

OPINION

LETTERS POLICY

- Letters should be typed or neatly printed.
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- Letters may be edited for space considerations.
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TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

Did you hear about Women of Distinction?

For the past two decades, the New York State Senate has annually observed Women's History Month throughout March with a tribute that's become one of our most successful yearly tributes: the "Women of Distinction" program.



TOM O'MARA

The program takes place in two stages. First, in early March, an exhibit in the Legislative Office Building highlights Women of Distinction from throughout New York State's history in the arts, sciences, government, military, labor, education, and social reform. This exhibit includes a prestigious group of more than 100 notable New Yorkers from throughout our history including Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Proudly included in the exhibit is a tribute to the career and life of astronaut and Elmira native Eileen M. Collins, and attribute to Susan E. Hall, who was raised in Tompkins County and is recognized as one of the first women in New York State to be accepted as a nurse in the Civil War.

Eileen Collins is an American hero. She is one of our nation's most distinguished citizens and, to say the least, we're extremely proud of her as a native of Elmira. She retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

in 2006, following a long, illustrious and inspirational career highlighted by her command of the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1999 — when she became the first female Shuttle Commander — and the "Return to Flight" Discovery mission in 2005. She became the first American woman to pilot a space shuttle, the Discovery, in 1995. She is also a member of the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls.

Susan Hall was raised in Tompkins County, in the town of Ulysses, and is recognized as one of the first women from New York State to be accepted as a Civil War nurse. She served in field hospitals on numerous Civil War battlefields, including Bull Run and Gettysburg. She was included in the Senate exhibit at my request in 2011 to coincide with the state and national observances of the 150th Anniversary of the start of the Civil War. She is a worthy reminder of the selflessness, compassion and bravery that distinguish

SEE O'MARA, A5

KIMBERLY FEEHAN | TOWN OF CORNING SUPERVISOR

A message to my taxpaying residents

As a municipal official in the Town of Corning, I believe that it is critical to deliver a unified message to correct misperceptions about local government in New York State.

Citizens may have been led astray because of recent budget proposals from Governor Andrew Cuomo. As a local official and Supervisor of the Town of Corning, I dispute the governor's oft-repeated message that local governments are the primary cause of high property taxes in New York — pointing to decades of cooperation and shared services to keep tax hikes low, as well as school districts' hefty proportion of property tax bills of which I can fit 44 Town of Corning annual budgets into this year's 2017 Corning-Painted Post's budget.

New York's 3,180 local governments have a long history of sharing services and working together. Shared services occur in a wide variety of areas including public works and transportation, administrative/support

"The governor's latest property tax relief proposal requires counties to fund more government efficiency studies that may result in the loss of local services, thereby impinging on municipal home rule."

services, recreation and social services, public safety and economic development and planning. So, as the governor pushes for yet another set of efficiency plans while most of the state is already operating under a current set of plans through 2020, myself and other municipalities proudly point to a history of shared services where the average length of an agreement spans 18 years.

The governor's latest property tax relief proposal requires counties to fund more government efficiency studies that may result in the loss of local services, thereby impinging on municipal home rule. Not only does the governor's latest proposal not provide direct funding to create these new efficiency plans, the governor seeks to withhold state aid (aka AIM

funding) from cities, towns and villages if the Legislature does not include his county-wide shared services property tax savings plan proposal in the budget.

Withholding state aid is no way to reduce property taxes. State aid is a proven tool to lower property taxes and should not be conditioned on the adoption of another unfunded mandate. AIM was cut in 2009 and again in 2010 and has been flat since 2011.

The cuts alone represent a nine percent reduction and when inflation is factored in, AIM has fallen 17.6 percent. Increasing AIM funding by \$152.8 million will make up for lost funding and help local governments lower property taxes.

With respect to the Town of Corning

specifically, the loss of AIM funding equates to an increase of .50 per \$1,000 taxable assessed value on my tax paying and hard-working residents of the Town of Corning.

In addition to increasing AIM funding, sustainable property tax relief requires meaningful mandate relief, a stated goal of the governor's since he took office. As of today, only a single initiative toward mandate relief has been enacted — a Medicaid cap benefitting county governments.

