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The hometown newspaper of Clinton, Essex and Franklin counties

PRESS-REPUBLICAN

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PLATTSBURGH, N.Y. 12901

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019 \$1.00

GOP Head blasts Cuomo

GOV: Says governor is to blame for Upstate economy

BY JOE MAHONEY
CNU State Reporter

ALBANY — The declining population of upstate New York is being turned into a political weapon by the new leader of the state's Republican Party, who suggests the blame rests squarely with the policies of Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Nick Langworthy, who recently took over as the GOP chairman, argued in a stop at the statehouse Tuesday that the Interstate 90 corridor, stretching from Albany to Buffalo, has become "a trail of broken promises," citing several Cuomo administration projects that he said never delivered on job creation targets.

"Our out-migration crisis is real," said Langworthy, suggesting the state has failed to capitalize on billions of dollars in investment in public education due to high school and college graduates leaving the state in search of better opportunities elsewhere.

Langworthy's jab at Cuomo, a Democrat in the first year of his third term as the state's chief executive, came a day after the governor gave his own economic development efforts high marks in an interview with an Albany radio station.

"I've invested more money in upstate New York than any governor probably in history," said Cuomo, suggesting that his administration's efforts to spark the upstate economy could even exceed the public expenditure made to construct the Erie Canal in the 19th Century.

"From Day 1, I've made an unprecedented effort in upstate New York," he added.

Cuomo also cited his administration's efforts to update the grounds at the New York State Fair, which opens Wednesday, near Syracuse. The governor is planning to attend the fair's opening day festivities, and will travel there by train from Albany with an entourage of state bureaucrats.

Langworthy's eagerness to attack Cuomo on the upstate economy — and the governor's vigorous defense of his economic development programs — come a week after a Siena College poll found that 64 percent of respondents gave Cuomo a negative job performance rating.

The poll found that just 31 percent of upstate voters approve of his job performance.

See CUOMO, Page A4

Road work ahead

Boynton Ave, Clinton and Steltzer streets next in line for city paving

BY MCKENZIE DELISLE
Press-Republican

PLATTSBURGH — A few city roadways are scheduled for paving next week.

The Department of Public Works has already revamped some City of Plattsburgh thoroughfares this season, including sections of Cornelia and South Catherine streets.

On deck is Boynton Avenue, followed by Clinton and Steltzer streets.

In a recent news

release, Mayor Colin Read applauded the city crew's completed work and ambitious paving schedule.

"Regular maintenance of our roads is a core function of government," Read says in the release. "I thank the Department of Public Works for their hard work in improving our infrastructure."

"I know DPW still has plans for repaving another few roads yet before the snow flies this fall."

See PAVING, Page A4



A road closed sign sits in front of road construction crews as they begin work on Boynton Avenue in Plattsburgh. Boynton Avenue was the next scheduled street to be worked on, followed by Clinton and Steltzer streets, after the repaving of sections of Cornelia and South Catherine streets.

KATLA BREEN/STAFF PHOTO

BACK TO SCHOOL



Sales Associate and part-time pencil Matthew Furman hands out stickers to Lorelei Thibeault, 3, who was going back to school shopping with her parents Christine and Eric at Staples in Plattsburgh. Staples held a weekend-long back to school event complete with deals on school supplies, free giveaways, face painting and appearances by Plattsburgh City Police, UFirst Federal Credit Union and the Plattsburgh JCEO, who collected donations.

KATLA BREEN/STAFF PHOTO

License fees necessary for cashless tolling, Governor says

NYS: Concern raised over proposed \$25 charge

BY JOE MAHONEY
CNU State Reporter

GEDDES — Gov. Andrew Cuomo defended his administration's plan to charge New York motorists a \$25 fee for replacement license plates Wednesday, suggesting the move is necessary as the state Thruway shifts to cashless tolling technology.

The Democratic governor, at the opening day of the New York State Fair, attempted to provide justification for the new fees in response to questions from CNHI.

The plan has faced rising criticism from Republican leaders and even some Democratic lawmakers in recent days.

Cashless tolling involves having reader devices that scan plates, and Cuomo said the plates now on the more than 11 million registered vehicles in the state were designed before that technology came on line.

The reader devices will be more reliable if plates have dark lettering against a light background, the governor suggested.

"We want people to pay their tolls, and the reason that's important is if I don't pay my tolls then you're going to pay my tolls, right?" Cuomo said.

Beginning in April, vehicle owners will have to pay the \$25 fee to get replacements if their existing plates are at least 10 years old.

State officials, asked by CNHI to provide data on the average cost of manufacturing a new license plate, said they did not immediately have that information.

One reason for the controversy over the plan is that motorists did not have to pay additional fees for replacement plates when the current plate design was introduced in 2010.

Critics of the \$25 fee, branding it a "money grab" by the state, argue it adds up to a \$75 million "tax" on New Yorkers.

See FEES, Page A4

Two seriously injured

Two hurt in head-on collision on Military Turnpike Wednesday morning

BY JOE LOTEPLIO
Editor in Chief

ALTONA — Two people were seriously injured in a head-on collision Wednesday morning.

According to State Police, around 7:40 a.m., a 2001 silver Honda CRV driven by Abigail D. Marshall, 18, of Peru, was heading north near 4028 Route 190 near Duley Road, while a red 2018 Ford Fusion driven by Rita M. Charland, 48, of Chateaugay was heading south.

Police said the Honda driven by Marshall, for an unknown reason, failed to keep right and entered the southbound lane. Her car sideswiped two

vehicles before hitting the Ford driven by Charland, head on, police said.

Both drivers were taken to University of Vermont Healthcare Network Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital in Plattsburgh where Marshall was diagnosed with multiple brain bleeds.

She was then taken to University of Vermont Healthcare in Burlington, Vt. for further treatment.

Marshall was listed in critical condition Thursday. Charland was admitted to CVPH with chest and hip pain, police said.

There were no injuries to the drivers whose vehicles were sideswiped.

An investigation of the accident was continuing.



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