

OPINION

LETTERS POLICY

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The art of cursive writing

TO THE EDITOR | The Education Industry and pseudo-intellectual educators have pushed more money for the arts in schools for a well-rounded education. They insist such art programs make the students smarter.

On the other hand, cursive writing is being banished from education. Brilliant educators see no need for that skill. This is an indicator of the lack of vision and foresight of those we give so much credit for intelligence.

Cursive writing is an art exercise for all students, whether pursuing art or not. It teaches control of the pen, pencil, brush and mind. Following the curves and adding one's own creativity to their style. A school in Georgia had students copying Islamic texts as training in calligraphy, yet cursive English is being dismissed as unnecessary.

Could it be the Education Industry's pushing of more money to arts programs is about the money; not about art? My observations show education leadership is more interested in money than art. They're more interested in money than education!

Cursive writing presents an inherent introduction to art with the potential to impart art skills to all students. Yet shortsighted and money-blinded educators cannot see beyond their greed, their green (money).

Gerald J. Furnkranz
Millport

Jill Stein would break status quo

TO THE EDITOR | As the year has progressed, we are seeing an election where more and more people are dissatisfied with the status quo. Business as usual maintained by a corporate controlled two-party system is no longer seen as viable.

With the Democrats and Republicans, we are faced with the two most unsatisfactory candidates for president. One is a corporate warmonger who only pays lip service to liberal social issues, while the other is a rich sociopathic embodiment of the corporate mentality. With these two candidates the marginalized people of this country who have suffered the loss of freedom due to income inequality, debt, and corporate personhood will be ignored.

Bernie Sanders should be thanked for bringing these issues to the forefront, but he too fell victim to the exclusion of the two-party system. There needs to be a new plan to talk about these issues outside of the failed attempt to reform the Democratic Party.

Jill Stein, running as the Green Party candidate, is that plan. Her campaign based on the Green New Deal and the values of peace, ecology, justice, and democracy is the only option left for those who want real change in our nation. The American Dream requires the completion of the promise set forth by the founders, taking their ideals seriously by fighting against the authoritarian nature of

corporatism, militarism, and fundamentalism. That means that the poor, minorities, women, and others who have been marginalized must have a seat at the table. And Jill Stein is the best way to achieve that goal.

Darin Robbins
Corning

Church launches SonShine Ministry

Boyd's Corners Bible Church wrapped up its inaugural SonShine Ministry on Thursday, July 28.

Throughout the month of July the ministry was held at two different sites in Cameron; Mondays and Wednesdays at the Cameron Fire Department; Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Cameron Valley Estates mobile home park.

BCBC partnered with the Addison Central School food services department to provide free breakfast and lunch for all youth under the age of 18 through the USDA Summer Lunch program. Between meals, church members facilitated games and a daily Bible lesson for kids that wanted to participate. Over three hundred meals were served during the course of the ministry!

Because this was the first time the church offered this ministry, there were a great deal of "unknowns" regarding the outcome of the program. Despite this, the program was hugely successful and plans will be developed later this year to expand the ministry to other areas of the community next summer. There were many individuals involved with different components of the program, from food preparation to regulatory compliance and site logistics.

Boyd's Corners Bible Church wishes to acknowledge our appreciation to the following individuals: Pam Drumm, GST BOCES Summer Lunch coordinator; Julie Mitchell, Norma Yarka and Jill Barker, ACS Food Services; Tammy Hoad, Pam Kerr and Dale Woodworth, Cameron Volunteer Fire Department; Sara Smith and Rick O'Brien, Cameron Valley Estates; and Sam Pollinger, NYS Department of Health.

Boyd's Corners Bible Church is an independent, nondenominational, fundamental bible church located at 4740 County Route 21, Jasper. For more information about the church or its ministries, call 792-3581 e-mail BoydscornersBC@Frontier.com.

Pastor Terry Moore
Boyd's Corners Bible Church

Choose principles over your party

TO THE EDITOR | Attending the Republican National Convention, Tom Reed called the trip a good investment for the 23rd District and said he was satisfied with the direction of the Republican Party.

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COLUMN

Taking responsibility in a throw-away society

It was great to read recently that Steuben County intends to apply for a grant under a new state program, which I was grateful to help lead the effort to establish as part of this year's state budget, that's allocating \$3 million in state funding through the state Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to help localities offset the ever-rising costs of collecting and recycling electronic wastes.

Steuben County, unlike many other localities, allows residents to dispose of E-waste (television sets, computer monitors and the like) free of charge at the county landfill and its three transfer stations. But it's become an increasingly expensive undertaking, which is why this new grant program is a particularly important short-term, local cost-relief action. In Steuben County's case, it will allow the county to continue providing the recycling service free of charge - which is great news for local taxpayers and the local environment.

