		4:25		9:10
PG A DOGS WAY HOME	1:20		7:10	

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The Leader

GateHouse Media
Partnered with
ThruHus

INFORMATION STAFF BOX

The Leader (ISSN #10501983) The Leader is published daily at 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830 by GateHouse Media, LLC. Periodical postage paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817. USPS code | 0586-160. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Leader, 34 West Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830.

<p>The Leader Staff:</p> <p>Publisher Rick Emanuel Group Publisher 936-4651, Ext. 303</p> <p>Editorial Shawn Vargo Executive Editor 936-4651, Ext. 361 svargo@the-leader.com</p> <p>Circulation Nichole Harrison Customer Service Manager 936-4651, Ext. 314</p> <p>Advertising Heather Falkey Ad Director 936-4651, Ext. 347 hfalkey@the-leader.com</p> <p>Business Office Becky Post Administration 936-4651, Ext. 306 bpost@the-leader.com</p> <p>Classifieds 936-4651, Ext 651 Retail 936-4651, Ext 653</p>	<p>Postal Rates:</p> <p>Steuben County</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>One month</td><td>\$41.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Three months</td><td>\$123.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Six months</td><td>\$264.00</td></tr> <tr><td>One year</td><td>\$492.00</td></tr> </table> <p>ELSEWHERE IN USA</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>One month</td><td>\$51.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Three months</td><td>\$153.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Six months</td><td>\$306.00</td></tr> <tr><td>One year</td><td>\$612.00</td></tr> </table> <p>Home delivery subscriptions reflect basic subscription rates before additional charges. Due to the added value of special editions there will be an additional charge for each special edition which will accelerate the expiration of your subscription. There will be no more than 12 special editions per year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.the-leader.com </p>	One month	\$41.00	Three months	\$123.00	Six months	\$264.00	One year	\$492.00	One month	\$51.00	Three months	\$153.00	Six months	\$306.00	One year	\$612.00
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Connect with other caregivers and find support as you care for a loved one with dementia

Toni Sexton, VP of Programs and Services, Alzheimer's Association, Rochester and Finger Lakes Region



In 2018, more than 1 million individuals in New York State cared for a loved one living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

In addition to assisting with activities of daily living such as bathing and dressing, family caregivers often help their loved ones with instrumental activities such as managing finances and communicating with healthcare professionals.

Numerous studies report that caregivers stretch themselves thin as they try to balance caregiving with their own careers and family responsibilities. Many caregivers indicate lower quality of life and diminished health.

As caregivers share with us their experiences, unique and inspiring stories emerge.

For 19 years, Vicky Rupert of Pittsford cared for her husband Jim, a school psychologist and family therapist who started showing signs of dementia in 1992, when he was just 45. Early on, Jim volunteered at our chapter, teaching dementia caregivers how to successfully communicate with their loved ones. "At least a little bit of his training rubbed off on me. However, no training can prepare you for everything that can happen when you take care of someone with dementia," Vicky said. Soon after becoming a caregiver, she joined a support group. "The support group and the resources the Alzheimer's Association provided made me feel confident that I could weather just about anything," Vicky said.

For five years, Brian Norton of Pittsford cared for his wife Amy, who was diagnosed with younger-onset dementia at age 43. "As Amy's abilities of handling everyday tasks diminished, our children and I had to teach her how to eat. As the disease progressed, we had to feed her," Brian shared. He attended a support group once a month. "Being able to speak with other caregivers and advocate for people who live with Alzheimer's gave me the strength I needed at home," Brian said.

After Amy died in 2018, Brian continued attending the support group. He felt other caregivers could understand his grief better than anyone else.

Tamara Fontanes of Orleans County cares for her grandmother Edda, who lives with Alzheimer's. While Tamara enjoys keeping Edda active and socially engaged, she often feels unprepared dealing with the ever-evolving daily caregiving tasks. Tamara has recently joined a caregiver support group. After each monthly meeting where she compares notes with other family caregivers, Tamara feels energized and encouraged.

