

# Grins and groans

## Grin

After eight years of service, Trustee Bill Scheidweiler recently served his last meeting on the Painted Post Village Board.

But as Mayor Roz Crozier and several members of the Village Board quickly pointed out, Scheidweiler has spent a lot more than eight

years of work to improve the village. “He’s given 42 years of service to the village,” Crozier said. “He’s done a wonderful job. I’m going to miss him.”

Scheidweiler served 42 years as a member of the Village Fire Department and has dedicated his time to important village issues.

He recently decided not to seek re-election to his post. But as the board thanked him for his years of work, Scheidweiler, as usual, took little credit for all the work he’s done over the years to help the village.

“I had a good time,” said Scheidweiler, at the end of his final board meeting.

We’re sorry to see Scheidweiler leave, but we can’t help but grin when we think of all the good work he did for the people of Painted Post.

## Grin

Folks enjoying a mid-morning snack at Hokey Pokey Saturday couldn’t believe their eyes when they saw three deer walking down William Street. The crowd fell silent as the deer walked by, seemingly oblivious to the attention. Young children were in awe by the unexpected visit, their cool treats temporarily forgotten. It was a beautiful sight to behold.

Unfortunately, the deer were spooked when they realized they had an audience and seemed a little bewildered to find themselves walking down a city street. We don’t know what led them down their path, but anyone out and about Saturday knows how easy it was to lose oneself on that warm, blue-skied day.

After a few minutes of panicked running through the parking lots behind Bridge Street businesses, the deer made their way to the river and waded in for a cool drink. The crowd – which had become concerned the deer would wander into traffic – breathed a sigh of relief and returned to their ice cream. Going to Hokey Pokey that morning was real treat.

## Groan

As families headed to the park over the weekend, they were greeted by wrappers, empty food containers, soda bottles and cigarette butts. Items that were carelessly tossed to the ground during the winter months have yet to be picked up. We urge residents to clean up the cans and papers they find and dispose of them. And folks, don’t be a litterbug. It’s nasty and makes us all look bad to visitors who may stop at one of our many city parks.

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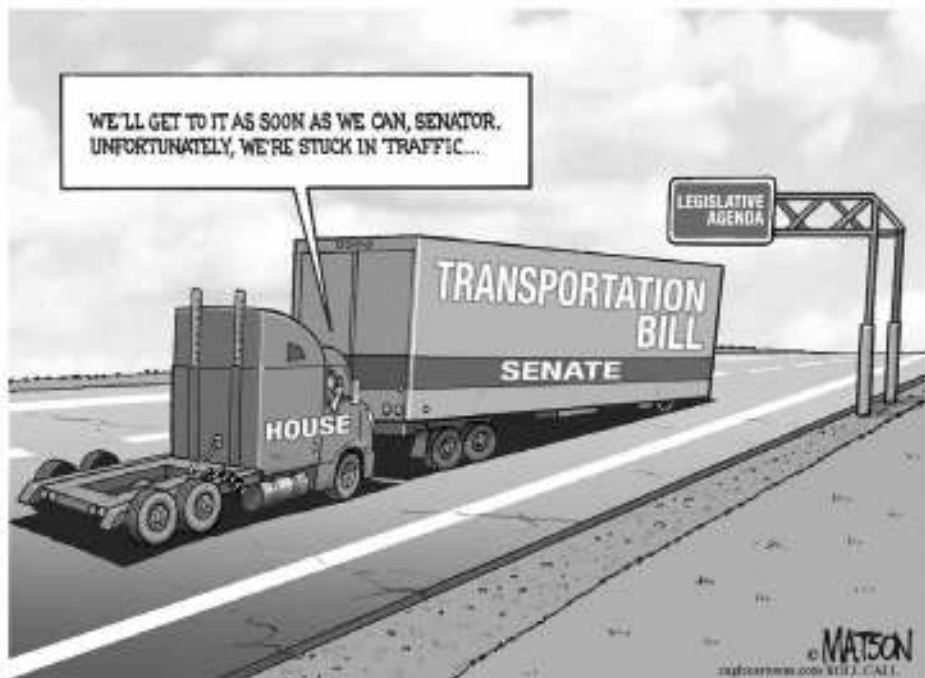
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## ARTIST’S VIEW



POLITICS | TOM O'MARA

## ‘New jobs N.Y.’

Here’s what one of upstate New York’s staunchest advocates, the group Unshackle Upstate, had to say about the State Senate’s new economic development strategy: “The budget plan shows that the Senate is serious about providing relief to taxpayers and boosting private-sector job growth.

By advancing a constitutional limit on the growth of state spending, reducing hidden energy taxes and providing tax credits for creating jobs, the plan will help get our economy back on track. Unshackle Upstate supports the Senate’s plan and we’ll continue to work with them to address meaningful mandate relief for our local governments that will help unlock their potential and make our communities more affordable.”

