

OPINION

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

The Leader: @thenewsleader1
Stephen Borgna: @theleaderborgna

Jeff Smith: @theleadersmith
Shawn Vargo: @theleadervargo
Eric Wensel: @theleaderwensel

TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

Against driver's licenses for illegals

A bad move for all the wrong reasons” The state Assembly is moving forward this week with legislation that, if enacted into law, will issue New York State driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants. This state has plenty to address, but there’s no need for this. Nevertheless, the odds favor this misguided move becoming law. The Assembly is acting because Assembly leaders expect to approve it. Gov. Cuomo will sign it into law if it reaches his desk. The governor has made driver’s licenses for illegal immigrants a top priority. So it boils down to the new Democrat-controlled

Senate, where many in the majority conference want it done. Here we go again. I warned before the start of the 2019 legislative session that New York State was about to be turned upside down in this era of one-party, Democratic rule. Gov. Cuomo and the Democratic leaders of the Legislature are making New York State a haven for lawbreakers. It is a radical, irresponsible, and reckless agenda. Following outrageous parole releases (which have already set free cop killers and cold-blooded murderers) and other questionable actions in the name of “criminal justice,” the next step is to reward lawbreaking illegal immigrants with

a government-issued driver’s license. Only 12 states offer driver’s licenses to illegal immigrants. Most of these states, however, only allow it to occur under much more stringent requirements than those proposed for New York. Eight states, for example, require illegal immigrants to provide a tax identification number, tax returns, or proof that the applicant is a dependent of a taxpayer residing in the state. Two states only issue driver’s licenses on a temporary basis. In Connecticut, if an illegal immigrant wants a driver’s license, he or she must file to become a legal resident of the United States.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Oregon began allowing illegal immigrants to obtain driver’s licenses in 2013. It proved unpopular with the public. A year later, Oregonians voted in a referendum to suspend the law by a margin of 67% to 33%. The most recent poll in New York State already shows more than 60% of New Yorkers opposed. The legislation speeding ahead in New York would permit illegal immigrants to apply for a standard New York State driver’s license using forms of foreign identification. The New York Association of County Clerks, who oversee local Department

of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and whose employees would be responsible for processing the new applicants, is opposed. Steuben County Clerk Judy Hunter recently stated, “County level DMVs have not been required to verify foreign documents in the past as this is currently a federal function, most commonly done during the working visa process.” One clerk notes that he and his fellow clerks are sworn to uphold the federal Constitution. He says New York State law should not require them to break this oath and process applications from illegal immigrants. In fact, the last time this was attempted in New

York State under then-Gov. Eliot Spitzer in 2007, it failed in no small part because county clerks across the state defied it. It’s a bad move being done for all the wrong reasons in today’s who’s-the-most-progressive race driving too many of this nation’s public policymakers. New York State has no business issuing a driver’s license to an illegal immigrant with virtually no checks and balances. It puts the overall safety and security of legally responsible citizens at risk. It imposes another unfunded mandate on counties. It asks local, law-abiding public servants to break the law. I vote no.

