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September 30 - October 6, 2020

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NEWS

No confidence in highway czar

Town Board does not move
money, wants more answers.

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Budget talks begin in Delmar

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budget, sees increase.

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'Blue Ribbon' awarded to VCSD

V'ville high school is named
among 367 schools in U.S.

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TOP STORY



Change is possible

Bethlehem names its police reform committee

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

BETHLEHEM — The Town Board unanimously voted in favor of forming its Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Committee, establishing the advisory board mandated by the governor's office, and taking the first step towards a collective effort towards statewide reform in law enforcement.

Town Supervisor David VanLuven said the town received 32 applications from

people expressing interest in serving on the advisory board.

"Our objective was to bring together committee members who were diverse and could bring in a broad range of views and perspectives about our town and our police department," VanLuven said. "We particularly wanted to include members who had particular insights into the experiences that people of color have had with the police department, and who could offer recommendations on how to improve these interactions."

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CULTURE



Stardust

Singer shares latest single, and her
love for Saratoga Springs.

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SPORTS



BC tees off

Bethlehem Central's golf clubs start off
strong to begin the season.

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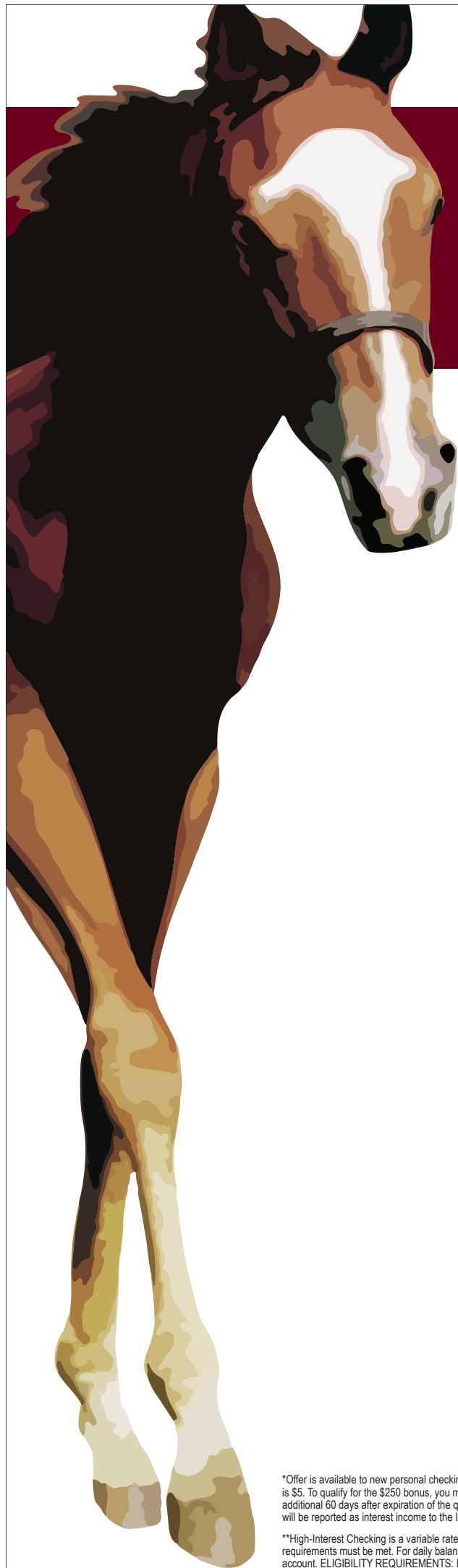
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■ TOWN GOVERNMENT

Board holds off on covering overdraft

Highway czar failed to take proper steps that could have prevented \$150K overdraft of compost facility project on Feura Bush Road

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

BETHLEHEM — With a virtual vote of no confidence, the Town Board held off a decision to move funds to cover the Highway Department's \$150,000 overdraft.

The board will wait another month before it decides to move funds from its capital reserve funds in order to cover costs from a near \$300,000 paving job at its compost facility on Feura Bush Road.

In addition to exceeding the amount budgeted for the project, the board questioned why its superintendent of highways assigned the job to a contractor. It wondered why the job exceeded the scope of the original plan. And, after sharing the details of the finished product with town engineers, it asked why so much blacktop was used.

Marc Dorsey has struggled with town finance regulations since taking leadership of the highway department in January. In July, he struck the town's ire after it was revealed he sold equipment prior to the board's approval. When the board approved him to sell off \$1,800 of surplus equipment, board members were unaware that the check was already in hand. Wednesday night's meeting was the first time he appeared before the board

since then.

"If we have a reserve of \$150,000 — which is my tax levy, it's any taxpayer's money in Bethlehem — I don't get a vote, but I don't want to bail him out again," resident Jennifer Cardamore said during public comment. She was one of three residents to speak at the start of the meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 23. All three voiced condemnation towards the highway department. They each had to wait towards the end of the two-hour meeting before they could hear him speak.

Dorsey spoke to the board immediately after a presentation of the town's tentative budget, which forecasts a \$1.5 million shortfall in revenue. Virus-related shutdowns have cut into collected sales taxes. To offset those losses, the town plans to cut spending and to draw \$1 million from reserves.

According to town records, the highway department has a \$7.1 million expenditure budget, but it already includes expected costs associated with highway repairs, snow removal, brush pickup and more. Dorsey approached the board to ask that money be transferred from the town's capital reserve fund.

The highway czar explained several of his reasons, including his foreman's "substantially"

low estimate of three years ago, an underestimated need for detailed "hand work," and his predecessors' overall neglect of the project. He also surmised that costs associated with a stormwater pollution plan may not have been included with the dated estimate.

"I would also like to see any paper whatsoever that has been done on this project. It strikes me as strange that we don't have a paper trail."

— Maureen Cunningham,
Bethlehem Town Board



learn or abide by the town's financial rules and regulations," said resident Matt Lauricella. "And, instead of taking accountability for his mismanagement, chooses to blame his predecessors."

Dorsey also explained that, because the town previously awarded New Castle Paving to be its in-place contractor, he thought costs were already

board's approval first.

