### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Plows: Please be** considerate

### To the Editor,

We have lived on Pyrex Street for 54 years. For 52 of those years we removed our own snow from our driveway and walks. For the last two years we have paid to have it removed.

Then the snow plow comes barreling down the street ... way too fast.

Pyrex Street is wider than most of the streets in Corning so it takes more than two swipes to get rid of the snow.

The plow operator goes so fast that the snow is thrown up and over what has already been shoveled, and onto the clean walks.

I have actually stood out on the walk hoping that my

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presence would make him slow down, but he flies past, throwing the snow over onto the walk.

If he would simply drive a little slower, this would no longer be a problem, and we old folks wouldn't have to get so angry.

Talking to the department hasn't helped ... let's see if this does.

### **MJ Connor, Corning**

Try being smoke free over holidays

### To the Editor,

During the holidays, people often gather with family and friends.

The Health Department wants to let you know this is an opportunity to encourage and support

tobacco users in their effort to quit by promoting a tobacco-free environment.

Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends have the opportunity to impact the kids in their lives by setting an example of a tobacco-free lifestyle and reminding them that the use of tobacco, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, is harmful.

Encourage those family members that do smoke to talk to their doctor about the medications that are available to help them quit.

Making sure that your home is smoke-free protects friends and family from the health harms caused by secondhand smoke. This holiday, don't let your home be filled with secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is known to contain over 250 toxic or cancer-causing chemicals.

Exposure can cause children to develop ear infections, bronchitis and even trigger asthma attacks.

Non-smoking adults regularly exposed to secondhand smoke can also develop tobaccorelated illnesses, such as emphysema.

The New York State Ouitline which can be reached at 1-866-697-8487 is another resource for smokers.

Unfortunately, for residents of apartments and other multi-unit housing, the decision to have a smoke-free home is not theirs alone. Secondhand smoke drifts from neighboring apartments and creates unhealthy living conditions for everyone in the building.

If you rent and are exposed to unwanted secondhand smoke from a neighboring tenant, you have the right to ask your landlord to protect you and your family. No-smoking policies benefit both tenants and landlords.

An increasing number of apartment owners are choosing to go smoke-free to reduce fire risk, save on maintenance costs and to improve tenant health. The Southern Tier Tobacco Awareness Coalition (STTAC) is a local organization that can provide free resources. To learn more about smokefree housing, contact STTAC at (607) 737-2858.

Dawn C. Bush. PH **Program Coordinator** Elmira

### TOM O'MARA | 58TH DISTRICT

# Don't let 'Cyber Monday' spoil the season

According to industry reports, "Cyber Monday" in 2017 accounted for more than \$3.3 billion in sales - up from \$2.67 billion in 2016.

One thing is certain: e-commerce has become big, big business. This also means, however, that there is an unprecedented exchange of online information taking place, which compels this reminder: Never overlook the privacy and other public policy issues raised by our leap into the modern economy.

The New York State Senate has held many legislative hearings over the past decade to give creditors, law enforcement officials, computer security experts, and consumer advocates the opportunity to share their thoughts on mapping out more effective strategies to address a host of privacy concerns. The concerns raised at these hearings have inevitably included one commonly known as "identity theft," arguably the overriding concern surrounding the modern online economy.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's top consumer protection agency, has estimated that upwards of 400,000 cases of identity theft are reported annually in the United States. The nation's Department of Justice has found nearly 90% of identity theft

victims experienced the fraudulent use of existing account information, such as credit card or bank account information - at a cost to victims of more than \$15 billion.

Clearly, the availability of information in computer databases and the rapid growth of Internet commerce have produced a new breed of criminals who abuse technology to steal consumer information and ruin consumer credit. Indeed, identity theft is widely considered the No. 1 and fastestgrowing financial and consumer crime of this era.

The tactics of today's cybercriminals change as fast as our technology, usually faster. It all serves to highlight the ongoing challenge to keep identity theft laws ahead of identity thieves. A decade ago, New York became the 43rd state in the nation to enact an identity theft law. Nevertheless, security studies continually point to the need to update our laws as frequently as cybercriminals update their ability to break them. It's no easy task.

One important new law approved several years ago enabled consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports if they suspect they are victims of identity theft. We've also strengthened New

See O'MARA, A8

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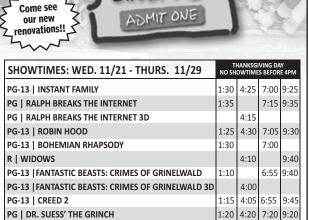
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HEY KIDS! veryone know what want for Christmas!	NAME: (First Name, Last Initial)  ADDRESS:  CITY:  STATE:	
Clip & Send us your ETTER TO SANTA. *Letters may be printed in The Leader newspaper.	PARENT'S NAME: (First Name, Last Initial)  HOME OR PARENT'S PHONE:  I authorize my child's name to be published in The Le	eader on December 15th

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# O'MARA

From Page A4

York's identity theft protections by enacting laws to restrict the ability of employers to use an employee's personal information and to allow identity theft victims to obtain restitution equal to the value of the time they spend fixing the damage, which is substantial.

It takes an average of 14 months for an identity theft victim to discover that his or her identity has been stolen.

Victims then spend hundreds of dollars and devote more than 175 hours of their own time to clean up their credit reports, according to the federal General Accounting Office.

Additionally, identity theft victims have been subject to other complications, including denial of loan applications and false criminal records.

