

C-PP board moves forward with new leader

THE ISSUE | Tom Tammaro is named Corning-Painted Post school board president.

OUR OPINION | Tammaro and Ginalski form a new team to pitch a new plan to residents on fixing the district's aging schools.

The change in leadership on the Corning-Painted Post school board demonstrates the new approach being taken to address the lingering problems in the district.

Tom Tammaro is the new frontman for the school board having been named president Wednesday to succeed Bill Carlson who led the board for four years.

Tammaro's selection continues a trend of new district leadership following Mike Ginalski being named superintendent last year. Tammaro has been on the board for only one year, which means he has no ties to previous administrations that have, at times, been unpopular.

Tammaro is a retired school teacher who knows the education system. More of an asset, however, is his political experience having served 15 years as the Erwin town supervisor at a time when the town went through large-scale development and improvement.

Drawing on that history should be useful in finally finding a workable plan to the decade-old problem of

fixing some of the district's aging schools and closing others. Together with Ginalski, they are the new blood now responsible for finding the right answers.

In with the new also extends to the approach the school board is taking in devising a facilities improvement plan that will be approved at the ballot box. The school board, a special committee it created, and the district staff set out earlier this year to craft a plan that maximized state aid, thereby minimizing the impact on local taxes.

Although previous facilities plans had made the effect on school taxes a priority, they were not the driving force behind any building strategy. Now, the school board is considering three proposals that have no impact on local taxes.

Whatever proposal is selected by the school board, it'll be up to district officials to then sell the idea to residents. Having fresh pitchmen like Ginalski and Tammaro may make the difference.

NATIONAL VIEW | SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Strengthen SEC to deter next Madoff

With a 150-year prison sentence on Monday, Bernard Madoff got what he had coming to him – and certainly more than enough to guarantee that the 71-year-old master swindler will die in prison, not in the Hamptons.

U.S. District Judge Denny Chin said the maximum penalty for Madoff's financial crimes, which he called "evil" and "staggering," was intended to send a message. But a stiff sentence, while satisfying, is no substitute for vigilant regulators as a deterrent to the Ponzi schemes that Madoff created. Strengthening the Securities and Exchange Commission – replacing its leadership and increasing funding – must be a priority for Congress and President Barack Obama as they look to purge fraud and rein in excess that threatened the nation's financial system.

Madoff was an example of a big shot who appeared to be too big to investigate. The SEC passed on serious investigations of Madoff despite what the agency's

inspector general acknowledges were serious and credible allegations, over several years, of trouble. The SEC should have been suspicious of the unbroken 10 percent-plus annual returns that Madoff guaranteed, even in hard times, and of the tiny, unknown auditing firm that Madoff, who reported \$17 billion in assets, employed.

The federal government estimates that Madoff's pyramid fraud, in which he paid off earlier investors with newer investors' money, totaled \$65 billion, although it will take years to sort it all out. So far only he and his accountant face criminal charges, although others, including executives at brokerage firms he favored, may have been in on the game. What's clear is that he duped not only venerable banks, universities, union pension funds and the rich and famous, but also hundreds of small-time investors. For those who lost their homes, their life's savings and their security, Madoff's life sentence is cold comfort.

LETTERS POLICY | THE LEADER

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ARTIST'S VIEW



COMMENTARY | DAVID YARNOLD

Energy independence is way to go

On Independence Day, 2009, America finds its economic future tied to the whims of unstable, and sometimes, hostile foreign powers who control our energy supply. Although we consume 25 percent of the world's oil, we possess only three percent of the world's reserves. In April alone, we imported 375 million barrels of oil, at a cost of \$18.6 billion. This 4th of July, what better way to celebrate America's birthday than to declare energy independence and seize control of our economic destiny? The Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, just passed by the House of Representatives, offers America an unprecedented path forward. In addition to weaning us off foreign oil, the bill will also create a flood of new jobs as we convert our economy to clean energy.

How? The Act will put a cap, or ceiling, on carbon pollution, the greenhouse gas that causes global warming, generating demand for cleaner energy sources and the jobs needed to make them. A single wind turbine, for example, contains 250 tons of steel and 8,000 parts, from ball bearings and electronic controls to gearboxes. Jobs manufacturing those parts can be created right here in America, especially in our

Midwestern manufacturing heartland. If we do this right, we can export these technologies to China and the rest of the world.

Opponents of the Clean Energy and Security Act many of them so stuck in the past that they don't even acknowledge the scientific reality of global warming are trying to bully consumers with the same old solution-free scare tactics. They warn of outrageous increases in energy costs based on distortions and discredited studies. Both the EPA and the Congressional budget office say that, under the Act, the average household will pay about 12 cents more a day the cost of brewing a pot of coffee. That's nothing next to the costs of doing nothing, which would be beyond calculation.

Global climate change is a national security issue not only because of economic threats, but also because it would create a more unstable world. Scientists say that global climate change will lead to severe droughts, more intense storms, and shifting agricultural patterns all factors that can lead to economic upheaval and disruption, particularly in developing countries.

Climate change is what people who study national security call a "threat multiplier," meaning it will

intensify problems that already threaten us. We'll see more crop failures, famine, and disease, leading to mass migrations of people across borders, and more frequent wars over natural resources like water. To make matters worse, much of this will happen in regions already on the brink. In volatile nations, governments will be more likely to fail, and extremism and terrorism could well fill the void.