Dorsey's failure to obtain a quote prior to the job was his first mistake, the town comptroller's office said when the board asked what should have happened. Instead, the department head used an estimate provided three years before. The dated estimate was also from a 2017 bid request. Though New Castle was later awarded a contract as



"I'm not out just looking to pave fields and do extra work. I don't really need to with the COVID happening right now."

— Marc Dorsey,
Bethlehem Superintendent of Highways

approved. The highway department employed the paving company because it possessed the tools the town did not have to complete the job.

"I'm not out just looking to pave fields and do extra work," Dorsey said. "I don't really need to with the COVID happening right now." He had also explained in his memo that had he anticipated the job would exceed the project's budget, he would have sought the

town's in-place paver, it was never awarded the compost facility project.

Town Supervisor David VanLuven proceeded to show a lack of confidence with Dorsey's answers. Aside from missing a quote, VanLuven asked if anything was provided in writing, including expectations. The pad upon which the compost sits was extended by up to 25 percent more than the original plan, VanLuven said. The hand

work that was done, the supervisor said, was also not part of the plan. Dorsey said the work was based off the blueprints in his files. Otherwise, he said, he could not answer for decisions made prior to taking the job in January.

VanLuven questioned the amount of material used by New Castle. After presenting the details of the plan's footprint and the amount of blacktop used, town engineers thought too much was used. Dorsey said he and his foreman were present to observe the job, including measuring the thickness of the blacktop. Nonetheless, VanLuven asked Dorsey to seek an answer from the contractor.

And, after Dorsey assured the board no more costs would be assessed to the project, VanLuven asked the comptroller's office to confirm. They explained that money spent to replenish town resources used during the project would also be assessed, potentially adding more costs.

The board pushed the vote for next month, assigning Dorsey with the task of seeking more information from the contractor and providing the board supporting paperwork.

"I would also like to see any paper whatsoever that has been done on this project," said Town Boardmember Maureen Cunningham. "It strikes me as strange that we don't have a paper trail."

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■ TOWN GOVERNMENT

Town won't leave residents holding bill

Despite \$1.5M shortfall in revenue, Bethlehem's tentative budget promises just a 1.42 percent tax levy increase, so far

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

BETHLEHEM — The town's tentative budget for next year tells a story unlike any other thanks to the COVID pandemic, but despite a \$1.5 million shortfall in revenue, residents won't be left holding the bill.

The town comptroller's office presented a \$45.4 million dollar budget to board members last week, translating to a 1.42 percent increase in the property tax levy. The average homeowner (assessed value of \$260,000) would see a \$14.43 increase in his or her bill.

The early draft has the town cinching its belt as it cuts spending by approximately \$500,000 next year. It also calls for

"This is a wrenching proposal for us to be considering, but it's needed to avoid staff cuts."

— David VanLuven,
Town Supervisor

the town to draw \$1 million out of capital reserves to make up for lost revenue.

Non-unionized employees won't receive cost of living adjustments next year, nor will they see built-in step up increases to their salaries.

"This is a wrenching proposal for us to be considering," said Town Supervisor David VanLuven, "but it's needed to avoid staff cuts."

VanLuven said the town could not afford to layoff or furlough town employees while continuing to maintain services to residents. Since the town reduced its workforce following the 2008 recession, it has continued to work as a "skeletal crew," he said.

Town Comptroller Michael Cohen said the pandemic was predominately at fault for the \$1.5 million shortfall in revenue. Virus-related shutdowns and restrictions curbed spending at local restaurants and retail stores.

"Remember to make your purchases in Albany County," Cohen stressed to the audience. As the town earns a seemingly low figure of 0.17 of one cent for each dollar spent within the county, the

accountant said that money accumulates profoundly. "Might not seem like a lot, but remember, in 2019 the town received \$12.6 million."

The town board will continue to discuss the budget in future meetings before it is expected to adopt a plan on Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Main Flushing

The town started its bi-annual water flushing program last week, so officials ask that you don't be too alarmed about your water pressure.

"Our flushing program, which we do annually in the spring and the fall, helps to maintain high-quality drinking water throughout our service area," said Town Supervisor David VanLuven. "The town's water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and

storage reservoirs where sediment or deposits may naturally accumulate over time."

The town is tackling different sections of town in a schedule stretched out

Two crew members will be systematically working their way through the system over the next month, from Monday, Sept. 21 to Friday, Oct. 30., flushing water out of selected fire hydrants to remove the sediment.

Slingerlands, North Bethlehem and the Town of New Scotland will receive the first round of service from Monday, Sept 21 to Friday, Oct. 9. Delmar and Elsmere will have their portion of the network flushed from Wednesday, Sept. 30 to Friday, Oct. 23. Glemont and Selkirk homes will be serviced from Monday, Oct. 19 to Friday, Oct. 30.

The town goes through the annual process to

maintain water quality and to test the effectiveness of neighborhood fire hydrants. If water is not routinely removed, sediment materials may cause quality deterioration, taste and odor problems or discoloration.

The town warned that residents may experience a temporary drop in water pressure. Some residents may also experience rusty brown or cloudiness in their water. The town said this discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air, and does not affect the safety of the water.

If you experience this discoloration, the town recommends running the cold water faucets for a brief period. As a precaution, make sure the cold water has become clear again prior to using hot water to ensure discolored water is not drawn into the hot water tank.

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■ COUNTY POLITICS

County GOP has a new chairperson

By **JIM FRANCO**

francoj@spotlightnews.com

ALBANY — The Albany County Republican Party has a new chair, new officers and the committee is, for the next two years, essentially just nine people because of a quirk in the state party's bylaws and a lack of valid petitions.

"It's an honor to be given such an important responsibility," said Randy Bashwinger, the Berne highway superintendent, town GOP chair and newly elected county chair. "Every county citizen and business will benefit from a stronger opposition voice throughout the county. My plan is to recruit strong candidates, give them the support they need and point out the shortcomings of one-party rule."

Christine Benedict, the former county legislator from Colonie, opted not to run for the position she has held since 2014.

Bashwinger was unanimously chosen chair at the party's organizational meeting on Friday, Sept. 25 and Joe Gomez, of Colonie, was elected vice chair, Lisa DeGroff, of Westerlo, is the secretary and Melissa Kermani, of Bethlehem, is the treasurer.

