

OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Colonial Days participants

To the Editor:
On behalf of the Painted Post Area Board of Trade I want to extend our gratitude to all who participated in the 54th Annual Colonial Days celebration. Parade participants, corporate sponsors, vendors and crafters in the first-ever "Craft Walk", fire fighters, local law enforcement and EMT personnel were all crucial to the success of the event.

Colonial Days has gone through many changes over the years and change can be difficult. Numbers of volunteers have dwindled drastically. Schools, clubs and organizations have many other responsibilities and activities they are committed to. The bottom line is that we have to do a tremendous amount of work with very few people. Colonial Days is produced by literally just a handful of dedicated residents who work for months to make the four-day celebration occur. Their efforts this year brought about the addition of a diverse crafters and vendors section, a Civil War Reenactment Camp and Education Program, and a much-increased unit participation in the parade.

Special thanks to Graphic Solutions for their branding and printing expertise, Rosemary and Tom Magnusen for the very difficult job of coordinating the parade, Mike Hann and American Porkers BBQ for a sold-out chicken barbecue (the profits of which support next year's parade), Joe and Tammy Carey of Carey's Brew House, Rob Hartman and Hartman Electric, Mayor Ralph Foster and the Village of Painted Post, Rita McCarthy and the Town of Erwin, Myers RV Superstore of Bath, Corning Community College, and the Board of Trade Colonial Days Committee including Eve Fisher, Jean Wise-Wicks, Chris VanZile, Maria Drake, Shari Gee Hugie and Kristen Ketchum.

We invite everyone to think about joining us next year for the 55th Colonial Days. It's a wonderful hometown tradition.

Robin Gaige

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The Mummy (PG13)
[11:45, 2:10] 4:35, 7:05, 9:30

47 Meters Down (PG13)
[12:30, 2:45] 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (PG13)
[1:00] 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

Captain Underpants (PG)
[11:45, 2:00] 6:30, 8:45

Captain Underpants 3D (PG) - 4:15

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President, Painted Post Area Board of Trade

Paterson has support in 2nd Ward

To the Editor:
On Sunday, I read that Michele Beckman is not seeking reelection as 2nd Ward Councilman in November. She is rumored to be moving from Corning, despite denying any intention to do so when appointed only four months ago.

I also read that the Republicans are searching for a replacement to challenge Kate Paterson.

The 2nd Ward special election is only taking place because Paterson and Beckman tied in 2016. The election would have been a run-off; that is, if the two-time Republican appointee was sticking around. When one candidate in a run-off withdraws, the other - Paterson - rightly wins. After all, Paterson's qualifications aren't at issue.

Republican Councilmen and the Mayor practically gushed with praise over Paterson's qualifications before appointing Beckman on a party-line vote. But now, despite that praise and installing a short-term appointee, the Republicans want to shoehorn a new challenger into the race. And all this after Councilman Hunt threatened Councilman Muccini with a 2017 primary challenge if he wouldn't change his January abstention into a February vote for Beckman. (Incidentally, he did change his vote, but it looks like the Republicans are going to primary him anyway).

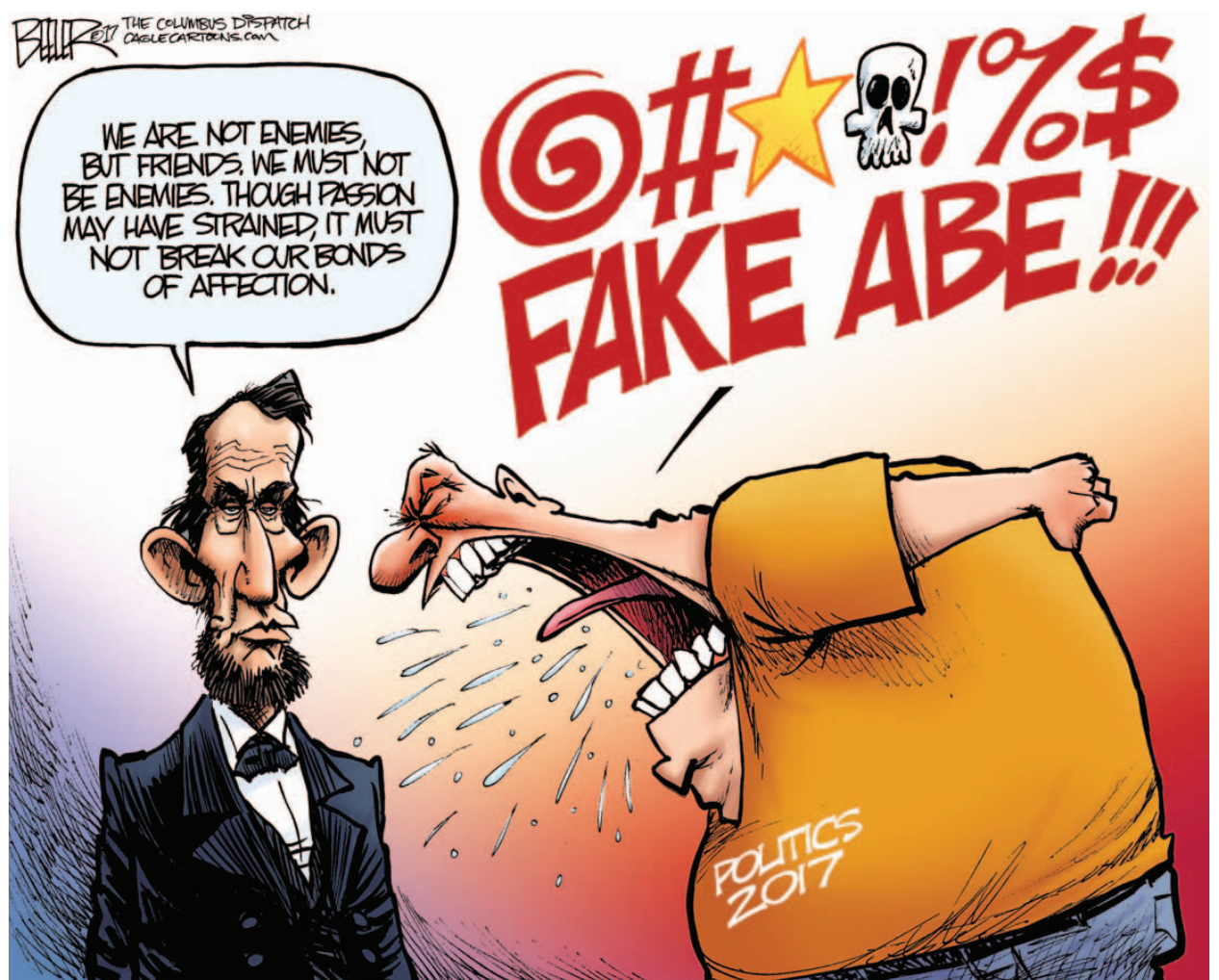
The Republicans' actions exhibit a total lack of shame. Do Nick Weinstein and the Republican Committee think the 2nd Ward seat is a plaything for them to toy with?

