

# OPINION

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### COMMENTARY STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA

## 'We will remember our veterans'

Out of the countless words that have been spoken or written to capture Memorial Day's essence across the generations, I always return to former President Ronald Reagan on June 6, 1984, in his remarks commemorating the 40th Anniversary of D-Day at the Omaha Beach Memorial Cemetery, "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

Particularly striking for me are those repeated words, We will.

Indeed, so many of us will continue to remember and be proud this Memorial Day.

We will meet at cemeteries, parades and other ceremonies, large and small. We will

stand together in Corning and Ithaca, Hornell and Penn Yan, Dundee and Elmira, Horseheads and Hammondsport, and Torrey and Wayne and Watkins Glen, to name just a few. We will conduct observances at Woodlawn National Cemetery in Elmira, at the Naval Memorial in Watkins Glen, at the Veterans Memorial Park in Odessa, at Courthouse Park in Penn Yan – as well as at so many other monuments dedicated to veterans throughout the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions.

We will be proud that New York State is recognized as the "Birthplace of Memorial Day," which our nation has observed since the time of the Civil War. It is a time to reflect on the greatness of a nation built on the sacrifices of the soldiers who fought for the underlying dreams of their homeland: freedom and peace, compassion and decency, and democracy.

Spread throughout the Empire State Plaza in Albany, tucked here and there between the grandness of the State Capitol and other

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### A new direction for the Green Party

When we talk about refiguration as a new approach for the Green Party, we are describing various manifestations of the commons that combine social relationships and technology.

There are multiple examples of these new social relationships and technological forms. Product service systems are programs like car sharing and bike sharing that allow people to use products as a public service when they need them.

Community land trusts are shared ownership of properties in a community where each member of the community is a shareholding owner.

A library of things is a lending library of objects such as tools, appliances, camping equipment, sports equipment, musical instruments, and games. Timebanks are a method for people to contribute and use people's time to accomplish tasks without the need for money.

Net-metering is the individual ownership of solar panels and small wind turbines that in turn generate surplus power shared by all residents.

Vertical farms are indoor hydroponic or aquaponic greenhouses within multi-story buildings in order to grow food for all members of the community.

Fab labs are community workshops that use computer controlled manufacturing equipment such as 3D printers to create things in a local and sustainable way.

A basic income is the equal distribution of either a national or local currency to each resident in the community.

All of these examples are concrete practices that embody cooperation and the use of tools. And they can be working models that can be developed in the here and now to enact real change.

**Darin Robbins,**  
Corning

#### Clarification about Dominion

Fact: New Market had 30-month environmental review

I wish to clarify with more accurate details after others have falsely indicated that Dominion sought and gained permission to encroach in wetlands after the New Market Project was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and permitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

This opposition has been terribly misleading and consistently ignored the basic facts about New Market. The project had a very comprehensive and thorough 30-month

environmental review from various local, state and federal agencies, which they concluded by issuing an extensive list of permits and approved plans to ensure all ground water, stormwater and wetlands and waterbodies are protected.

And, based on public comment, we re-designed the project and eliminated a temporary stream crossing at one of our project locations. With that, we withdrew our application for a Section 401 Water Quality permit. Now, with approval of our Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures, we will be impacting just one waterbody for the entire project.

Project construction began in late March with the installation of silt fencing and other mitigation measures to protect wetlands and waterbodies on Dominion property where land will be disturbed, as required by the approved SWPPPs at each project location.

Full-time environmental inspectors are at each location to ensure we follow all agreed-upon and permitted procedures. Site visits from environmental inspectors who work for the FERC, and state or local agencies also typically occur to confirm wetlands/waterbodies are avoided and protected.

The New Market Project is being built by a New York contractor to help

meet the growing needs of National Grid customers in upstate and downstate New York.

We also expect to provide \$66 million in property tax revenue over a 15-year term, about 320 construction jobs and 10-12 permanent jobs as a result of this project, all in an environmentally safe manner to meet the growing energy needs of this region for years to come.

Stan Ossowski, is the manager of Gas Operations for Dominion Energy Transmission, which includes a natural gas pipeline system that runs throughout upstate New York.

**Frank Mack,**  
APR Communications Project Manager

#### CareFirst fundraiser a big success

Although we have been serving the Southern Tier since 1981, each spring the staff at CareFirst feel even more blessed to work and live in such a generous community.

Thanks to you, our annual fundraiser, Petal Pushers, has raised a record \$26,000 for local hospice programs and services!

