

OPINION

LETTERS POLICY

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VIEWPOINT | DAVE MARSH AND JOHN FARWELL

Crestwood foes tell same old story

Opponents of Crestwood's propane storage proposal repeat the same tired old lines, despite being proven wrong time and time again. Is it surprising that people opposed to reopening US Salt's propane storage business are following the fractivist playbook? Is it really surprising that, despite a proven need for more local propane storage before fracking ever made headlines, opponents portray the project as a fracking enabler?

Is it surprising that opponents condemn the storage proposal "at a time when clean-energy alternatives should be given priority," even though EPA recognizes propane as a clean-burning alternative fuel?

Is it surprising that opponents continue to say the project is "bad" for a whole lot of reasons, although New York's regulators rejected these claims as unsupportable or guesses?

Is it surprising that opponents think a select few businesses "know best" what's good for our communities? Is it surprising that, despite everyone knowing how badly Upstate communities need jobs, they downplay 50-plus union construction jobs or more than a dozen

good-paying full-time jobs?

This isn't about fracking, and helping propane customers doesn't mean abandoning renewable energy. Regulators confirm the project will be safe and won't impact tourism. Finger Lakes Wine Business Coalition and its allies do not know everything, and some pretty reputable groups like the New York Farm Bureau, the Southern Tier REDC, the Business Council of New York State, and the Manufacturers Association of Central New York aren't buying what they're selling. Ten to 15 good jobs and \$600,000 of annual tax revenue mean a lot around here.

We would like these groups to explain how gas storage has hindered the growth of local wineries and tourism over the last 60 years. After all, some pretty bad things must've happened for them to want to stop safe activities that put people to work, help keep good people employed, and grow local economies.

We don't expect to be surprised by what they say.

—Dave Marsh represents New York State Laborers and is from Hector. John Farwell is president of Teamsters Local 529 and lives in Cayuta.

POLITICS | SEN. TOM O'MARA

All eyes should turn to the budget

Later this week the Legislature's fiscal committees – the Finance Committee in the Senate, and the Assembly Ways and Means Committee – will begin joint, public hearings on Governor Andrew Cuomo's 2016-17 proposed state budget. These hearings may well be even more important this year than they've been in a long time -- and they're always critical to our annual budget adoption process.

These extensive, often daylong hearings will continue throughout early February. We're going to learn more and more about the impact of the governor's fiscal plan for New York's short- and long-term futures. We'll hear from top Cuomo administration officials, including numerous state agency commissioners. We'll also hear from local and statewide advocates and officials on the direct consequences of the governor's \$145-billion plan at the grassroots level, which is particularly important to our local communities, local economies and local property taxpayers.

My early reaction to the governor's plan still holds: It's an ambitious and a necessary agenda



O'Mara

in a number of fundamental areas, including schools, agriculture and the environment, Upstate jobs and infrastructure (including roads, bridges, water and wastewater), and public safety. But how are we going to pay for it all? There's a concern about the ability of state taxpayers in the current economy to pay for it or to go deeper into debt while, at the same time, added costs may be imposed on employers like a \$15-an-hour minimum wage on small businesses, farmers, schools and others in already struggling regions like the Southern Tier. Furthermore, at this point I just don't think the governor's blueprint is going aggressively enough after the root causes of Upstate's decline, which means the crushing burdens of high taxes, energy costs, workers comp costs, overregulation and unfunded state mandates that keep local property taxes high.

The upcoming legislative hearings, which begin

on Wednesday, will help us find out.

One long-time, Albany-based columnist recently wrote, "We heard how Cuomo plans to rescue all the state's homeless, rebuild all our roads and bridges, give us a couple of new airports, a new Penn Station, another (Long Island Rail Road) track, fix our deteriorated sewers and water systems, finally bring social justice for minorities, provide record funding for higher ed and the Environmental Protection Fund and tourism, while at the same time provide \$300 million in tax cuts for small businesses and freeze Thruway tolls until 2020 through a billion-dollar state subsidy and much, much more. A reported \$100 billion worth of proposals, if not a lot more."

