

OPINION

LETTERS POLICY

■ Letters should be typed or neatly printed.
■ Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number.

■ Letters may be edited for space considerations.
■ The publication of any letter is at the discretion of the editor.

■ All letters become the property of The Leader and cannot be returned to sender.

Mail: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, THE LEADER
PO BOX 1017
CORNING, NY 14830
Fax: 607-936-9939
Email: sdupree@the-leader.com

Online at www.the-leader.com/opinions

READER VIEW

Middle school worth saving

Why is Northside Blodgett school not on the National Historical Buildings Registry? My father, Major Kenneth Adriance, graduated from Northside High School. He played football there and at Western Maryland College. He was inducted into the Corning-Painted Post Sports Hall of Fame for football. An enlarged 1932 Northside Blodgett football team photo from the Painted Post Historical Society is imbedded into a wall at our local Friendly's Restaurant in Riverside. My father sits in the second row; third from the left.

I attended Northside Blodgett when it was a middle school. To walk the corridors as my father did so many years ago was warm, unique and inspiring.

My father's alma mater and my middle school were sold for a paltry \$200,000. It is worth a great deal more not only as a historic structure but also in memories, sentiment and overall appeal.

It's been reported that the clock tower will be preserved with placement to be determined. The view of the beautiful clock from where I live will be greatly missed if the residents of Corning vote yes on Sept. 20 to go forward with demolition

and development.

This wonderful iconic building with all of its foibles and maintenance costs should be preserved and remodeled into high-end luxury apartments, which are a scarcity on the Northside of the Chemung River. It's my understanding there will be no green space in the redeveloped parcel. There will be no place for bands and teams to practice.

If the residents of the City of Corning unanimously decide to destroy a legacy and a part of history, then so be it.

I only ask that public safety be a top priority as demolition commences. The building most assuredly contains lead, asbestos, residual 1972 flood mud and mold. Using a hose to water down the area after demolition is not the answer as they are doing at the former Corning Hospital.

There are small children and elderly living in close proximity of Northside Blodgett. Will they be protected and how? Having asthma has been a lifelong struggle for me. Should I temporarily relocate myself, my spouse and 93-year-old mother-in-law to another location away from the debris and particulates during demolition?

—Debra McKeegan is a Corning resident.

POLITICS | SEN. TOM O'MARA

Setting a new standard, in more ways than one

Sometimes – not often enough – but sometimes we get a reminder that New York State government can and does work the way it's supposed to. We work on a bipartisan basis. We iron out the differences. We build coalitions of grassroots support. In short, we simply do what needs to be done.

That was certainly the case concerning legislation I sponsored with Southern Tier Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo this year to require that school districts test for lead in their drinking water systems. Our legislation, which was approved with nearly unanimous bipartisan legislative support in June, was signed into law Governor Andrew Cuomo last week, just as students were returning to school.

In a single session, from the time a potential public health crisis was identified in school districts within our respective legislative districts which shut down drinking water sources after tests revealed elevated levels of lead, Assemblywoman Lupardo and I set to work developing legislation, introducing it, working with stakeholders to fine-tune it and building the coalition of grassroots support that's always



TOM O'MARA

needed to get legislation of this magnitude enacted into law.

It's a first-in-the-nation action. It's a landmark law. We hope it will lead to similar action in other states. It's the kind of legislation that can sometimes take years to finally get approved. Historically speaking, the legislative process is more known for moving at a snail's than a sprinter's pace. We turned that reputation on its head.

So we're proud of the action. We valued the opportunity to work closely with the New York League of Conservation Voters and a broad coalition of public health, environmental, and healthy schools advocates to secure the law's enactment.

But most importantly, we believe it represents the most critical foundation on which to build future actions – and we're committed to that future. There's not a more important place to start this overall effort to

better address the rapidly evolving crisis of water quality than within our schools to protect our children. The increasing incidents of lead contamination in school drinking water systems locally and statewide demand that we take short- and long-term actions to strengthen testing, reporting and remediation requirements. In other words, this is going to be an ongoing and long-standing commitment. As Chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, it's action I take very seriously.

As one major daily newspaper editorial noted, "New York has lots of water issues. So Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo did the right thing by signing a law requiring schools across the state to test for lead in their drinking water. That decisiveness stands in marked contrast to the state's attempts to deal with water contamination elsewhere ... The lead-testing bill has good provisions, including a guarantee that the state will pay for most testing and corrective expenses via school aid formulas currently in place. Testing must be completed by Oct. 31, and in elementary schools by the end of September. That's

an appropriate level of urgency."