According to the New York State Republican Party bylaws, for a county committee to be considered "constituted"

25 percent of the committee representatives must circulate petitions and appear on the ballot. The rest of the 638 committeemen — two per the 319 election districts in Albany County — can be appointed.

The Albany County Committee failed to hit that threshold, said Republican Board of Elections Commissioner Rachel Bledi, so the committee had two options: allow the state party to take it over, or allow the state committee representatives — two per each of the five Assembly districts that include portions of Albany County — to control the party for the next two years.

"The interim committee has the full authority to elect officers and adopt bylaws and raise money and recruit candidates and issue certificates of authorization," she Bledi said. "If you don't organize the state steps in and takes over everything. We got a second bite of the apple, and we needed to do this. Everyone in this group represents different parts of the county and it is more of a democratic process to have people represent different parts of the county than miss a deadline and have it default to the state chair."

The state party requires all county committees organize between Sept. 17 and Oct. 7.

In addition to a degree of disorganization by the GOP, COVID-19 contributed to difficulties in collecting

petitions this year. Where in years' past petitions were due at the end of June, because of a change in the presidential primary date that deadline was pushed up to April and then abruptly shut down in March because of the pandemic.

There are 10 state committee persons, one male and one female from each assembly district. Benedict was one of them, from the 110th Assembly District, but she didn't show at the organizational meeting, Bledi said.

The others are:

- Bledi and Doug Breakell from the 109th (Assemblywoman Pat Fahy, D-Bethlehem)
- Gomez and Benedict from the 110th (Assemblyman Phil Steck, D-Colonie)
- DeGroff and Joel Coye from the 102nd (Assemblyman Chris Tague, R-Schoharie)
- Bashwinger and Jessica Bashwinger from the 111th (Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, D-Schenectady)
- Joslyn Stroock and Mike Kenneally in the 108th (Assemblyman John McDonald, D-Albany)

"Everyone appreciates the years she [Benedict] put in but there was a serious need for change," Bledi said. "Randy is energetic and he is a blue collar guy who represents a working class in Albany

County and everywhere else in the state and that is a group of people largely abandoned by Democrats. He will be a strong voice for the working class in Albany County."

What impact it has on the local town and village committees is an open question. Bledi said the group will allow the cities, towns and villages to continue as they have been for decades.

"We have empowered chairs for each town/city to organize so we are continuing to use the committee structure," she said. "The nine state committee members are limited to signing some legal documents. We will continue to defer to chairs and the committee officers for the majority of our functions."

The bottom line, she said, Republicans in Albany County have not done a very good job providing anyone with a choice at the polls.

"A lot of people want to restore a two-party system to Albany County and you can't do that unless you have funds and candidates and a strong organizational structure so I think people are felling positive and hopeful about the changes," she said. "We have a person who created a successful blueprint in a town where Democrats outnumber Republicans three to one. You have to give people a choice on the ballot."

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Bethlehem Central reported a case of COVID-19 on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Spotlight File Photo

EDUCATION

COVID hits schools

Bethlehem, Voorheesville each report positive case of COVID-19

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

ALBANY — Voorheesville Central School District notified parents last Wednesday that a member of the school community tested positive for COVID-19. Four days later, Bethlehem Central reported its first case, too.

Neither school district specified whether it was a student or teacher who tested positive. Voorheesville proceeded to have all of its sixth graders learn remotely the following day. Bethlehem Central learned of its case over the weekend, immediately preceding the Yom Kippur holiday on Monday, Sept. 28. District officials said they would use the day to disinfect the high school.

In both cases, the district said the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act prevented them from disclosing further details.

“Anyone identified as having prolonged, direct exposure will be contacted directly by the Albany

“Anyone identified as having prolonged, direct exposure will be contacted directly by the Albany County Department of Health with information regarding quarantine and/or to arrange for testing.”

— Bethlehem Central School District

County Department of Health with information regarding quarantine and/or to arrange for testing,” Bethlehem Central officials stated through an email on Sunday.

Officials from each district urged parents and guardians to continue with daily health screenings.

Albany County Executive Daniel McCoy announced Monday that confirmed cases of COVID-19 jumped by nine cases in 24 hours, bringing the total number within the county to 2,946. Conversely, the number of

people under mandatory quarantine decreased to 868 from 901.

The County Executive’s office broke down the numbers further in a Monday morning press release.

- The five-day average for new daily positives remained has decreased to 17.4 from 18.8.

- There are now 96 active cases in the county, down from 112.

- So far, 12,141 people have completed quarantine. Of those who completed quarantine, 2,850 of them had tested positive and recovered.

- Among the new positive cases, 7 had close contact with positive cases and two did not have a clear source of infection at this time. Separately, 5 of the reported positives for today are associated with the University at Albany.

McCoy added that there are no patients in local intensive care units and there were no new deaths to report. The county’s death toll remains at 134 since the outbreak began.

EDUCATION

V'ville high earns national distinction

Clayton A. Bouton High School recognized as 'Blue Ribbon' school

By MICHAEL HALLISEY
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

NEW SCOTLAND — Clayton A. Bouton High School was named an Exemplary High Performing National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos.

The Voorheesville school was among 367 schools across the nation to earn the distinction, and one of nine schools from New York to be recognized in 2020.

This is the second time since 1982 Clayton A. Bouton earned the award. The school first earned the distinction in 1991.

The high school

could boast a 99 percent graduation rate in 2019. Of those graduates, 97 percent earned Regents diplomas while 63 percent earned Advanced Regents.

“Our students’ success is a tribute to the entire, positive, supportive Voorheesville learning community that fosters close, trusting relationships which create a safe, caring environment for personal growth and intellectual development throughout their school years,” the district stated on its profile to the Department of Education. “Voorheesville schools are deeply intertwined with and supported by the Voorheesville community. Everyone at Clayton A. Bouton High School develops partnerships with families and the community to maximize students’ achievement.”

Clayton A. Bouton High School offers a broad range of co-curricular activities to



A 99 percent graduation rate was one of several things Voorheesville could boast about its high school.

