

OPINION

LETTERS POLICY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Corning PD wouldn't help find my wallet

TO THE EDITOR | I am writing a letter of complaint about the Corning Police Department while praising the Bath Police Department.

Years ago before 2005 I had lost a wallet in Bath. Someone had turned it into the Bath police. They called me to let me know that my wallet was at the Bath police station. I am very grateful for their call, which I received from them.

Recently in 2015 I lost a wallet here in Corning. It was my favorite and had many important cards in it. I am blessed to have found it but it was without the help of the Corning Police. They refused to assist in any way. They claim it is not their job to help people find their lost purses.

I claim that it is the Christian thing to help people in all sorts of trouble including lost wallets and hearing aids.

The Corning police were not acting Christlike, which makes me doubt that any were Christians. I will close this as a challenge to the police and all people. Rethink your faith this Christmas and if you're faith is truth, act like it.

Judith L. Wright
Corning

Mantius wrong about Crestwood's finances

TO THE EDITOR | Peter Mantius' editorial of December 7th paints another misleading picture of Crestwood. He claims Crestwood is fighting for its life and, consequently, its propane storage proposal shouldn't be permitted.

Yes, like many pipeline and storage companies in the energy industry, our stock price has declined significantly. But Mantius wrongly equates stock price performance to financial viability.

The question of how profitable companies spend excess cash flow is different than the question of whether companies are generating enough revenue to cover costs and expenses. Crestwood will generate over \$400

million of excess cash flow this year, and our board of directors chooses to distribute most of this money to our shareholders.

Yes, we have written off a significant amount of the goodwill and value of our assets. But Mantius interprets this issue incorrectly. A write down is a non-cash accounting adjustment that has no impact on revenues, free cash flow or the future value of our assets. In fact, these particular accounting adjustments were driven by our stock price decline, not revenue declines.

Yes, we disclose various investment risks in our investor reports. But Mantius fails to explain that public companies like Crestwood are required to do so, that it's common to disclose risks related to insufficient funding and inadequate insurance, and that we've always disclosed this particular investment risk (even when our stock prices were at all-time highs).

The disclosure of investment risks is unrelated to how we manage operating risks and employ risk mitigation strategies.

Mantius claims our financial performance makes us a bad bet to stand behind indemnification language in the draft permit issued by the DEC, calling them "empty, unenforceable words."

He fails to mention that our permit language is the same as the other storage facilities in New York, and he wants readers to believe that any incident will be catastrophic and will cost more than Crestwood and its insurance companies can cover. The ridiculousness of his assumptions is belied by economic reality, history of safe local storage activities, and the body of work done by the regulators on this project.

Crestwood is not fighting for its life, but we are fighting for consumers and economic development in New York State. We grow our business by designing, building, operating and maintaining our assets the right way, and we stand behind our local employees' long track record of safe and reliable operations.

Bill Gautreaux
President, Supply & Logistics Group, Crestwood

WEEKLY COLUMN

Protecting New York's outdoor traditions

Most often when we talk about the underpinnings of the economy, the discussion turns to agriculture, construction, manufacturing, small business, high-tech, tourism, workforce development and the like – all of which, of course, no economy can thrive without.

Just as a brief sidebar, the reports on agriculture were strong last week as the state released figures showing that the growth of New York State's agricultural sales outpaced the national average. State farmers set a new record in 2014 for sales – more than \$6.3 billion in cash receipts, a nearly \$1.7 billion increase in gross income from sales of crops, livestock and other products. And it should continue to go without saying that the agricultural sector is critical. According to one Cornell University study, it has a strong multiplier effect on the economy. For every dollar spent in agricultural output, an additional \$.43 is generated for non-agricultural industries.

More specifically on New York agricultural production, several commodities have shown production increases over the past several years far outpacing national estimates for the same commodities: poultry and eggs are up 63 percent; peaches are up 80 percent; honey production's up 59 percent; cattle production has grown by 132 percent;



SEN. TOM O'MARA

and hay is up 173 percent! In other words, great work by so many of our farmers.