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's sale; nearly 150 individuals sold over 15,000 geraniums for hospice this year!

SEE LETTERS, A9

**Crystal Cinemas 8**

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Baywatch (R) - [11:30, 2:00] 4:30, 7:00, 9:30  
 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales (PG13) - [1:00] 6:45  
 Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales 3D (PG13) - 4:00, 9:30  
 Alien Covenant (R) - [1:30] 4:10, 6:50, 9:30  
 The Boss Baby (PG) - [2:20] 4:35\*  
 The Fate of the Furious (PG13) [11:30] 6:50\*, 9:30  
 Captain Underpants (PG) - 5:00\*\*, 7:15\*\*  
 Snatched (R) - [12:30, 2:45] 5:00, 7:15, 9:30\*\*  
 Wonder Woman (PG13) - 9:30\*\*  
 Wonder Woman 3D (PG13) - 7:05\*\*  
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 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul (PG) [12:20, 2:40] 4:55, 7:10, 9:20  
 Guardians of the Galaxy: Vol. 2 (PG13) [12:30, 3:30] 6:30, 9:30

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Sat. 5/27	3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Sun. 5/28	3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Mon. 5/29 (Memorial Day)	3:30, 6:30
Tues. 5/30	*Classic Series
Wed. & Thurs.	6:30

**Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2** (LAST CHANCE TO SEE)  
 (Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista) Rated PG-13 (2 HRS 17 Min)

Fri. 5/26	6:15, 9:15
Sat. 5/27	3:15, 6:15, 9:15
Sun. 5/28	3:15, 6:15, 9:15
Mon. 5/29 (Memorial Day)	3:15, 6:15
Tues. 5/30	*Classic Series
Wed. & Thurs.	6:15

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SEE O'MARA, A6

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

**Editorial**  
 Shawn Vargo | Executive Editor  
 936-4651, Ext. 361  
[svargo@the-leader.com](mailto:svargo@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](mailto:hfalkey@the-leader.com)

**Business Office**  
 Becky Post | Administration  
 936-4651, Ext. 306  
[bpst@the-leader.com](mailto:bpst@the-leader.com)

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

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# Budget dismays families hit by addiction

By Steve Peoples and Carla K. Johnson  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — He slept next to his son's ashes most nights back when Kraig Moss met Donald Trump.

In a hall packed with Iowa voters, the presidential candidate looked the middle-aged truck driver visiting from upstate New York in the eye and vowed to fight the opioid crisis that killed his only son two years earlier.

"He promised me, in honor of my son, that he was going to combat the ongoing heroin epidemic," Moss said of the January 2016 interaction. "He got me hook, line and sinker."

Moss, an amateur musician, quickly sold enough possessions to fund a months-long tour of more than 40 Trump rallies, where he serenaded voters with pro-Trump songs. His guitar, and the ashes of his late 24-year-old son, Rob, were always close by.

"I had everything riding on the fact that he was going to make things better," Moss said. "He lied to me."

Trump's budget proposal,

released this week, would reduce funding for addiction treatment, research and prevention. The most damaging proposed cut, critics say, is the president's 10-year plan to shrink spending for Medicaid, which provides coverage to an estimated three in 10 adults with opioid addiction. Members of Congress have said they are unlikely to approve the budget as written.

The blueprint comes weeks after the president celebrated House passage of a Republican health care bill that would dramatically reduce Medicaid coverage, while allowing states to weaken a requirement that private insurance cover addiction treatment.

A Congressional Budget Office report on Wednesday said a patient's cost of substance abuse services could increase by thousands of dollars a year in states that chose to weaken coverage requirements.

Some see the moves as a painful betrayal of Americans whose families have been devastated by addiction and who trusted the president's repeated pledges



In this 2013 photo provided by Kraig Moss, Moss, left, poses with son, Rob, in their Owego, N.Y. home. In a hall packed with Iowa voters, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump looked Moss in the eye and vowed to fight the opioid crisis that killed his only son Rob two years earlier. But Trump released a federal budget proposal Tuesday that would cut insurance coverage for addiction treatment and funding for research and prevention. (MOSS FAMILY PHOTO VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

to make them a priority once in office. Trump's budget priorities focus on tax cuts, military spending and border security with massive cuts to programs for the poor and disabled.

Those most frustrated include parents who shared their stories with Trump.

"We want to help those who have become so badly addicted," Trump insisted

during a late-March "listening session" on opioid and drug abuse at the White House.

