

7/2/18-GOVERNOR CUOMO WILL BE MAKING AN APPEARANCE IN ROME THIS MORNING. OFFICIALS SAY HE'LL BE TALKING ABOUT ROME'S DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE AT MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S ROME CAMPUS. THE VISIT COMES CLOSE TO A YEAR AFTER HE ANNOUNCED THE CITY OF ROME WOULD BE GETTING TEN MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP PAY FOR A VARIETY OF PROJECTS AIMED AT BRINGING NEW LIFE TO DOWNTOWN. CUOMO IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE JUST AFTER ELEVEN THIS MORNING.

7/5/18-BANKS SHOULDN'T BE AFRAID OF MARIJUANA MONEY. THAT'S THE WORD FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES. THEY'VE ISSUED NEW GUIDANCE ENCOURAGING STATE CHARTERED BANKS TO DO BUSINESS WITH FIRMS PRODUCING MEDICAL MARIJUANA. THOSE COMPANIES MAY BE LEGAL IN NEW YORK, BUT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS LIKE BANKS AND CREDIT UNIONS HAVE AVOIDED WORKING WITH THEM BECAUSE FEDERAL LAW STILL TREATS MARIJUANA AS A SCHEDULE ONE DRUG. THAT FORCES MARIJUANA PRODUCERS TO KEEP THEIR MONEY AS CASH INSTEAD OF DEPOSITING IT INTO A COMMERCIAL ACCOUNT.

7/16/18-THE STATE'S PROPERTY TAX CAP IS SET FOR TWO PERCENT NEXT YEAR. THAT'S ACCORDING TO STATE COMPTROLLER THOMAS DI NAPOLI, WHO DETERMINES THE ALLOWABLE INCREASE. UNDER THE LAW TAX INCREASES ARE LIMITED TO TWO PERCENT OR THE RATE OF INFLATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER. PROPERTY OWNERS MAY BE REJOICING AT THE THOUGHT OF SUCH A SMALL INCREASE, BUT IT COULD BE TOUGH FOR SOME MUNICIPALITIES AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO STAY WITHIN THE SPENDING LIMITS. IF THEY CAN'T, THE CAP CAN BE OVERRIDDEN WITH A SIXTY PERCENT MAJORITY VOTE.

7/19/18-THE SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON IS HERE, AND THAT NORMALLY MEANS PAYING MORE AT THE GAS PUMP. BUT PRICES ARE ACTUALLY TAKING A DIP. NEW FIGURES FROM GAS BUDDY SHOW GASOLINE PRICES ACROSS THE STATE HAVE DECLINED AN AVERAGE OF TWO CENTS OVER THE LAST WEEK. EVEN MORE SURPRISING, GASOLINE IN THE UTICA ROME AREA IS COMING IN AT 2.95 A GALLON, WELL UNDER THE STATE AVERAGE OF THREE DOLLARS A GALLON. THE REGION TRADITIONALLY HAS SOME OF THE HIGHEST GAS PRICES IN THE STATE THANKS TO QUIRKS IN NEW YORK'S ZONE PRICING SYSTEM.

7/24/18-MADE IN THE U-S-A. THAT WAS THE THEME OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S "MADE IN AMERICA" EVENT AT THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY, AND A LOCAL COMPANY WAS FRONT AND CENTER. SHERRILL MANUFACTURING REPRESENTED NEW YORK, SHOWING OFF SOME OF ITS PRODUCT LINES. THE COMPANY IS THE LAST MANUFACTURER OF FLATWARE AND CUTLERY HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. IT STARTED WHEN FORMER EMPLOYEES OF ONEIDA LIMITED POOLED THEIR RESOURCES TO PURCHASE PART OF THE COMPANY'S ASSETS WHEN IT DECIDED TO MOVE ALL PRODUCTION OVERSEAS.

7/27/18-ONE MILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S HOW MUCH THE STATE IS GIVING TO UTICA'S IRISH CULTURAL CENTER. STATE SENATOR JOE GRIFFO ANNOUNCED THE GRANT YESTERDAY. THE MONEY WILL HELP THE LONG DELAYED PROJECT FINALLY COME TO FRUITION AFTER YEARS OF COMPLICATIONS. OFFICIALS WITH THE CENTER SAY THE INFUSION OF FUNDS MEANS THE CENTER WILL BE UP AND RUNNING THIS FALL. IT WILL INCLUDE A MUSEUM DEDICATED TO THE HISTORY OF THE IRISH IN THE AREA, A PUBLIC MEETING SPACE, AND AN AUTHENTIC IRISH PUB.

7/31/18-THE CITY OF ROME IS GETTING 250-THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM THE STATE TO HELP REPAIR THE ROME TRAIN STATION. THE BUILDING HAS BEEN SHUT DOWN SINCE EARLIER THIS MONTH WHEN PART OF THE INTERIOR CEILING COLLAPSED. SINCE THEN ALL TRAFFIC TO AND FROM ROME HAS BEEN HANDLED BY UNION STATION IN UTICA. ENGINEERS DETERMINED THE STRUCTURE WAS SUFFERING FROM SIGNIFICANT ISSUES. THE GRANT WILL HELP REPAIR THOSE

PROBLEMS AND THE ACCESS TUNNEL THAT LEADS FROM THE BUILDING OUT TO THE TRAIN TRACKS.