Currently, our Steuben County Medicaid cap is \$20 million. Local governments are willing to work with the governor on how to achieve property tax relief in New York State — just as they always have. Why is it that we municipalities are never given the opportunity to partake in the process and yet are always vilified in a manner that gives a false perception to our taxpaying residents that we municipalities are the problem, when quite frankly, state government and unfunded mandates are the problem.

ANOTHER VIEW



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must stand together against bigotry and hatred

To the Editor,
The Jewish community of the Twin Tiers unequivocally condemns the recent surge of hateful acts committed across the U.S. over the past several weeks, including the desecration of Jewish cemeteries in St. Louis and Philadelphia, the burning of the Islamic center in Tampa, the ongoing bomb threats against Jewish Community Centers and day schools, and the scourge of racist graffiti perpetuated in so many communities, including right here in Elmira.
As a community we are seriously concerned with

this unprecedented wave of racially and religiously motivated hate crimes, and are worried that any minimization or acceptance of these actions will lead to even more serious acts, not solely against Muslims and Jews but against members of all minority groups.

In the United States, a country founded on the unwavering principles of inalienable rights and religious freedom, hatred and bigotry cannot and will not be ignored or tolerated. We call upon our elected representatives to act quickly and decisively against the perpetrators of these hideous crimes and bring the responsible parties to justice.

We extend our hands in friendship and solidarity

with the Muslim community and all other marginalized groups, and vow to stand together against any and all demonstrations of bigotry and hatred.

Yours in Tolerance,

Dr. Oren Steinitz, Rabbi, Congregation Kol Ami
Edwin Braunstein, President, Congregation Kol Ami
Paul Solyn, Executive Director, Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tier
Marcus Kantz, President, Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tier

Real life movie drama

To the Editor,
A case of life imitating art. In the 1997 movie,

"The Second Civil War", the Governor of Idaho, played by Beau Bridges, refuses to admit refugees from Pakistan. At the time when Governor Jim Farley, is having an affair with a Mexican, played by Elizabeth Pena, who is carrying his child. The father vows to name the baby Juan Pablo, John Paul, after the reigning Pope in 1997. The President, played by a Phil Hartman, sends National Guard troops to make the Governor open his borders.

Are we going to see the reverse case this time? The present president sending troops to prevent refugees entering a given state. Time will tell.

Joe Vikin
Painted Post

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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LOGAN
(Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, Dafne Keen) R (2 Hr 17 Min)
Fri. 3/3 6:30, 9:15
Sat. 3/4 3:30, 6:30, 9:15
Sun. 3/5 3:30, 6:30
Mon. 3/6 6:30
Tues. 3/7 *CLOSED
Wed. 3/8 & Thurs. 3/9 6:30

MOONLIGHT (Academy Award winner for Best picture)
(Mahershala Ali, Shariff Elarp, Juan Sanchez) R (1 Hr 51 Min)
Fri. 3/3 9:00
Sat. 3/4 6:15
Sun. 3/5 3:15
Mon. 3/6 6:15
Tues. 3/7 *CLOSED
Wed. 3/8 6:15

HACKSAW RIDGE (Oscar Nominee)
(Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington, Luke Bracey) R (2 Hr 19 Min)
Fri. 3/3 6:15
Sat. 3/4 3:15, 9:00
Sun. 3/5 6:15
Tues. 3/7 *CLOSED
Thurs. 3/9 6:15

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Logan (R)
[12:45, 3:40] 6:35, 9:30
The LEGO Batman Movie (PG)
[12:10, 2:30] 7:10
The LEGO Batman Movie 3D (PG)
4:50, 9:30
Moonlight (R)
[2:00] 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Fist Fight (R) 7:10, 9:30
A Dogs Purpose (PG)
[12:00, 2:25] 4:45
Before I Fall (PG13)
[12:15, 2:30] 4:45, 7:10, 9:30
Fifty Shades Darker (R) 8:15
Rock Dog (PG)
[12:00, 2:00] 4:05, 6:1
Get Out (R)
[12:00, 2:20] 4:45, 7:10, 9:30
John Wick 2 (R)
[1:30] 4:15, 6:55, 9:30
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OBITUARIES & NEWS