In short, recovering from identity theft is costly and

The FTC operates a website to promote online safety. Go to www.ftc.gov and click on the "Report Identity Theft" icon in the top, right-hand column of the home page.

time-consuming.

The first line of defense for every consumer is awareness - to be aware of how identify theft is committed and to know the ways to protect against it.

The FTC operates a website to promote online safety. Go to www.ftc.gov and click on the "Report Identity Theft" icon in the top, right-hand column of the home page.

Information is also available on the New York State Division of **Consumer Protection** website: https://www. dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection (click on "Identity Theft/ Privacy" at the top of the home page).

Remember: Identity theft can happen to anyone. There are steps everyone can take to prevent it. Learn how.

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**Monday** 

High | 44

Low | 30

snow

**FIVE-DAY FORECAST** 

**Today** 

ers possible

High | 47

Low | 35

**Tuesday** 

possible

High | 38

Low | 26

Forecast for Sunday, November 25, 2018

Cloudy, rain to M. cloudy,

**MOON PHASES** 

Full Last New

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Cloudy, light show-



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**Wednesday Thursday** 

SUNRISE | SUNSET

Sunrise today

Sunset today

Sunrise Monday

Sunset Monday

M. cloudy,

showers

High | 35

Low | 29

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.

snow showers chance snow flurries pos-

M. cloudy,

High | 38

Low | 28

sible

# **ASYLUM**

Continued from A1

and escape poverty and violence. By reaching the accord, the Trump administration has also overcome Mexico's historic reticence to deepen cooperation with the United States on an issue widely seen here as America's problem.

The White House had no immediate comment.

According to outlines of the plan, known as Remain in Mexico, asylum applicants at the border will have to stay in Mexico while their cases are processed, potentially ending the system Trump decries as "catch and release" that has until now generally allowed those seeking refuge to wait on safer U.S. soil.

"For now, we have agreed to this policy of Remain in Mexico," said Olga Sánchez Cordero, Mexico's incoming interior minister, the top domestic policy official for López Obrador, who takes office Dec. 1. In an interview with The Washington Post, she called it a "short-term solution."

"The medium- and long-term solution is that people don't migrate," Sánchez Cordero said. "Mexico has open arms and everything, but imagine, one caravan after another after another, that would also be a problem for us."



In this Nov. 22 photo, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents stand on a roof during operational readiness exercises at the San Ysidro port of entry on the U.S.-Mexico border. [RAMON ESPINOSA/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO]

While no formal agreement has been signed, and U.S. officials caution that many details must still be discussed, the incoming Mexican government is amenable to the concept of turning their country in to a waiting room for America's asylum system.

While they remain anxious the deal could fall apart, U.S. officials view this as a potential breakthrough that could deter migration and the formation of additional caravans that originate in Central America and cross through Mexico to reach the United States. They have quietly engaged in sensitive talks with senior Mexican officials, attempting to offer a diplomatic counterbalance to President Donald Trump's threats and ultimatums.

Alarmed by Trump's deployment of U.S. military forces to California, Arizona and Texas, and his threats to close busy border crossings, Mexican officials were further determined to take action after migrants traveling as part of a caravan forced their way onto Mexican soil last month, pushing past police blockades at the border with Guatemala.

The prospect of keeping thousands of Central American asylum seekers for months or years in drug cartel-dominated Mexican border states - some of the most violent in the country - has troubled human-rights activists and others who worry that such a plan could put migrants at risk and undermine their lawful right to apply for asylum.

"We have not seen a specific proposal, but any policy that would leave individuals stranded in Mexico would inevitably put people in danger," said Lee Gelernt, an ACLU attorney whose team has won several legal victories against the Trump administration's immigration initiatives.

# **BUDGET**

From Page A1

for years, with little or no public attendance.

For the third straight year, Steuben's proposed 2019 spending plan calls for a slight decrease in the county tax levy and tax rate. Actual property taxes will depend on the equalization rate of the town in which property owners reside.

If approved by the county Legislature Monday (Nov. 26), the proposed 2019 budget's tax levy of \$49,989,115 will be down \$8,797 compared to the 2018 levy of \$49,997,912.

The tentative 2019 average tax rate of \$8.25 per \$1,000 assessed value is \$0.19 less compared to the 2018 average tax rate of \$8.44, according to county officials

Key elements in the budget include:

- The addition of two county deputies to combat the abuse of opioids and other illegal substances and state-mandated staffing at the jail will drive public safety costs up by roughly 7 percent.
- Resources for addicted individuals also will create additional costs in community health programs.
- Other expected increases in 2019 will be due state-imposed programs, notably the Raise The Age (RTA) law and an older court settlement by the state to improve access to public defense.

The public hearing on, and adoption of, the county's 2019 budget will follow the regular legislative session.

The regular session agenda includes:

- Authorizing a transfer of \$90,000 from the Contingent Fund to the Sheriff's Budget.
- Authorizing the acceptance of the New York State Office of Mental Health 2018 Cost of Living Allocation.
- Authorizing the distribution of semi-annual mortgage tax receipts.

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### **IN BRIEF**

### 171 Cedar Arts Center to display art exhibition

171 Cedar Arts Center, in collaboration with West End Gallery, will display the "Luminous Lakes" exhibition by Brian S. Keeler beginning Nov. 30 at the center, 155 Cedar St., Corning.

171 Cedar Arts Center will kick off the exhibit from 5 to 8 p.m. Nov. 30 during Corning's Urban Arts Crawl. 171 will offer hors d'oeuvres, beverages and live music provided by Zingology.

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