

FINGER LAKES TIMES

PAUL M. BARRETT
Publisher

MICHAEL J. CUTILLO
Executive Editor

CHUCK SCHADING
Managing Editor

MARY K. SCHOONOVER
Chief Copy Editor

"The First Amendment ensures that all points of view may be heard; it does not ensure that all points of view are equally likely to prevail."

— **Michael McConnell, U.S. appellate judge, 2006**
Community Media Group

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support of casino about money with no regard to people

To the Editor:
As many of you know I filed a lawsuit on behalf of the residents in Tyre back in March. Until this point my arguments have been centered on facts and the law, not my personal beliefs. However, after reading the letter to the editor by Tyre Town Supervisor Ronald McGreevy published in the *Finger Lakes Times* on Oct. 19, I have changed my position.

I first decided to take on this case because I believed in the cause. And I still believe the Town Board in Tyre took many actions that were illegal. The residents of Tyre voted back in November 2013 (not including the Amish and Mennonites who adamantly oppose a casino), and they rejected the casino gaming amendment or prop 1.

The Town Board in Tyre has done a deplorable job up to this point and has continuously misrepresented its residents. Three members of the current five-member board, including Town Supervisor Ronald McGreevy, were elected by the same voters who said "NO" to any new casinos in the state. Now they give their support to a casino in the town of Tyre, clearly misrepresenting the very people they were elected to represent. This level of misrepresentation is disgraceful, and these elected representatives should not be rewarded for selling out their town.

This is not about what Seneca County wants, or what the casual gambler in Geneva or Lyons wants; this is about what the residents of Tyre want. The fate of Tyre for better or for worse should be decided by the people who live there. These people did not move to Tyre for entertainment or for tax breaks. They do not mind paying higher taxes to live in Tyre as it is now. Perhaps a quote from the town's own website describes it best: "The Town of Tyre, a place of homes, fields, marshes, and geese. The community strives to maintain its rural flavor as the world passes by along the NYS Thruway." If this casino were built there would no longer be a "rural flavor" and the world would not be passing by on the Thruway, but 9,000 people a day would be flooding into this 900-person town. To even consider destroying this community for money is shameful.

Supervisor McGreevy's letter spoke to all of the promised tax benefits to the town and also about the new offices which could be built with that money. Not once did I see any mention of what the people wanted. With all due respect Mr. McGreevy, you were not elected to bring money into the town — you

were elected to represent the people. Unfortunately Mr. McGreevy, you and the rest of the Town Board have utterly failed to do so.

The fact that the Town Board is even considering a proposal from a company such as Wilmorite is terrifying. Just a simple Google search of the terms "corruption" and "Wilmorite" will yield dozens of articles documenting a pattern of illegal and unseemly behavior. The Tyre Town Board was presented with over 50 pages of articles detailing Wilmorite's unsavory and questionable business practices in attempts to build casinos nationwide; such as creating a phony Indian tribe in California, funding Native American lawsuits against poor farmers in Illinois, and Wilmorite officers being kicked out of Congressman Chris Shay's office in an attempt to influence legislation. This company is devoid of integrity and has an abhorrent reputation.

We can only hope that the state awards a gaming license to one of the proposals in the actual Southern Tier, which can draw in out-of-state revenue, and where the people actually want it.

MARIO J. FRATTO
Geneva

Finger Lakes doesn't need 'rotten' hydrofracking

To the Editor:
This is why we trust the gas industry and state regulators at our peril!

It was reported Oct. 9 by Reuters News that frackers in California illegally injected "about three billion gallons" of toxic fracking wastewater into California's Central Valley.

"The state Water Board also said that 19 more injection wells may have also contaminated sensitive, protected aquifers, while dozens more wells have been the source of wastewater dumped into aquifers of unknown quality."

California's Central Valley, the largest food- and wine-producing area in the United States, is also currently experiencing an unprecedented drought, making their precious aquifers all the more valuable (and vulnerable) — but none of that prevented this purposely destructive and illegal dumping. Three billion gallons of toxic waste did not accidentally ooze from one rotten apple; it came from the uncaring policy of a rotten barrel.

We do not need this rotten industry rolling its barrels (or trucks) into the Finger Lakes.

