

# OPINION

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Kudos to hospital staff

Our entire family would like to acknowledge Ira Davenport Memorial Hospital - Arnot Ogden for their care and compassion during the recent loss of our Mother. From the E/R staff, to admissions, doctors, housekeeping, dietary, and especially the nursing and support management staff, our Mom was treated with exceptional care, gentleness, and dignity; and our family was treated with kindness and respect. We will be forever grateful to them for making her loss a little easier. This hospital has gotten a bad rap over the years and we've even heard rumors of their closing, but they have obviously worked hard to become a vital and important part of this community. Kudos to them!

**Diane M. Austin Banik**  
Bath

### King an asset to Corning

Chuck King is a great asset to the City of Corning Parks and Recreation department. I live near Denison Park and have witnessed improvements in the park since 2013. As a member of the local disc golf club, I am especially grateful for his efforts to improve the disc golf course. Under his

watch, the disc golf club has raised several thousand dollars to fund and install multiple upgrades. A large new information kiosk with a beautiful park map was installed beside Hole 1 at the corner of Relihan Blvd and E 2nd Street. Four tee pads were upgraded from grass to concrete while two concrete tee pads were relocated. New sign posts and signs were installed at each of the 18 tee pads to improve course navigation and awareness of the rules for playing safely. Trees were planted to replace those lost to disease, maintaining the beauty of the park and the challenging nature of the disc golf course, and a picnic bench was relocated near the first tee to provide a gathering place for players.

These upgrades have greatly increased the number of people enjoying the sport of disc golf in Denison Park, especially new players coming the park to try disc golf for the first time and having great fun. Also, positive online reviews lead travelers to stop in Corning to play disc golf and spend money at local establishments. The entire city benefits from Chuck's leadership in improving recreational opportunities in the fine City of Corning. Thank you Chuck!

**Daniel Ragland**  
Corning

## ANOTHER VIEW



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

# Harvesting a N.Y.-grown future

Now that our calendars have turned to autumn, we can use the start of a new season to turn attention to one of New York government's constant responsibilities: working to maintain agriculture as a foundation of this state's culture and economy. I've said it many, many times, but it's never a tired refrain: This state — and our own Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions — will only be as strong as our farmers and the dynamic industry they sustain. We can and do take great pride in a nationally renowned lineup of agricultural products. But we can never take it for granted.

We have to keep taking steps to help keep farmers competitive for the next generation. That was the overriding goal of last week's first meeting of the state's newly established "Industrial Hemp Working Group" (a group created, by the way, as the result of a new law I sponsored this year). I'm grateful to be a member of the group, which is working to secure an economic foothold for state farmers in the nation's burgeoning industrial hemp industry. Hemp products generated nearly \$600 million in U.S. sales in 2015 and we believe it could ultimately a

\$1-billion-a-year industry right here in New York.

New state laws and policies, and ongoing state investments, have continued to strengthen the foundation we've built over the past several years to place New York farmers and agribusinesses at the industry's forefront. State investments are assisting the planting of industrial hemp on nearly 2,000 acres for research purposes, expanding industrial hemp production in New York nearly 6,000% from 30 acres in 2016.

In short, we are moving forward to ensure that the development and growth of the industrial hemp industry will provide valuable new economic opportunities and a competitive edge for farmers and agribusinesses, generate revenue, and create jobs.

One step we all can take is to get out and about this fall when local farmers' markets are overflowing with high quality, New York-grown offerings.

The state Department of Ag and Markets offers an online, interactive map to help locate one near you: <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/Community-FarmersMarkets.asp>.

According to the New York Apple Association [[www.nyapplecountry.com](http://www.nyapplecountry.com)], a website providing a

comprehensive list of area orchards and other apple-related retailers], this year's crop harvest forecast is for 28 million cartons, or 1.1 billion pounds.

Of course it's always an active time across Finger Lakes wine country, with the grape harvest underway and celebrated with numerous festivals and events (stay updated on [fingerlakeswinecountry.com](http://fingerlakeswinecountry.com)). Same goes for craft brewers ([fingerlakesbeertrail.com](http://fingerlakesbeertrail.com)), cideries, and distillers. And never forget Finger Lakes cheese producers ([flcheese-trail.com](http://flcheese-trail.com)).

Agriculture-related opportunities abound across the region during September and October. Nevertheless, as I noted earlier, it takes even more than consumer awareness.

For example, since my Senate colleagues and I unveiled a "Grown in New York" agenda several years ago, we've consistently taken steps in pursuit of a strong agricultural development strategy already producing achievements from creating new markets to recognizing emerging technologies, to addressing tax and regulatory burdens.

One important addition to the state's efforts is "New York State Grown & Certified."

It's billed as the "first statewide, multi-faceted

## 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.

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Sun. 9/24	3:30, 6:30
Mon. 9/25	6:30
Tues. 9/26	Classic Series
Wed. & Thurs.	6:30

**KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE**  
(Taron Egerton, Colin Firth, Mark Strong) Rated R (2 HRS 21 Min)

Fri. 9/22	6:15, 9:15
Sat. 9/23	3:15, 6:15, 9:15
Sun. 9/24	3:15, 6:15
Mon. 9/25	6:15
Tues. 9/26	Classic Series
Wed. & Thurs.	6:15

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**The LEGO Ninjago Movie (PG)**  
[12:00, 2:20] 7:05

**The LEGO Ninjago Movie 3D (PG)**  
4:40, 9:30

**IT (R)** - [1:15] 4:00, 6:45, 9:30

**Wind River (R)** - 7:05, 9:30

**Leap (PG)** - [12:20, 2:30] 4:45

**The Hitman's Bodyguard (R)**  
[1:30] 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

**Friend Request (R)**  
[12:30, 2:45] 5:00, 7:15, 9:25

**Home Again (PG13)**  
[2:45] 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

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