The editorial targets the points to demonstrate that this legislation is somewhat unheard of in Albany. Swift action. Decisiveness. Responsible public policy. Timely. Cost effective. No unfunded state mandate on local school districts or property taxpayers.

Maybe most remarkable of all is that the day after the governor signed our law legislation into law – that's right, the day after – the state Health Department issued regulations to ensure its immediate impact this school year. Our initial examination of these regulations, which is ongoing, show that they're extensive and appear to cover the bases we intended.

For example, it was just revealed in news reports that New York City officials conducting testing on more than 1,500 buildings earlier this year let the water run for two hours before performing the tests. It's a practice known as "flushing." Obviously it's done to clean lead out of pipes and skew test results. Despite this practice just coming to light, the new Health Department regulations

SEE O'MARA, A7

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vote for protection from pollution

TO THE EDITOR | On 8/30/16, the N.Y.S. Department of Conservation (NYS DEC) held a public meeting in Corning about the air permits Dominion is seeking for work on its pipeline project including a compressor station in the Town of Veteran. Many at the meeting were concerned with health and safety as well as potential greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. Many wanted the NYS DEC to conduct a full environmental review to determine the air impacts of the project. Compressor stations have had negative health impacts and have leaked large amounts of methane, one of the worst

greenhouse gases.

People spoke about their fears with quavers in their voices and tears in their eyes. Some who live in the immediate area already have respiratory and other health problems.

The DEC needs to conduct comprehensive environmental review and to check Dominion's models for thoroughness and accuracy. For example, the corporation reportedly failed to mention that the prevailing wind and weather patterns would not help disperse their toxic emissions. It also understated the number of nearby residences. Public comments may be made to the DEC until Monday at http://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/20160803_noto.html.

SEE LETTER, A7

ANOTHER VIEW

YET ANOTHER DISTURBING REPORT OF MARAUDING CREEPY CLOWNS TODAY....



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An invitation to 'BE NICE'

TO THE EDITOR | Tom Forester, (Climate change will continue, Sept. 4th) please, please, will you take part in my "BE NICE" campaign.

Beginning in mid-October, I will be handing out 150 black buttons with blue writing that reads: "BE NICE It's a Better Way". Anyone who accepts a button will be asked to wear it constantly for a week and then answer a couple of questions about the experience. I will use the information gathered to further promote the idea that there is always a better way, and it starts

with being nice. Nice to each other, nice to animals, and nice to the planet.

Along the way, Mr. Forester, I hope to be able to correct some of your misconceptions about the causes and effects of climate change.

Elizabeth Whitehouse,
Corning
www.abetterway.world

Crestwood works in our best interests

TO THE EDITOR | Crestwood is trying to create jobs, while opponents like Gas Free Seneca are trying to kill jobs.

In just a few years, Crestwood has poured

tens of millions of dollars into modernizing US Salt. This investment has created union jobs at the plant and positioned Schuyler County's largest employer to be around for years to come. Crestwood now wants to invest even more here by reopening US Salt's propane storage business.

Opponents want you to think that jobs don't matter. They ramble on about statistics as though we're not talking about real people trying to feed their family and give them a better life. I would encourage opponents to put a cork in their fancy wine bottles for a night and sit down for dinner with a union worker

who's out of work. The leaders of Gas Free Seneca appear to relish the spotlight they've created for themselves.

Our state environmental experts have said the project is safe. More jobs, tax revenue and business for local companies, all without hurting water quality, traffic, public safety or local tourism. Sounds terrible, right?

By changing its plans in response to local input, Crestwood has shown its commitment to operating in the interest of our community. I cannot say the same for Gas Free Seneca and the other opponents.

Walter Gilbert Jr.,
Beaver Dams

The Leader Staff

The Leader (ISSN #10501983)
The Leader is published daily at
34 West Putney Street, Corning,
New York 14830
by Gatehouse Media, LLC.
Periodical postage paid at
Corning, N.Y. 14830-0817.USPS
code | 0586-160
Postmaster: Send address changes
to The Leader, 34 West Putney
Street, Corning, New York 14830