But what about less obvious economic contributors that still make an enormous difference to the local and state economies?

A report released last week from the state comptroller's office stated, "Fishing and hunting bring a stream of cash to New York's economy, generating the second-highest expenditures in any state at approximately \$5 billion, supporting local businesses and jobs across the state."

Some of the report's specific findings, "Fishing, Hunting and Trapping in New York State" (which can be found online at www.osc.state.ny.us), include that:

- New York State ranks third nationally with nearly two million people fishing, hunting or trapping;
- fishing is the most popular, with two-thirds of New York participants fishing exclusively;
- consumer spending totaled more than \$5 billion in 2011, the most recent figures available, with nearly \$2 billion spent on trip-related purchases including transportation, lodging and

food; and — revenues from annual fishing, hunting and trapping licenses have contributed an average of \$45.3 million a year to the New York State Conservation Fund to support wildlife management and other key programs and services.

According to the comptroller's analysis, Schuyler and Steuben counties rank among the Top 10 counties for hunting and fishing licenses sold as a proportion of the population.

Hunting, fishing and trapping are deeply rooted in New York's (and our region's) culture, experience and tradition. But did you know it was such a boon to the bottom line? It's big business, in other words. The National Shooting Sports Foundation has estimated in the past that New York's 1.2 million sportsmen and sportswomen directly create 28,000 jobs.

Every five years the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service conducts what's known as the "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation." This survey proves invaluable to state fish and wildlife agencies, conservation groups, and many other federal, state and private organizations who utilize it for a range of purposes including wildlife management.

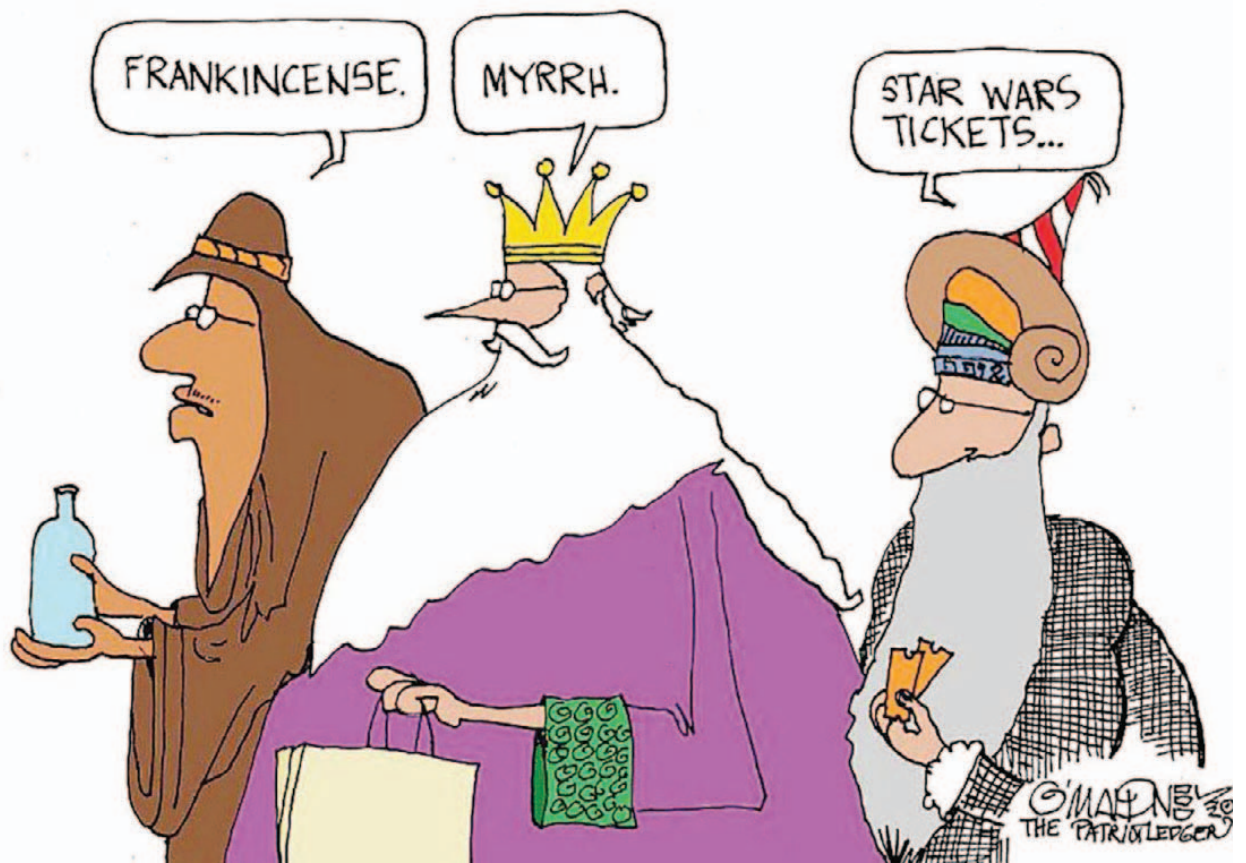
In the past, it's revealed striking facts about the nationwide economic impact of wildlife-based recreation including that 87.5