Attendees included Pam Garozzo, of Morrisville, Pennsylvania, whose 23-year-old son died of an overdose in December. Trump's budget requests, Garozzo said this week, run "counter to what we thought he was going to do."

## MANDATE

From Page A1

"That doesn't mean I don't want to see an increase in AIM or mandate relief."

City Manager Mark Ryckman said if the state would restore AIM funding cuts made several years ago, without inflation, it would lower the proposed 2017 city budget about two percent.

The 2017-18 state budget included \$1.1 billion in public education spending.

"I don't degrade the schools," Ryckman said. "It's just hard to believe (state officials) could find \$1.1 billion for the schools, but they can't find something for the cities. State aid is significant and it would be significant for us. It's just unfortunate that the governor has taken this position."

Councilman Frank Coccho, R-6, said like Ryckman he doesn't degrade the school districts for receiving their recent increased aid.

"But I do degrade the governor of this state

(Cuomo) and our two state representatives (Senator Tom O'Mara and Palmesano) for not increasing the city aid funding for seven years." Coccho said. "That to me is inexcusable."

Coccho said that is one major reason why he didn't vote for any of the three of them in the past state election.

"I wish to hell they would get together and do something for these communities that are being battered with unfunded mandates and not reinstating the AIM funding that

was cut several years ago," Coccho said.

"I can't agree with you more," said Mayor Rich Negri.

Palmesano said he and O'Mara would like to see AIM funding restored and certainly mandate relief.

"Mandate relief, I would love to see more done on that," Palmesano said. "O'Mara and I have been advocating that for years. The governor whole approach to local government is to vilify local government which is ridiculous."

## O'MARA

From Page A4

government buildings, are a number of lesser-known places that are among the capital's quieter yet most powerful attractions. There are memorials to the veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam. There is a Purple Heart Memorial, as well as places of tribute to women veterans and others. They harbor the spirit of Memorial Day and I encourage you to visit them if you ever have the chance [view photos and brief descriptions of many of these memorials online: <http://www.ogs.ny.gov/ESP/CT/Memorials/>.]

Because in remembering, we will always reaffirm our pride in this nation's military men and women.

Of course, we will always turn enduring thoughts and prayers to the young soldiers, the heroes, who have been lost.

We will honor our wounded warriors. We will salute all of the veterans living in New York State and the millions more across the nation. We will support the men and women serving in harm's way at this very moment. They are shining

examples of the bravery, courage and honor by which the American way of life has been built and has remained strong.

Because of our veterans, we will look into the eyes of young people this Memorial Day, the faces of the future, and have faith that they, too, will be instilled with the devotion to keep America great. To keep believing that the American way is a good, decent, worthwhile way.

In the end, perhaps this is the greatest justice for all of the missions flown, all of the foxholes dug, for the hills taken and the battles fought. Our soldiers — American soldiers — have made and will continue to make the ultimate sacrifice to keep America free, so that she can lead the way to a more free world.

The sacrifices of our soldiers will keep alive America's promise, so that people throughout the world will look to her for inspiration.

Our soldiers will keep America strong, so that other nations will draw courage from her strength.

For as long as we remember and keep our soldiers alive in our hearts, we will stand as we do — free in a land of opportunity and promise.



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Teens of Distinction Winners!



Enjoy a full breakfast and share in the celebration of our award winning students for 2017. These young community members make great contributions to the community every day; this ceremony will highlight their achievements and outline why they are Teens of Distinction.



The public is welcomed to attend this event.

Tickets may be purchased for \$30 each by calling Megan Cole or Heather Falkey at 607-936-4651 ext. 653 before Tuesday, May 30 at Noon.

# Flood of '72

The Agnes flood was the natural disaster that decimated much of the Crystal City.

At about 5:00AM June 23, 1972, after rain had fallen steadily for nearly 50 hours, the rising waters of the Chemung River broke through the dykes. The water rushed onto much of the city and neighboring villages and townships, and the devastation it caused was unforgettable.

## TELL US YOUR STORY...

Send us your story and pictures and it may be published in our 45th Anniversary Edition on Friday, June 23, 2017.



Please send your story (300 words or less) and pictures to [circulation@the-leader.com](mailto:circulation@the-leader.com) or mail to 34 W. Pulteney St., Corning, NY 14830. Office hours Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. **Deadline for stories is Thursday, June 15, 2017.** By submitting your story and pictures you give The Leader permission to publish.