



## ICE targeted father of disabled kids

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# STAR-GAZETTE

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SCHUYLER COUNTY

## Former prison eyed for nuclear power plant



The Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development submitted a proposal naming the former Camp Monterey shock incarceration facility in the Town of Orange, which closed in 2014, as a potential site for nuclear power generation. THE CORNING LEADER FILE

Jeff Murray

Elmira Star-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

Several organizations opposed to a proposal to locate a nuclear power plant in Schuyler County have organized an informational forum on the plans, but local officials say those concerns are premature.

Last year, Gov. Kathy Hochul asked the New York Power Authority to develop 1 gigawatt of nuclear power — enough for about 1 million homes — in upstate New York to power some of the data centers and manufacturing hubs planned for the upstate region.

Schuyler County was among eight potential hosts that responded to requests for information from the New York Power Authority.

In December, the Schuyler County Partnership for Economic Development (SCOPED) submitted a 433-page proposal naming the former Camp Monterey shock incarceration facility in the Town of Orange, which closed in 2014, as a potential site for consideration.

“Hosting an advanced nuclear facility, such as an

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## Program aims to improve Elmira traffic stops involving autistic drivers

Jeff Murray

Elmira Star-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Elmira Police Department announced it is adopting the “Blue Envelope Program,” an important safety program for drivers with autism.

The Blue Envelope Program is an initiative designed to improve interactions between law enforcement and individuals with conditions that may affect communication, such as autism.

The program was started in New York state in 2025 and is administered by the New York State Sheriff’s Association.

Drivers with autism can place their license, registration, and insurance ID cards inside the blue envelope and keep it in their glove box.

During a traffic stop, motorists can present the envelope to an officer, immediately signaling that the driver may need additional communication support and accommodations, and the officer can adjust his or her own actions and reactions to fit that situation.

Participation in the program is free, it doesn’t require registration, and no personal data is collected.

Any drivers who wish to obtain a blue envelope for themselves can stop into the Elmira Police Department inside Elmira City Hall, at 317 E. Church St.

The driver will be provided an envelope for use and can ask questions regarding the program. The main objective of the initiative, according to Elmira Police Chief Kristen Thorne, is to foster safety, reduce stress, and ensure effective communication between police and community members.

**Drivers with autism can place their license, registration, and insurance ID cards inside the blue envelope and keep it in their glove box.**

## ‘Restaurant Week’ starts April 13 in Tioga County

Riccardo Monaco

Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin | USA TODAY NETWORK

Fans of great eats, community building and supporting local businesses will be thrilled to hear Tioga County Restaurant Week is just around the corner.

The yearly event will run from April 13-26, and will feature 13 local restaurants and eateries offering special menus at reduced prices. The majority of restaurants participating in the event are located in Owego, though two can be found in Apalachin.

The event is being spearheaded by Experience Tioga.

“The food and beverage industry is filled with hardworking, passionate people,” said Rebecca Maffei, Director of the Tioga County Tourism Office. “Every time you have a wonderful dinner, get a latte just the way you like it, or pick up a pizza you know everyone at home will love, there’s dedication and creativity making it happen.”

“We are excited to give people a reason to visit Tioga County for the first time, or for locals to try a new place, so more people can enjoy the delicious food and unique atmospheres that are the result of so much devotion.”

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## USA Today names Corning, Seneca Falls among nation’s best small towns

Victoria E. Freile

New York Connect Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

Corning is earning national acclaim in USA Today’s latest Readers’ Choice Awards.

After the Corning Museum of Glass was named among the nation’s best small-town museums in February, the Crystal City itself is now among two towns in New York state’s Finger Lakes region that have been voted among the best small towns in the nation in USA Today’s latest Readers’ Choice Awards.

The USA TODAY 10BEST Readers’ Choice Awards for 2026 highlight the very best in travel, food and drink and lifestyle. Every week, USA TODAY 10Best invites a panel of industry experts to nominate their favorite points of interest and attractions across a wide range of categories.

This week’s awards focus on small towns.

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Visitors walk past the Baron Steuben Place in downtown Corning in 2014. The Market Street business district had recently won a national travel award for hospitality.

JEFF MURRAY/ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

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