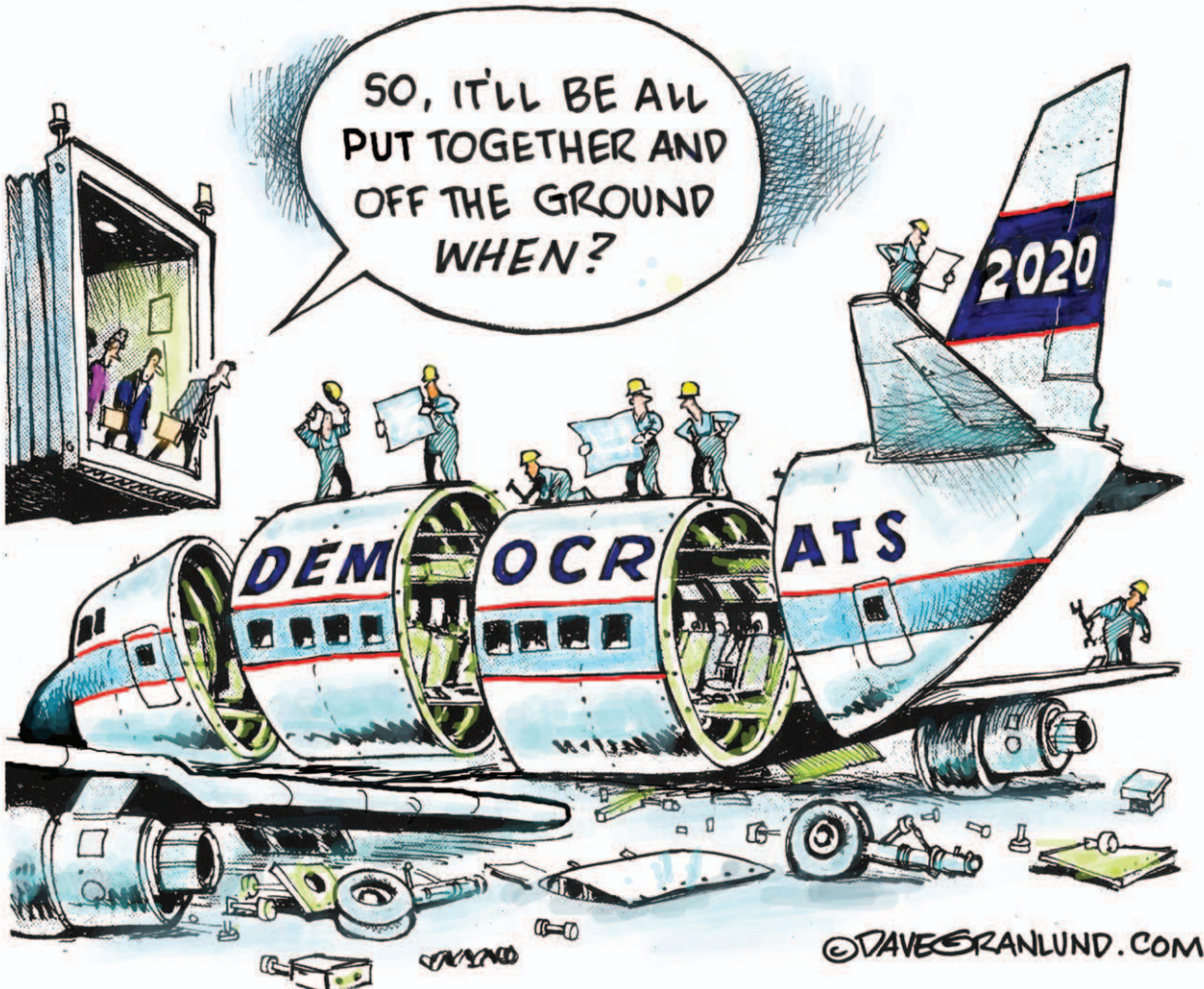
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Looking at Trump's Tax Cut of 2017

To the Editor, The NY Times (4/30/19) recently investigated the 30 richest corporations that received cuts in 2018 while also earning profits. Amazon earned 10 billion in profits, paid zero taxes and received a tax rebate. Delta Airlines earned 5 billion in profits, paid zero taxes and received a tax rebate. No wonder tax coffers are depleted and our national debt is climbing. Coincidentally, the experts tasked to get us out of the 2008 Great Recession—Henry Paulson, Treasury Secretary under George W. Bush; Ben Bernanke, Fed Chairman; and Timothy Geitner, Treasury Secretary under Barack Obama - recently published a book, “Firefighting: The Financial Crisis and Its Lessons.” They describe what could have been another “Great Depression.” Criticizing today’s Republican policies - those Trump tax cuts of 2017 - they state: “After ballooning above \$1 trillion during the crisis, the

deficit fell back to earth as the emergency subsided... but now the annual deficit is soaring above \$1 trillion again, because of major tax cuts unaccompanied by spending restraint. As an aging population puts additional strain on future entitlement obligations” - Social Security, Medicare - “the US could face unsustainable long-term deficits as far as the eye can see...”(page 125). Congressman Tom Reed (NY23-R) sat on the Republican-controlled committee writing Trump’s cuts. At the Groton Town Hall (2/23/19) Reed stated he supports those cuts - but then claims to be a “fiscal conservative”. Hardly. Repeal those extravagant tax cuts, Congressman. They are irresponsible, balloon our national debt, are unfair to NY State (the SALT cap) and to your own working class constituents. Retirees need to keep their eye on Reed, who has been appointed House Republican leader of the social security subcommittee. Might he vote to make the corporate tax cuts

ANOTHER VIEW



“permanent”, cutting Medicare and Social Security instead?

