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September 16 - September 22, 2020

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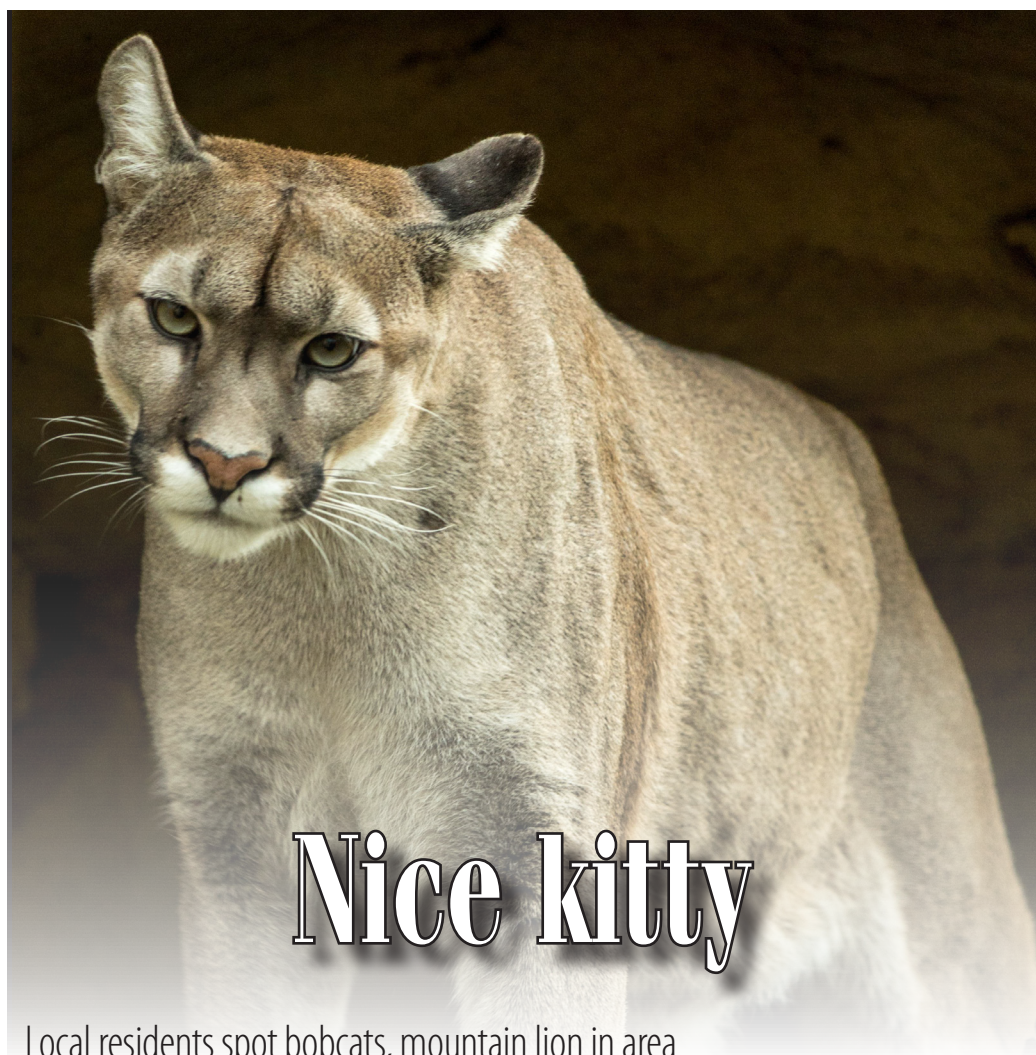
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TOP STORY



Nice kitty

Local residents spot bobcats, mountain lion in area

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**

halliseym@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — Careful. That may not be your neighbor's cat in the garden.

Local residents have shared recent encounters with wild cats on social media. Bobcats — and a possible mountain lion — have been mentioned within the past few weeks.

Rachel Flood was in the backyard of her Feura Bush Road home two weeks ago when she snapped a picture of an apparent bobcat walking along her hedgerow.



Mountain lions have not made New York home since the late 1800s, but they have been known to visit over the years. So, recent claims of one walking through town is no surprise, said a DEC specialist.

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Spotlight File Photo

CULTURE

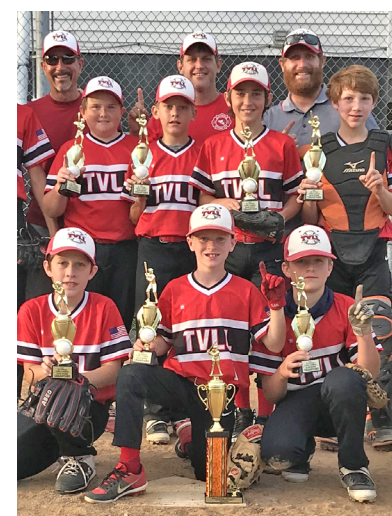


Vote

County breaks down voting process for Election 2020.

Story on Page B1

SPORTS



Strong finish

It was a golden finish for a team that struggled late in the TVLL season.

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NEWS

Town Board takes stand

Bethlehem stands with BLM movement in resolution.

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Bethlehem off the pitch

BCSD: Soccer, field hockey will not play this year.

Story on Page 4



Not afraid of lawsuits

Albany County signs Clean Air Act into law.

Story on Page 5



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WEEKLY TRASH AND RECYCLING PICK UP

TOWN NEWS

Black lives matter in Bethlehem

Town Board announces it will stand as advocate for the oppressed

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — Black lives matter is the common thread that has run through recent reform, so it's no surprise to see those words cross the Town Board's table in the form of a resolution.

"I have been thinking about this resolution for a long time, but I didn't want it to be performative," said Town Board Member Maureen Cunningham. "I wanted it backed by definitive action and positive steps forward."

Reform has been the defining term for a town that has hosted several social demonstrations and named its first female police chief this summer. Residents have clamored for change, joining a national discussion sparked by controversial events surrounding arrest tactics and law enforcement's use of deadly force.

"The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Philando Castile, Stephon Clark, George Floyd, Eric Garner, Freddie Gray, Botham Jean, Atatiana Jefferson, Tamir Rice, Alton Sterling,



A Black Lives Matter demonstrator kneels at a June rally held at Delmar's Four Corners. Town Board members have voiced support for the movement in recent months.

Michael Hallisey / Spotlight News

Breonna Taylor and countless others have drawn attention to structural and systemic racism in our country," reads the first line of the resolution.

The resolution, passed by a 4 to 1 vote on Wednesday, Sept. 9, focuses on systemic racism, that everyday practices within society are structured against people of color. The drafted resolution

also mentions the town's intent for a community-based advisory board through its Bethlehem Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative.

The town is accepting requests from community stakeholders interested in sitting on such a board. The initiative falls in line with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's mandate to reform law

enforcement statewide.

"The town is forming an advisory committee to help ensure the Collaborative successfully improves trust, fairness, equity, and justice within our community and our police department and addresses any racial bias, discrimination and disproportionate policing of communities of color," Town Supervisor David VanLuven shared in a statement.

A copy of the resolution was uploaded to the town's website on the Friday before Labor Day weekend. Only a half dozen people attended the online board meeting, some of whom shared they were unaware of the resolution until that day. Town resident Michelle Sanders said she was "very happy" to learn of it.

"The resolution is important because, through my experience with the July 4 rally, it proved that racism is alive and well in Bethlehem," she said. She later warned, "resolutions are great, but actions speak louder than words."

The reception was mixed among the half dozen who spoke during the board's public comment

Continues on 8



Michael Hallisey / Spotlight News

Painting police dept by numbers incomplete

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

Town Supervisor David VanLuven has shared how nearly 40 percent of all tickets issued by Bethlehem Police Department last year were to people of color.

That contrasts with the demographics of the town, which is overwhelmingly white. According to the 2000 census, of the 31,304 people who reside in Bethlehem, 94.74 percent are white.

But, according to the police department, that's not the best way to look at the data.

"It's a partial set of data that looks at the number of tickets issued and not the number of violators," said Bethlehem Police Cmd. Adam Hornick. Aside from knowing tickets are not exclusive to town residents, there are several factors not captured in the data.

Continues on 8

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■ EDUCATION

Virus fears strike games off the pitch

As surrounding schools prepare to play soccer, field hockey, Bethlehem decides not to play this fall

By **JIM FRANCO**
francoj@spotlightnews.com

BETHLEHEM — While the state and Section II did give school districts the OK to play soccer and field hockey this year, they will not be played here.

Instead, the Bethlehem Central School District will allow only “low risk” sports to commence this fall including varsity cross country, golf, tennis and swimming and diving. Soccer and field hockey are considered sports that present a “moderate risk” of spreading COVID-19 among the participants.

There will be no junior varsity or modified

“While all other school districts in the section have decided to participate in medium risk sports ... Bethlehem has elected to block these activities. Despite the decision from state, county, and section officials that medium risk sports are safe, Bethlehem has come to their own conclusion that, for largely unspecified reasons, it is unsafe to participate.”

— Nolan Powers, drafter of petition against BCSD

programs playing in Bethlehem this fall.

The district’s decision sparked immediate protest among the athletes left off the field this fall.



Marissa Mastracco, Chase Livesey, Katie Hotaling and Katie Sellers — seniors on the Bethlehem Central’s girls soccer team that has won

the Section II, Class AA title two years in a row — dressed in their soccer kits for an online video to protest the district’s decision.

“We are very disappointed that our season has been canceled this year,” said the four in a joint statement. “We would love the opportunity to play

again, one last time as a Bethlehem Eagle. Section II needs Bethlehem.”

The Bethlehem girls soccer team won the Section II, Class AA title two years in a row.

An online petition started over the weekend garnered more than 1,000 signatures within its first 24 hours. It was supported by a line of protestors in front of the Bethlehem Central Middle School just as the weekend farmer’s market started taking visitors.