Spotlight File Photo

support the engagement of its student body.

- Approximately 65 percent of high school

students participate in interscholastic athletics.

- Students populate ten different athletic teams

in the fall season alone and contribute to more than two dozen different high school clubs and organizations within the school community.

- The Science Olympiad Team won best small school in the region for the last two years;

- the Model United Nations team wins honors at national and international competitions alike; and

- The Mock Trial Team advanced to the semifinals before the coronavirus closure.

“Our clubs reflect a broad range of interests from leadership-driven groups such as class councils to civic and socially focused groups such as Sources of Strength and Sexuality And Gender Alliance,” stated school officials. “Our students’ musical and theatrical achievement is unparalleled in a school this small.”

Voorheesville also named non-traditional graduation requirements;

- High school students are required to pass a career and financial management course and to complete a minimum of fifteen hours of volunteer service in the senior year.

- Many graduates can start college as sophomores due to the college coursework in which they have engaged throughout high school.

- Voorheesville has a newly established partnership with Siena College whereby, if students follow a certain course of study at the high school level, they gain automatic acceptance in the business program at Siena College.

“We are humbled and grateful to our outstanding students and faculty who continue to strive for excellence,” the district stated on its website last week.

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From page 1 ... Change is possible

In all, the board will comprise 13 community stakeholders, elected officials, the police department, county district attorney's office, county public defender's office, and a faith-based or nonprofit community group.

So, what's next? We need only look to Guilderland to anticipate where Bethlehem will go from here.

What to expect

Guilderland filled its committee in August and followed through with the advisory board's first meeting last week. The inaugural meeting focused on assigning members of the 13-person board to various subcommittees. The names of each committee rings familiar with the volatile topics at the center of the social movement that sparked Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203.

Executive Order 203 requires municipalities to address racial bias and

disproportionate policing within communities of color. Town supervisors and chiefs of police sit in with appointed stakeholders to prepare the plan by considering directives expounded upon in the Governor's Resources & Guide for Public Officials and Citizens.

Guilderland employed the services of Ava Ayers, a professor at The Government Law Center at Albany Law School. Town Supervisor Peter Barber said Ayers provided "invaluable legal research and analysis on pressing important topics."

"I greatly appreciate the willingness of persons to devote time and effort in this important mission which is the first step in the town's planned concerted effort to eliminate systemic barriers that prevent people of color from enjoying the benefits of living in our community," Barber said. "We were unfortunately unable to appoint all qualified persons to this committee, and hope that



Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 203 was placed into action while Delmar hosted a Black Lives Matter rally at Four Corners. News of the order spread across the crowd, followed by cheers.

Michael Hallisey / Spotlight Newspapers

they will participate in the committee's public forums."

Subcommittees include Policies & Training, Response & Diversion, Criminal Justice Strategies, and Environmental Justice. Subjects range from the most visible examples in recent headlines, such as use of force tactics to more polarizing discussions surrounding environment.

"I look forward to

working with the members of our committee as we improve police community relationships, promote accountability and transparency, and reduce racial disparity as identified in policing," said Guilderland Police Chief Daniel McNally. "We will perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies and policies, and develop a plan to

move forward in a positive manner."

Bethlehem

Bethlehem named Assistant District Attorney Mary Tanner-Richter; Gabriella Romero, of the County Public Defender's Office; and Rev. Dr. Roxanne Booth, of Riverview Missionary Baptist Church. Ten more members of the community

were also named to the board; Jennifer Ansong, Darnell Douglas, Xavier Fitzsimmons Cruz, Jaye Holly, Zhiying Li, Donald Robbins, Monica Scherzer, Suni Swann, Caren Tiu and Katie Yezzi.

The town promised to share the biographies of each member by posting them on to the town website at a future date.

Perhaps the most notable member of the board at this time would be Dr. Booth. In addition to being an adjunct professor at the University at Albany she has more than a decade of experience taking part in Christian missions to the Kingdom of Swaziland and South Africa. Her doctorate in ministry specialized in missions and cross-cultural studies. She co-pastors the Riverview Missionary Baptist Church in Coeymans with her husband, Rev. Antonio Booth.

"I think all of us on the board were blown away by the level of talent, the level of interest," said Town Boardmember Dan Coffey. "It's a shame we couldn't make the board bigger because we had truly some amazing people applying."

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112908_4

SPORTS

BC tees off in first matches of season



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

DELMAR — The Bethlehem High girls and boys golf teams won their first matches of the year, and one of the first high school athletic contests since the pandemic shut down everything in mid-March.

The boys got by Troy 246 to 300 at Normanside Country Club with Andrew Brockley leading the way for Bethlehem (1-0) with a 38. Logan Manziano and Matt Hicks shot a pair of 40s for the Eagles.

Alex Wolfe shot a 42 and Jaleel Goodbee shot a 48 for Troy (0-2.)

The Bethlehem girls (1-0) won 166 to 187 with Elle Lyda shooting a 48 to lead the Eagles and Lily Gray carding a 56.

For Troy (0-1) Molly Bisceglia shot a 54 and Kayla McNall shot a 63.

Bethlehem will travel to McGregor Links Country Club to take on Saratoga on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

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TOYS FOR TOTS AT BETHLEHEM

Drive-thru, drop-off toy collection for local children in need

Fill the BIG RED BUS with NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS

Capital Region Toys For Tots and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots program

 **MARINE CORPS RESERVE** **Sunday, October 11th**
1 PM - 4 PM
DELAWARE PLAZA
180 Delaware Ave, Delmar



LIBRARIES

Limited reopening, expanded services

We are preparing to expand services offered and open the building to limited public usage, while simultaneously planning to begin construction. These multi-faceted goals require careful coordination to implement safely and effectively. We plan to open the Normanskill Room to public browsing, plus expand curbside hours, Wednesday, Oct. 7.

Our current curbside schedule is: Checkouts: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursday, from 3 to 7 p.m. Return hours have been expanded to Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Expanded hours for curbside services, plus Normanskill Room browsing starting Wednesday, Oct. 7. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, from 1 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation as we



strive to safely execute the dual initiatives of limited reopening and expanding services, while simultaneously stewarding our construction project. Please stay tuned for further developments.