Or as an experienced state fiscal watchdog put it, "So, how is Governor Andrew Cuomo paying for that \$100 billion that, as he put in his State of the State... 'would make Governor Rockefeller jealous'?" The governor shouldn't be driving our state spending in order to make anyone jealous, whether Rockefeller or New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

Believe me, the

governor's address last week made many references to "billions" – as in billions of dollars. That, in my view, represents priority No. 1 in the upcoming legislative budget hearings: Can taxpayers afford it, both from a short- and a long-term perspective? Anyone who's been around Albany long enough knows by now that while a new program or service or project can start out looking perfectly affordable, it's imperative to consider the long-term impact. We've seen (and are still paying for) far too many programs, services and projects whose cost has grown exponentially over time and become, in some cases, unsustainable for taxpayers. Medicaid is the prime example, a program which now costs state and local taxpayers more than a billion dollars a week.

The upcoming legislative budget hearings are worthwhile in helping to dissect critical details and bring them into the light of day. I've posted a link to the full hearing schedule on my Senate website, <http://www.omara.nysenate.gov>. As noted, they begin this Wednesday, January 20, with a hearing on one of this year's most

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Making the most of crisis

TO THE EDITOR | Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Barack Obama's first Chief of Staff in Obama's presidency in 2008, started his career in Democrat politics in 1992 as director of finance for Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. He later served in 1993 in the Clinton administration as the Senior Adviser to Clinton for Policy and Strategy. Resigning in 1998 he moved to the Board of Directors of the failing Freddie Mac, cash cow for its corrupt leaders.

While Emanuel did not coin the phrase "Don't Waste a Crisis", it was a strategy he firmly believed in, later adapting it to "Create Crisis to Advance Your Agendas". To Emanuel it meant taking advantage of any crisis to advance his agenda. It was a strategy he brought to the Obama administration. Both used it habitually.

Emanuel's rein in Chicago appears a microcosm of Obama's rule in Washington depending on a fictional view of their strings of failures as successes. Emanuel's hiding of the shooting of a young black man shot 16 times by

a Chicago policeman to win an election mirrors Obama's declaring a video responsible for the Benghazi attacks to win back the presidency in 2012.

Emanuel stood before a Chicago citizenry in tears promising to completely fix the problems he made no attempt to fix in the previous four years. Emanuel like his former boss Obama uses crisis to hide his corruption. They employ division and infighting to camouflage their skullduggery, deceit and deception.