“The Section 2 Executive Committee made the decision to allow low and medium risk sports to operate for the upcoming fall athletic season,” Nolan Powers stated within the petition he posted on Change.org. “While all other school districts in the section have decided to participate in medium risk sports, which include

Continues on 16

Selkirk Fire District 2020 BOND VOTE

- The Selkirk Fire District will hold a no tax increase bond vote on **Tuesday, Oct. 6 from 1 to 9 p.m.** at your nearest Selkirk Fire District Station.
- The bond vote will fund the construction of a new firehouse on Route 9w and substantial health and safety improvements to Station 2 located in Glenmont.
- The total cost of the project is \$11.8 million, but will require **no (\$0) tax increase to residents.**
- Selkirk Fire District will host a virtual public meeting via Zoom on **Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.** to present the project and answer questions.
- To register for the webinar or for more information on the project, visit selkirkfire2020.org



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■ COUNTY NEWS

McCoy signs Clean Air Act into law

LafargeHolcim continues to express disappointment with legislation

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — County Executive Dan McCoy signed Local Law B this morning, enacting the Clean Air Act designed to stop new waste facilities in Albany County and keep existing establishments from burning new waste.

“I want to thank the Albany County Legislature for its partnership to prevent the burning of hazardous waste like PFAS through the Clean Air Act, including the Republican members who crossed the aisle to make it a reality,” McCoy said. “Air pollution has no county or state boundaries.”

Local Law B will prohibit waste disposal facilities from burning or processing certain kinds of waste, including but

not limited to garbage, hazardous materials, automobiles and electronic waste.

Judith Enck, a former EPA regional administrator who has been vocal throughout the deliberation of the new law, expressed her gratitude in an online statement.

“Thank you Dan McCoy for signing this clean air bill,” Enck stated. “Preventing tire burning and toxic air emissions from burning AFFF will protect the health of hundreds of thousands of people in the region. And thanks to the Albany County Legislature.”

The Clean Air Act carries a penalty of a violation and fines up to \$2,000 or imprisonment of no more than ten days for the first offense. A second penalty would be

considered a misdemeanor and carries a fine of \$5,000 or no more than 30 days in jail. The signed legislation goes into effect once filed with the Secretary of the State.

Opponents of the proposed law expressed concern over the legislature overextending its responsibilities, usurping state and federal regulations, leading to the threat of future lawsuits from two of the companies it seems to target — LafargeHolcim in Ravena and Norlite in Cohoes.

Similar laws as the one passed by the legislature in Maryland and Pennsylvania have been contested in court leading concerns over future litigation. McCoy squashed those concerns in his written statement before signing the bill.

“I am aware of the



County Executive Dan McCoy said “threat of lawsuit” would not detract him from protecting local citizens as he signed the Clean Air Act into law.

County Executive Dan McCoy

naysayers, their criticism and arguments of illegality, but the truth is that as of today, there is no federal or state law or judicial decision that prohibits the enactment of the Clean Air

Act,” McCoy stated, “and any reference to any such law or decision is simply misguided and misplaced. When I was elected into office, I took an oath to protect our citizens and the

threat of a lawsuit is not going to deter or detract me from honoring that oath.”

Legislator Joanne Cunningham called it “an

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COUNTY NEWS

On the road again

Passing a stopped school bus is dangerous — and expensive

By **JIM FRANCO**
francoj@spotlightnews.com

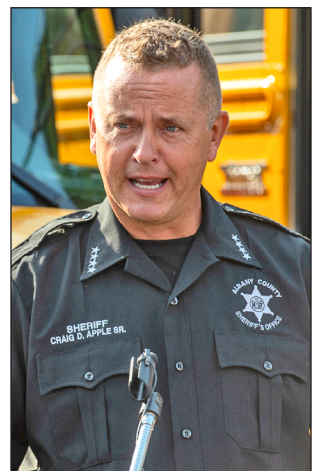
COLONIE — School's open and that means school buses are on the road.

"It has been awhile, but once again, the familiar yellow school bus will be seen on our streets and roads picking up and dropping off school children, said Harold Nicholson, president of the New York Association for Pupil Transportation during a press conference at the South Colonie School District bus garage on Wednesday, Sept. 9. "We ask motorists to be especially mindful of the fact our school buses will be out in full force and we remind you that you must stop for stopped school buses with red lights flashing."

Passing a stopped school bus that has light flashing can be costly. According to state Vehicle and Traffic Law, penalties for a first-time offense include a fine from \$250 to \$400, five points on your license and the possibility of 30 days in jail. A second conviction within three years will result in a \$600 to \$750 fine and up to 180 days in jail; while three or more convictions will result in a fine from \$750 to \$1,000, mandatory revocation of your driver's

We are asking drivers to pay attention and not be distracted, don't look at your phone, don't text, because if something happens and you hit one of those children you will have to live with it for the rest of your life."

— Craig Apple, Albany County Sheriff



Jim Franco / Spotlight News

license and up to 180 days in jail.

All vehicles to come to a full stop when approaching a school bus stopped with red lights flashing regardless of your direction of travel, or even if there is a multi-lane or divided highway.

New York Association of Pupil Transportation said there are some 2.3 million school children who ride school buses to and from school every day.

Sheriff Craig Apple said in New York state some 50,000 cars a day pass stopped school busses.

"We have not seen busses on the road since March and you are about to see the big yellow busses on the road. They are not hard to miss and we are begging you to slow down

when you see a bus on the road," he said. "This year, it's a little different, because most of the people who travel on the busses this year are the little guys, our K-5s, our K-6s. Kids who have a tendency to wander off and not pay attention. We are asking drivers to pay attention and not be distracted, don't look at your phone, don't text, because if something happens and you hit one of those children you will have to live with it for the rest of your life."

School districts have developed and implemented new cleaning and social distancing procedures, based on guidelines proved by the federal Center for Disease Control and state Department of Health, to keep children safe.

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SPOTLIGHT ON FINANCE

Looking through the windshield: An interview with Sarah Thomas

By SUSAN ZONGRONE,
Key4Women Chair,
KeyBank

Sarah Thomas has earned the opportunity to experience what few women in the world will ever know—how it feels to walk out of an NFL stadium tunnel on a Sunday afternoon.

As the NFL's first female official, Thomas is a trail-blazing inspiration to women everywhere. She says the feeling of game day is indescribable. "Coming through that tunnel with the greatest athletes, coaches and my peers is an adrenaline rush. I feel like, what an honor to be a part of this."

On Thursday, October 8, Thomas will share her journey from college athlete to one of *Sports Illustrated's* 100 Most Influential NFL Figures of All Time with a virtual audience during the Annual Key4Women Forum. Here, she talks about overcoming adversity, maintaining work-life balance and looking through the windshield toward opportunity.

Susan Zongrone: In your profession, doing your job well often means going unnoticed. That's something many women in business can relate to. Can you talk about your experience with this as a football official?

Sarah Thomas: We do want to go unnoticed, because in my line of profession when you're noticed typically something bad has happened. For women in business, I think it's about wanting to blend in—to be recognized for our merit, our work ethic, the results and execution.

When Gerald Austin [Conference USA coordinator of officials] hired me, he wanted me to tuck my hair and wear little or no make-up. I was taken back a little bit. But when it comes to officiating, Gerald had already walked the path. He knew how hard it was even with his gender, so he was protective of me. Much like other women in professions, when people see something in them it can accelerate and elevate

their work. That's what Gerald wanted for me. He didn't want me stereotyped as a girl. So, I tucked my hair, but I did draw a line in the sand. I said I will wear make-up.

Zongrone: What are the demands of being an official—at any level—and how you balance that with family and community?



Susan Zongrone

Thomas: Too often women and moms—I know I'm guilty of it—we try to put equal amounts of time into work and family. I've started accepting that it's all right

to be 90 percent at work and 10 percent home today but the next day be able to be 100 percent at home. So, I think it's truly not finding the 50-50 balance, if you will, but finding what balance is good for you. It may mean one day it's 50-50 and the next day is 90-10. I think the biggest thing is that when I'm at work, I'm at work. Then tomorrow I can spend that much more time on my family or something for me.

Zongrone: How did you gain the trust and respect of your peers?

Thomas: Some of the trust and respect is still happening, but I have never set out to prove myself to anyone. My colleagues realize I'm here for the same reason they are, I'm just a woman. I never have gone around with the chip on my shoulder. I'm here to do a job just like everybody else, and I'm going to prove to myself I belong, because this is something I absolutely love.

Zongrone: We often talk about the importance of failure...how it can be a catalyst for growth. In your profession, mistakes are replayed, criticized, and can influence the outcome of career-defining games. Can you talk about this?

Thomas: Training's irreplaceable. Whether it's film study, tests, conference calls or mentor sponsors. It's all so important. We don't have as many snaps...or plays, as the NBA or Major League Baseball. So anytime we can get on the field it's crucial. When it comes to failure, I've told my kids for a long time: "I want you to fail at something, I just don't want you to like

the taste of it." I look at failure as a speed bump and not a roadblock. The sooner you get over the speed bump, the sooner it's in your rearview mirror. And your rearview mirror is much smaller than your windshield. If you're gonna continue to look in that review mirror, you're going to be looking behind you. It's a small part of your life. But if you get over that speed bump and look through that windshield, there's a great world of opportunity.

Zongrone: Has anything surprised you about the way you have been received by the game and fans?

Thomas: Honestly and truly, the game and fans have not surprised me. It's just shown me the level of professionalism when it comes to anyone involved with the NFL. I had a coach come up to me during my second year, and this is when it really hit home with me. My first year I wanted to go unnoticed. I just wanted to work and get it under my belt. In the second year, the coach came up to me and he said, "I just want to thank you for what you're doing. I have 2 young daughters, and I've coached in the NFL for quite some time. But because of you they now think they know more about football than I do." When he told me that, it just hit me—this is what I love, and it makes an impact.

