

March Political

3/2/18-CRIME IN UTICA IS ON THE DECLINE. THAT WAS THE MESSAGE FROM THE PALMIERI ADMINISTRATION YESTERDAY DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH POLICE CHIEF MARK WILLIAMS. ACCORDING TO STATISTICS FROM THE CITY'S CRIME ANALYSIS CENTER VIOLENT CRIMES PLUNGED BETWEEN 2016 AND 2017, WITH DOUBLE DIGIT DROPS IN THE NUMBER OF HOMICIDES, BURGLARIES, AND LARCENIES. MANY OF THOSE PROPERTY CRIMES ARE DRIVEN BY THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC, AS ADDICTS RESORT TO THEFTS TO HELP FUND THEIR ADDICTIONS.

3/3/18-A SHOWDOWN OVER SPORTS BETTING IS SHAPING UP IN ALBANY. A SUPREME COURT DECISION EXPECTED THIS SUMMER WOULD REMOVE THE FEDERAL PROHIBITION AGAINST WAGERING ON SPORTS, AND LEGISLATION IS ALREADY ON THE TABLE TO LEGALIZE BETTING IN NEW YORK. BUT THE CURRENT BILL WOULD ONLY ALLOW BETS AT STATE LICENSED RACETRACKS, CASINOS, AND O-T-B PARLORS. MISSING FROM THE BILL ARE THE STATE'S TRIBAL CASINOS. THAT COULD SET OFF ANOTHER LEGAL SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE STATE AND INDIAN NATIONS.

3/8/18-WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ONEIDA COUNTY? THAT WILL BE ONE OF THE SUBJECTS FOR ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANTHONY PICENTE'S ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS LATER TODAY. HE'S EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE COUNTY'S FINANCIAL HEALTH AND THEN LAY OUT HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. THAT'S LIKELY TO INCLUDE HIS U-DISTRICT PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD USE MILLIONS IN PUBLIC FUNDS TO BUILD A SPORTS CENTER AND BEER MUSEUM ON LAND ADJACENT TO UTICA'S MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM.

3/9/18-HOW DO YOU KEEP SCHOOL STUDENTS SAFE? THAT WAS THE FOCUS OF A SPECIAL SUMMIT HELD YESTERDAY IN NEW HARTFORD IN RESPONSE TO SCHOOL SHOOTINGS AROUND THE NATION AND THE FLURRY OF LOCAL THREATS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. THE EVENT BROUGHT TOGETHER LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND EVERY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT IN THE ONEIDA HERKIMER MADISON BOCES SYSTEM. THE WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION COVERED EVERYTHING FROM CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS TO LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES AND BUILDING ARCHITECTURE.

3/9/18-ONEIDA COUNTY IS READY TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE. THAT WAS ONE OF THE THEME'S OF ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANTHONY PICENTE'S ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS YESTERDAY. HE TOUTED THE U-DISTRICT PROJECT IN DOWNTOWN UTICA, SAYING IT WOULD BRING OVER A MILLION VISITORS A YEAR TO THE AREA. HE ALSO UNVEILED NEW INITIATIVES FOR

GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN POLICE DEPARTMENTS, ENHANCING SCHOOL SECURITY, AND PROVIDING BETTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS THE COUNTY.

3/12/18-A NEW BILL IN ALBANY WOULD REQUIRE EVERY PUBLIC RESTROOM TO STOCK FREE FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS. THE CREATIVELY NAMED TOTAL ACCESS TO MENTRUAL PRODUCTS OR TAMP ACT WOULD REQUIRE PUBLIC BATHROOMS TO PROVIDE TAMPONS AND OTHER PRODUCTS FEE OF CHARGE. THE SPONSOR SAYS THEY SHOULD BE VIEWED AS SIMPLE NECESSITIES, JUST LIKE TOILET PAPER. THE MOVE COMES JUST TWO YEARS AFTER THE STATE ROLLED BACK SALES TAXES ON FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS.