Dorothy Pomponio
Groton

Take advantage of affordable eats

To the Editor, Summer is here and many families are planning their annual vacation when the children are off school. Upstate New York is beautiful and easily accessible by driving. Already there is an influx of

tourists coming by cars and coaches. Keuka Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in the region and Bath, New York, is the gateway to many of the tourist attractions in the well-known wine country. Eating in the area needs not be extravagant. At the same time there is no need to rub yourself of the quality of food or the variety of healthy choices when you are traveling on a budget or with a large family. There are many lake-side restaurants that offer finer cuisine at reasonable

prices. Fast food chains dotted the area to provide a quick meal to many families with children. And, of course, there are the local diners. Many diners, e.g., the ones in Bath, Savona, Hornell and Painted Post, have evolved from hot dog and hamburger joints to serving home cooking meals. Grilled Haddock, charbroiled sirloin, liver and onions, chicken and biscuits, hamburger steak, and fish fry on Fridays are generally available on their menus.

You can add delicious homemade soups or desserts to your meal without breaking your budget. To complete the dinner, have a large side salad plus some mouth-watering muffins, sticky buns or dinner rolls. You don’t have to spend a lot of money to enjoy great local food. Do your research before heading out on any trip and you can have fun eating local all the way to your destination.

Lawrence Lam
Bath

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be typed or neatly printed. They 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: svargo@the-leader.com

STEUBEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

8 a.m.-12 p.m. • Sat., June 15, 2019

at the Erwin Transfer Station

622 South Hamilton St. • Painted Post, NY 14870

Latex paint WILL NOT be accepted at this event. For a list of acceptable materials, and for more information, go to www.hazmanusa.com/calendar/2019/06/15/steuben-county-erwin-transfer-station.

Free to attend. Registration is mandatory.

REGISTER ONLINE AT:

www.hazmanusa.com/event-registration/2019/06/15/steuben-county-erwin-transfer-station

If there are any questions regarding the event, please call (607)776-5876.

There's no place like

The Leader

HOME

Section

Follow The Yellow Brick Road to Happiness!

Buyer or Seller

We've Got What You Need!

The Leader

GateHouse Media
Partnered with
ThriveHive

INFORMATION STAFF BOX

The Leader (ISSN #10501983) The Leader is published daily at 34 West Pulteney 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 Pulteney Street, Corning, New York 14830.

The Leader Staff:

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

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

Editorial
Shawn Vargo | Executive Editor
936-4651, Ext. 361
svargo@the-leader.com

Postal Rates:
Steuben County
One month \$41.00
Three months \$123.00
Six months \$264.00
One year \$492.00
ELSEWHERE IN USA
One month \$51.00
Three months \$153.00
Six months \$306.00
One year \$612.00

Circulation
Nichole Harrison
Customer Service Manager
936-4651, Ext. 314

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

www.the-leader.com  

The price does not include additional charges up to \$3.00 for each premium edition. Premium editions are published to provide additional information and value. Rather than bill you up to \$3.00 for each premium edition, you agree that the length of your subscription will be shortened in proportion to the value of the number of premium editions published and delivered to you during your subscription period. The timing of the publication and delivery of premium editions is variable. There will be no more than 2 premium editions per month during a calendar year. Included in the delivery of the weekend Saturday-Sunday and Sunday subscription, is the delivery of the paper on Thanksgiving Day. There will be a \$2.00 surcharge for the Thanksgiving Edition. Rather than bill you up to \$2.00 for the Thanksgiving edition, you agree that the length of your subscription will be shortened in proportion to the value of the Thanksgiving edition and delivered to you during your subscription period. Subscribers have the option to have print copies held, maintain access to the digital portion of subscription with a Vacation Pack or may donate the newspaper value to our Newspaper in Education program. A fee of \$20 will be charged for all NSF checks. Print delivery available within the newspaper distribution area only. By submitting your address and/or email, you understand that you may receive promotional offers from Gatehouse Media and its related companies. You may opt out of receiving any such promotional offers at any time by calling 607-936-4651. The publisher reserves the right to change subscription rates during the term of the subscription. Subscription rate changes will change the duration of the subscription. For more information or to cancel your subscription please call 607-936-4651.