Zongrone: What has been the biggest obstacle you've had to overcome?

Thomas: The white pants. I always joke about that, but if you don't feel like you look good and you're constantly tugging, sometimes you don't feel like you're going to perform good. We got rid of the white pants. Now I think the biggest obstacle is the travel. Juggling to get the kids situated when I have to get up at 3:30 a.m. to leave for a 6:00 flight. A lot of people don't deal well with change. In our world, you have to adapt to change pretty quickly.

Zongrone: Did you ever think about giving up?

Thomas: Twice. The first time I was 10 years in, and my kids were getting older. I felt there was too much on their dad at the time—and I was just at the high school level. What I thought was my last game is when I got noticed by an NFL scout. The other time was my

first test at the college clinic. I was told you don't need the rule book. Just study the test questions. I don't know what I made on that test, but I know I didn't pass. I thought to myself: *is this a setup? What's going on here?* It was nothing like what I was told. I just dug deep. I told my supervisor this: I don't know what I made.

I don't want to know what I made. But I can promise you, I will never make less than 100 again.

Zongrone: What is the most important thing you want people to take away from this year's Key4Women Forum?

Thomas: If you're doing something because you truly

love it, recognition will come and respect will follow. That's my biggest thing. No matter where you are, fall in love with what you're doing.

About the author: Susan Zongrone is Key4Women Chair and Vice President for Key Private Bank in the Capital Region. She may be reached at 518-257-8744 or Susan_M_Zongrone@KeyBank.com.

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From page 3 ... Black lives matter in Bethlehem

period. Those opposed expressed concerns with wording that appeared to endorse the Black Lives Matter organization. Those residents balked at the idea while attributing blame on the organization for recent riots and social unrest.

"I understand the principle but I'm concerned about this," said Jay Ryan. "I like the idea but I'm very concerned with what the BLM movement is doing — in the wrong way."

Jim Foster was the lone vote against the resolution, despite prefacing his decision by saying "it has great significance and it's certainly an important thing that we are undertaking."

The Republican's argument was that residents had little time to review the resolution before the board's vote. The draft shared with residents on that Friday was further revised after Cunningham received comments over the long weekend. The draft passed by the town board was uploaded "less than 7

"I have been thinking about this resolution for a long time, but I didn't want it to be performative. I wanted it backed by definitive action and positive steps forward."

— Maureen Cunningham,
Town Board Member

hours ago," said Foster.

"I think as we heard in the public comment period here tonight, and also the recent appointment of our police chief, critically important issues like this resolution are too important to rush through without allowing people ample time to review and provide input. And, that's why I'd prefer to

table it," he said.

The rest of the board felt the latest revisions were not substantial enough to warrant delay. Though members of the board have openly expressed support, capitalizing Black Lives Matter as a proper noun on social media, the last draft omitted "matter" from the resolution's title.

"We could polish this all we want," VanLuven said, "but sooner or later we've got to come to the table and eat dinner."

The initial resolution was drafted with input from the Albany County Legislative Black Caucus, Cunningham's working group on race, and through members of the board.

"The biggest part that I get from reading this is 'silence is complicity,'" said Town Board Member Dan Coffey. "We've all been moved by what's going on in our country. Fortunately, Bethlehem has not seen a lot of the social upheaval that other communities have. We are moved by it and it forces us to take action."



Salute

Local first responders pay respect to the flag during a 9/11 ceremony at the First Responders Honor Garden in Glenmont on Saturday, Sept. 11. See more photos on Page B11.

Photo by Michael Hallisey / Spotlight News

From page 3 ... Painting police dept by numbers

State Route 144 stretches nearly 15 miles, running parallel to the Hudson River between the City of Albany and Greene County. The 55 mph speed limit on the majority — if not all — of it makes it popular with motorists. Known as River Road as it meanders through Bethlehem, it is heavily patrolled by town police. Because of the roadway's propensity for motor vehicle accidents, Hornick said the town receives

compensation to patrol the state route.

To explain the discrepancy in the data, Hornick used an extreme example of one motorist who was issued 15 tickets. If such a person leads the police in a chase, that person could receive several tickets for speeding, failing to comply, driving recklessly and other violations. A single event would drive the number of tickets up.

Relating the numbers

between residents and non-residents cushions the stark contrast depicted in the rate of tickets issued to people of color against the town's demographics. Some scrutiny is rooted in the past. A retired police chief's use of a racial slur more than a decade ago resurfaced upon the town appointing a new head administrator last month. However, Hornick said the department has not received any complaints regarding unfair policing.

"In the last five years, we have not had any documented race-related complaints," he said.

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Russell's Reds 2020 TVLL Champions

Nine takes local little league title after late-season struggle

MAGEE PARK — Russell's Reds took home the 2020 Tri-Village Little League Majors Championship on a beautiful night at Magee Park. The Reds held off Employee Family Protection 3-0 in a very well-played game by two championship caliber teams. The Reds, helmed by coach Tony Healey entered the playoffs as the number 2 seed, while EFP, with coach Mike O'Connell leading the way entered as the 4 seed.

The Reds were led by ace Nolan Devejian. Devejian was dominant as usual, pitching a complete game shut out on an incredibly efficient 74 pitches, 55 of which were strikes. Devejian struck out nine batters, yielding no passes and allowed just three hits.

Starting on the

mound for EFP was Jack Cunningham. Cunningham lasted 2 1/3 innings allowing only one run, walking three and striking out six. Following Cunningham was co-captain Kieran Barnes who finished up the game going 2 2/3 innings of his own allowing two runs on five hits and a pair of walks, while striking out two.

Both starting pitchers were very sharp early on with no runs scored through the first 2 1/2 innings. Barnes, one of the leagues best hitters all year did single off Devejian in the first but ended up stranded at third.

The Reds finally broke through in the bottom of the third when Nicholas Danaher lead off the inning with a walk. He advanced to second on a passed ball and then Jackson Vatter

moved him to third with a good piece of hitting on a ground ball to the right side. Danaher then took advantage of another passed ball scoring to give the Reds the 1-0 lead. Sam Coscio-Thiel and Brennan St. James walked before Barnes replaced Cunningham. Barnes got Sheamus Healey to ground into a fielder's choice and the inning ended with Coscio-Thiel getting called out at home while trying to score on a passed ball.

After EFP went down 1-2-3 in the top of the fourth the Reds were back at it scoring two in the bottom of the inning. Cameron Moon started the inning off with a hard hit single and advanced to second on a passed ball. Matthew Jones moved Moon to third on a ground out and was followed by



The 2020 Tri Village Little League Champion Russell's Reds.

Devejian intentionally walked. Devejian stole second and then both he and Moon scored on a single by Noah Herne. Herne got caught stealing third base and then Lucas Bernacki singled to third base. Barnes then got Austin Quackenbush to ground into a fielder's choice to end the inning,

but the damage had been done.

Devejian went back to work in top five inducing the dangerous Barnes to pop out to first base. Co-Captain Bob Frick doubled to right field but was stranded as Evan O'Connell and Cameron Oakley could not get him in.

After the Red's didn't score in the fifth, EFP had their final shot in the top of the sixth. Nicholas Faiola got on with a one out single, but they couldn't manage any further damage with Devejian getting his eight and ninth strikeouts to end the game.

— Paul Matrose

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From page 1 ... Nice kitty

"It didn't seem to be bothered that I was outside," she stated. "Thank goodness, because I completely froze." Flood said she later called the town animal control officer to share what she saw.

Adult bobcats are twice the size of a domestic cat, according to the DEC. Long hairs around their cheeks and tufts of fur atop their ears give them an angular look. As they run away, they are distinguished most often by their stubby tails.

"We get calls about bobcats in that area a couple of times a year," said Mandy Bailey, a wildlife biologist for the DEC. "They are definitely around." The DEC maintains a furbearer survey that allows residents to report sightings to the state. Bailey was aware of a sighting in early August, but nothing else. "But I think a lot of people don't necessarily know what to do."

Seeing either can be a jarring experience; whether

you are an ardent, outdoor adventurer or casual, backyard gardener. As predators, they do their best to avoid detection. This time of year, however, the wild cats are on the move, said state DEC officials.

Though bobcats can be common in this area, mountain lions are rare. Both like rocky terrain and feed on the same animals; deer and rabbit. Bobcats have maintained homes in the Adirondacks, Taconics and Catskills. Though they flourish more in the mountains, a bobcat's territory can cover up to 30-square miles. That can cross over backyards secluded enough from the bustle of traffic. In all, bobcats occupy nearly one-third of New York state.

Aggressive hunting and urbanization destroyed native mountain lion populations in the late 1800s. Bailey said there hasn't been a breeding population in New York since the 1800s. That doesn't make them foreigners to the Empire



Bobcats, which grow up to 30 pounds as an adult, are more common to this area than mountain lions.

State. Bailey's office receives approximately 50 sighting reports a year.

"We do get quite a few sightings throughout the year," the biologist said. "Most of those just turn out to be mistaken identity. ... a lot of them are bobcats. Some — especially from trail cameras — are actually house cats but it's so hard to tell scale. On the camera, things look bigger."

Residents throughout Bethlehem have claimed to see one over the years, and as recently as a few weeks ago.

"A mountain lion was spotted by many workers and truck drivers near the Callanan quarry in South Bethlehem a week or two ago," Donna McMullen stated. "About seven years ago I saw one hit and dead in the road on Rte 32 in Feura Bush. We have trees and mountains with water and wildlife — of course they are living around here!"

The state DEC has yet to confirm mountain lion sightings in the area. The last confirmed case was in Lake George several years ago. The Warren County

sighting was confirmed through the analysis of scat and hair samples. Those samples allowed experts to match the cat from Lake George to one subsequently found dead in Connecticut weeks later. Through continued studies, experts determined the mountain lion originated from the Dakotas.