After her husband David was admitted to a memory care facility in Florida, Mary Dain of Pittsford moved in to a nearby senior living community. She visits David twice a day, feeds him breakfast and dinner and stays with him until he goes to bed at night. Once a week, Mary goes to a support group. "Care partners who attend the support group have formed friendships rooted in their mutual understanding. Those who have lost their spouses to dementia, often volunteer as sitters for other care partners who need a respite," Mary said.

Some former caregivers like Vicky, who lost her

husband Jim to Alzheimer's in 2011, volunteer with us as support group facilitators. "I love to see people blossom with more confidence as they keep coming back month after month. Participants not only offer helpful hints to their fellow members, but also give much needed emotional support with a hug or verbal encouragement. People almost always leave happier than they are coming in," Vicky said.

Support groups provide a break from caregiving responsibilities and a chance for participants to develop social relationships. They encourage caregivers to maintain their own personal, physical and emotional health.

Our chapter offers 44 support groups across ten counties: Chemung, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne and Yates. If you care for someone with dementia and would like to join a support group, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/rochesterny.

If you are interested in being trained as a volunteer support group facilitator, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/rochesterny/volunteer.

OBITUARIES



Carolyn M. (Campbell) O'Connell

Age 80, the daughter of the late Glen and Edna (Campbell) Chamberlain went home to be with her Lord on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at the Corning Hospital. Her loving husband Robert F. O'Connell, son Robert D. O'Connell and nephew Bradley J. Love; 3 brothers and 2 sisters preceded her in death. She is survived by her daughters: Janine (Kevin) Smith of Lindley, NY; Colleen (Raymond) O'Connell-Yulfo of CT; brothers: Glen Campbell of Wellsboro, PA; Leon (Sandra) Love of Horseheads, NY; sister-in-law Beverly Campbell of Blossburg, PA; grandchildren: Robert (Jessica) O'Connell, Vanessa (Sean) Harnas, Josiah O'Connell and Jonathan (Tara) O'Connell; Matthew Smith, Craig (Deborah) Smith and Shawn Smith; Devin Detres, and Aleah Detres (Adrian); 10 great grandchildren; along with several nieces and nephews; and her canine companion, "Addy". Carolyn retired from Corning, Inc. after 26 years of dedicated service. She was a faithful member of Friends of the Cross Church of Corning, NY. Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life service on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at the Friends of the Cross Church 2618 Goff Road Corning, NY 14830 at 3:00 pm. Pastor Pete Miller and Pastor Scott Lowmaster will officiate. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be directed to the Journey-Center.com (Restoration of Drug and Alcohol Abuse) 116 Breesport Road Horseheads, NY 14845 or to Outreach: Rescue Life (Sex Slavery) Life Outreach International PO Box 98200 Fort Worth, TX 76182-8000. She will be laid to rest with her beloved Robert in the Woodlawn National Cemetery at the convenience of her family. Carolyn's tribute wall can

be signed in obituaries at www.olphof.com.

Jane M. Gerow

Jane M. Gerow, age 75, of Corning, NY passed away on Friday, January 25, 2019 at Absolut Care of Three Rivers, Painted Post.

Born in Tarrytown, New York on December 29, 1943, she was the daughter of the late Thomas R. "Bob" and the late Helen J. (Dixon) McDowell. She married Robert D. Gerow on July 3, 1986 in Caton, New York. Jane worked as an Inspector for Corning, Inc. for 22 years before her retirement.

In her free time, Jane will be remembered for her love of knitting and crocheting.

Jane is survived by her husband, Robert D. Gerow of Corning, NY; children: Doris Spaulding, Elizabeth Sellard, Robert Gerow, Jr., James E. Gerow, Jeff Gerow Marcia Ritchie, Christopher Gerow and Melody Brown; many grandchildren; and sister, Barbara Bernard.

In addition to her parents, Jane was predeceased by brothers: Robert, Tommy, Joseph and John McDowell.

It was Jane's wish that there be no services. Carpenter's Funeral Home, 14 E. Pulteney St., Corning has been entrusted with the arrangements.

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



Jennie M. Cobb

BATH, NY. | Jennie M. Cobb, 55, passed away on Thursday January 24, 2019 at Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital. She was born in Bath, NY on August 30, 1965 the daughter of the late Merle Judd and Clara Smith Judd.