"What we're doing that is different than many places is we don't charge a fee because we're afraid people will take the electronics and throw them out by a roadside," said Steuben County Department of Public Works Commissioner Vince Spagnoletti, noting how the assistance helps the county financially and environmentally. "This grant will really make this cost workable. So we can keep taking these CRT's and electronics at no charge." Great work by Steuben County.



STATE SEN. TOM O'MARA

And another nod to this year's action to strengthen and fully fund the EPF which, as I've stressed repeatedly in my role as chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, represents one of the strongest actions we've ever taken in New York government to benefit local economies, environments and taxpayers. Here's another example. The recycling of E-waste has become extremely burdensome and costly for local governments and property taxpayers.

New York State Association of Counties Executive Director Stephen J. Acquario has said, "Many counties end up absorbing the costs of recycling the electronic waste disposed of by their residents. This reimbursement will provide much needed financial support to our counties for the responsible collection and recycling of electronic waste."

So it's an action that makes economic, fiscal and environmental sense for local communities, local government, local taxpayers, and local economies. But this is a temporary fix. Real reform to the E-waste law is needed to ensure that manufacturers of electronic products are sufficiently covering the full cost of recycling, particularly in

regard to the CRT's entering the waste stream. I'll continue pushing this reform, along with establishing a Paint Stewardship Program, to relieve the burden on municipalities for these important but costly recycling programs. We need to address the challenge on a long-term basis through statutory reform.

Altogether, however, it's another example of how the EPF is a key source of state aid assisting local communities and it's why so many environmental conservation and protection advocates, who have been fighting for a fully funded EPF for years, are hailing this year's action as a great victory. Studies have shown, for example, that for every dollar of EPF funds invested in land and water protection, the state and localities get back seven dollars in economic benefits. In short, it makes great environmental and economic sense.

On the EPF, the Business Council of New York states, "The programs contained in the EPF are incredibly diverse and touch every New Yorker's life in some manner through land conservation, urban forestry, sustainable waterfront planning, agricultural sustainability, pollution prevention programs and more. The Business Council was pleased to join with nearly 150 organizations from every corner of New York in advocating for this bold action."

It will be an enduring achievement for future generations of New Yorkers and communities. It will assist local parks, trails and waterfronts; help step up

the fight against invasive species; enhance farmland conservation; encourage smart growth communities, including renewable energy initiatives; boost farm-to-school strategies to connect local schools to local farmers; and restore more than \$9 million for critical agricultural program cuts proposed by Governor Cuomo that would have impacted 30 different programs.

The new E-waste Grant Program will be administered through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Household Hazardous Waste State Assistance Program. Municipalities will be eligible for reimbursement of up to 50 percent of eligible expenses incurred for collection and recycling of e-waste between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

Application materials, guidance documents, and important information for Electronic Waste Assistance Grants are available on the DEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8778.html>. Applications for funding will be accepted from October 3 to October 31, 2016.

For questions about E-Waste Assistance Grants, email RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov or contact the Department of Environmental Conservation at 518-402-8678.

— 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.

ANOTHER VIEW



COLUMN

A Whingblinger of an invitation

Are you looking to help our community thrive culturally? The Corning-Painted Post Historical Society invites you to attend and help us present our largest event, the Whingblinger Fall Heritage Festival, Sept. 24, Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Heritage Village of the Southern Finger Lakes, 73 W. Pulteney St., Corning. We are looking for volunteers, arts and crafts demonstrators, food producers, and sponsors.

This fun family adventure attracts 500 visitors.

The Whingblinger features old time music, entertainment, arts and crafts demonstrations, fundraiser raffles (thank you Corning Area Chamber of Commerce, Dippity Do Dahs, Radisson Hotel, and Patterson Inn), bake sale, country store, and lunch. We will have tents, to run rain or shine. All of our Heritage Village buildings will be open to tour.

Our call for artists and craft artisans is for pre-1925 skills. There is no exhibitor fee. Exhibitors must have educational components to their displays

and demonstrations. Or, do you have farm animals? We are looking for a 'Black Beauty' for driving carriage demonstrations.

Would you like to help us at the Whingblinger? Volunteers sign up for 3-hour shifts. We value all our volunteers. Annually, 5,000 people visit us plus our branch museum, Painted Post-Erwin Museum at the Depot, 277 Steuben St., Painted Post.

Do you just love this area and want to help us continue our educational mission? Whingblinger sponsorship

opportunities range from \$25 to \$500. Event admission is \$5, free for CPPHS members plus 16 and under. Heritage Village's key attraction is our 1796 Benjamin Patterson Inn. It is Corning's oldest building. We want to keep it for many more generations to enjoy.

For information about our Whingblinger, go to www.HeritageVillageSFL.org, Special Events.

— Sheri and Leon Golder, Board Members, Corning-Painted Post Historical Society

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