"My husband and I saw a mountain lion in our backyard last year," Jill MacLean stated. The Colonial Acres resident said she had no doubt in what she saw. There was plenty of daylight, and the big cat's "long, powerful twitching tail" left an impression upon the couple. "It was so big when it walked out of the bushes, my first reaction was that someone was playing a joke on me."

Mountain lions can weigh up to 175 pounds. North Dakota Game and Fish describes the big cats as "sleek." They have the body of your house cat, with a short face and rounded ears. Their coloring ranges from tan with white accents on the chin and tip of the tail, to nearly all black. Though there's no documentation of "black" mountain lions, North

Dakota Game and Fish states "many" sightings are of black ones.

In North Dakota, the mountain lion is hunted game, which may help contribute to its habit of traveling hundreds of miles. Bailey, however, said some of the movement we're seeing this time of year is from the young moving out of their respective dens. Both cats are solitary animals, unless a mother is traveling with her young. Kittens are born in the spring, and stay with the mother for the duration of the year. They move out on their own before another brood is born the following season.

Bailey said mountain lions have yet to reestablish themselves in New York. Mountain lion hunting, however, started in North Dakota last week.

"I've heard all the claims that [mountain lions] don't exist here," MacLean stated, "but we saw one, and it was an experience I won't forget."

If you see a bobcat or mountain lion, you can report the sighting to the DEC by calling (518) 357-2158.

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From page 5 ...

Clean Air Act

environmental win for Albany County."

"I am a proud original sponsor of the Clean Air Act and was delighted to see that County Executive McCoy signed this local law, which prevents tire

and waste burning, and the burning of noxious fire foam," she said. "This victory is the result of the hard work of hundreds of neighbors, community members and clean air advocates, who made their

voices heard that clean air and environmental health are non-negotiable and should be protected."

The Bethlehem Democrat introduced the act, along with William Reinhardt, Jeffrey Kuhn and Matt Miller of Bethlehem; and Vicky Plotsky of Clarksville, before it was passed by legislators in August. The new law will

impact the LafargeHolcim plant located just south of Bethlehem.

LafargeHolcim expressed its disappointment in a statement issued later that day.

"We are disappointed that the Albany County Local Law B was approved as is," stated a LafargeHolcim

spokesperson. "Lafarge has a global company commitment to reduce our carbon footprint, and using alternative fuels and tire derived fuel in place of fossil fuels to run our kiln is one important way we do this. We're proud of our efforts, and the facts back this up. We will continue our efforts to educate local lawmakers and the

community about the true value of [tire derived fuel]."

LafargeHolcim had received a DEC permit to burn tires at its cement processing plant in Ravena. Before it was to start incinerating shredded tires imported from Connecticut, the Town of Coeymans passed a local law similar to that drafted by Albany County.

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OSNING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 335 East 85th Street, Apartment 4C, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251486

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

PADDLEFORD MANAGEMENT, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/10/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Capitol Services Inc., 1218 Central Avenue, Suite 100, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252923

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

PALENUQUE 44, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/20/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 114 First Avenue, New York, NY 10009. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252398

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

PLANT BASED EATING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/12/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 120 East End Avenue, Apartment 9A, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251141

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PRISALA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/12/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7718 12th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251220

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08/25/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2800 Webster Avenue, Bronx, NY 10458. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. CD-252663

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

RCL ADVISORS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/07/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Edward R. Smolka, Esq., 5 Tudor City Place, Lobby 11, New York, NY 10017-6853. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251061

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

RISING PHOENIX 2 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/02/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 91 Lone Oak Path, Smithtown, NY 11787. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252612

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

RISING PHOENIX 3 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/02/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 91 Lone Oak Path, Smithtown, NY 11787. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252613

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ROCKEFELLER IMAGINARIUM LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/10/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 320 East 57th Street, 8C, New York, NY 10022. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-253023

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

ROOFTOP LEGENDS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/01/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served.

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SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Jesse Pais, 1179 Prospect Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252770

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

ROSEPOINT STUDIO, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/06/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 112-41 Queens Boulevard, Suite 201, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-250926

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ROSS LAW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 116 Nassau Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10038. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Law. D-251581

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

S.O.A.R. MEDIA GROUP LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/09/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Steve Fishman, 6 Parkside Court, Brooklyn, NY 11226. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252967

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

SATORI BC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/02/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 527 Madison Avenue, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10022. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252634

NOTICE OF PLLC FORMATION

SCOTT JACOB ELLIS, MD, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/29/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 523 E. 72nd Street, 5th

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Floor, New York, NY 10021. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Medicine. D-250633

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SIMPLE CAPITAL LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/07/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 42 Broadway, Suite 12-202, New York, NY 10004. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251736

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SKW NJ MF PORTFOLIO LENDER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/15/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 134 West 25th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251054

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SM CLEANING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/11/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Frank Armeni, Jr., 406 W. 48th Street, #B1, New York, NY 10036. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251809

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

STARR OF DAVID LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/12/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o William Schwitzer, Esq., 820 2nd Avenue, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10017. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251142

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STELLA 14A, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/14/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 425

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West 50th Street, Unit 14A, New York, NY 10019. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251329

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STONE'S VIP GROOMING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/06/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 4705 Foster Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252035

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STUDIO X BJJ LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1042A Lafayette Avenue, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11221. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251964

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THE REN HOSPITALITY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/27/19. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 11209 75th Avenue, Apartment 3, Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-250728

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THE ROSHCO LAW FIRM PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/24/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 515 Madison Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10022. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Law. D-252038

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TMB HOLDINGS NY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/09/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC,

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1040 First Avenue, #393, New York, NY 10022. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252972

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TOWER 67 GARAGE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/03/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 E. 33rd Street, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-250726

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TREE MAN LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/19/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Brian A. Raphan P.C., 7 Penn Plaza, Suite 810, New York, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251580

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UNIFIED CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/04/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 37 Long Bow, Wading River, NY 11792. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-250802

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VARIOUS REASONS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/03/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC,

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1058 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11236. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252661

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Vik.Pawar.Law. PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/22/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 20 Vesey Street, Suite 1410, New York, NY 10007. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Law. D-252125

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WALSH DISTRIBUTING LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/11/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 8 N. Grandview Terrace, Voorheesville, NY 12186. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251083

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WAYNE'S BAKES AND BOTANICS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/21/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 105-30 171st Street, Jamaica, NY 11433. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251746

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WESTHAMPTON BEACH HOUSE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Suris & Asso-

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ciates, 395 North Service Road, Melville, NY 11747. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252039

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

WHBH HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Suris & Associates, 395 North Service Road, Melville, NY 11747. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252040

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WHBH REAL ESTATE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Suris & Associates, 395 North Service Road, Melville, NY 11747. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252042

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YOUNG OAK PARTNERS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/10/20. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Capitol Services Inc., 1218 Central Avenue, Suite 100, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-252925

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let the kids play this fall

To Superintendent Monroe and the Members of the BCSD Board of Education:

We know and appreciate that you have been inundated with pleas from the community urging you to reconsider your decision not to allow Bethlehem students to participate in certain imoderate risk sports this fall. Right now, as we write this email, hundreds and hundreds of Bethlehem students ñ boys and girls from kindergarten through 12th grade, in every one of your schools ñ are already playing moderate risk sports, and more, in organized rec and

travel leagues. Right now, hundreds and hundreds of your students are playing boys rec soccer, girls rec soccer, boys travel soccer, girls travel soccer, boys little league baseball, and girls softball. Most of the boys on the varsity soccer team are already signed up to play in Afrimis fall travel league.

So, hundreds and hundreds of Bethlehem students are (or will shortly be) practicing with their teams, scrimmaging against their teams and others, and playing against teams from around the region. And then, the following morning, they will all show

up at your school doors.†

In light of this reality, how can your decision be described as anything but arbitrary and capricious?

We respectfully urge you to change your decision and to direct the superintendent to immediately develop a plan that will allow our players to safely return to the field by†September 21st, the date the State has authorized practices to resume. The Bethlehem soccer and field hockey communities stand ready to help you quickly develop a plan that conforms to all State and local health and safety guidelines ñ the same guidelines that

every other Suburban Council team is following. If you will not change your decision†before this Wednesday’s†board meeting, we respectfully seek approval to speak at the meeting.

Thank you,
Jonathan and Diane
Burman
Delmar

Editor’s note: This letter has been condensed from a longer document sent to Bethlehem Board of Education members by the author.

Thanks for supporting ‘Invest’ campaign

To the Editor:
The COVID19 public health crisis has been incredibly challenging for residents of our community. In addition to the risk of COVID19 infection, we have many neighbors, friends and community members who are suffering economic and financial stress.

In response to this hurt, several months ago, the leaders of the Bethlehem Democratic Committee (BDC) wanted to take visible and tangible action to help our community. We decided to launch a campaign called “Invest

in Bethlehem”, which raised funds for two worthy organizations: the Bethlehem Community Fund (BCF) and a special fund created within the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce to help struggling local businesses with expenses during COVID19.

Our “Invest” campaign, through the use of our email list, social media and local advertising, asked community members who were able to, to donate to our “Invest” campaign. And, the BDC incentivized the donation campaign by initially

committing \$4000 to be divided between the Chamber’s fund for needy businesses and the BCF.

We are concluding our “Invest” campaign and thrilled to report that in addition to the \$4000 that the BDC initially contributed, the campaign raised an additional \$19,678. Those dollars were generated through donations, given directly to BCF and the Chamber, and online donations raised through the BDC’s fundraising arm. The grand total of \$23,678 will support the important work of the Chamber and

the Community Fund.

The BDC was thrilled to use our reach and network to raise funds for our community of Bethlehem. We look forward to our continued support of community members and businesses throughout Bethlehem. Thank you to so many of you who supported this campaign through donations – we appreciate you – and so does Bethlehem.