3/12/18-GOVERNOR CUOMO COULD BE GETTING A CHALLENGER IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR GOVERNOR. ACTRESS CYNTHIA NIXON IS REPORTEDLY MULLING A RUN. SHE'S MOST FAMOUS FOR PLAYING MIRANDA IN "SEX AND THE CITY", BUT NIXON HAS BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN NEW YORK POLITICS FOR YEARS. THAT INCLUDES BEING AN OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF CUOMO. THE ACTRESS HAS REPORTEDLY HIRED TWO VETERAN CONSULTANTS THAT WORKED ON NEW YORK CITY MAYOR BILL DEBLASIO'S CAMPAIGN

3/14/18-GUILTY ON THREE COUNTS. THAT WAS THE VERDICT HANDED DOWN YESTERDAY AGAINST JOSEPH PERCOCO, A FORMER TOP AIDE TO GOVERNOR CUOMO. HE WAS CONVICTED AFTER A NEARLY TWO MONTH LONG TRIAL THAT FEATURED THE DETAILS OF A PERVASIVE SCHEME TO COLLECT BRIBES AND PAYOFFS FROM COMPANIES WITH BUSINESS BEFORE THE STATE. IT ALSO FEATURED TESTIMONY THAT PERCOCO WAS STILL WORKING OUT OF HIS TAXPAYER FUNDED OFFICE WHEN HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY WORKING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

3/15/18-HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS ACROSS THE AREA TOOK PART IN YESTERDAY'S WALKOUT AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE. IN MOST CASES THE WEATHER AND CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY MEANT IT WAS MORE OF A WALK IN, WITH GROUPS GATHERING AT LOCATIONS INSIDE THEIR SCHOOL BUILDINGS. THE NATURE OF THE EVENT ALSO VARIED FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL. AT SOME STUDENTS OBSERVED 17 MINUTES OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE PARKLAND SCHOOL SHOOTING, WHILE AT OTHERS THERE WERE EXPLICIT CALLS FOR NEW GUN CONTROL LAWS.

3/20/18-IT'S ON. ACTRESS CYNTHIA NIXON WILL BE CHALLENGING GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY. SHE ENDED

WEEKS OF SPECULATION YESTERDAY WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON TWITTER. THAT INCLUDED A CAMPAIGN VIDEO FILMED IN THE PAST WEEK. AND SHE MAY ALREADY BE GETTING HELP FROM HOLLYWOOD. YESTERDAY ACTRESSES INVOLVED IN THE ME TOO MOVEMENT PRESSURED CUOMO TO INVESTIGATE WHY PRODUCER HARVEY WEINSTEIN HASN'T BEEN PROSECUTED FOR ASSAULTING ACTRESS AMBRA BATTILANA.

3/27/18-THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON NEW YORK STATE'S BUDGET. LAWMAKERS IN ALBANY ARE MEETING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS TO TRY AND GET A BUDGET DEAL IN PLACE, BUT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REPORTEDLY HIT SOME SNAGS. TO MOVE THINGS ALONG OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY JETTISONED NON-BUDGET MEASURES FROM THE GOVERNORS PROPOSED SPENDING PLAN. THAT INCLUDES CHANGES TO THE STATE'S BAIL SYSTEM, GUN CONTROL, AND, TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE, NEW ETHICS MEASURES. FOR THE FIRST TIME SOME LAWMAKERS ARE SAYING THEY MAY NOT MEET THE BUDGET'S APRIL FIRST DEADLINE.

3/30/18-NEW YORK KIND OF HAS A BUDGET. AFTER LAWMAKERS IN ALBANY SPENT THE DAY IN NEGOTIATIONS THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE STARTED VOTING ON A SERIES OF BILLS LATE LAST NIGHT BEFORE CALLING IT QUILTS. THEY'LL BE BACK IN ACTION LATER THIS MORNING IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO THE MAKE THIS YEAR'S BUDGET DEADLINE. BUT THE LAST MINUTE DEALMAKING MEANS NO ONE OUTSIDE ALBANY REALLY KNOWS WHAT'S IN THE SPENDING PLAN, SINCE THE GOVERNOR HAS WAIVED THE NORMAL REQUIREMENT THAT THE PUBLIC GET THREE DAYS TO READ IT BEFORE A VOTE.