STEVE COFFMAN
Dundee



Manning top TD thrower

It seems so long ago — actually, it was just a few years back — that it appeared Peyton Manning's football playing days were over, the result of numerous surgeries. His career reborn through rehab and hard work, today the Denver Broncos' quarterback is the NFL's all-time leader in touchdown passes.



Rowdy pumpkin party

A community Pumpkin Festival in Keene, N.H., turned rowdy and destructive Saturday night with police in riot gear having to dispense tear gas and pepper spray. Some of the blame was directed at Keene State College students. Police made dozens of arrests.

Other side of chicken issue

Since Mr. Henderson was given one-third of a page in a Sunday Insight section on Oct. 12 as a "guest appearance," I would like to present the opposing view.

I grew up on State Street. It was a proud neighborhood then and still is to this day. Geneva citizens take pride in their houses and properties.

There is no question that Mr. Henderson and his group need Zoning Board approval for setbacks and other legal regulations per Judge Aronson. He seems to think they are above the law. When told to stop by city officials, he kept building.

Henderson talks about generations ago and hundreds of years ago in justifying his endeavor. Back then, in the '30s, '40s and '50s, that area was a significant part of Geneva's industrial complex. All the manufacturing businesses are now gone — the Geneva Foundry and the canning factory are not on the same par as chicken coops or solar panels.

His reason for the chickens are 1) to share eggs, 2) to educate children? Give me a break. If any member of his group can't afford eggs, I will personally take them to Ontario County Social Services and get them help. And for your children's education, we live in a very rural area — visit a farm.

Henderson also states he knows of chickens being kept illegally in Geneva, but it eventually is OK to break the law if it coincides with his position.

He also wants to "engage the ignorance" of Genevans who oppose his methods. Thank God he came along to educate us baboons.

The *Finger Lakes Times* came out and openly supported Henderson, giving him a Sunday "guest appearance" so he could spout his prop-

ART DECARO

Guest Appearance

aganda. Also, last week, the *Times* had a picture of T-shirts he's selling, the price, their website. Come on *Times*, let's be fair and balanced.

On Oct. 16, in a letter to the editor, Mr. Reilly states the city is harassing the chicken people on a whim. I say maybe the Council members are trying to obey their oath of office — to uphold Geneva's charter.

To Geneva's Zoning Board: Geneva charter 350.2, Authority and Purpose — to promote public health, safety and welfare and the most desirable use of and to *conserve* the value of buildings and enhance the values of land and the *aesthetic* aspects throughout the city. (This project doesn't pass *any* of these requirements — don't make State Street a dumping ground.)

To our Council: Rezone the area to residential and grandfather the industries which are still in the area (I can't think of one) and let's get back to solving Geneva's serious problems — unemployment, only 50 percent of Genevans paying taxes, safety of our streets and true economic development. Patronage has no place in Geneva at the expense of ANY neighborhood — (State is Great) without illegal chickens and solar panels.

Art DeCaro lives on William Street now but is formerly of 30 State St. and proud of it.

More oversight need from Congress

Another federal agency is under fire, this time it is the CDC.

When Thomas Eric Duncan went to Dallas Presbyterian Hospital he was prescribed antibiotics, told to take Tylenol for his pain and sent home. Two days later he was admitted to the hospital, this time correctly diagnosed as suffering from Ebola. The press and members of Congress have blamed this on lack of leadership on the part of the CDC.

I think the criticism is misplaced.

The CDC can come up with procedures and protocols and even offer training, but the simple truth is that the CDC cannot force any institution to adapt the procedures and training; it is up to each individual hospital. The CDC has no way to force anyone to do anything. Companies, even hospitals, do not like training. It takes their people away from their primary duties and it is expensive. Training is also an ongoing effort; imagine learning to drive a car and then not driving it again for a year! Skills need to be kept up to date.

This blame game reminds me of the problems in the VA that were exposed earlier this year. Some of the management in the VA was "cooking the books," reporting patients being seen in a timely manner when the truth was they were not being seen until months later. This deception allowed the managers to qualify for year-end bonuses. When it was all over, the VA secretary and several top administrators had resigned and the Congress had to vote a \$12 billion supplement to the VA budget.

The problem I had at the time of the hearings and even now was that Congress seemed blissfully unaware that anything was wrong until it all blew up. There are 153 hospitals in the system and almost a quarter of them are under investigation. How did this stay so quiet so long?