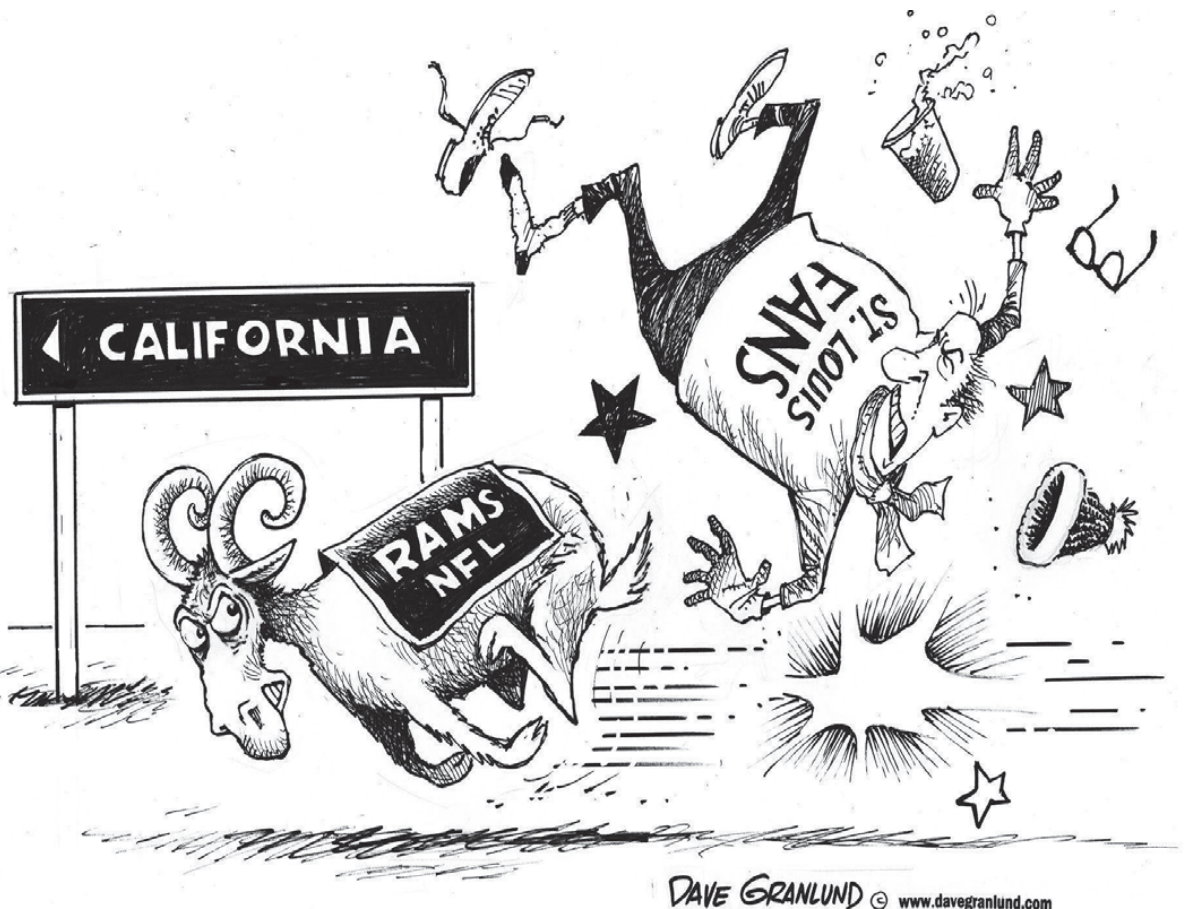
Gerald J. Furnkranz,
Millport

'Games' perfect response to view

TO THE EDITOR | In response to Mr. Mike Morrongiello's prickly guest editorial in this past Sunday's edition of The Leader, suffice it to say that The Leader's front page column, "Upstate airports invited to Games", clearly puts his fallacious tripe to rest. Nothing more to be said.

Rosalie Niemczyk
Bath

ANOTHER VIEW



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ethics committee lacks transparency

TO THE EDITOR | We have some work that needs to be done to continue improving our beautiful little Town of Corning.

The first item on the agenda is our Ethics Oversight Committee. Our town adopted this committee as law. The committee was appointed approximately four years ago. Its function is to oversee our appointed and elected employees/officials. This committee's job is to keep our employees/leaders honest. There are annual disclosure forms that must be filled out and filed to avoid any conflict of interest. To date this committee has never met.

I have requested the annual disclosures of our council members and received them for two current members, Kim

Feehan and Mike Brenning. The chair of this committee is Councilman Gary Mapes. Councilman Stuart Sammis also sits on this committee (neither of which has filed a disclosure to date). Our board established this committee of the very people it should oversee. I believe that to be unethical in itself. These elected officials control our tax dollars and decide what to spend them on.

I am not implying that they are dishonest; what I am saying is how would we know otherwise if they weren't? Why pass the law if you don't intend to use it? We deserve transparency and solid ethics oversight. "Absolute power corrupts absolutely!"

I encourage all residents to come to the next town meeting Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.

Beth Prentice,
Town of Corning

Cheers to pistol permit deal

TO THE EDITOR | Thanks to the efforts and cooperation between Chemung County Sheriff Christopher Moss and Bradford County, Pa., Sheriff C.J. Walters, responsible firearm owners from those respective counties will be able to obtain pistol permits from both New York and Pennsylvania.

Previously, New Yorkers who have valid pistol permits from their home state had to travel to Williamsport to obtain a Pennsylvania permit from Lycoming County. Many states have reciprocal agreements with other states but New York state is burdened with a governor who has done everything possible to thwart the 2nd amendment rights that American citizens are entitled to.

On a federal level our elected representatives in the Republican Party have sponsored legislation that would allow reciprocity between states that issue concealed carry permits just as they do with driver's licenses. These efforts are stymied by liberal Democrats who call for stricter gun control that has little or no effect on criminals and only serves to hinder law abiding citizens from protecting themselves.

Sheriff Moss and Sheriff Walters are to be applauded for their cooperative effort. Hopefully the success of this program will spur other counties along the New York, Pennsylvania border to follow suit.