Building Project Update

Our Board of Trustees met virtually Thursday, Sept. 24 to award the construction project to a general contractor and specialized contractors, selected from all bids received by Sept. 22. Results: General Construction Prime Contract to Bette & Cring, LLC; Plumbing Prime Contract to DiGesare Mechanical, Inc.; Fire Protection Prime Contract to Davis-Ulmer Sprinkler Company, Inc.; Mechanical Prime Contract to Campito Plumbing & Heating, Inc.; Electrical Prime Contract to Flex Electric LLC.

At present, our

construction project remains on time and on budget, with scheduled completion about one year out from the anticipated Oct. 15 start date. For more information, please see: <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/get-to-know-us/places/renewal/>

Cooking Outdoors

Savor the crisp fall weather Saturday, Oct. 3, at 1 p.m. while perfecting your grilling technique! Karen Roberts Mort from Cornell Cooperative Extension will demonstrate Cooking Outdoors and prepare some tasty recipes. This adult in-person program will be held at the large pavilion at Tawasentha Park in Guilderland. Masks and social distancing are required. Attendees will receive a free cookbook chock-full of tasty outdoor recipes. Seating is limited; go to the Events tab at www.guilderlandlibrary.org for more information and to register.

Outdoor Flu Vaccine Clinic

Our annual drop-in Flu Vaccine Clinic is on Monday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Library parking lot. Masks, temperature checks and brief health questionnaires are mandatory. Both the regular vaccine and the high-dose option for people ages 65 and older will be available (the high-dose option may be subject to availability). Pharmacists onsite can also vaccinate any child age three or older. Please bring your insurance card with you. If you do not have insurance, a vaccine costs \$39.99.

Storytimes

Every other Monday in October, we'll have storytime kits designed for ages 2-5 for curbside pickup, while supplies last. Our next storytime kits will be ready Monday, Oct. 5, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Each thematic kit will contain suggestions for books, rhymes and songs to share together, and one or more fun activities. Parents and caregivers can also

head over to our YouTube channel Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. for picture book read alouds, where our children's librarians share some of their favorites.

Re-Examining the Right to Vote

This year marks the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment, granting women the right to vote. The history surrounding this momentous ruling is fascinating, complex, and deeply rooted in activism. In this three-part series, "Re-Examining the Right to Vote: Women's Activism and the Suffrage Movement", on Tuesday Oct. 6, 20 and 27, at 6:30 p.m., we'll read scholarly articles and meet virtually to discuss them, led by Lauren Kozakiewicz, PhD., Lecturer, Department of History at University at Albany. Sign up for this timely series on the Events tab of our website.

Night Owls Online

On Monday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m., our virtual

book club will discuss "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michele Richardson, available on Hoopla in eBook and audiobook format. This unique story beautifully illustrates the healing power of the written word, transcending poverty and intolerance throughout Appalachia. Go to the Events tab at www.guilderlandlibrary.org to register.

Lessons of Presidential History

History is a great teacher...what can we learn from it, especially this year? On Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m., Dr. Bruce Miroff, UAAlbany professor of political science, presents "2020 and the Lessons of Presidential History." A compelling examination of past presidential election themes can cast a fresh light on current events and what might unfold in this year's contest. Please register on the Events tab of our website for the virtual link to participate.

—Luanne Nicholson

LEGALS

Ford Street, 2nd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11229. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-253105

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

SumSumHope LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/16/20. 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 Marc Chamblin, 100 United Nations Plaza - 30C, New York, NY 10017. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-253348

LEGALS

NOTICE OF PLLC FORMATION

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

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

THREE T INVESTOR LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/16/20. 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, 407 East 78th Street, Apartment 1W, New York, NY 10018. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-253349

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

TMB HOLDINGS NY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/09/20. Office: Albany

LEGALS

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

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

UNITED LANCOMBE 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

LEGALS

process to the LLC, 34-14 44th Street, 3F, Astoria, NY 11101. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251868

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, ALBANY COUNTY NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:00 pm, during a Town Board Zoom Meeting to solicit comment on the proposed Verizon Tower at the Clapper Road Water Treatment Plant. All parties interested and

LEGALS

citizens will have an opportunity to be heard at the said hearing. BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD TOWN OF BETHLEHEM Nanci Moquin TOWN CLERK September 23, 2020 D-253749

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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

LEGALS

LLC, 105-30 171st Street, Jamaica, NY 11433. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-251746

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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 & Associates, 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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NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

WHBH MANAGER 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-252041

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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

NOTICE OF LP FORMATION

YOUNG OAK CAPITAL, LP. App. for Auth. filed with the SSNY on

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09/09/20. Originally filed with Secretary of State of Delaware on 07/13/20. The duration date is perpetual. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LP upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LP, 280 Park Avenue South, Apartment 13D, New York, NY 10010. D-253104

NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

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

To place your Legal Notice: Call 439-4949



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Spotlight on Opinion

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September 30 - October 6, 2020

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Spotlight welcomes letters of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing and are limited to 500 words.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. *The Spotlight* reserves the right to limit the number of letters published from a single author.

Submissions can be emailed to news@spotlightnews.com. The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

The Spotlight also welcomes longer opinion pieces for the Point of View section.

For information on submitting a Point of View, email news@spotlightnews.com or call (518) 439-4949.

Our full letter policy can be viewed online at www.spotlightnews.com.

Spotlight Newspapers
Community news
Starts here

Residents urged to vote yes

Dear Editor,
The volunteers at the Selkirk Fire Department stand at the ready to respond to our calls for help 24/7 365 days a year. These unpaid first responders have taken an oath to place others above themselves, even if it puts their lives at risk each and every time an emergency call comes in.

On October 6, it's our opportunity, and dare I say, moral obligation to be there for them by casting a YES vote for the 2020 Building Project Bond vote. And thanks to the fiscal stability and prudent decision making of the Selkirk Fire District over the past several years, this

bond proposal will require NO tax increase.

The need to renovate Selkirk Fire District's fire stations was established years ago. Unfortunately, our first responders continue to answer a growing number of calls each year, yet they are operating in cramped, outdated, and potentially hazardous fire stations that lack the proper amount of apparatus storage and decontamination areas.