Publisher

Rick Emanuel | Group Publisher
936-4651, Ext. 303

Editorial

Stella DuPree | Managing Editor
936-4651, Ext. 361
sdupree@the-leader.com

Circulation

Corinne Mulligan
Customer Service/Sales Manager
936-4651, Ext. 328

Advertising

Heather Falkey | Ad Director
936-4651, Ext. 347
hfalkey@the-leader.com

Business Office

Becky Post | Administration
936-4651, Ext. 306
bpost@the-leader.com

Classifieds 936-4651, Ext 651
Retail 936-4651, Ext 653

Postal rates

Stauben County	
One month	\$39.12
Three months	\$117.36
Six months	\$234.72
One year	\$469.44

ELSEWHERE IN USA	
One month	\$49.47
Three months	\$148.41
Six months	\$296.82
One year	\$593.64

Home delivery subscriptions reflect basic subscription rates before additional charges. Due to the added value of special editions there will be an additional charge for each special edition which will accelerate the expiration of your subscription. There will be no more than 12 special editions per year.

CAMPAIGN 2016

Hillary says she was wrong

Clinton: 'Deplorables' comment was 'grossly generalistic'

By Catherine Lucey
The Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Hillary Clinton said Saturday that she was wrong to put half of Donald Trump's supporters in a "basket of deplorables," but didn't back down from a description of his campaign the Republican nominee said smeared many Americans and would take a political toll.

Less than 24 hours after she made the comments at a private New York City fundraiser, Clinton said in a statement, "last night I was 'grossly generalistic' and that's never a good idea. I regret saying 'half' — that was wrong." But she argued that the word "deplorable" was reasonable to describe much of Trump's campaign.

"He has built his campaign largely on prejudice and paranoia and given a national platform to hateful views and voices, including by retweeting fringe bigots with a few dozen followers and spreading their message



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks Friday at a LGBT For Hillary Gala at the Cipriani Club in New York. ANDREW HARNIK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to 11 million people," the Democratic nominee said.

Responding in a statement, Trump said it was "disgraceful that Hillary Clinton makes the worst mistake of the political season and instead of owning up to this grotesque attack on American voters, she tries to turn it around with a pathetic rehash of the words and insults used in her failing campaign?"

Trump added that Clinton was showing "bigotry and hatred for millions of Americans," arguing that she was "incapable to serve as President of the United

States."

Clinton, who has said she is the candidate to unify a divided country, made the "deplorables" comment at an LGBT fundraiser Friday night at a New York City restaurant, with about 1,000 people in attendance. She has made similar comments recently, including on an Israeli television station.

"To just be grossly generalistic, you could put half of Trump's supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. Right? The racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you name it," she said,

before stressing that other Trump supporters are frustrated and need sympathy.

Trump and his supporters quickly pounced on the remark, arguing that it revealed Clinton as disconnected from struggling Americans.

"Wow, Hillary Clinton was SO INSULTING to my supporters, millions of amazing, hard-working people. I think it will cost her at the polls!" Trump said in a tweet.

Running mate Mike Pence, in remarks at the Values Voter conference in Washington, shot back: "The truth of the matter is that the men and women who support Donald Trump's campaign are hard-working Americans, farmers, coal miners, teachers, veterans, members of our law enforcement community, members of every class of this country who know that we can make America great again."

Of course, while Clinton is taking heat for her comment, Trump's brand is controversy. At a rally in Pensacola, Florida, on Friday, he said Clinton is "so protected" that "she

could walk into this arena right now and shoot somebody with 20,000 people watching, right smack in the middle of the heart. And she wouldn't be prosecuted."

Clinton's rhetorical stumble came as the candidates head into the final two months of the campaign, with Trump trying to make up ground before the Nov. 8 election.

Clinton has not let the media into many private fundraisers, but press was allowed in to hear her remarks Friday. At the New York restaurant, Clinton bemoaned the people she described as "deplorables," saying "unfortunately there are people like that. And he has lifted them up. He has given voice to their websites that used to only have 11,000 people — now how 11 million. He tweets and retweets their offensive hateful mean-spirited rhetoric. Now, some of those folks — they are irredeemable, but thankfully they are not America," said Clinton, who was the country's top diplomat during President Barack Obama's first term.

Clinton then pivoted and tried to characterize

the other half of Trump's supporters, putting them in "that other basket" and saying they need empathy.

She described them as "people who feel that the government has let them down, the economy has let them down, nobody cares about them, nobody worries about what happens to their lives and their futures, and they're just desperate for change."

Seeking to explain the statements, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a series of tweets after the remarks that Clinton has been talking about the "alternative right," or "alt-right" movement, which often is associated with efforts on the far right to preserve "white identity," oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values." Merrill argued that "alt-right" leaders are supporting Trump and "their supporters appear to make up half his crowd when you observe the tone of his events."