Thomas P. Greven
Retired Police Association
Corning

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The Leader (ISSN #10501983)
 The Leader is published daily at
 34 West Putney Street, Corning,
 New York 14830
 by Liberty Group Corning
 Holdings, Inc. Periodical postage
 paid at Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817.
 USPS code | 0586-160
 Postmaster: Send address changes
 to The Leader, 34 West Putney
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Classifieds 936-4651, Ext 651
Retail 936-4651, Ext 653

Postal rates	
Steuben County	
One month	\$36.52
Three months	\$109.56
Six months	\$219.12
One year	\$438.24
ELSEWHERE IN USA	
One month	\$46.87
Three months	\$140.61
Six months	\$281.22
One year	\$562.44

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OBITUARIES/NEWS

OBITUARIES

NATHANIEL OATES WILSON

CORNING | Nate passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 13, in Rochester General Hospital after several months of failing health. Born in Corning, NY, nearly 61 years ago, Nate was the youngest of five children.

He was predeceased by his father, Richmond W. Wilson; mother, Johnette F. Wilson; and brother, Benjamin W. Wilson.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Alexander D. and Elizabeth N. Wilson, their sons, Zachary and Bartholomew, and granddaughters, Shay and Sadie; his sister, Marcia Wilson Barry and her sons, Morgan and Gareth; and his sister, Sebby Wilson Jacobson and her daughters, Margit F. Jacobson and Britta W. Jacobson, son-in-law, Philip Berlinski and granddaughters, Lena and Estelle Berlinski.

Nate graduated from Corning-Painted Post East High School, studied at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and earned his BS and MS degrees in chemistry from the University of Rochester. A lifelong struggle with mental illness and alcoholism prevented Nate from developing a career in engineering, but he shared his knowledge as a teacher and tutor in Corning and Hornell, and pursued sobriety as a devoted member of AA. When debilitated by a stroke seven years ago, Nate became a resident of Blossom North Nursing & Rehabilitation, in Rochester. At Blossom (recently renamed New ROC), he developed what he called his third career, writing about his theories on spirituality. He also took great pleasure and pride in serving on the resident council, crafting with beads, chatting with the staff and working in the garden.

A gathering in Nate's

honor will be held this spring in that garden, where the plants he nurtured still thrive.

WALTER N. LOSEY JR.



LOSEY, WALTER N. JR., age 91, of Cayuta Lake, formerly of Big Flats, NY, passed away on Thursday January 14, 2016.

Walter was born September 17, 1924 in Eagle, NY, the son of the late Walter N. and Gertrude West Losey. He was a graduate of Corning Northside High School and attended Elmira College. Mr. Losey was a Veteran of World War II serving his country with The U.S. Army in The Third Armored Division.

Walter married his wife, Doris M. Howe Losey, on February 11, 1947 and she predeceased him on June 24, 2015. He was also pre-deceased by his great granddaughter Cora Mae Losey, his sister Charlotte Imes, and his brother-in-law Robert Swain.

Walter worked for Hungerford Corporation in Big Flats then went to work at Purolator/Facet Enterprises in Elmira Heights, NY, where he retired a the Manager of Industrial Engineering. He later worked for SEPAC as an engineer and consultant.

Walter and his wife were members of The Big Flats United Methodist Church and The Odessa-Catharine United Methodist Church. Walter loved his family and friends and treasured the time he spent with them.

Mr. Losey is survived by his daughter and son-in-law: Linda and Charles E. Wood of Big Flats, NY; sons and daughters-in-law; Richard "Rick" and Karen Losey of West Henrietta, NY; Rev. Dr. Jeff and Susan Losey of Trumansburg, NY; grandchildren; Chris and Casey Wood; Jason and Holli Wood; Amanda

Wilson; Rich and Chris Losey; Michelle and John Reis; Danielle and Sean Roe; Bronwyn Losey and Jeff Turney; Eric and Judy Losey; 12 great-grandchildren; brother and sisters-in-law: William and Joyce Losey of Big Flats, NY, and Sylvia Swain of Texas; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and a host of caring friends.

There will be no prior calling hours. Private Funeral Services will be held at the LYNCH FUNERAL HOME 318 WEST BROAD STREET HORSEHEADS, NY at the convenience of the family. The Rev. Sheila Price will officiate.

Interment in Rural Home Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

CARMEN J. HARGRAVE



Carmen J. Hargrave, 94, of Thomas Road, Woodhull, passed away at home on Friday, January 15, 2016.

Carmen was born in Elmira on Oct. 12, 1921, the daughter of Arthur H. and Inez H. Simons Hackett. Raised in Woodhull, she was a 1939 graduate of Woodhull High School. While in school, she was a newspaper carrier and had also worked in the former Mason's Grocery in Woodhull.