Bruce Bushart
Treasurer, Bethlehem
Democratic Committee


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COMMUNITY

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Local woman pushing for little libraries at local firehouses hopes it provides free books for all ages

By JACKIE GOLD



NEW SCOTLAND — Dr. Snow once wrote, “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” This is a quote that Yvonne Sabrey, a local attorney, takes to heart. Sabrey is from a small town within Guyana in South America. She has always been a supporter of books for all ages. Sabrey says the mission of the little library is to “bring the community together, increase literacy, and build a relationship with the fire company.” The Chousiquette Fire Company is a volunteer fire department that has been committed to the community since 1942. Sabrey has been working with the fire company for years and suggested they house the little library. Tattered Pages of Glenmont, the used book store that recently closed, donated many books to Sabrey’s effort and Lovell of Glenmont contributed materials for the books as well. “This is a way for me to give back to the community.”

Thanks for the read

To The Spotlight,
Thank you for the article on the Little Libraries. They were especially important when public libraries were closed. Here’s a list of the many I contribute to and trade books/magazines, in rate of likeability:
Marillo Drive in Colonie, near Forest Park Elementary School.
Guilderland Public Library in front of building.
Ciccotti Center, left of center near Crossings Park.
Manning Boulevard off of Western Avenue.
West Lawrence Street, near the church.
Regarding your article on journalism, I attended a book signing by Pete Hamill, who recently died, at Stuyvesant Plaza. He was kind and spelled my name correctly. He was also a great author and newspaper person.

Thank you,
Cathryn Abbott
Albany, NY

Please wear your masks

Dear editor,
Walking by the middle school today (Wednesday) around noon when kids were apparently being dismissed after ½ day session, I passed several groups of kids in groups of 8 or 10 walking shoulder to shoulder without masks. It’s a lot to ask and heartbreaking to contemplate that they must keep their distance from each other and mask when they have been deprived of socializing with their friends all

summer, But if they don’t we’ll be in trouble... especially if some might be living in homes where their older siblings who have been sent home from colleges with COVID have exposed them. We have been doing so well in Bethlehem. I implore parents and teachers to impress on their children and students the dangers of letting up our guard.

Liz Vigoda
Delmar

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LIBRARIES

Find Guilderland Public on Facebook

As we work on the next phase of our reopening plan and our building project approved by voters in May 2019, the best way to stay informed is to subscribe to weekly eNews and monthly newsletters at <https://bit.ly/GPLENews>. Also, see www.guilderlandlibrary.org and find us on Facebook, the GPL Kids and Families Facebook page, Instagram and YouTube.

Grab-n-Go Storytimes

Every other Tuesday in September, we'll have a storytime kit available for you and your little one(s) for curbside pickup, while supplies last. The next storytime kit will be ready for pickup Tues. Sept. 22 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Each thematic kit will contain suggestions for books, rhymes and songs



to share together, plus one or more fun surprise activities. Storytimes are recommended for ages 2-5, and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cookbook Club

This month, we're reverting to our previous format: we'll all cook from the same cookbook. We'll be using an eBook on our Hoopla digital platform: Indian-ish: Recipes and Antics from a Modern American Family, by Priya Krishna. The New York Times named Indian-ish one of the Best Cookbooks for Spring 2019. This selection is available to download instantly; there are no wait times or holds. Look for the instructions on how to

find the title in our events calendar listing and register to participate. Then, choose any recipe, make it at home, and we'll meet up online Wed. Sept. 23 at 7:00 p.m. to talk about the book and our culinary results.

Good Nutrition Ritual

Question: What is the number-one way to maintain optimal health? Answer: Good nutrition! Sam Kubik, owner of The Ritual 518 Superfood Café in Guilderland, will share her favorite immunity-boosting recipe with us on Thurs. Sept. 24 at 6:00 p.m. Plan to attend our live Zoom session to chat about plant-based recipes and substitutes you can easily incorporate into your daily

diet. You'll leave inspired to fuel your body with more nutrient-dense options.

Education Resources

We have several dynamic resources that can bolster academic enrichment and lifelong learning at: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/learning-tools>, including:

BookFlix - This award-winning resource from Scholastic encourages early learners to discover the joy of learning to read, then the excitement of reading to learn. Age range: Preschool-Grade 3.

Kids Info Bits - This comprehensive resource features articles on a variety of topics and current event news stories, with pictures and videos to enhance and retain learning. Age range: Elementary.

Opposing Viewpoints - This timely resource lends multiple perspectives to

current events, fostering a broader understanding beyond the sound bites and headlines. About 482 hot topics are covered, and educator resources are included. Age Range: High School.

Academic Onefile - This robust online encyclopedia is perfect for completing research projects. Students can utilize the topic finder, subject guide search and publication search to pinpoint the exact information needed. Age Range: High School.

Learning Express - This comprehensive resource features math, ELA, science and social studies content, technology skills practice, test prep and much more for K-12 students. Career-related categories for adults are also featured. Age Range: All Ages.

Pronunciator - Customize your own course as you choose from a whopping 163 languages,

including American Sign Language (ASL) and English language skills (ENL), then reinforce what you've learned with quick daily lessons. Age Range: All Ages.

Curbside Services

Checkouts: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays: 3:00-7:00 p.m. Returns: Monday-Friday, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

For general questions, please contact us at: 518.285.0050 or ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org. For circulation questions, please contact us at 518.285.0671 or ask.circ@guilderlandlibrary.org. All fines continue to be waived. If you should happen to mistakenly receive a fine notice, please contact Circulation.

— Luanne Nicholson

Coffee & Conversation goes virtual

Coffee & Conversation returns this month with a virtual lineup that promises an exciting mix of music and thought-provoking presentations. Enjoy the series while staying safe and comfortable at home with your coffee ... or tea. Following each program will be some time to chat and ask questions.

Kicking things off on Friday, Sept. 18, is a performance of "Golden Oldies" by Alyssa Yeager, who is both a professional musician and practicing music therapist. On Friday, Oct. 23, the series will feature a presentation by professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty about getting started on your own family history. We'll end October on a high note, as we are joined by local historians Michael Catoggio and Bill Schilling, who will share their research on the Swing Era



in the Capital Region on Friday, Oct. 30.

All Coffee and Conversation programs begin at 1 p.m. To sign up to participate, visit our online calendar at bethlehem.librarycalendar.com and click on the date and event you are interested in. The series is co-sponsored by Bethlehem Senior Projects, Inc.

Listening Parties turns 10

This fall, our popular monthly Listening Parties series will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a special edition that revisits the very first topic discussed — The Beatles' 1968 White Album. Librarian Michael Farley will facilitate the live discussion Thursday, Sept. 24, at 2pm, sharing

selections from the album, as well as the updates that came with the release of the 2018 "Super Deluxe" edition, which adds 27 songs recorded by the band at George Harrison's house, on an Ampex four-track tape machine.

Our Listening Parties meet monthly to hear selections from classic albums while discussing the life and music of great musicians. Join fellow music lovers and share your personal impressions and memories, rediscover milestones in music history, and talk about the artists that have shaped the musical landscape. It's like a book club, but for music. Coming in October, we'll be listening to works by Leonard Bernstein, and in November, the spotlight is on Aaron Copeland.

To sign up to participate, visit our online calendar at bethlehem.librarycalendar.com and click on the date and event you are interested

in. Clips and commentary from recent Listening Parties are also now available online. Visit www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/programs/listening-parties-online for more information.

Library services that work for you

When it comes to getting books, movies, audiobooks and more into your hands, we are one library with many options so that YOU can decide how much contact you are comfortable with.

Curbside pickup is currently available from 1-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 1-6 p.m. Friday.

The library is open for limited in-person browsing from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Our Pop-Up Library on the Plaza continues on nicer days.

Books to People offers a delivery service for the

homebound.

Cardholders can download eBooks and audiobooks, and stream video online anytime.

As we phase in more library services, please know that we are basing our decision on the latest public health and safety guidance from state and local government. Because of the rapidly changing nature of this information, we have created a webpage for the latest building and service updates. Visit www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/coronavirus-information to stay up-to-date.

Get your canvas

Give back to your community by participating in an outdoor community art show. The goal of this year's Great Giveback project is to use art to highlight the good in our community while creating a new, safe, outdoor experience for people to enjoy. Use your

art to thank a person or organization, or use your art to inspire good feelings in others. The library will provide blank yard signs for interested community members to use as canvases. For more details or to request your canvas: www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/great-giveback-2020-outdoor-community-art-show.

Voter info

You can call 1-800-FOR-VOTE to request a voter application.

You can also pick up a voter registration form at the library. They are available at the Information Desk and the Pop-Up Library, and they can also be requested for curbside pickup.

— Kristen Roberts

LIBRARIES

Batman Day at the library

NaNaNaNa
NaNaNaNa
- Batman!
Celebrate
Batman Day on Saturday, September 19th with the Library. Stop in anytime between 11 am and 2 pm to pick up a Grab and Go craft, superhero games and a free comic while supplies last. All ages are invited to join us virtually at 2 pm for a Batman Trivia game! See our website for details on how to join the trivia game.

Take And Make On Tuesday

Celebrate International Dot Day on Tuesday, September 15th with our Family Take and Make.

RCS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Dot Day is a celebration of creativity, courage, and collaboration; and is the perfect family project. Pick up your Take and Make in the Library or by curbside appointment beginning at 11 am on Tuesday. Quantities are limited, first come, first served.

On Tuesday, September 22nd we will have a Teen Take and Make featuring DIY Luminaries. Check out this a great way to reuse old glass jars and turn them into something beautiful. Pick up is in the Library or by curbside

ABC Storytimes

ABC and all the way to Z...alphabet letters will be the star of storytimes each week! Join us each week at Storytimes in the Park (registration required) or Storytimes at Home (on our YouTube channel or see Facebook for our storytime post) as we celebrate a letter and build early literacy skills with your child! Stop by the Library on Tuesdays after 11 am to pick up the storytime craft of the week for your little one, while supplies last.

