

FINGER LAKES TIMES

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"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



'Wild' read

The Geneva Reads/Community Read program kicks off tomorrow, and this year's book may be one of the most powerful in the program's history, the 1996 best-seller that was turned into a movie in 2007, "Into the Wild."



What's up, doc?

We'll bet more doctors will be sanitizing their stethoscopes after a new study published by the "Mayo Clinic Proceedings" last week suggested that stethoscopes were among the most germ- and bacteria-infested instruments in a doctor's office.

DAVIS

Area needs agriculture, manufacturing and tourism to survive

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inconvenience to those like myself who live north of here. Quite honestly the only dangerous part of the traffic pattern is the yield sign going south toward the outlet mall.

Contrary to prior discussions, people coming from the east and west will take routes 5&20, 318, 31,104 and the Thruway, not back roads. I travel back roads throughout New York state, and I have yet to see casino traffic jams on the country roads in Farmington or Verona. They just don't happen.

• Casinos don't destroy families

I have no doubt that *gambling* destroys some families, but *casinos* don't. Most people from this area of New York state will be quick to tell you that "guns don't kill people, people kill people." Why don't they feel the same way about a casino?

The truth is families are destroyed or weakened for many reasons, one of which is picking up and moving across country in search of work or opportunity. I would hazard to guess many of you have watched friends and loved ones leave this area for better opportunities. I would bet that number is far greater than those that have had to deal with a gambling addiction.

Besides, if we are so against gambling how will the Magee Fire Department raise money? Thank God for these brave men and women, but I see just as many little old ladies spending their rent money there on Saturday bingo as I do at the racino. Whether you get tax money from the casino or run bingo night, gambling money is gambling money isn't it? Our real problem is we have more "For Sale"

signs than "CasiNO" signs in residents' front lawns, and that hurts everyone's family.

• Casinos don't hurt local business

An October 2013 report actually shows the massive economic impact The Turning Stone has had on the local economy there. This data can be found at www.oneidaindiannation.com/inthecommunity/Oneida-Nation-Makes-Notable-Impact-On-Local-Economy-226001621.html. This recent data doesn't take into account that the Oneidas don't pay a 10 percent casino tax to Verona, which a Tyre casino would, possibly lowering property taxes. Not to mention the thousands of jobs it would create.

Full disclosure: My name is Mike Davis and I am the president of the Finger Lakes Building Trades and the business manager for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 840. I live 3 1/2 miles north of the purposed casino site and I am all for it. I believe the construction and long-term jobs it will bring will be a huge benefit to an area that continues to lose industry.

Though I sympathize with the residents immediately affected by this project, I don't foresee the negative impact they are promoting. This column doesn't even touch on the positive aspects a casino may bring. Don't rely on others, please do your own homework. Embrace your future and realize that our area depends on all three: agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

Mike Davis is president of Finger Lakes Building Trades and business manager of IBEW Local 840. He lives 3 1/2 miles north of the purposed casino site in the town of Galen.

WILL

GOP may have found a presidential template for 2016

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the camera?" When he was asked at a campaign stop last week about impeaching Obama, he explained earnestly that senators are the jurors in an impeachment trial and Democrats are a Senate majority. It was an answer technically correct but politically inept because it could elicit from hostile media a headline such as "Buck ponders Obama impeachment." In 2010, Buck's inability to deflect baiting questions with dusty answers led him, on national television, to discuss homosexuality, comparing it to alcoholism.

On Wednesday, the hidden — but inferable — hand of the national GOP shuffled Colorado's political deck. Second-term Republican Rep. Cory Gardner, 39, who represents the sprawling district that includes the eastern half of the state and where Mitt Romney won 59 percent of the vote, will seek and probably win the Republican Senate nomination. Buck, who lives in the district, will seek and probably win the nomination for Gardner's House seat.

This minutet demonstrates that the national GOP is becoming more energetic about influencing state parties' candidate selections. In 2010 and 2012, weak candidates here and in Delaware, Missouri, Indiana and Nevada helped prevent Republicans from winning Senate control.

A recent Quinnipiac poll, which showed Udall only narrowly leading Buck (45-42), recorded Obama's approval in Colorado at 37 percent. Sixty percent of Coloradans oppose

Obamacare. Gardner, who has a solid conservative voting record but does not have a serrated edge, is suited to purple Colorado.

In a forthcoming issue of The National Interest, Henry Olsen of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington explains why Republicans rarely nominate the most conservative presidential candidate. Olsen says there are four kinds of Republican voters: moderates, somewhat conservatives, evangelicals and very conservative, secular voters. The somewhat conservatives are the largest cohort, about 35 percent to 40 percent of the national GOP. And, Olsen says, "they always back the winner": Exit polls "from virtually any state caucus or primary since 1996" show "the winner received a plurality of or ran roughly even among the somewhat conservative voters." They "are found in similar proportions in every state," unlike evangelicals who are found disproportionately in Southern and border states. In presidential years, moderates are the second-largest group, approximately 25 percent to 30 percent of all GOP voters — even including 31 percent to 39 percent in South Carolina since 1996.