Every congressman, and everyone that would be a congressman, will tell you about the oversight function the Congress has and how they will use it to improve service and guard our tax dollars. This is not a part of the Constitution, it is an implied power. In other words, years ago the Congress decided that as long they were passing laws and pay-

TOM MARSH

On the Other Hand



ing the bills that keep the country running, they had the right to poke around and make sure that the laws were working and the bills were being paid. That was a good decision; someone needs to keep an eye on things and who better than the elected representatives of the people? The system has worked well in the past, in fact during World War II an obscure senator from Missouri by the name of Truman first came to national attention by exposing fraud by defense contractors.

Today the system is less effective because many in Congress don't seem interested. The big committees such as Ways and Means, Banking, and Armed Services are popular because members get on TV often and are in a position to meet private sector big donors. The small committees, like the VA and Indian Affairs, have limited budgets and chances are will not meet many important people.

Another problem is that Congress does not work "normal" hours. Most of us work about 240 days a year, last year Congress worked 159. In fact in the last decade the most they worked was 175, and in 2006 they worked a total of 101 days! When I say, "worked" I mean that the body was in session, but sadly not all members are there for every day. It is widely reported that many in Congress arrive in Washington late Monday night and leave early on Friday.

I think that many in the political world are so busy running for re-election that they have forgotten what it is they were elected to do.

Tom Marsh is a native of Geneva and a graduate of DeSales High School and SUNY Alfred. He is retired from Goulds Pumps and interested in local politics. His "On the Other Hand" appears every other Monday. He can be reached at TomSMarsh@outlook.com.

Make yourself heard

Here are the local addresses, phone numbers and websites of federal and state representatives who serve the Times' readership area. The best way to contact representatives is by going to their individual websites and clicking on Contact for further directions.

President

Barack Obama
Democrat
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Phone: (202) 456-1111
Fax: (202) 456-2461
Website: www.whitehouse.gov/contact

U.S. Senate

Charles E. Schumer
Democrat
Website: http://schumer.senate.gov

100 State St., Room 3040
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: (585) 263-5866
Fax: (585) 263-3173

Kirsten Gillibrand
Democrat
Website: www.gillibrand.senate.gov

100 State St., Room 4195
Rochester, NY 14614
Phone: (585) 263-6250
Fax: (585) 263-6247

Governor

Andrew Cuomo
Democrat
State Capital
Albany NY 12224
Phone: (518) 474-8390
Website: www.state.ny.us/governor

House of Representatives

Tom Reed
23rd Congressional District
Republican
433 Exchange St. Geneva, NY 14456
Phone: 759-5229
Fax: 325-4045
1504 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3161
Fax: (202) 226-6599
Website: reed.house.gov
Includes Yates County, Seneca County, eastern Ontario County (including

Geneva) and much of the Southern Tier.

State Senate

Tom O'Mara
58th State Senate District
Republican
105 E. Steuben St.
Bath, NY 14810
Phone: (607) 776-3201
Fax: (607) 776-5185
Website: www.nyssenate.gov/senator/thomas-f-omara
Includes Yates, Steuben, Schuyler and Chemung counties, plus part of Tompkins County.

Michael F. Nozzolio
54th State Senate District
Republican
119 Fall St.
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
Phone: (888) 568-9816
Fax: 568-2090
Website: www.senatornozzolio.com
Includes all of Seneca and Wayne counties, part of Ontario County (including Geneva and Canandaigua) and part of Cayuga County.

State Assembly

Robert C. Oaks
130th Assembly District
Republican
10 Leach Road
Lyons, NY 14489
Phone: 946-5166
E-mail: oaksr@assembly.state.ny.us
Includes all of Wayne County and part of Cayuga County.

assembly.state.ny.us
Includes Ontario County and Varick and north in Seneca County

Philip Palmesano
132nd Assembly District
Republican
105 E. Steuben St.
Bath, NY 14810
Phone: (607) 776-9691
E-mail: palmesanop@assembly.state.ny.us
Includes Yates and Schuyler counties, Romulus and south in Seneca County and parts of Steuben and Chemung counties.

Brian M. Kolb

131st Assembly District
Republican
607 W. Washington St.
Suite 2
Geneva, NY 14456
Phone: 781-2030
E-mail: kolbb@

Email your letters!

Letters to the Editor and other opinion page content should be sent to opinion@fittimes.com.