On Sept. 12, 1941, she married her high school sweetheart Rex G. Hargrave in Painted Post. Rex survives. Carmen retired from Woolworth's Store in Corning after 15 years employment there.

She had worked prior

to that for Westinghouse Electric in Bath for 9 years. She was also a homemaker and loving wife and mother to her large family.

Carmen was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Woodhull and was a member of over 50 years of the Woodhull Rebekah Lodge. She and Rex were former members of the Woodhull Grange and they bowled together for many years in the Sunshine Bowling League in Corning. They also were members of the Woodhull Community Friends senior citizen group in Woodhull. They were active in various square dancing clubs in the region with many other local couples. She and Rex also had belonged to local snowmobile clubs during the 1970's.

Besides her parents, Carmen was preceded in death by her brothers Elmer Hackett and Adrian Hackett and her sister Mariam Smith.

Surviving is her husband of over 74 years, Rex Hargrave of Woodhull, her children, Tracy and Peter Logel of Rochester, Retired Lt. Commander USN Michael Hargrave and John De la Roche of Naples, FL, Andrea Hargrave of Rochester, Brian and Joyce Hargrave of Addison and Penny and John Pepper of Woodhull, her daughter in law, Janet Hargrave of Groton, CT, 13 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Family and friends may call on Monday, Jan. 18 from noon to 2 PM at the H.P. Smith & Son Inc. Funeral Home, 1607 Main St. Woodhull, NY. Her funeral service will follow at 2 PM with Rev. Brian Diefenbacher officiating. Burial will be in Woodhull Cemetery.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.hpsmithandsonfuneralhome.com.

MICHIGAN

In Flint, daily life revolves around lead fears



Rabecka Cordell picks up a case of bottled water outside a fire station Jan. 2 in Flint, Mich. "We both have lead poisoning," said Cordell, who learned that two weeks ago from her doctor. She says she has leukemia and her son has learning and speech disabilities. She will not even bathe in Flint water and won't wash her son in it.
ROGER SCHNEIDER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contaminated drinking water blamed for high lead levels in kids

By Roger Schneider
The Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. | The longest line at Freeman Elementary School's Family Fun Night was not for face painting or food. It was for lead testing.

For three months, families in the former auto manufacturing hub of Flint have taken their children for blood tests and lived on bottled water after doctors found high levels of lead in the bodies of the community's youngest people.

"It really is a scary situation to know that we can't get clean drinking water," said Sherri Miller, who brought her first-grade son, Jameer, to have a finger-prick blood sample tested. "It really is scary to think someone knew about this" and did nothing.

Nearly two years have

passed since safe drinking water flowed from Flint faucets. The financially troubled city began drawing its water from the Flint River in 2014 to save money. Officials failed to treat the corrosive water properly to prevent metal leaching from old pipes. Worse, residents didn't learn they were drinking tainted water until the state issued warnings a year and a half after the switch was made.

For the city's 100,000 residents, daily life is now all about lead.

Before the crisis, Flint, about an hour's drive north of Detroit, had become a symbol of the decline of the U.S. auto industry, having suffered waves of auto plant layoffs and the loss of half its population. Forty-one percent of the population falls below the poverty line.

These days, it's a place where parents fear for the health of young children, who can develop learning disabilities and behavior problems from lead exposure.

DEATH NOTICES

Paul B. Willis Sr.

Paul B. Willis Sr., 92, of County Route 31, Canisatego, died Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016, at home.

Calling hours are 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at the H.P. Smith & Son Inc., Funeral Home, 1607 Main St., Woodhull.

Funeral services will be there at the conclusion of calling hours at 2 p.m.

Burial will be in Jasper Cemetery.

Rylee E. Rhodes

Rylee Elizabeth Rhodes, 14, of Lindley, died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016.

Calling hours are 1-3 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. Monday in the Corning-Painted Post High School auditorium, 201 Cantigny St., Corning.

Services will be held there at the conclusion

of calling hours at 7 p.m. Monday.

Arrangements are with Carpenter's Funeral Home, Corning.

Deuane C. Cummings

Deuane C. Cummings, 102, of Wellsboro, Pa., died Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016 at The Green Home.

Graveside services will be held at noon Monday in Wellsboro Cemetery, the Rev. Dr. Jeffery McCleary officiating.

Arrangements are with Tussey-Mosher Funeral Home Ltd., 139 Main St., Wellsboro, Pa.