— Carol Melewski

Virtual Preschool Storytime

Apple picking time is here! Enjoy a theme-based, multi-age virtual storytime with an emphasis on early literacy. Mrs. Brown and Miss Lisa will video record a short storytime with an accompanying art activity. The video link will be posted on the library's website, all of the library's social media platforms, and on the library's YouTube channel. Families of preschoolers can pick up a take & make bag at the library each week. The bag will include the storytime thematic art activity of the week. Each week's bags will be at the library from Tuesday-Saturday of that week. No registration needed.



sense of body awareness and proper alignment while linking breath and movement. This class is designed for a variety of ages and experience! Tricia Kanderfer is a certified yoga instructor who has years of teaching experience. Please register. The Zoom class link will be sent to those who register prior to the class session.

Donations to Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library will be accepting drop-in (no appointment needed) book donations on Saturday, September 26, from 10am to 2pm, at the Encore!books shed, located in the Library parking lot. Donations will also be accepted, by appointment

only, on Sunday, September 27. Please schedule your appointment at friends@voorheesvillelibrary.org. A listing of acceptable materials is listed in the FOL section of the Voorheesville Public Library's website.

By appointment

A limited number of appointments are available Monday-Saturday to browse for and check out materials or computer use. Evening browsing appointments are available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please call Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (518) 765-2791 to schedule your appointment.

— Lynn Kohler



Yoga for Adults

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From page 4 ...

Fears strike games off the pitch

soccer and field hockey, Bethlehem has elected to block these activities. Despite the decision from state, county, and section officials that medium risk sports are safe, Bethlehem has come to their own conclusion that, for largely unspecified reasons, it is unsafe to participate."

The district said it weighed the risks and benefits in order to "minimize the risk of a return to school."

"The decision to focus on low-risk play was made with the health and safety of students, staff and the entire Bethlehem school community as our primary considerations," said Superintendent Jody Monroe in a statement. "We weighed the risks and benefits, reviewed the

official guidance, talked to our district physician and determined that this is the most reasonable way to provide opportunities for our student-athletes without jeopardizing the work we are doing to ensure the safe return of teaching and learning to our classrooms."

There is a separate push to move soccer and field hockey to the spring, as has already been done for football.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association made the unilateral decision to postpone football, competitive cheerleading and volleyball until March 2021.

While the state did allow low and moderate

sports to commence this fall, it was not a mandate and it gave the districts the option to play or not to play.

Monroe said the district's decision to only have varsity sports stems from its reopening plan that does not include late buses for any student activities including athletics.

Spectators for cross country, golf and tennis will be limited to two per player. Swim meets will be held virtually at the high school pool with no visiting teams and no spectators. Team sizes and the number of competitors for each event will be limited to meet social distancing requirements set by NYSPHSAA.

"So many people — students, staff and parents — have put their faith in us to minimize the risk of a return to school," said Monroe. "A return to low-risk activities is where we are right now. We look forward to being able to make choices for our students down the road without the added weight of our current public health concerns."

Got sports news?

The Spotlight welcomes articles on community sports events and updates on athletes in college. Email us at news@spotlightnews.com.



9/11 remembered
 First responders gather in Bethlehem for touching ceremony.
Page B12

Fall Harvest — PAGES — **Coming: October 7 & 14**
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■ **CULTURE**

■ **INSIDE**



Hollywood ties

Local native is featured in latest blockbuster trailer.

Page B3



A world of sound

SPAC to host work of Pulitzer winning artist.

Page B7



Scene mourns

Friendly face behind the sound board dies suddenly.

Page B9

2020

Vote

County breaks down voting process for Election 2020

By **KAITLIN LEMBO & JACKIE GOLD**
 lembok@spotlightnews.com
 intern@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY COUNTY — Like many other things in the world, the COVID-19 pandemic is already affecting the general election for November.

The Albany County Board of Elections is faced with keeping the voting process as efficient as possible while meeting the several concerns of voters. As Gov. Andrew Cuomo has issued several executive orders for this election, voters are left with more options than before.

Albany County Board of Election commissioners Matthew Clyne and Rachel Bledi are working hard to ensure everyone in Albany County has ample time to cast a vote.

“It’s going to be all in for counting these ballots,” Bledi said. “It requires us to have a game plan going in and for us to work together to be as efficient as possible.”

Continues on page B4

Political flame throwing and fears over catching COVID-19 have shaped an interesting election season for 2020. Here's what you need to know.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month & FALL HEALTH

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**SPICY,
NO?**

The pumpkins are out
and all over the place.

Michael Hallisey /
The Spot 518

**quote of
the week**

"We are deeply saddened ...
Brian was very passionate
about mixing shows. It
wasn't just a job to him, it
was an art form and anyone
who ever spoke with him
about it could tell how much
he loved it."




— Roger Sharp,
on the sudden
passing Brian Lang, a
popular, local sound
engineer



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RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

Local native tied to Hollywood trailer

Dani Moz featured in blockbuster movie trailer

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

A local native has ties to Hollywood's biggest reveal from this week.

Warner Brothers launched the first trailer to Denis Villeneuve's "Dune" earlier this week. The 3:04 teaser pairs visuals from the film with Hans Zimmer's arrangement of Pink Floyd's "Eclipse."

The highly anticipated movie is yet another adaptation of Frank Herbert's sci-fi book series. The first was tackled by Twin Peak's David Lynch in 1984. It featured Kyle MacLachlan in the lead role and included Star Trek's Patrick Stewart before supplanting himself as captain of the Enterprise. Though it also featured Sting and music from the Grammy Award-winning band Toto, the movie was widely panned by critics. Nonetheless, it continues to be a cult classic among fans of the book series.

An early glimpse of Villeneuve's attempt appears to remain true



DANI MOZ

to Herbert's story. The trailer circulates around the pivotal moment in which lead character Paul Atreides endures a test with a Bene Gesserit as he recites the Litany Against Fear. Framed around that dialogue are flashes from other moments throughout the film, including shots of Game of Thrones' Jason Momoa, Homeland's Timothée Chalamet, Star Wars' Oscar Isaac, and Avengers' Josh Brolin and Dave Bautista.

Lost in the stunning display are Dani Moz's vocals as she sings Zimmer's Pink Floyd cover from "Dark Side of the



Moon." "My first movie trailer, eee!" Moz said as she shared the trailer to fans on her Facebook page. "I got to sing for Hans Zimmer and record vocals for Dune Movie ... and you can hear me in the trailer ... Epic song choice...I'm so excited to share!"

Moz, whose given name is Danielle Mozeleski,

became a household name as a contestant in Season 6 of The Voice in 2014. After latching on to Shakira as her coach, she advanced into the playoffs, winning her first-round appearance with an exciting rendition of Lady Gaga's "The Edge of Glory." Her string of appearances, however, was cut short in Episode 21 when she was eliminated as

one of the Bottom 3.

Last September, she performed at the Emmy Awards after-party following the award ceremony.

As of Friday, the trailer has already garnered more than 13 million views on YouTube.

The movie is scheduled to release in theatres on Friday, Dec. 18.

Timothée Chalamet as Paul Atreides and Rebecca Ferguson as Lady Jessica Atreides in Warner Bros. Pictures and Legendary Pictures' action adventure "Dune," a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

Chiabella James / Warner Bros. Entertainment, Inc.

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From page B1 ...

Vote

Clyne agreed, adding the exact plan has yet to be determined, but he and Bledi are expecting an influx of ballots this election. "This is going to be very time consuming, but with the balance of early voting and those who will come out on Nov. 2, it should help alleviate crowding."

Bledi and Clyne implore voters to understand the results will be a bit later than normal this year due to the influx of absentee ballots and the expected number of voters. Still, Bledi said she hopes to have everything counted within a couple of weeks, adding "people should not have to wait a month to learn who won an election." Bledi and Clyne said all ballots, both physical and absentee, need to be in the office by Nov. 10, and from there results should flood in within a timely period.

Why Vote?

The Albany County League of Women Voters

(ACLOWV) advocates for increased knowledge and resources around the voting process. Patricia Sibilja, president, said voting is important, specifically in local elections, because the result can be decided based on a handful of votes.

"In national elections, it's a little different, but there are several instances locally where an election has been decided based on under 100 votes," she said. "People like to say voting is irrelevant because their vote doesn't count, but that could not be further from the truth in our local elections."

Sibilja added local elections are also the place where change that actually affects residents happen. "These representatives are the ones that create policy that directly impacts you the most," Sibilja said. "They are the ones who decide when your roads are fixed, what your library looks like, if you have a local park and other local policy that can enhance quality of life. Change starts

"If you're super concerned about mailing your ballot, come down to the office and fill out your ballot in your car. We will take it from you immediately upon turning it in and it will be safe."

— Rachel Bledi,
Albany County
Board of Elections
commissioner

at the local level, where policy is created specifically for your neighborhood."

Options for Nov. 3

Clyne, Bledi and the ACLOWV are working hard to get voting options out to residents. The BOE sent a flyer to Albany County residents, which started hitting mailboxes on Sept. 10.

There are three options for casting your vote in November. In fact, some of the election processes have



local BOE. Voters also have the option of calling the BOE to put in a request or sending a fax. Finally, voters can also go in person to the BOE for their absentee ballot.

Despite the deadlines recommended by New York State, the post office has advised that they cannot guarantee timely delivery of absentee ballot requests applied for less than 15 days before the election. To ensure your application for a ballot is received by the BOE, request one as soon as possible.

If you are unable to receive your ballot through the mail and are unable to pick up your ballot, you can designate someone to pick it up for you. Only the designated person on your application may pick up and deliver your ballot to you.