million U.S. residents fished, hunted or engaged in other wildlife-related recreation and these residents "spent over \$122 billion pursuing their recreational activities, contributing to millions of jobs in industries and businesses that support wildlife recreation."

So the goal remains to forever preserve these long-held traditions for future generations (to say nothing of capturing the upstate economic impact). New York's hunters, anglers and trappers, joined by thousands upon thousands of sportsmen and sportswomen from across the nation who travel here for our state's unique outdoor experiences, annually spend millions of dollars on goods and services provided by local businesses in communities across the upstate region – sporting licenses, bait and tackle, hotels and motels, restaurants, lodges and camps, groceries and hardware, vehicles, boats, fuel, guide services and the list goes on. These expenditures support jobs, generate sales and income taxes, and strengthen the tourism industry.

It's a worthy commitment, on many levels, to keep protecting New York's long-standing outdoor traditions. — *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.*

ANOTHER VIEW



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 people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pregnant women shouldn't be shackled

TO THE EDITOR | Recognizing the serious health risks for pregnant women, New York State enacted a law in 2009 banning the use of shackles on incarcerated women during labor, delivery and immediately after birth, and limiting shackling during transport before and after childbirth. However, the abuse continues as documented in a report by the Corrections Association of New York.

Governor Cuomo alone has the power to protect women's health by signing the 2015 Anti-Shackling Bill.

Wisely passed by both the New York State Assembly and Senate in June, the 2015 Anti-Shackling Bill means humane

Shackling pregnant and postpartum women means undeniable physical and psychological health risks including limiting the mobility needed for a safe pregnancy, raising the risk of blood clots, and interfering with routine and emergency medical care during labor, and impacting postpartum recovery and bonding.

healthcare for pregnant and postpartum women by curbing shackling during the pregnancy and eight weeks postpartum. The bill addresses public safety concerns by allowing limited restraints in the extraordinary circumstances that they are necessary to avoid injury to the inmate, medical or corrections personal.

Shackling pregnant and postpartum women means undeniable physical and psychological health risks including limiting the mobility needed for a safe

pregnancy, raising the risk of blood clots, and interfering with routine and emergency medical care during labor, and impacting postpartum recovery and bonding.

We can protect women's health now. Join the statewide call now to urge Governor Cuomo to sign the 2015 Anti-Shackling Bill immediately.

Liz Gipson
Director of Public Affairs, Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes

Reed shouldn't back Trump over Dems

TO THE EDITOR | REALLY MR. REED? After all the horrific things Donald Trump has said and done, you would really support him for President over a qualified Democrat. THIS IS WHAT AMERICA IS DISGUSTED WITH: PARTISANSHIP! Mr. Rubio agrees with you. No wonder most of America doesn't think Congress is doing it's job. It's sheer cronyism. Why don't you support most of the people in your party who are truly considered about the state of the 2016 elections and denounce Trump for what he is: a BLOWHARD!

Flo Fender
Pine Valley



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