We’re calling our new, comprehensive economic development plan “New Jobs-NY” – but at its core, it reflects old, fundamental truths about creating a stronger economy. But they’re truths that have been too long ignored in New York. Government by itself can’t – and more importantly shouldn’t – decide the state’s economic future. But there’s no question that government policies do have a decisive impact on the direction of the state economy and, without question, can help to improve and strengthen it.

For the Senate’s part, we believe that government’s ability to cut taxes and control spending points the way to a better overall business climate statewide, and a long-term economic turnaround across New York. So we’ve made “cut taxes

and control spending” the bedrock of our strategy, which was approved recently as part of our proposed state budget. That proposal currently forms the basis of the Senate’s ongoing negotiations with state Assembly leaders and Gov. Cuomo on this year’s final budget.

It’s undeniable that the past year in New York government has already achieved overdue and significant economic and fiscal reforms. But we can’t stop now. A January 2012 report from the Tax Foundation still ranked New York as having the second-worst business tax climate in the nation, ahead of only New Jersey.

So we keep at it. It’s time to do anything and everything possible to remove New York from the list of states with the worst business environments in America. Again, government can help lead that effort by cutting taxes and controlling spending. Our communities and our workers need New York to be a place that opens the door to private-sector job growth, welcomes businesses and industries, and helps provide long-term economic security for workers and their families.

The new Senate plan proposes to strengthen the state’s economic competitiveness and improve New York’s business climate through a broad strategy involving significant tax relief, much of it aimed at private-sector job creation.

But the New Jobs-NY plan also takes aim at the fiscal condition of state government itself. It calls for greater fiscal responsibility and spending control across state government, including a two-percent cap on year-to-year state spending growth. To

make it harder for state lawmakers to raise taxes in the future, it calls for a Constitutionally mandated, “super majority” two-thirds vote of the Legislature in order to enact any tax increases. In the short term, it would place an immediate moratorium on any new taxes or fees. And it includes new regulatory reforms to cut expensive red tape for businesses.

You can read more about “New Jobs-NY” on my Senate website, [www.omara.nysenate.gov](http://www.omara.nysenate.gov).

The head of the state’s largest business advocacy organization, The Business Council of New York, assessed the Senate plan this way: “The program provides much needed tax relief to small businesses, which are the engines of job creation and economic growth throughout the state. We look forward to working with the Senate to ensure that the enacted budget will continue to restrain the cost of government, while reforming major state spending programs, and providing mandate relief that reduces the cost of local government.”

We may not get all of “New Jobs-NY” done, all at once. But it stakes a claim to the future direction of New York government – a direction that’s even more committed to private-sector growth, economic competitiveness, and long-term job security for workers. It puts down firm groundwork for future economic and fiscal turnarounds, and we’re going to keep fighting for it.

■ Tom O’Mara is a Republican state senator from Big Flats.

COMMENTARY | MARY MCNAMARA

## Harsh reality doomed HBO’s ‘Luck’

No animal sends the American soul into paroxysms of rhapsodic admiration like the horse.

We love our dogs and cats, but we worship the horse, endowing it with characteristics beyond most mortal capability – the wit and bravery of a maverick, the unquestioning loyalty of a devoted servant, the universal understanding of a sage. Fast but not predatory, strong but not a threat, necessary but not as food, the horse embodies both hard work and physical perfection.

It stands apart from the rest of the domesticated herd, neither lolling at our feet like a pet nor wallowing in the mud of the barnyard. Famously high strung and deceptively fragile, horses do not easily survive injury, making them the perfect symbol of the human psyche.

That’s what the folks at HBO were up against when the news broke earlier this week that a third horse had been killed during the filming of its race track drama, “Luck.”

Not People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals or rumors of backstage tensions or low ratings, but “Black Beauty,” “Misty of Chincoteague,” even a young Elizabeth Taylor in “National Velvet.”

“There is something about this creature that conveys an innocence,” screenwriter Richard Curtis told me a few months ago when we were discussing his adaptation of “War Horse.” “Everyone wants to try to help it.”

The creators of “Luck” were facing a montage of romanticized images from a centuries-old relationship that allowed people to survive this vast and variable land, that created roads and the Postal Service, that plowed fields, delivered milk and medicine, that fought wars and offered children their first intoxicating moments of controlling something bigger than themselves.

No way was HBO going to win that fight.

Because that’s exactly what “Luck” was selling too: the mystery and magic of the horse, the creation of a bond, between animal and rider, or trainer or owner, that can transcend the more

SEE LUCK | 7A

■ Mary McNamara writes for the Los Angeles Times.

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