OBITUARIES



Elizabeth 'Beth' Rogers Bucio

Elizabeth "Beth" Rogers Bucio, 44, of Mooresville, NC, claimed her victory in Jesus on Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

She was born on June 12, 1972, in Corning, NY, to Doris Jean "D.J." Kohler, of Mooresville and the late Larry Leroy Rogers. Beth was a lead Pharmacy Tech for CVS for 15 years. She was blessed to be a member of Christ Community Church in Mooresville. Those who went to Heaven before her were her infant son, Antonio Trei Bucio; grandparents, Jesse and Liz Rogers, Ray Townner; cousin, Ben Hall; father-in-law, Sidonio Bucio-Infante. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her husband, Javier Bucio-Valdez; children, Michael and Courtney Cleveland and Sid Bucio; sisters, Treci Rogers and Becky (Blake) Briggs; niece, Lorisa and special sisters, Patricia Perry and Kristie McDaniels; several other nieces, nephews, aunts, uncle, cousins and beloved friends. Beth never met a stranger, was a friend, confidant, "momma bear" and the greatest cheerleader for any and all sporting events. Her infectious smile and indescribable blue eyes not only lit up a room, but illuminated the entire world for anyone blessed with her friendship and love.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at Christ Community Church, Mooresville, with Pastor David Teague, Rev. Hal D. Greene and Rev. Donald Ward, S.J. officiating. Burial will follow the service at Glenwood Memorial Park, Mooresville. The family will receive friends prior to the service from 9:30-11:00 AM at the church and also following the committal service they will continue the

celebration of her life with a time of fellowship and food at the Heritage House at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Women in Pink, 315 E. 2nd Ave, Gastonia, NC 28054. Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, is serving the Bucio family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Forrest G. 'Pete' Vandelinder, Sr.

Forrest G. "Pete" Vandelinder SR. 92, of the Steuben Center. Formerly of Beers Hill Rd. passed away Thursday March 2, 2017 at home.

He was born July 18, 1924 in Corning, the son of Charles and Addie Burge Vandelinder.

He was pre-deceased by his wife Dorothy on April 10, 2009.

Pete was employed by D.W. Putnam before WWII, after returning from the Army, he worked at Great Western Winery, finally retiring from there. Pete was a lifetime member of the Hammondspport American Legion and a long time member of the Hammondspport Methodist Church. He also was an avid handy man in the area for many years.

Surviving are his daughter Joyce (Herbert) Humphrey of Springwater, Sons Forrest G. "Harvey" (Barb) Vandelinder Jr of Bath and Robert (Irene) Vandelinder of Branchport, sisters Josephine Wilson of Prattsburgh and Mary (Theron) Stone of Hammondspport, brothers Oscar Vandelinder of Bath and Roger (Denise) Vandelinder of Bath, grandchildren Todd (Cassie) Vandelinder, Lori (Jamie) Knowles, Karen (Ben) Mathef, Gidget Johnson Bob (Stephanie) Vandelinder and Karla Vandelinder several great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Pete was also pre-deceased by his brothers William and John and Sisters Mabel Champlan and Charlotte DeFranco.

Friends may call Monday March 6th from 3-7 p.m. at the LaMarche Funeral

Home of Hammondspport.

Funeral Services will be held Tuesday March 7th at 11 a.m. at the Hammondspport Methodist Church. Rev Paul J. Rowley will officiate and interment with military honors will be in Pleasant Valley Cemetery Hammondspport. In lieu of flowers, memorials should be made to the church. After the cemetery, everyone is invited to the church for a luncheon.

Howard J. Fisher

Howard J. Fisher, age 89, of Elmira, passed away on Friday, March 3, 2017 at the Chemung County Nursing Facility.

Howard was born in Saranac Lake NY, a son of Howard J. and Anna (Brady) Fisher. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years Mary Louise Perra Fisher; sons and their spouses, Douglas H. and Libby Fisher of Warrenville IL, Reverend Thomas J. and Kathryn Fisher of Elma NY, William J. and Diane Fisher of Troy MI; and nine grandchildren.