Debra K. Marintez

Debra Kay Slocum Marintez, 46, of Osceola, Pa., died Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016 at Arnot Ogden Medical Center in Elmira.

be obtained directly from the governor's Division of the Budget (DOB) at <http://www.budget.ny.gov>.

Clearly, there are laudable and necessary ambitions and goals being put forth by the governor including, as I highlighted earlier, education, agriculture and the environment, Upstate jobs and infrastructure, and public safety. The spending side of government can achieve a great deal of good in many, many ways. But the other side of the coin is always the taxpayer - when you put forth government spending, especially like

Calling hours are 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday at Kenyon Funeral Home, 214 W. Main St., Elkland.

Services will be held there at the conclusion of calling hours at 1 p.m. Monday.

Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

Gerald A. Van Kurin

Gerald "Bunk" Arlen Van Kurin, of Coopers Plains, died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016.

Calling hours are 6-8 p.m. today and 10 a.m.-noon Monday at Acly-Stover Funeral Home, 327 E., Second St., Corning.

Services will be held there at the conclusion of calling hours at noon Monday, Pastor Timothy P. Armstrong officiating.

Burial will be in Hope Cemetery.

INVESTMENTS | DAVE DAVIES

Ignore those business news shows

You can hardly flip on a television these days without encountering a financial channel, where polished, well-spoken anchors talk excitedly about the latest developments on Wall Street. And it can be tempting to act on whatever insights they're passing along at the moment.

Don't. If you do, you could end up making some very bad financial decisions.

Consider what's going on with these business-focused news channels. All day long, they discuss the latest stock-market movement, Wall Street rumours, federal reports, analyst tips ... anything and everything that has even the thinnest potential effect on investors.

No doubt, they're trying their best to pass on what they've learned as they're learning it. The problem is that they're not necessarily looking at the larger picture. What you end up with is a chaotic, ever-changing viewpoint that makes for good television and lousy financial advice.

Look at it from the perspective of the TV producers. They need to fill a newscast around the clock. They have to chase the story of the moment without knowing where the story ultimately will lead.



DAVID W. DAVIES

To get some commentary on what's happening, they regularly invite guest experts to offer their viewpoints - everyone from high-level executives at financial institutions to academics from leading universities. What's the television show producer's criteria for inviting someone to appear on air?

The expert has to speak relatively well and be at least mildly informative and engaging.

But are the producers saying to themselves, "Hmm, we had this guy on three times before and every time he made a prediction, he was wrong. So let's not invite him again." No. They'd quickly run out of guests if they limited them to only those who've been accurate in the past.

It's not just the financial television shows that need to be taken with a stack of salt. This applies to virtually all news you're receiving via TV, the radio, the Internet, newspaper, etc.

Think for a minute what a broadcast would be like if the newscasters ran

everything through the filter of whether it affected you as the average investor:

9:00 a.m.: The markets opened down a bit today. But the last thing you want to do is rebalance your portfolio more often than once every few months. So never mind.

9:05 a.m.: The dollar is trading lower against the euro, yen and pound. Unless you're going overseas soon, this doesn't really affect you, right?

9:10 a.m.: Oil futures are up by 57 cents. Will that make you trade in your car for something more economical? Didn't think so.

There are some very high-quality publications that can help you get more of a long-term perspective on financial matters. But really, the best source of news that is relevant to you is an experience financial adviser. Financial advisers can both sort through what's valuable to know and what isn't and can apply that knowledge specifically to your situation.

- This article is provided by David W. Davies, Managing Director - Investments at Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. in Corning, and was prepared by or in cooperation with Benjamin F. Edwards & Co., Member SIPC and FINRA 2014-0093 EXP 1/31/2016

BUDGET

From Page A4

important budget negotiations: transportation. Next week, in succession, the fiscal committees will examine the following sections of the Cuomo fiscal plan: Health/Medicaid, Local Government, Elementary and Second Education, and Environmental Conservation.

For anyone interested, all of the hearings will be live streamed by the Senate at <http://www.nysenate.gov>. Access to comprehensive, detailed information can

it's being put forth by the governor this year, it's absolutely critical to determine if taxpayers and local communities and local economies are being asked to bear the state spending burden equitably, fairly and responsibly. In the final analysis, as always, it's going to be about choosing the right priorities for the right reasons.

- State Sen. Tom O'Mara represents New York's 53rd Senate District, which includes Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County.