The recent incident at SABIC, which exposed first responders to hazardous toxins, highlighted the dire need for our stations to have proper equipment and facilities to decontaminate

after such an incident to avoid putting themselves and their families at a long-term risk. Sadly, our firefighters who responded to SABIC did NOT have a proper decontamination area. A YES vote will protect our volunteers and their family's health and well-being.

The 2020 Building plan will allow our volunteers to safely respond as our community continues to grow. This plan includes a new Route 9W Station and significant improvements to the current Station 2 in Glenmont. The project will allow for the necessary equipment and facilities to keep our volunteers and

their families safe as they protect the communities of Selkirk, Glenmont and South Bethlehem. It should also be noted that the last building project completed was over 50 years ago and the oldest building is nearly 100 years old.

The 2020 Plan was designed with the following goals in mind:

- Avoid an increase in property taxes to complete this long overdue project
- Create a safer environment for our volunteer firefighters so they can better serve the community
- Use the most conservative financial estimates possible

• Provide for flexibility to allow for additional safety improvements to be made if financially possible

I hope you'll join me in supporting our volunteer firefighters on October 6 by voting YES! Selkirk Fire District residents can cast their votes on Oct 6 from 1-9 p.m. at their nearby fire station.

To learn more about the building project, or to ask a question visit selkirkfire2020.org or find the Selkirk Fire Department on Facebook

*David R DeCancio
Community Resident
Member of the Selkirk Fire
District Building Committee*

Help protect lives with vote

To the Editor:
The time to properly safeguard the volunteer firefighters of the Selkirk Fire District so that they can protect the lives and property of the residents of the Selkirk Fire District is now. On Tuesday, October 6, the volunteer firefighters need your support to VOTE YES on a bond vote which will build a new fire station on Route 9W next to A.W. Becker school and make substantial safety improvements at Station 2 in Glenmont.

Best of all – all of this crucial work will be done

and will not require any tax increase. All of this work can be done with funds already designated in the current budget.

More information on the project is available at www.selkirkfire2020.org.

I hope that all Selkirk residents will support the volunteers who risk their lives to protect the community and come out to VOTE YES on the no tax increase bond vote.

*Sincerely,
Chuck Wickham
Board of Fire
Commissioners Chair*



Always on call

Two volunteers from the Delmar Fire Department are captured in conversation after responding to a call last week. A tree fell and punctured the roof of the Delmar Place home during a gusty Friday afternoon. No one was hurt.

Michael Hallisey / Spotlight Newspapers

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LIBRARIES

BPL is now open on Saturdays

Saturday hours are here! Beginning this Saturday, Sept. 26, the library will be open for limited in-person browsing on Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. As everyone's work and family schedules start to get busy once again, we know many of you have been looking for the added flexibility that comes with being able to stop by the library on the weekend. Adding these hours is just the next step in expanding our library services in a safe and pandemic-friendly way. Our weekday browsing hours remain 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

We'd also like to remind you that library visitors are required to wear a mask that covers their nose and chin, as well as sanitize their hands before entering the library. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a caregiver, and there will be a limit on the number of people allowed in at one time.



If you would like to pick up your hold items on a Saturday without going into the library building, you still can. An outdoor greeter on the plaza will be available during browsing hours to help you get your items to go.

In addition to in-person browsing, you can get library materials in the following way:

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

We know we have a long way back to normal, but we want you to know that we are carefully planning for each step along the way to get there. For the latest building and service updates, visit www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/coronavirus-information.

Even more WiFi out and about

Our Free Library WiFi throughout town has been a lifeline for many as stay-at-home orders strained digital access. This fall, we added the Town Hall parking lot and playground to the growing list of locations where we offer free WiFi 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You'll also find Free Library WiFi outside the library building, at the Elm Avenue park and pool, at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center and at Colonial Acres Park in Glenmont.

Enjoy a story inside and out

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather and an outdoor story at one of our TWO StoryWalks in the Town of Bethlehem.

On our newest StoryWalk, you will meander through the scenic Pine Hollow Arboretum in Slingerlands as you enjoy the book "A Stone Sat Still" by Brendan Wenzel. The StoryWalk begins at the arboretum's Magnolia Field.

The Pine Hollow Arboretum StoryWalk joins the one established earlier this summer at the Elm Avenue Park in a collaboration between the library and the Town of Bethlehem NY Parks & Recreation. To read the stories at either location, follow the numbered paths and remember to maintain at least six feet of physical space between yourself and others. Stay safe and enjoy our StoryWalks!

Our StoryWalks are supported by funds from the New York State Library's Family Literacy Library Services Program and by Upper Hudson Upper Hudson Library System.

Are you more of a homebody? You can also enjoy a family storytime from the comfort of your own living room. Our Virtual Family Storytime takes place every Wednesday at 2 p.m. from now until Nov. 25. In this interactive storytime for children ages 0-6 and their families, you will have the option to turn on your cameras and microphones and participate. To sign up for one or more storytimes, visit our online calendar (bethlehem.librarycalendar.com), and select the date or dates you are interested in. You must include your email address in your registration so the library can send you the Zoom link for the event. The link will be sent out shortly before

the program.

Your vote matters

Here are some important 2020 voting deadlines to remember.

Oct. 27: Last day to apply online, by email, fax or to postmark an application or letter of application by mail for an absentee ballot.

Nov. 2: Last day to apply IN-PERSON for absentee ballot.

Nov. 3: Last day to postmark ballot. Must be received by the board of elections no later than Nov. 10. Military voter ballots must be received no later than Nov. 16.

Nov. 3: Last day to deliver ballot IN-PERSON to the local board of elections or to any poll site.

Check out www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html.

— Kristen Roberts

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LIBRARIES

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.

Family Yoga Class

Join us for a vinyasa yoga class on Saturday, October 3, from 10:30 to 11:30am. This Zoom class is designed

to help you gain a stronger sense of body awareness and proper alignment while linking breath and movement, and is appropriate for a variety of ages and experience! Tricia Kanderfer is a certified yoga instructor who has years of teaching experience. Please register. For ages 9 and up with parent or caregiver.

be sewn by hand). Grades 6-12, please register on the event calendar at www.voorpl.org, and pick up your prepared kit. Complete the projects at home, then return completed items to the library by the end of the month.