Howard served his country both in the U S Army and the Naval Reserves. He was a Corning, Inc. retiree where he worked for 30 years as a structural engineer.

Howard was a long time communicant of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. He served six years as Scout Master of Troop 62 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Howard was a faithful adorer at the Divine Mercy Chapel at St. Casimir's Church. He was also a member and past president of the Southern Tier Rose Society.

Family and friends are invited to McNerny Funeral Home, 502 W. Water Street, Elmira, on Monday, March 6, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 10:00 a.m., Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1100 W. Church Street, Elmira. Interment, with committal prayers, will then take place at St. Peter & Paul's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, those wishing may remember Howard with a donation to The Samaritan Center, c/o Catholic Charities, 215 E. Church Street, Elmira NY 14901.

DEATH NOTICES

Glenn Russell Cohoon

Glenn Russell Cohoon, 89 died Friday, December 30, 2016 at the Greenfield Senior Living Center in Hagerstown, Maryland, following a brief illness.

His remains will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery in a service to be held on June 2nd, 2017.

Arrangements are with Money and King Funeral Home.

Quentin A. Gamble

Quentin A. Gamble, 69, of Brookland, Ulysses, PA, died Friday, March 3, 2017.

Friends may call Monday, March 6, 2017

from 6-8 PM at the Olney Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ulysses, PA, where Funeral Services will be held on Tuesday at 11 AM.

Lewis 'Sonny' Smith

Lewis "Sonny" SMITH, 76, of Coudersport, PA, died Saturday, March 4, 2017.

Friends will be received at the family home. Arrangements are entrusted to the Olney Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ulysses, PA.

Kevin R. Young

Kevin R. Young, 56, of Hopper Hill Road, Troupsburg, died Friday, March 3, 2017 at home.

Arrangements are incomplete with H.P. Smith & Son, Inc. Funeral Home, 1607 Main Street, Woodhull, NY.

Latrishia Rae McCaig

Latrishia Rae McCaig, 30, of East Main Street, Hornell, died Friday, March 3, 2017 at Highland Hospital, Rochester.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 7 at the H.P. Smith & Son, Inc. Funeral Home, 1607 Main Street, Woodhull, NY. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home with Rev. Brian Dffenbacher officiating. Burial will be at Woodhull Cemetery.

DAVID DAVIES | BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS & CO.

Colleges differ on what they expect families to contribute

If you have a student who's planning on going to college soon, you likely have heard of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, as it's commonly known. It's the application that is used to determine how much financial aid a student qualifies for when seeking scholarships, grants or other support.

You might assume that because there's a standard form to complete, all schools will come to the same conclusion about how much a family should pay to cover college expenses. But they don't. There's also a separate form, the CSS/Financial Aid Profile, that many private colleges also consider in determining what a family can pay. Because the schools don't explain how they determine their calculations, you can only guess how they arrived at the figure.

Confusing? Certainly. Discouraging? Not necessarily. The good news is that some schools - typically those with larger endowments such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton - are far more generous with aid and don't expect as much of a family contribution.

Because of this, you shouldn't jump to conclusions about what schools you can afford. Apply to those that you're interested in and then see what the aid packages look like. What you definitely

should not do is automatically write off a college because it has a higher tuition than another.

What counts is the final total you'd pay after all the help the school is offering gets factored in.

The federal government has a website called the College Navigator that can help you evaluate the possibilities (<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>) and colleges often have similar tools on their own web sites. But they're not all equally thorough, and sometimes it's hard to make direct comparisons, so be prepared to do a lot of digging.

Why are there differences?

Why would colleges come to such different conclusions? It has to do with what aspects of a student and a family's economic situation they consider. Obviously, how much the student's parents earn annually should be considered. But what about the value of their house? Some schools consider it, others don't.

What about the cost of living where you reside? It's far more expensive to cover daily expenses in New York City than Memphis, Tennessee, for example. Some schools recognize that disparity and are more generous in their treatment of students from New York City. Some do not. Likewise, a few schools will

consider giving a break to families with high medical expenses, while most will not.