She was predeceased by her parents, brother Alfred Judd and a sister Audrey Buchanan.

She is survived by her son Bill Cobb of Bath, NY., brother Frank Judd (Marie Kelly) of Bath, NY, nephews Merle Judd, Beau Judd and Adam Judd.

Her Burial will be held at the convenience of the family.

Arrangements are being handled by Bond-Davis Funeral Home of Bath.

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 recently, I'll say it again, and it needs to go on being said: The new, Democratic direction for New York State appears headed toward 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, buckle up. Look both ways. Hold on to your wallet.

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

US urges an end to Venezuela's 'nightmare'

By Edith M. Lederer and Scott Smith

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United States urged all nations Saturday to end Venezuela's "nightmare" and support opposition leader Juan Guaido while Russia accused the Trump administration of attempting "to engineer a coup d'etat" against President Nicolas Maduro — a reflection of the world's deep divisions over the crisis in the South American country.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the U.N. Security Council at a meeting called by Washington that it's beyond time to back the Venezuelan people as they try to free themselves from what he called Maduro's "illegitimate mafia state" and support Guaido. The young opposition leader has declared himself the country's interim president, arguing that Maduro's re-election was fraudulent.

But Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Venezuela doesn't threaten international peace and security and accused "extremist opponents" of Maduro's legitimate government of choosing "maximum confrontation," including the artificial creation of a parallel government. He urged Pompeo to say whether the U.S. will use military force.

Pompeo later told reporters who asked for a response, "I am not going to speculate or hypothesize on what the U.S. will do next."

What has played out in Venezuela and the world's media between supporters and opponents of the Maduro government played out face-to-face in the chamber of the U.N.'s most powerful body, which has failed to take action on the Venezuelan crisis because of deep divisions. The Security Council's five veto-wielding permanent members could not unite behind a statement on Venezuela, presenting widely differing texts.

The leaders of two of those council nations — France and Britain — joined Spain and Germany to turn up the pressure on Maduro Saturday, saying they would follow the U.S. and others in recognizing Guaido unless Venezuela calls new presidential elections within eight days.

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said if there is no announcement of new elections in the next days the 28-nation bloc "will take further actions, including on the issue of recognition of the country's leadership."

Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza dismissed the deadline.

"Europe is giving us eight days?" he asked the council. "Where do you get that you have the power to establish a deadline or an ultimatum to a sovereign people. It's almost childlike."

Arreaza said Venezuela "will not allow anyone to impose on us any decision or order" and demanded that someone show him where in the country's constitution it states that an individual can proclaim himself president.

As for possible military action to oust Maduro, Arreaza said, "we will not allow any government or any country to violate our sovereignty, and to give a pretext for Donald Trump to start a war."

The opposition to Guaido was also reflected in the initial procedural vote on



Venezuela's self-declared interim leader Juan Guaido, center, greets supporters after a rally at a public plaza Saturday in Las Mercedes neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela.

[FERNANDO LLANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

whether the 15-member Security Council should even discuss the crisis in Venezuela, which is not on its official agenda.

The United States barely survived the vote to go ahead with the meeting, receiving the minimum nine "yes" votes from the council's six Western nations along with Kuwait, Peru and the Dominican Republic. China, South Africa and Equatorial Guinea joined Russia in voting "no" while Indonesia and Ivory Coast abstained.

Pompeo went after Russia and China, accusing them of trying "to prop up Maduro while he is in dire straits ... in the hopes of recovering billions of dollars in ill-considered investments and assistance made over the years."

But he saved his sharpest attack for Cuba, saying no country has done more to sustain "the nightmarish condition of the Venezuelan people." He said Cuba has sent "security and intelligence thugs" to sustain Maduro's "illegitimate rule."

"Now is the time for every other national to pick a side," Pompeo said. "No more delays, no more games. Either you stand with the forces of freedom, or you're in league with Maduro and his mayhem."

China's U.N. Ambassador Ma Zhaoxu said his government "firmly opposed" the U.S. accusations and doesn't interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

"We hope the country that accuses others can do likewise itself," Ma told the council.

