

Avoid overspending on holiday gifts

NEWS, 10A

PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

PRESSCONNECTS.COM | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 | BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Watt's the problem?



Velotric electric assist bikes on display at THS Cycling on Front Street in Binghamton in October 2026.
JILLIAN MCCARTHY/PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

Broome cracks down on e-bikes, but enforcement issues persist

Jillian McCarthy
Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Complaints about young riders speeding through parks, doing wheelies on local roads and illegally operating e-bikes and electric dirt bikes prompted a months-long crackdown across Broome County this year.

The Broome County Sheriff's Office, Town of Union and other municipalities responded with increased patrols, warnings and bike seizures, while Union adopted new restrictions carrying fines of up to $500.

Despite months of education and enforcement, officials say illegal riding continues.

What prompted the crackdown on e-bikes in Broome

Town of Union Supervisor Robert Mack said he first brought this issue to Broome County Sheriff Fred Akshar in the early spring months after receiving multiple complaints about young e-bike riders and having "terrible problems with them" in local parks and on local roads.

At Highland Park, e-bike riders took to using the set of steep steps from the carousel down to the parking lot as a jumping ramp. Mack said they would speed by others enjoying the park, do wheelies and spin out their wheels to kick up dirt in the playground and town property was damaged.

"They're really dangerous," he said.

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Hochul weighs food safety bill

Emily Barnes
New York State Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

Pressure from both sides of the discussion around a food safety bill currently sitting on New York Gov. Kathy Hochul's desk is ramping up as the deadline to make a decision draws nearer.

A piece of legislation introduced by Assemblymember Anna Kelles, a Southern Tier Democrat, and Sen. Brian Kavanagh, a Lower Manhattan Democrat, the Food Safety and Chemical Disclosure Act would immediately ban three additives and expand state-level oversight of food substances designated as "Generally Recognized as Safe," or GRAS, by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

The back and forth began earlier this year when a study conducted by Policy Navigation Group and released by the Food Ingredient Safety Coalition suggested the new regulations could cause New Yorkers to spend an additional $620 on groceries per year.

State lawmakers and policy groups

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Three additives — FD&C Red 3, potassium bromate and propylparaben — would no longer be allowed in food produced or sold in New York, if the bill is signed by Gov. Kathy Hochul.
TANIA SAVAYAN/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Officials: ICE detention plan wasted millions

DHS trying to sell several warehouses it purchased

Trevor Hughes, Irene Wright, Elena Santa Cruz and Ansley Franco
USA TODAY NETWORK

SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA – When federal officials revealed plans for a 10,000-bed immigration detention center in this tiny Trump-loving community, locals had a lot of questions. Among them: How, exactly, are you planning to flush the toilets?

Envisioned as a core part of a network of Amazon-like warehouse "mega centers" housing migrants facing deportation, the building sits at the corner of an industrial park fewer than 50 miles east of downtown Atlanta and is large enough to fit 17 football fields. The project would have dwarfed the more than 200 migrant detention facilities operating nationwide today.

Social Circle officials said the Department of Homeland Security lacked the kinds of detailed plans necessary to move the project forward, including access to wastewater treatment for thousands of detainees and as many 2,500 workers. They also said the DHS significantly overpaid for the property.

"DHS was secretive and did not engage with us until after they purchased the building," Social Circle City Manager Eric Taylor told USA TODAY. "Perhaps if they had been more transparent and performed the due diligence that federal law requires, they would have seen that it wasn't going to work."

Ultimately, federal officials largely

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Volume 42 | No. 43
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