Generally speaking, it's a better idea to have assets held in the parents' names than the student's name. Under FAFSA, up to 20% of assets held by a student can be applied toward the expected family contribution, while only 5.64% of the parents' assets may be considered. Some assets held in the student's name, such as trusts and custodial accounts, need to stay in place, though. So it's crucial to consult with an expert before making these important decisions.

— This article is provided by David W. Davies, Managing Director – Investments at Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. in Corning, NY, and was prepared by or in cooperation with Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. The information included in this article is not intended to be used as the primary basis for making investment decisions nor should it be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell any specific security. Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. does not endorse this organization or publication. Consult your investment professional for additional information and guidance. Benjamin F. Edwards does not provide tax or legal advice. Benjamin F. Edwards & Co., Member SIPC and FINRA 2016-1596

NATIONAL POLITICS

Supporters gather for 'March 4 Trump' demonstrations



From left, Barbara Hagstrom of Duvall, Wash.; Jamie Smith of Eatonville, Wash.; Cheryl Williams of University Place, Wash.; and Pamela Hart of Gig Harbor, Wash., cheer during a rally Saturday for President Donald Trump at Heritage Park in Olympia, Wash. [TONY OVERMAN/THE NEWS TRIBUNE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS]

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Supporters of President Donald Trump are convening at Trump Tower, the Washington Monument and other spots around the country to show their pride in his presidency.

Groups of hundreds of people turned out in places from Colorado's state

Capitol to near Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida for Saturday's "March 4 Trump" demonstrations. Sometimes, they clashed verbally with generally smaller groups of counter protesters.

At Trump Tower, a couple hundred supporters gathered and chanted "U-S-A" and held signs with messages such as: "Yes he is our

president."

Some minor scuffles between dueling demonstrators at the Minnesota State Capitol were quickly defused by other protesters and police. Near Mar-a-Lago, the Palm Beach Post reported that people on both sides exchanged profanity.

Trump's motorcade briefly stopped so he could wave at supporters.

O'MARA

From Page A4

all great New Yorkers. It's fantastic local history and through the exhibit, Susan's contributions continue to have a place in our regional, state and national history that will endure for the benefit and education of future generations.

That's part one. Part two also takes place throughout the month of March when individual senators

solicit nominations from within our respective legislative districts to honor a local Woman of Distinction. I certainly look forward to this annual opportunity to honor an outstanding area citizen from my 58th Senate District, which covers all of Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben and Yates counties, and part of Tompkins County (the city and town of Ithaca, and the towns of Enfield, Newfield and Ulysses).

In 2011, my first year in the Senate, our inaugural Woman of Distinction was

Carol Berry of Hornell, a long-time regional library professional and director of the Dormann Library in Bath. Virginia "Ginny" Houseknecht of Watkins Glen, a local Cornell Cooperative Extension educator and leader, and founder of the Southern Tier Parkinson's Disease Support Group, was next in 2012. In 2013, we paid tribute to Beverly "Bev" Stamp, co-owner and operator of Lakewood Vineyards in Schuyler County, and a beloved

ambassador of New York State's nationally and internationally renowned wine and grape industry. In 2014, the recognition went to Lauren R. Snyder of Penn Yan, a well-known public health professional in Yates County who served as the county's Public Health Director for 28 years before retiring in 2009. The 2015 inductee was Linda Thomas, long-time owner and operator of the Wellsburg Diner in the village of Wellsburg. Last year, we honored Dawn R.

Smith, Transition and Care Management (TCM) Program Manager at the Bath VA Medical Center and a well-known local veterans' advocate.

As you can see, it's a truly distinguished group. The deadline for submitting a nomination this year is Friday, March 24th. An online nomination process is available on my Senate website, www.omara.nysenate.gov. E-mail requests for a nomination form to omara@nysenate.com, or call any

of my offices in Elmira (607-735-9671), Bath (607-776-3201), or Albany (518-455-2091).

The Senate has been paying this tribute to local women for 20 consecutive years. We all know someone who makes an enormous difference to the community at large. Whether she is a service provider, a teacher going above and beyond the call of duty, a businesswoman, or simply a community resident known for her good deeds, I'd like to see her recognized.