Russia's Nebenzia also rejected Pompeo's claims.

Cuba's U.N. Ambassador Anayansi Rodriguez went further, rejecting "the deliberate" and "fake news" cast on the country not only by Pompeo but by Elliot Abrams, the new chief of U.S. policy on Venezuela who sat in the council after the secretary of state left.

Abrams called Venezuela "a satellite of Cuba and Russia" — which the three countries vehemently denied — and said Saturday's meeting "is not about foreign intervention in Venezuela" but "about the right of Venezuelans to direct their own internal affairs and choose the

future of their own country democratically."

The Security Council meeting came a day after Guaido vowed to remain on the streets until his country has a transitional government, while Maduro dug in and accused his opponents of orchestrating a coup.

In rival press conferences, Guaido urged his followers to stage another mass protest next week, while Maduro pushed his call for dialogue.

The standoff could set the scene for more violence and has plunged troubled Venezuela into a new chapter of political turmoil that rights groups say has already left more than two dozen dead as thousands take to the street demanding Maduro step down.

Guaido took a symbolic oath of office Wednesday proclaiming himself the nation's constitutional leader on grounds that Maduro's re-election last year was fraudulent — an allegation supported by the U.S., the European Union and many other nations.

The Trump administration announced it was recognizing the 35-year-old leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly quickly after his oath, leading Maduro to say that he was breaking all diplomatic ties with the United States and expelling U.S. diplomats. Guaido told the Americans to stay.

Pompeo told the Security Council: "Let me be 100 percent clear — President Trump and I fully expect that our diplomats will continue to receive protections provided under the Vienna Convention. Do not test the United States on our resolve to protect our people."

On Saturday, Venezuela's government backtracked on an earlier 72-hour deadline for U.S. Embassy personnel to leave the country.

Venezuela's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it is negotiating the establishment of a U.S. Interests Office and will allow U.S. Embassy personnel to remain in the country while talks take place. It said that talks about an interest section will have a 30-day limit and if no agreement is reached

embassy personnel will then have to leave. The Trump administration had refused to obey the directive and Saturday's decision puts off a potential conflict between both countries.

Recognition of Guaido by the U.S., Venezuela's biggest trade partner, threatens to heap more misery on the country's crisis-stricken economy, and a similar move by European nations would complicate matters further.

Directives sent Friday by the State Department to the Federal Reserve will make it harder for Maduro to gain access to the government's sizable overseas assets, including revenue from oil sales and profits by Houston-based Citgo, a unit of the state-owned oil giant PDVSA.

Guaido's move is the most direct challenge to Maduro's rule despite years of protests at home and international efforts to isolate the regime amid a growing humanitarian crisis fueled by falling oil prices and government mismanagement.

Maduro is accusing the opposition of working with the U.S. to overthrow him. Though over a dozen nations are recognizing Guaido as president, Maduro still has the support of the military and powerful, longtime allies like Russia and China. He said he is still willing to talk with the opposition.

Both sides attempted dialogue last year, but it fell apart as Maduro pushed forward with an early election that Venezuela's most popular opposition leaders were barred from running in. Many in the international community condemned that vote and now consider the National Assembly, which Maduro has stripped of its power, the only legitimate institution.

Russia's Nebenzia, who opposed Saturday's meeting, said it was useful because it showed Washington that a majority of countries favor Venezuela's sovereignty, territorial independence, and non-interference in its internal affairs.

"Let's not escalate tensions around Venezuela," he said at the end of the council meeting.

O'MARA

From Page 4

that, among other things, seeks to make New York's electricity 100% carbon neutral over the next two decades. They call it a new deal, however I'm not sure it's a fair deal for future taxpayers or energy consumers for whom the cost of energy will rise. It's a massive undertaking. It calls for a huge investment in new infrastructure. To start, the governor wants a \$10 billion "Green Future Fund." It arrives on top of what has been an ongoing, enormous expansion of infrastructure building statewide, spending the governor has proposed to raise to \$150 billion this year.

Most of it's being accomplished through state borrowing, significantly adding to future