Casting Your Absentee Ballot

To cast your absentee vote, make sure a series of steps are followed. Upon receiving your ballot, mark it according to your choices for office. After you complete filling out

already started. By Sept. 18, absentee ballots will begin to be sent out. There is still time to register to vote and request an absentee ballot.

The deadline to register to vote for the 2020 November election is Friday, Oct. 9. This is the last day for registration to be postmarked and must be received by the Board of Elections, or BOE, by Wednesday, Oct. 14.

To register to vote, go to the Albany County BOE website. To check your registration status, go to

voterlookup.elections.ny.gov.

Once you have registered, you can request an absentee ballot. Tuesday, Oct. 27 is the last day to request an absentee ballot online, through email or a postmarked application. The last day to apply in person at the BOE for an absentee ballot is Monday, Nov. 2, the day before the election. To apply online, visit the Electronic Absentee Ballot Application Portal. To request a ballot through email, send an email to the

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the ballot, fold it and place it in the security envelope. This is the envelope with a place for your signature. Be sure to sign and date the envelope in the designated spot, then seal it.

Place the security envelope inside of the return envelope that came with your ballot. This envelope should have a logo that reads, "Official Election Mail." Seal the return envelope and decide how you will return your ballot.

There are four ways you can return your ballot. You may put it in the mail, making sure it is postmarked no later than Tuesday, Nov. 3. You can also bring it directly to the BOE or an official polling site by 9 p.m. on election day. To vote early, bring the ballot to an early voting poll site between Saturday, Oct. 24 and Sunday, Nov. 1.

USPS recommends that voters allow plenty of time for marked ballots to be mailed back to the BOE, generally seven days before the election. New York State requires ballots to be both postmarked by Wednesday, Nov. 3 and

Electing the President of the United States

The process of electing a President was set up in the United States Constitution.



The Constitution requires a candidate for the presidency to be:

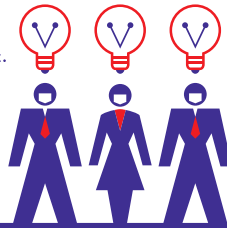
So how does one become President of the United States? The following steps outline the general process for presidential elections.



- At least 35 years old
- A natural born citizen of the United States
- A resident of the United States for 14 years

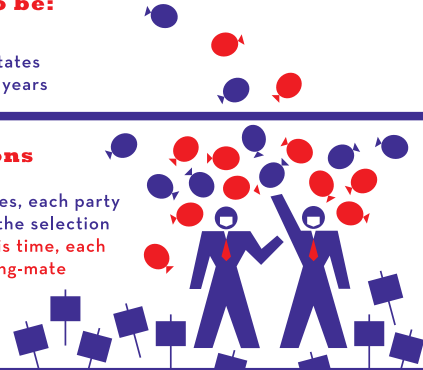
Step 1: Primaries and Caucuses

There are many people who would like to become President. Each of these people have their own ideas about how our government should work. Some of these people can belong to the same political party. That's where primaries and caucuses come in. In these elections, party members get to vote for the candidate that will represent their party in the upcoming general election.



Step 2: National Conventions

At the end of the primaries and caucuses, each party holds a national convention to finalize the selection of one Presidential nominee. During this time, each Presidential candidate chooses a running-mate (or Vice-Presidential candidate).



Step 3: The General (or Popular) Election

When each party is represented by one candidate, the general election process begins. Candidates campaign throughout the country in an attempt to win the support of voters. In November, the people vote for one candidate.



When a person casts a vote in the general election, they are not voting directly for an individual Presidential candidate. Instead, voters in each state actually cast their vote for a group of people, known as electors. These electors are part of the Electoral College and are supposed to vote for their state's preferred candidate.

Step 4: The Electoral College

In the Electoral College system, each state gets a certain number of electors, based on each state's total number of representation in Congress. Each elector gets one electoral vote.



For example, a large state like California gets 55 electoral votes, while Rhode Island gets only four. All together, there are 538 electoral votes.

In December (following the general election), the electors cast their votes.

When the votes are counted on January 6th, the Presidential candidate that gets more than half (270) wins the election.

The President-elect and Vice President-elect take the oath of office and are inaugurated two weeks later, on January 20th.



Source: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/5-5/election/president.html> Infographic: Robert Pizzo for Metro Creative

Continues on B12



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Sophia Subbayya Vastek: Open For Take-Out Virtual Concert Series
OCT 5 at 7 pm | \$7



An evening with MARY GAUTHIER | Live at The Linda
OCT 28 at 7 pm | \$20

HOROSCOPES

September 2020
Week 3

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

Aries, let yourself drift off into a creative mode this week. Explore any artistic endeavor and dream as big as your mind allows. Don't limit this expressive outlet.

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

This week you may be feeling especially loving and romantic, Taurus. Consider treating your special someone to a home-cooked meal or going for a stroll in the park.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

Gemini, if things get a little confusing over the next couple of days, don't feel the need to try to figure everything out. Take what you need to get your tasks done.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

Cancer, it may seem like you are juggling a hundred things at once. Take a step back to exhale and recharge your batteries. This will prove a welcome break.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

Leo, when faced with too many choices, you may find it hard to make a decision. Instead, select two or more and sample which is best. Don't let indecisiveness derail your plans.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Calming, relaxing activities are the best way to fill up your week, Virgo. Spend time taking long walks with friends or hanging out without much advance planning.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

Libra, one minute you feel one thing and another you've changed your mind. Sit down and think over the pros and cons of each direction before making a final decision.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

Scorpio, your social schedule fills up quickly this week. You may enjoy getting out of the house or the office, but remember to do it in a responsible and safe way.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

No one but you can start working toward your goals, Sagittarius. Stop dragging your feet and put a good plan into action in the next few days.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

Capricorn, whether you realize it or not, you have a great deal of freedom to do what you want. Be spontaneous and start pursuing some of your goals.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

People may not be receptive to your usual brand of humor this week, Aquarius. Do more listening than talking. Try to keep sarcasm to a minimum and lay low.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

Don't be overly concerned with what others think about you, Pisces. Even if you're feeling like a fish out of water, forge ahead with your unique ideas.

FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY

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CLUES ACROSS

- Emaciation
- Million barrels per day (abbr.)
- Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
- Anatomical term
- Tropical starchy tuberous root
- Jewish calendar month
- Round Dutch cheese
- Western Pacific republic
- List of foods
- It can strike the ground
- Drenches
- Some are cole
- ___ Squad
- Expresses emotion
- One point east of due south
- Satisfaction
- Holds nothing back
- Top of the body
- Not well-liked
- Did slowly
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Gland secretion
- Vital to existence
- Aristocratic young women
- Erik ___, composer
- Not young
- Jewish term for "Sir"
- Secondary school
- ___ student: learns to heal
- Regarding
- Highly excited
- Mainly
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- Cakes
- Biomedical nonprofit
- Dried-up
- One who is symbolic of something
- Body part
- Muslim ruler
- Women from Mayflower
- Notes

CLUES DOWN

- Not us
- Helper
- Bleat
- Type of chair
- Jr.'s father
- Necessary for certain beverages
- Hillside
- Dutch painter Gerrit ___
- Gave a new look
- Ancient Greek City
- Confidence trick
- Type of fund
- From an Asian island
- Malay boat
- Western Australia indigenous people
- Cluster on underside of fern frond
- You need it to get somewhere
- The woman
- It may be green
- Makes less severe
- One from Beantown
- Cavalry sword
- Metric linear unit
- Hawaiian dish
- Yokel
- Dissuade
- Mutual savings bank
- ___ Caesar, comedian
- Primordial matters
- We all have it
- Hermann ___, author of "Siddhartha"
- Historic MA coastal city
- Shady garden alcove
- Small amount
- Horse-drawn cart
- Nocturnal rodent
- Spiritual leader
- Air mattress
- Speaks incessantly
- Auction term
- Atomic #62

Answers on Pg. B10

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

Step into a world of sound at SPAC

GPS triggers unique audio experience composed by Pulitzer Award-winning artist

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

SARATOGA SPRINGS — Saratoga Performing Arts Center will soon allow patrons to step into an immersive world of sound composed by one of the most innovative sound artists of her generation.

SPAC will begin featuring “Ellen Reid Soundwalk,” a GPS-enabled work of public art in the Saratoga Spa State Park that uses music to illuminate the natural environment, on Monday, Sept. 21.

Patrons will be welcomed to download, tune in and walk around with a phone app that taps into the Pulitzer Prize-winning artist’s music. What they hear will depend on where they are in the park. Movement around the park triggers Ellen Reid’s soundscape — musical cells which she carefully crafted to harmonize with the park’s landscape and attractions. The experience is guided by the listener: the path the participant chooses dictates the music they hear, ensuring that no two visits will be exactly the same.

“Bringing this project to our park is part of our vision to connect the unique beauty of our natural surroundings... the lush pines, woodland walks, geysers and natural springs...with art and music,” said Elizabeth Sobol, President and CEO of Saratoga Performing Arts Center. “We’re excited that Saratoga is only the second place, after New York City, to present the installation — and excited to be offering this unique art/nature experience to visitors to the Saratoga Spa State Park.”



ELLEN REID

SPAC is one of five locations across the country that will feature “Ellen Reid Soundwalk.” The exhibit premiered last week at New York City’s Central Park. After it’s unveiled in Saratoga Springs, it will open in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Vienna, Virginia; and Jacksonville, Oregon.

“Working with SPAC on this special presentation of ‘Soundwalk’ for Saratoga Spa State Park has been incredible,” Reid said. “This project is about sharing art and music with the community, but it’s also an excuse to spend some quality time taking in our natural surroundings. Spending an hour or two in Saratoga Spa State Park is the perfect foil to our nose-in-computer daily lives.”