Do they think themselves beyond reproach because of their connections to Congressman Reed? If so, then I think its time that Corning's voters remind them that we, Corning's permanent residents, are the ultimate authority in the 2nd, and every other, Ward.

I believe Kate Paterson's unwavering commitment to serving our City will guide her to victory in November. Whether the Republicans choose decency over deceit by not challenging her is their choice. Holding them responsible for that choice is ours.

Tim Hayden
Corning

ANOTHER VIEW



COMMENTARY | STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA

'A duty to combat heroin and opioid crisis'

Every single day there is a new headline or another startling statistic.

Consider a small sampling from the past several months:

- The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) identifies the abuse of prescription medicine as one of America's fastest-growing drug problems with nearly 15,000 people dying every year of overdoses due to prescription painkillers.
- The CDC also notes a "grim milestone" that in 2015, more people died from heroin-related causes than from gun homicides. Gun homicides outnumbered heroin deaths by more than 5 to 1 less than a decade ago.

- The Rockefeller Institute of Government reports that 3,009 New Yorkers died from a drug overdose in 2015. That marks a 71-percent increase from 2010.
- There has been a surge in American infants being born with symptoms of withdrawal from heroin or

strong prescription painkillers. The surge results from rising drug use among women in rural areas, according to one study estimating that approximately 21 percent of newborns in rural counties had withdrawal symptoms in 2013, up from 13 percent in 2004. Again, just a small sample.

The New York State Senate created a Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction in 2014, at a time when local police departments and addiction centers, including many across the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions, were pointing to the alarming rise in the availability and use of heroin and opioids.

Since 2014, while the work of the task force has helped enact important new state-level laws and other responses, the heroin crisis has grown increasingly urgent.

The input we have received - and continue to receive - from the local front lines of this public health and safety crisis have targeted the necessary

responses. But we can't let up, not for one second, on the alarming threat of heroin, opioids, meth, synthetic substances, bath salts and other illegal drugs continuing to spread like a wildfire throughout our communities. The heroin and opioid crisis, especially, poses far too great a risk to spiral out of control, overwhelming and destroying individual lives along with local systems of health care, law enforcement, criminal justice, and social services.

The 2017-2018 state budget includes nearly \$215 million in new funding to establish state-operated addiction treatment centers, enhance community-based providers, and expand other programs and services, including law enforcement.

Last week, the Senate continued to act. We approved a comprehensive legislative package, which I co-sponsor as a task force member, to build on existing state-level laws, programs, and services enacted over the past several years to strengthen awareness and education,

prevention, and treatment and recovery efforts.

However, it also places a particular emphasis on heroin traffickers and dealers. It includes, for example, legislation to allow law enforcement to charge a drug dealer with homicide, a class A-1 felony carrying a penalty of 15 to 25 years in prison, if a person dies of an overdose of heroin or other opiate-controlled substance sold by that dealer. The measure targets mid- to high-level drug suppliers who profit from heroin sales.

Awareness and education, and prevention and treatment are fundamental responses. Tough laws and law enforcement are too, however, especially when it comes to heroin traffickers and dealers. I agree that we will not arrest our way out of this crisis, but we should not hesitate to throw the book at the pushers and suppliers of these deadly drugs.

Details on the entire legislative package are available on my Senate website, <http://www.omara.nysenate.gov>.

Earlier this year, New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) President William E. Cherry said, "As county leaders, we are entrusted with preserving the health and safety of our communities. It is our duty to do whatever we can to help break the cycles of addiction, overdose, and death that have taken hold in so many corners of this state."

What he said applies across the board, at every level of government and in every community. It is our duty to do whatever we can.

The Leader Staff

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