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. Call Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (518) 765-2791 to schedule your appointment.

— Lynn Kohler

Teens Care

Teens can pick up project kits on Friday, Oct. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., to sew for charity and earn community service time. Choose from telemetry pouches for the cardiac unit of Albany Medical Center (requires a sewing machine), or catnip toys for the animal shelter (can

Tri-Village Little League

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Distant.**

Caity Gallagher was spotted with friends at Albany Distilling Co.

Pages B15

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■ **MUSIC**

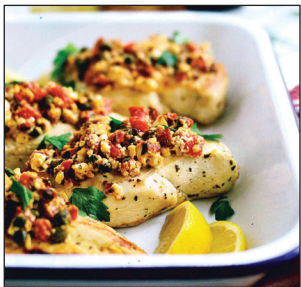
■ **INSIDE**



Hello, neighbor?

What The Hollow has to say about UCH moving next door.

Page B3



Always a winner

Take a gander at this chicken dinner.

Page B9



Winter is nigh

Restaurant owners need help from Albany, fast.

Page B9



Stardust

Cassandra Kubinski shares details of her latest single, and her love for Saratoga Springs

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

Cassandra Kubinski recalls being caught up in a conversation with her now husband, Bogdan Ologan, while lying under a clear night sky within the quiet of upstate New York. It's one of those memories one holds on to that draws a string from friendship to matrimony. An intangible bond wrapped around an undeniable feeling defined by an existential conversation of how "we're all stardust."

Continues on page B6

All the Beauty of Autumn

Fall Harvest

— PAGES —

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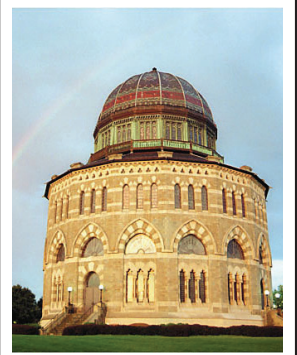
—
Sound words to live by.

Michael Hallisey /
The Spot 518

▶ **quote of the week**

“Order takeout. Grab a hoodie and enjoy a drink and some food on a heated patio. Show your support for those restaurants that you know are doing everything they can to keep you safe by making a reservation and joining them for a meal in their dining room. Do what you can to help them survive the coming months.”

— Jason Pierce,
owner of Savoy
Taproom



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RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

Upstate sees a future in downtown

Albany's worst kept secret is confirmed, Upstate Concert Hall is looking to move

By **JIM GILBERT**
nippertown.com

CLIFTON PARK — Upstate Concert Hall is working to move to downtown Albany according to one of its co-owners.

The Clifton Park music venue plans to move into the space formerly occupied by Capital Repertory Theatre. The tentative move is expected to create a shift in the type of shows offered within the Capital City.

Upstate Concert Hall is owned and operated by Stan Levinstone, of SLP Concerts, and Ted Eto, of Step Up Presents. Their stage has long catered to both the hard rock and alternative scenes over the years. It's also brought local and regional acts from across all genres.

"We are in negotiations for the downtown space," said Eto. "We would love to be there [but] nothing is confirmed."

The new footprint is reportedly planned to hold two stages with a joint capacity of 1,300 people.

"We are in negotiations for the downtown space. We would love to be there [but] nothing is confirmed."

— Ted Eto,
co-owner of
Upstate
Concert Hall



Ted Eto of Upstate Concert Hall would not say its final, but the Clifton Park venue at least has eyes on moving into 111 No. Pearl St. — formerly known as the Capital Repertory Theatre.

Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518

That size falls below a sold-out crowd at the Albany Palace Theatre, but offers a larger venue than several more of the stages dotted throughout downtown. The Hollow and Pearl Street Pub each allowed pre-pandemic crowds of about 300 people. Nonetheless, the prospect of having Upstate Concert Hall as a neighbor seemed welcomed. Dora Philip, co-owner of The Hollow, dropped mention of the news on Stories From a Bar, a local

podcast hosted by Chris Osbourne. "They're moving right next door," Philip told Osbourne. "We're so excited about that, actually. ... We were expanding our [room] ... but we decided against it, because of what is going on."

The former theatre is owned by Redburn Development, the same firm that has feverishly redeveloped around Albany's Clinton Square and Sheridan Hollow

in recent years. The development firm has invested more than \$80 million to introduce nearly 300 residential units and more than 100,000 square feet of commercial space into downtown, including elegant apartments in both The Knick and The Kenmore.

The new space is anticipated to have a layout similar to The Chance in Poughkeepsie; two rooms, the largest of which on the first floor with the smallest

downstairs. Eto expressed confidence in Redburn, calling Buell a "music guy who knows what he wants."

Eto's Step Up Presents has ushered acts like Snoop Dog, Lumineers, 21 Pilots into the suburban strip mall setting for well over a decade. Formerly Northern Lights, the venue on Route 146 has been a live music destination since 1996. He's also responsible for some of the largest shows at The Egg. That arrangement is not expected to change.

"The shows we do at the Palace and the shows we do at The Egg, none of those shows will compete with the club," said Eto. "There's theatre shows versus club shows. It's going to be exactly what we had in Clifton Park only it's going to be in downtown Albany."

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RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

Albany Symphony returns to concerts

ASO's reimagined season includes thrilling premieres, inspirational classics and great soloists

ALBANY — The Albany Symphony unveiled its reimagined 2020-2021 season, which will include breathtaking world premieres, concertos with brilliant soloists, as well as iconic masterworks. Curated by Grammy Award-winning conductor David Alan Miller, the season brings to life an amazing array of new and recent works by a panoply of fabulous living composers who are forging new ways to create art reflecting our time and place, major masterpieces by Beethoven, Debussy, Rachmaninoff, and others, and dazzling

solo performances by artists including Inon Barnatan, Melissa White, Karen Hosmer and Grace Shryock.