“Ellen Reid Soundwalk” features a newly-written score, performed by Soundwalk Ensemble, as well as special musical “Easter eggs” hidden around the park for participants to discover.

Reid is one of the most innovative artists of her generation. A composer and sound artist whose breadth of work spans opera, sound design, film scoring, ensemble and choral writing, she was awarded the the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her opera, “Prism.”

Along with composer Missy Mazzoli, Ellen co-founded the Luna

Composition Lab. Luna Lab is a mentorship program for young, female-identifying, non-binary, and gender nonconforming composers. Since the fall of 2019, she has served as Creative Advisor and Composer-in-Residence for Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

“Ellen Reid Soundwalk” was co-commissioned by Saratoga Performing Arts Center, the New York Philharmonic, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, Mann Center for the Performing Arts in association with The Fairmount Park Conservancy, and Britt Festival Orchestra.

“These are unprecedented times: we’re all experiencing the anxieties of living in an uncertain world. We miss our communities, and we miss the very thing that makes our cities special: the people,” Reid said. “I hope ‘Soundwalk’ will inspire us and make us feel connected to something larger than ourselves. It is meant to serve as artistic nourishment -- a place to recharge, reconnect, and re-energize.”

The exhibit is free to the public, and can be experienced while following social distancing guidelines. The installation will remain accessible in the park until Sunday, Nov. 1.

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■ AROUND THE SCENE

Scene loses friendly face

SARATOGA SPRINGS

— The local music scene mourns the loss of a friendly face, and it's pulling itself together to help support his family.

Brian Lang was a popular sound engineer. He once toured with The Black Crowes as the band's sound man, but he was most often the face behind the soundboard in the back of Putnam Place.

Andy Morse of The Wheel remembered him as funny and kind. Others expressed his apparent love for his job.

A fundraiser on gofundme.com was launched over the weekend to raise money for his memorial service and for his two young boys.

"We are deeply saddened," wrote Roger Sharp, who started the online fundraiser. "Brian was very passionate about mixing shows. It wasn't just a job to him, it was an art form and anyone who



BRIAN LANG

ever spoke with him about it could tell how much he loved it."

People from other venues and organizations expressed condolences as news circulated across the scene.

"On behalf of the entire New York Players Entertainment team, we extend our sincerest condolences to you, [Sly Fox] and the Putnam Den family. Brian always went above and beyond the call of duty to make things right. Always felt confident when he was at the controls."

Putnam Place will host a celebration of Lang's life on Saturday, Sept. 19, from 2 to 8 p.m.

The Low Beat closes for good

ALBANY — The Low Beat is gone.

The beloved midtown venue was a favorite for music fans looking for hard rock, punk and the burgeoning local band looking to break into the scene.

Owner Howard Glassman welcomed followers on social media to stop over with screwdrivers and cash in hand as posters signs, and just about everything, was being sold off.

The venue's doors were opened for the sell off on Friday, Saturday and the following Monday.

Rivers reopens

SCHENECTADY — Rivers Casino & Resort

Schenectady reopened last week, nearly six months after closing its doors before state-mandated shutdowns.

Rivers Casino's new hours will be from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. The casino will conduct intensive property-wide deep cleaning during its downtime, in addition to its sanitizing efforts throughout the day.

Rivers has developed an extensive "Sure Bet Sanitized" cleaning program in partnership with Janitronics and airPHX Technology, along with a number of other new operating procedures in order to comply with, or surpass, the state's new COVID-19 casino reopening protocols.

All guests and Rivers team members will be required to wear face coverings.

For more information, visit riverscasinoandresort.com.

SUDOKU

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Answers on Pg. B10

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6	3	7	5	8	2	1	4	9
9	8	1	4	3	6	2	5	7
7	5	6	9	2	1	4	8	3
2	9	3	8	4	7	5	1	6
1	4	8	3	6	5	9	7	2
3	1	5	2	9	8	7	6	4
4	6	2	1	7	3	8	9	5
8	7	9	6	5	4	3	2	1

Super Crossword Answers

T	A	B	E	S		M	B	D		R	E	B	S		
H	I	L	A	R		T	A	R	O		E	L	U	L	
E	D	A	M		P	A	L	A	U		M	E	N	U	
M	E	T	E	O	R	I	T	E		S	O	A	K	S	
				S	L	A	W	S		M	O	D		O	H
S	B	E		A	H	A		B	A	R	E	S			
H	E	A	D		U	N	P	O	P	U	L	A	R		
E	A	S	E	D		E	O	S		S	E	B	U	M	
		N	E	C	E	S	S	I	T	Y		D	E	B	S
		S	A	T	I	E		O	L	D		R	E	B	
H	S		M	E	D		A	N	E	N	T				
E	A	G	E	R		P	R	I	M	A	R	I	L	Y	
S	L	A	T		B	A	B	A	S		A	M	I	A	
S	E	R	E		I	C	O	N		S	C	A	L	P	
E	M	I	R		D	A	R			M	E	M	O	S	

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From page B5 ...

Vote

received by Tuesday, Nov. 10. Even if your ballot is postmarked by Nov. 3 and gets lost in the mail, if election officials do not receive the ballot by Nov. 10, the ballot will be voided.

Be mindful of posted collection times at USPS collection boxes if you choose to mail your ballot on election day. Ballots that are put into a collection box after the posted collection time will not be postmarked until the next business day.

If you are wary about your vote being counted through the mail, you still have the option to vote in person if you request an absentee ballot. The BOE is required to check the poll book before counting an absentee ballot. If a voter chose to vote in person at a poll site on election day, the absentee ballot is set aside and not counted. This eliminates the possibility of someone's vote being counted twice and lowers the chance of being victim to voter fraud.

Bledi added voters

are able to call the Board of Elections with any questions about their application or the status of their ballot. As the election draws closer and the office gets more overwhelmed, the option will be sparse, but it is early enough to literally follow your ballot back to the BOE, where you can confirm with a representative if your ballot was received and in good standing.

Early Voting

Sibilia explained the differences with early voting this election. Early voting was first passed in New York last year after a law signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The biggest difference between last year's early voting options and this year's is the location. Previously, voters could only cast an early ballot at their specific early polling station. This election, New York is allowing voters to cast an early ballot at any of the six early polling locations in

the county.

Voters will have a choice of nine designated days for early voting, including weekends.

"Early voting cuts down the amount of people at polling stations on the day of the election," she said. "This is especially advantageous for those in the city, where lines can stretch hundreds of people and waiting times can be astronomical."

Sibilia said early voting is the exact same process as if you were to physically show up on Tuesday, Nov. 3; you enter a polling station and check in with an election worker. You sign in and you receive a ballot. You then fill out your ballot at a designated booth and tender it in the designated spot.

"There is really no difference between early voting and voting on Election Day," Sibilia said. "You just won't have results the day you cast your ballot, but this election will not have those instantaneous results anyway due to the influx of absentees."

Early voting is especially important for Albany's senior population. The

Bethlehem Senior Services Department and Colonie's counterpart is extending options for its clients to vote safely.

Both Colonie and Bethlehem are offering transportation to seniors who are looking to get to early voting, albeit limited. Due to social distancing, vans cannot hold as many people.

"We can only put four people in a van now, where we used to be able to transport 13 people at a time," William Vail, acting director, said. "We will also be prioritizing medical appointments for our clients, so transportation might be affected if there is an issue that needs to be addressed immediately."

Despite the pandemic dealing the senior population a harsh risk, Colonie director Diane LaCivita said her seniors are expressing a bigger interest in voting than ever.

"I've been here for four years and I do not remember this much interest in an election," she said. "We're doing our best to make sure we make options visible to everyone, both through word of

mouth here and mailers going to residents."

Vail and LaCivita said seniors have adapted well to the obstacles, adding workers have been modeling behaviors like mask wearing and social distancing.

"They know this is what we need to do to make sure everyone is safe," LaCivita said. "We've taken incredible precautions to make sure everyone is safe, and we are happy to report we haven't had a single case of COVID-19 so far."

Debunking a Myth

Rumors are swirling that if your signature on your absentee ballot is different than the one on record, your ballot will not count. Sibilia said that is not true.

If you are physically going to the polls this fall, you will be face to face with an election worker. Sibilia said election workers reserve the right to ask for official identification for any reason, including if someone's signature is way off from what is on record. Even with that precaution, Sibilia said it's rare that someone is so off that election workers

cannot recognize it.

If you are casting via absentee ballot, election workers are obligated to call the voter and will give instructions on how to rectify the issue. Sibilia said there's an option called an affidavit ballot that involves the court, but it's an extremely arduous process.

"Election workers are legally obligated to contact voters with any problems in a certain time frame," she said. "If there is a problem with your ballot, you will hear from them before it is voided."

Resources

Along with the Board of Elections website, the ACLOWV has a website, www.vote411.org, that has resources including information about those on the ballot. Sibilia said it also should have instructions on how to fill out your ballot.

The New York State Attorney General's Office also has a hotline where voters can ask questions or report any illegal behavior. To contact the hotline, call 800-771-7755, or email civil.rights@ag.ny.gov. Sibilia said the hotline is a great resource for voters to learn what is legal at a polling place.

It's Going to be Ok

As fear grips many residents and COVID-19 threatens a second wave this fall, Albany officials know it's a difficult time for all. However, Bledi said there are plenty of safe options for voting and residents should not be concerned.

"If you are absolutely apprehensive about showing up physically, I can promise you voting via absentee ballot is safe and we encourage you to cast your vote from the comfort of your home or office," she said. "If you're super concerned about mailing your ballot, come down to the office and fill out your ballot in your car. We will take it from you immediately upon turning it in and it will be safe."

Clyne concluded with the number of options and the time allotted, there is no reason for someone to miss out.

"We ironed out a lot of kinks from the primary election and we are ready to get this going," he said.

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