More than 80 percent of Colorado voters, many of them independents, live on the Front Range, from Fort Collins to Denver to Pueblo. Last week, the national GOP may have found a template for making 2014 more rewarding and 2016, when its presidential nominee must win some blue and purple states, less daunting.

George Will's email address is georgewill@washpost.com.

What's on your mind?

Mail: Letters to the Editor, Finger Lakes Times, P.O. Box 393, Geneva 14456

E-mail to: opinion@fltimes.com or go to the letters link at www.fltimes.com

Fax: 789-4077

Guidelines: Include your full name, address and daytime telephone number. Submissions should not exceed 400 words. We edit for length and clarity.

DEER

Once a blessing for military, now for all of us

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of combined military heart, mind and soul.

The white deer have been protected by the same love of land and country that began once they first appeared and resonated in the hearts of commanders and staff alike. They were and still are a precious treasure that have found home and solace regionally for 65 years.

And now they need our help. The Depot land has been overseen by the Army, whose presence will soon dissipate, assuredly causing the site to go into ruin and the natural history of the land and animal resources to disperse. However, there is a way to protect this precious resource, its history and its inhabitants.

Seneca White Deer, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization whose volunteers have a mission to "protect the unique natural resources of the former Depot, not only the white deer, but the ospreys, turkeys, songbirds and other wildlife ... and the habitat that supports them" as well as to "preserve six decades of military history." Time is of the essence to help preserve this unique environment, the history it holds and the wildlife within.

Visit them at www.senecawhitedeer.org or contact them at 4780 Deuel Road, Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424; email whitebuck47@yahoo.com. Please find it in your heart to send a

donation, send a letter of support, or help with your time and talents. All donations are tax-deductible. Your voice needs to be heard and soon.

We all have had loved ones who have served in one or more of these many aforementioned military efforts. Military that have recognized the rare and magnificent beauty of the white deer and held them in great regard and I daresay even blessing our servicemen and women with that once-in-a-lifetime, awe-inspiring moment that perhaps kept them going in a time of need. Isn't it time we gave back to this habitat and the rare species within with our support for preservation by doing whatever we can?

We are all held accountable to uphold and protect these natural resources. Many of us native to the Finger Lakes have grown up with the endearing presence of this habitat. Allowing it to seep away from us now would be a travesty. Please help. Voice your support for conservation. Your heart and the environment — as well as the white deer — will thank you.

Dee Calvasina is a Geneva native who has a heart for the Finger Lakes region. A freelance writer and LPN, she currently lives in Broome County where she works in vascular surgery. Her health & fitness and alternative medicine articles have been published in numerous national and regional magazines.

Flaum to organize, coordinate and lobby for gaming and hospitality development in Monroe County.

The Wayne County Board of Supervisors follows Genesee, Niagara, Wyoming, Orleans and Schuyler counties as the sixth county to formally oppose the expansion of gambling in Monroe County.

The count now stands at four neighboring counties and six total county organizations that have passed resolutions. We are encouraged that these counties have come together to oppose a new facility in Monroe County knowing what an adverse effect it will have on their community and on the established gaming facilities in the area. WROTB's municipalities have a vested financial interest in the success of our operations, and we will continue to work cooperatively with each of them to oppose this expansion.

Owned and operated by 15 Western New York counties and the cities of Rochester and Buffalo, Western Regional OTB is a public benefit corporation with headquarters in Batavia. WROTB owns and operates 31 branches, as well as Batavia Downs Gaming, a standard bred racetrack and gaming facility.

MICHAEL NOLAN
Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Office of WROTB

LETTERS

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know that if my dogs wandered off I would be so very happy to find them, but then, I do love my dogs as if they were my children.

So please mister, before you do what you did on Wednesday, Feb. 19 again, let your dog go and hopefully it will find a loving home to live in because yours cannot be and he deserves to have love not your abuse.

KIMBERLY HANES
Waterloo

Western OTB thanks Wayne Board of Supervisors

To the Editor:
Representatives from the Western Regional Off-Track Betting Corporation would like to thank the Wayne County Board of Supervisors for passing a resolution opposing any plan by the Seneca Nation of Indians to build a tax-free, Las Vegas-style gambling facility in Monroe County. The Seneca Nation previously announced that it had hired Rochester-area developer David

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

Governor

Andrew Cuomo

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

U.S. Senate

Charles E. Schumer

Democrat
Building
Washington D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-6542
Fax: 202-228-3027

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

Kirsten Gillibrand

Democrat
Building
Website:
www.gillibrand.senate.gov

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

478 Russell
Washington, DC 20510
Tel. (202) 224-4451
Fax (202) 228-0282

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.

Dan Maffei

24th Congressional District
Democrat
24 State St. Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: 253-4176
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3701
Website: maffei.house.gov
Includes all of Wayne County and the Syracuse area.

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.nysenate.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: palmesano@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@assembly.state.ny.us

E-mail your letters!

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