In a recent report, eleven retired U.S. admirals and generals cited that growing instability from climate change is leading to greater U.S. military operations abroad. General Gordon Sullivan, former Chief of Staff of the United States Army, has said, "We have to act now (on global climate change) if we are to avoid the worst effects." This Fourth of July, let's have a vote on energy independence that would make our Founders proud. It's up to the Senate now to pass the Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009. And your voice matters. Senators can be found at <http://www.senate.gov/general/contact> – in information/senators – cfm.cfm.

■ David Yarnold is executive director of the Environmental Defense Fund (www.edf.org). He can be reached at dyarnold@edf.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Perham unfair to Farrand

TO THE EDITOR | After reading the article in *The Leader*, I feel that I need to question the information that Mary Perham has concerning Dan Farrand's connection to District 10. I don't know why anyone should be surprised by her article because she is very negative when it comes to reporting anything that Farrand does.

She does have the part right about him graduating from Canisteo in 1974, but she did not tell about the amount of time he spent during his childhood and that upon his completion of college in 1982, he built a home on the family land in Rathbone.

Yes, he was a resident of Canisteo, but he spent just as much time here. As a child, Dan and his family owned land in Rathbone and farmed the land for many years. I know this to be a fact because I am a lifelong resident of Rathbone and I helped on the Farrand farm during the summer months for years. Dan was in Rathbone about every weekend, school vacation, and during the summer, working the farm with his dad, brothers and other local friends. If Mary Perham checks, she will find that

the family owned property in the town of Rathbone and paid taxes from the late 1950s through the early '80s and Dan has paid property taxes in Rathbone since I believe 1982.

Ms. Perham also says that he will not talk to the media; well in MY OPINION, I think if anyone checks into that statement, that it pertains to HER, everything that he has said in the past couple of years she has twisted. I wouldn't comment either.

I thought that there was to be unbiased reporting, but when it comes to she and Farrand, it is obvious to this reader that she certainly has a vendetta against him. During the past couple of years my family and I have had to read her negative remarks and often wondered why she didn't mention the good that he has done for the people in the communities that he is representing. She has attended several of the meetings and knows what is going on but not reporting it.

Personally, I think due to Dan's involvement with past legislators and other government officials; he has been very beneficial to the residents of Rathbone and the surrounding communities in District 10.

Eric Bump
Addison

Farmers thank Massa for 'no' vote

TO THE EDITOR | Farmers in Congressional District 29 would like to thank Rep. Eric Massa for voting against H.R. 2454, the so-called "Climate Change Bill," which will have a disastrous impact on agriculture.

New York Farm Bureau strongly opposes this legislation. It will dramatically increase already skyrocketing fuel prices and send feed prices soaring.

Far worse, it will cause a \$5 billion per year loss in nationwide farm income by 2020, essentially ruining the future for young farmers in New York.

The bill largely ignores the fact that agriculture has a net positive impact on the ecology and the ozone. But the fact that it ignores the economic realities of rural America makes it even worse.

Fortunately, Rep. Massa is well in tune with the challenges of the farm families of his district. We're glad he's on our side.

Congressman, thank you for standing up for New York's farm families.

Dean Norton, President
New York Farm Bureau

Entire N.Y. Senate must be turned out

If only there really was such a thing as magic.

Then all we'd have to do is chant a few obscure phrases, stir a foul-smelling pot of assorted herbs and presto! – the whole New York State Senate would vanish into thin air.

Unfortunately, it can't be done.

But I'm not alone in wishing. "Bob," wrote reader Bill Woodworth of Painted Post, "I think your columns regarding the NYS Senate problems going on in Albany have hit the nail

THE INSIDER



Bob Rolfe

right on the head and I agree with you that they need to be voted out.

"Maybe the time is right for term limits to be enacted, but this time let the people vote on it – NOT Albany," he said. "Thanks for a great column."

Thank you for the kind words, Bill, but I hope everyone remembers that we must get rid of each and every single member of the current batch of power-seeking misfits. And we must be extremely careful who we elect next year to replace them.

The Senate mess truly can't be blamed exclusively on one party, although the Republicans started it when, using two Democrat turncoats, they tried to overturn the results of last fall's election.

The Democrats, however, were no better, using every cheap trick they could think of including turning off the lights in the Senate Chamber, locking out the other party and "passing" legislation this week on the lame excuse that an obscure rule of procedure made a Republican count as "present" simply because a locked door forced him to take a shortcut through the room.

The list is endless – on both sides. So this goes to prove that nobody currently holding office in the Senate should be trusted to clean out cuspidors in a Wild West saloon.

OK, some of you say – but what about our own state senator, George Winner?

Sorry, gang, but George is one of those who must go first because he was – and is – an important part of the "leadership" of the party which engineered this whole mess in the first place.

George has used his traditional free Opinion Page space in this newspaper for weeks now, trying to justify what's going on.

He speaks of "reform" and "transparency" and all the other current buzz words for reform.

But not once does he admit that this whole business started out as a power grab and that's what has kept it alive for the past three weeks.

He would have you believe that he's battling for the upstate area because it's been forgotten by the Democrats.

But he pays no mind to the fact that the GOP ignored the downstate Democrats for generations.

The only thing either party wants is the power to control the Senate and the ability to siphon taxpayer money to their pet local projects because that's the power control automatically confers.

Power and money – that's all either party is fighting for and the losers are every taxpayer in New York state whose interests have been utterly ignored during weeks of mindless blustering.

Throw the bums out – without exception.

That's the only solution to a problem that would have never developed in the first place.

If only every single senator wasn't so damned greedy, we wouldn't be here today. But they are – and we are – and it's time for them to depart.

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