

9/13/18-SHOULD IT BE LEGAL TO PAY MORE FOR CREDIT CARD PURCHASES? THAT'S THE ARGUMENT THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE STATE COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY. UNDER CURRENT STATE LAW IT'S ILLEGAL TO ADD AN EXTRA CHARGE TO ANYONE PAYING WITH A CREDIT CARD, BUT YOU CAN OFFER A DISCOUNT FOR CASH. THAT LEADS TO THE CASH OR CREDIT QUESTION MOST OF US FACE AT THE GAS PUMP. BUT A COALITION OF MERCHANTS SAYS IT WOULD BE FAIRER TO MARK EVERYTHING WITH A SINGLE PRICE, AND THEN ADD A SURCHARGE AT CHECKOUT.

9/17/18-THE FALL FOLIAGE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY UNDERWAY. THE STATE HAS RELAUNCHED ITS SEASONAL FOLIAGE REPORTS FOR THE YEAR AT THE I LOVE N-Y DOT COM WEBSITE. WEEKLY UPDATES WILL TRACK THE DEVELOPMENT OF FALL COLORS ACROSS NEW YORK. OVER THE YEARS LEAF PEEPING HAS BECOME A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS, WITH HORDES OF TOURISTS VISITING AREAS OF PEAK COLOR. THAT HELPS DRIVE BUSINESS AT RESTAURANTS AND MOTELS DURING ONE OF TRADITIONALLY SLOW PERIODS OF THE YEAR. THE FOLIAGE REPORTS WILL BE UPDATED EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH EARLY NOVEMBER.

9/26/18-THE TOWN OF GERMAN FLATTS IN HERKIMER COUNTY IS FACING POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS FISCAL STRESS. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE STATE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, WHICH KEEPS AN EYE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE STATE AS PART OF IT'S FISCAL STRESS MONITORING SYSTEM. THE EVALUATIONS IDENTIFY MUNICIPALITIES THAT FACE A POTENTIAL GAP BETWEEN EXPENSES AND TAX REVENUES, DRIVEN BY RISING EMPLOYMENT COSTS AND A STAGNANT OR SHRINKING TAX BASE. GERMAN FLATTS ALSO MADE THE LIST IN 2016.

9/27/18-NEW FIGURES FROM THE STATE LABOR DEPARTMENT SHOW THE AREA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION IMPROVING. UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UTICA ROME AREA FELL TO 4-POINT-1 PERCENT, DOWN FROM FIVE PERCENT A YEAR AGO. OVER THE SAME TIME PERIOD THE STATE SAW 135-THOUSAND NEW JOBS. THE ONE POTENTIAL CLOUD IN THE FORECAST IS THE NUMBER OF LONG TERM UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN THE UTICA ROME AREA. ONCE THEY STOP LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB THEY'RE NO LONGER COUNTED AS BEING UNEMPLOYED.