

OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to Good Samaritan

To the Editor,
To the Good Samaritan who observed my Chevy Traverse being side-swiped in the Walmart parking lot in Painted Post last week and who left a note on my windshield with the license number and description of the vehicle that caused the damage - Thank you. I am forever grateful. My vehicle is now in the repair shop and will be as good as new, soon. I would like to thank you personally. My phone number is 607-962-8452. Thanks again.

William Edmister
Painted Post

What is true socialism?

To the Editor,
It is about time that the American people were educated and informed about what true "Socialism" is and is not. The fact is that in true socialism, "the means of production" are owned and controlled by all of the people. In other words, in true socialism all of the workplaces and businesses are owned, controlled, and run by all of the people for the good and well-being of all of the people.

They are not privately-owned by individuals and groups. In true socialism, we would not be totally equal in terms of how much we would get paid for our work, but it would be much, much more equal than we are now. There would not be any billionaires or people

who have hundreds of millions of dollars and tens of millions of dollars in total wealth, most of which they inherited and did not earn by their own labor.

We would share what we have. Those individuals such as Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who call themselves "Democratic Socialists" are actually ultra-liberal/progressive Democrats who believe that our federal government should do more and spend more on the safety-net and other social programs that help the poor, the near-poor (those living on between 100%-125% of the official poverty line), the lower-middle-class, the middle-class, and even the upper-middle-class because they also have financial struggles and problems especially when it comes to medical and health care expenses in their families.

They don't advocate replacing our capitalist economic system with a truly socialist economic system.

They support our capitalist economic system, but they want a capitalist economic system that has more federal government spending to help all of the people just as our traditional allies do more of than we do here in the USA.

So, Republicans and Democrats, please stop spreading the false belief that having a program like "Social Security" somehow makes us a "Socialist" country. Because it does not.

Stewart B. Epstein
Rochester

ANOTHER VIEW



COMMENTARY | STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA, R-BIG FLATS

Another wrecking ball aimed at upstate

Governor Andrew Cuomo had a shocker of a welcome to the new year for municipalities when, as part of a 2019-20 state budget proposal unveiled in January, the governor called for the elimination of state revenue sharing for most of New York's towns and villages.

My opposition was swift. So was opposition from many other state legislators and, of course, mayors and town supervisors from the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions, and every corner of New York. Towns and villages already struggle to make ends meet - in large part because of financial burdens placed on them by the state - and so what could possibly justify this cut? Especially after nearly a decade when this governor has not once, ever, increased Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) funding for cities, towns, and villages.

Each state budget adoption cycle gives governors the chance for a redo on their original proposals. Through what's known as the "30-day amendments," governors can fix problems or shortcomings that become known - like the elimination of AIM funding for 1,326 of New York's 1,465 towns and villages.

Consequently, prior to the release of this year's 30-day amendments on February 15, Governor Cuomo raised

hopes when he said he was reconsidering the AIM cut.

"I have heard from a number of mayors," the governor said. "They made a very strong case against that cut."

Great, except the governor ignored the case the mayors and others made.

Instead, what is Governor Cuomo offering as a plan to restore AIM funding for towns and villages? A new tax to help finance a new unfunded state mandate on counties.

That's right. Another new tax and another new unfunded state mandate dumped on top of what is already one of America's biggest piles of taxes and mandates.

The governor wants a new Internet sales tax beginning this year to raise millions of dollars in new revenue for the state and counties. Now he wants counties to use a portion of their sales tax revenue to finance AIM.

In other words: Let's shift another cost from the state on to counties and local property taxpayers. To make matters even more troubling, there has not been a peep (at least I haven't heard it) of opposition from the Democratic majorities in the Senate and Assembly.

It's the latest example of a New York State government that's out of touch, out of control, and running wild

without checks and balances.

New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Executive Director Stephen J. Acquario said, "This is a horrible precedent and unnecessarily shifts the state's burden to local taxpayers who already pay some of the highest taxes in the nation...In the end, local homeowners and businesses just keep paying more for decisions made by the State."

New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials (NYCOM) Executive Director Peter Baynes said, "While we appreciate the fact that the Governor has acknowledged that the elimination of AIM funding would have serious implications for the State's villages and towns, his restoration of this \$59 million is in reality a robbing of one property taxpayer to pay another. Imposing a new mandate on counties to make up for the state's cut to villages and towns will only further harm New York's already overburdened taxpayers."

Instead of fixing his proposed budget, Governor Cuomo once again aims another wrecking ball at upstate communities and local property taxpayers - and with no one in the ranks of the new legislative leadership in New York willing to stand in his way, he may just get away with it.

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OTHER VIEW | DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Economy is strong now, but tariffs won't help

Half the trouble with tariffs is they are so darn tempting to the populist crowd. The other

half is the math never works out in the end. But here we go again. The Commerce Department has now

delivered a report to the White House that auto industry officials worry President Trump will use as a pretext to slap up to 25 percent tariffs on imported cars and car parts. The reason he might cite will be national security.

If this sounds familiar, it should. It mirrors the administration's justification last year for tariffs on steel and aluminum. Trump's mantra is that auto tariffs would shield the U.S. economy from foreign competitors, saving jobs and enhancing national security.

Statistics show the opposite. Trade wars kill jobs and drive up costs to consumers, who are

the engine behind U.S. economic growth. The auto industry is a massive contributor to the U.S. economy. A tariff war should be the last thing that the president should be considering.

The U.S. auto industry can't be walled off without throttling growth. The U.S. auto industry is made up of domestic companies, foreign manufacturers with U.S. plants and sophisticated supply chains that span national borders. Foreign parts comprise more than 40 percent of the average cars produced in the United States.

This diverse supply chain increases efficiency and lowers

production costs. And the ability of auto makers to tamp down such costs makes the companies more profitable and cars more affordable.

This is why the president's belief that trade wars are easy to win is so misguided. Tariffs prompt companies to lay off workers, move development and production offshore and pass their significantly higher costs to consumers. And this isn't economic theory; It's economic reality.

According to the National Automobile Dealers Association, tariffs would add as much as \$2,270 to the cost of U.S.-built cars and \$6,875 to the cost of imported cars

and trucks. The Center for Automotive Research estimates that 1.3 million fewer cars will be sold in the United States due to higher retail prices.

Another overlooked area is the impact of tariffs on foreign investment in the United States. BMW's plant in South Carolina employs more workers than its plant in Bavaria. This is an investment that tariffs might force the company to reconsider. Toyota's growing stake in Texas, visible to almost all of us in this area, is another example of the benefits of free trade. The ability to

See **ECONOMY, A5**

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2019 Philadelphia Flower Show

Flower Power

Sunday, March 3, 2019

\$88 per passenger for Village of Horseheads Residents, \$93 for Non Residents, price includes Flower Show Admission Ticket.

Limited seating - please register prior to **Sunday, March 3, 2019**. Bus will leave Thorne St. Park at 7:00am and return at 11:00pm. For more information contact the; **Village of Horseheads Parks & Recreation Department** at 607-739-5691 Ext. 1; nnagle@horseheads.org | Register online at HorseheadsRec.com.

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