But the moment recalled comments about voters — also at private fundraisers — that have tripped up presidential nominees in the past.

LETTER

From Page A4

The public needs a lot of protection from corporate pollution, but there have been sharp cutbacks in the DEC's budget over the years even as its workload has expanded. The agency cannot do its best job under these conditions. When funding is reduced, it makes it harder to enforce laws. As a result, according to a report issued by the Environmental Advocates of New York, "The

DEC is looking less, and finding less."

Be sure to find out Senator Tom O'Mara's position on increasing funding for the DEC. Although he is chair of the environmental conservation committee, he has not been a leader in this respect. Also ask Leslie Danks Burke, a candidate for the same 58th. District seat, her position. Then vote for whomever has your health and safety in mind.

Karen Biesanz,
Corning

O'MARA

From Page A4

respond to this just-released information and prohibit flushing. The new regulations require that water lie undisturbed in pipes for eight to 18 hours before testing.

I've been outspoken and highly critical of the state bureaucracy over the years, particularly the state Health Department and the state Department of Environmental Conservation. I've denounced regulatory processes that drag on endlessly to

the great detriment of employers, communities and other stakeholders. I've spoken against rulemaking that's driven by politics instead of science. I've highlighted any number of other shortcomings, including a devastating penchant for state overregulation that's unreasonably burdened farmers, small businesses, manufacturers and, generally, kept New York State's business climate too often recognized as one of America's worst.

But not this time. We can only hope that what occurred this year with

our lead testing legislation will emerge as a new standard — of bipartisanship, cooperation, timeliness, persistence, thoroughness and, what always counts the most in the end, effective action.

— State Sen. Tom O'Mara represents New York's 58th Senate District, which includes Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties, and a portion of Tompkins County.

Happy Anniversary

Charles & Jean Woodhouse are celebrating 65 years of marriage. They were married Sept. 15, 1951 at St. Mary's Church in Corning. They have 2 children, Mary & husband Mickey Reilly, Paula & husband Ernie Berleue. They have been blessed with 7 grandchildren & 13 great grandchildren, whom they have truly enjoyed watch grow.

Happy Anniversary
65 years

Theodore & Charlotte Jacobus

Brooksville, Florida. Formerly, Lindley, NY were married August 25, 1951, at Big Flats Methodist Parsonage, by Rev. Wesley Kahler

Children, Deborah, Mark, Mary, Rebecca, Denise and Spouses, 11 Grandchildren 22 Great Grandchildren

Both retired from Corning, Inc. Celebrated with a small gathering at Pierri's Central Restaurant

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ATTENTION CUSTOMERS OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR STEVE TOMLINSON

Have you seen significant losses in your investment accounts?

Were you sold investments in energy partnerships such as:

- Atlas Pipeline Partners
- Boardwalk Pipeline Partners
- Energy Transfer Partners
- Linn Energy
- Markwest Energy Partners
- Northern Tier Energy

You may have legal rights!!

FOR A FREE CONSULTATION contact our Rochester office:

THE PEARL LAW FIRM, P.A.
585.381.3820

ben@investorattorneys.com
www.investorattorneys.com
1159 Pittsford-Victor Road- Pittsford, NY 14534

Additional offices in Naples, Florida and New York, New York. The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

Tripp Foundation presents Broadway

The Clemens Center's 2016-2017 Best of Broadway Series

WE INVITE YOU TO "TEST DRIVE" YOUR SEAT

SERIES SUBSCRIPTIONS ON SALE NOW!

On Monday, September 12th from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 pm.

Find out about Subscriber Benefits! Personally Choose Your Seat for the Entire Season!

CLEMENS CENTER The Region's Performing Arts Center

Single tickets for these five shows will go on sale at a later date.

CLEMENS CENTER POWERS THEATER

elf The Broadway Musical

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2016

Once

DECEMBER 8-9, 2016

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S **CINDERELLA**

FEBRUARY 21-22, 2017

607-734-8191 or 800-724-0159
clemenscenter.com
CLEMENS CENTER Downtown Elmira

PIPPIN

MARCH 28-29, 2017

RENT

20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

MAY 2-3, 2017

ArnotHealth CHEMUNG COUNTY CHEMUNG CANAL Trust Company GUTHRIE Elmira Savings Bank BETHANY VILLAGE WETM I♥NY