

Coollest Small Town in America

Penn Yan, H'port still in contest

BY JOHN ZICK
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HAMMONDSPORT | The contest to crown the Coolest Small Town in America has reached the next stage, and both Hammondsport and Penn Yan are still in the mix. Open voting for nominations closed last week, and Hammondsport and Penn Yan finished first and second, respectively. Hammondsport received 7,896 votes, and Penn Yan garnered 6,285 votes. They were followed by Abingdon, Va.; Wythville, Va., and Naples.

Despite leading the contest in votes, neither

Hammondsport nor Penn Yan is guaranteed a win. Budget Travel, which sponsors the contest, will review all the nominations – of which there are hundreds, including Corning, Big Flats and other local towns – and narrow the field to 10 finalists. The finalists will be posted on Budget's website in January, and voting will determine a winner.

The guidelines for the

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Elmira home nominated for National Register

BY DERRICK EK
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An Elmira home has been recommended for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Alexander Eustace House, located at 401 Maple Ave., was recommended by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation.

It was built in 1886 for Elmira lawyer Alexander Eustace, who

was active in local and state politics, serving as Chemung County clerk and later heading the state tax department and serving as a member of the state Civil Service Commission, according to the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

According to a nomination form, Eustace was best known for "a very public confrontation with Gov. Roswell P. Flower stemming from

the governor's attempts to manipulate civil service rules in order to appoint political cronies," after which he was forced to resign from the Civil Service Commission. He then returned to his law practice in Elmira, and was a local philanthropist who supported St. Joseph's Hospital. He died in 1913.

The Eustace home is

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Time for city Pumpkin Hunt!

CORNING | The City of Corning Parks and Recreation Department will hold its annual Great Pumpkin Hunt and Halloween Party Saturday. The Pumpkin Hunt will be held from 7-9 p.m. More than 100 pumpkins will be hidden on City property. The party will be held at the Thayer Civic Center Rink and will feature games, refreshments, a Monster Mash Dance Contest, a fortune teller and the Fright Night Spookhouse. There will also be a costume judging contest and prizes for pumpkin finders. Look for Pumpkin Hunt clues in *The Leader* all week.

State DMV upsets local officials

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | Steuben County officials are finding out it's a good idea to keep your eyes on the road – or at least the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

First, there was a surprise maneuver late last month by the state Department of Motor Vehicles to eliminate vision tests requirements when renewing licenses.

County clerks across the state and county legislators complained the move could be dangerous to motorists, and Gov. Andrew Cuomo stepped in and temporarily halted the DMV's plan.

Now the DMV has angered officials throughout the state by deciding to close drivers' road tests sites in Hornell and Bath, and leaving only the Corning site open for road tests.


So when the county Legislature meets in regular session at 10 a.m. Monday, they will make their displeasure formally clear.

"Who knows what the powers that be in Albany are doing these days," said Legislature Chairman Joe Hauryski, R-Campbell. "Sometimes, I guess, the people in Albany forget the impact their decisions have on the counties, the impact they have on rural counties. Here, it takes you one hour to get from one end of the county to the other."

The vision test requirements touch both public safety and fiscal security. Clerks are allowed to keep a portion of revenues raised by issuing licenses and registrations. Doing away with vision tests allows drivers to renew their licenses through the mail or e-mail.

The state says it's more efficient. The state also gets to keep the revenues. The decision to close

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