The newly reimagined season will be presented virtually to ensure safety for concert patrons. As restrictions are lifted, live audiences will be invited back into the concert hall. All concerts will be performed live, in real time, on Capital District stages, by Albany Symphony musicians conducted by Music Director David Alan Miller.

"I am so excited to present the Albany Symphony's new, reimagined 2020-21 season to you," said Music Director David Alan Miller. "While it is designed to adapt to our current world, it is every bit as beautiful, passionate, and life-affirming as any season we have ever presented,

2020-2021 Reimagined Season Programs

October 24, 2020

Michael Daugherty, *This Land Sings: Inspired by the Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*
 Kristin Gornstein, mezzo soprano
 Michael Maliakel, baritone

November 14, 2020

Claude Debussy, *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*
 Andre Myers, New Commission
 Gustav Mahler, *Symphony No. 4* (chamber orchestra version)
 Chelsea Fingal DeSouza, soprano

December 12, 2020

Ludwig Van Beethoven, *Creations of Prometheus, Overture and Finale*
 Michael Torke, *Ash*
 Viet Cuong, *Extra(ordinarily) Fancy - Double Oboe Concerto*
 Karen Hosmer, Grace Shryock, oboes
 Ludwig Van Beethoven, *Symphony No. 1*

January 9, 2021

Jessie Montgomery, *Banner*
 Jean Sibelius, *Andante Festivo*
 Caroline Shaw, *Entr'acte*
 George Walker, *Lyric for Strings*
 Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, *Serenade for Strings*

February 13, 2021

Sir William Walton, *Facade*
 Lucy Fitz Gibbon, narrator
 Tyson Davis, New Commission
 Johannes Brahms, *Serenade No. 1* (original version)

March 13, 2021

Ottorino Respighi, *Trittico Botticelliano*
 Carlos Bandera, New Commission
 Sergei Rachmaninoff, *Piano Concerto No. 3* (chamber orchestra version)
 Inon Barnatan, piano

April 24, 2021

Franz Joseph Haydn, *Symphony No. 46*
 George Tsontakis, *Violin Concerto No. 2*
 Melissa White, violin
 Tanner Porter, New Commission
 Franz Schubert, *Symphony No. 5*

June 12, 2021

American Music Festival
 Nina Shekhar, New Commission
 Clarice Assad, *Folk Tales, Double Guitar Concerto*
 Brasil Guitar Duo
 Molly Joyce/Theofanidis, *Songs*
 Alexis Lamb, New Commission

For more information, visit www.albanysymphony.com.

bringing you glorious music past and present. When we developed our original 2020/2021 season, we planned a season that celebrated composers whose artistry reflected their triumph over adversity. Our newly reimagined season continues along those lines and is an affirmation of creativity. We will continue to trace heroic journeys by great composers of the past and by a very diverse group of the most exciting composers of our own time. I'm particularly thrilled by the many gorgeous new and recent works we'll be introducing this season."

The season kicks off on Oct. 24, with a program featuring Michael Daugherty's *This Land Sings: Inspired by the Life and Times of Woody Guthrie*. A joyful celebration of a great

Continues on B12


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We're all stardust



Provided photos

From page B1 ... Cassandra Kubinski

That's a little of the backstory to the singer-songwriter's latest release, "Stardust." Kubinski released the single in July, followed by a dance remix featuring DJ Taz Rashid she dropped online last week.

"It came out of a conversation I had with my husband," she said. "He looked up at the stars and said, wow. Isn't that crazy that that's all we are? Then, we had this very scientific discussion about exploded carbon and humanity."

Some unexpected chemistry developed between Kubinski and her husband about eight years ago. They had long been friends before. At about that time, he had moved to Queensbury and she'd visit with promises he'd show her "this gem of a town," she said. She found the Spa City to have a cultured, international flavor in a rural haven of towns and farmland.

"It was love at first sight," Kubinski said. "Not with him. With Saratoga."

Today, Kubinski calls Saratoga Springs her home. The summertime playground of socialites and the affluent who have both cares and dollars to spare. She and

her husband have lived here part time. For three years, they'd commute back and forth between the New York City area, where they both work, and upstate. But, since virus-related shutdowns, the couple has lived in the 518 for "99 percent" of the time while working from home.

"It's been transformative," said Kubinski, "because I think as with many people's experience, having this time to regroup and refocus and see how are things going to shake out as far as where you need to be to do the work that you do. It's worked out well for both of us to be here. It might be something that becomes more ongoing."

As observant of the world, and introspective as she may be, Kubinski sees herself bouncing between the extremes of being an extrovert and an introvert. In a surreal summer where the Saratoga Performing Arts Center is quiet and no one is at the track, she is working on something each day. She has a love for organic dark chocolate, and a propensity to walk in solitude while lost inside the tune to her next song — even if it's still pushing to get itself out.

"On any one day, I might be holed-up in my little yoga room; journaling or meditating, listening or trying to stay away from the digital signals and the energy of

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CLUES ACROSS

- They look out for kids
- Play
- Water (French)
- Prayer leader
- Small constellation
- __ Carta: influential royal charter
- Pressure unit
- Extrasensory perception
- A symbol of "Aloha"
- Portion of the small intestine
- Psychedelic amphetamine
- Very long period of time
- British overseas territory
- Cereal grain
- Car mechanics group
- Wish harm upon
- At a specific prior time
- Peyton's younger brother
- UK firefighters' union
- Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
- Popular show honoring musicians
- Basics
- Honk
- Trent Reznor's band
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Long-legged wading bird
- Specialized biological grouping
- A coin goes in it
- Of the wind
- One-time measure of length
- A very large body of water
- River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- Boston hoopster
- A type of bribe
- SE England county
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Italian province
- Mischievous child
- Popular street name
- Boxing promoter Bob
- Snakelike fish
- Break into pieces
- The Bay State
- Time zone
- Port city in Yemen
- In name only
- 007's creator
- No (Scottish)
- Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
- Pie __ mode
- Don't know when yet
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Make a ringing metallic sound
- Helps little firms
- Pound
- Lilly and Manning are two
- Put on the back burner
- Baltimore ballplayer
- Cuddle
- Poker stake
- Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- Pouch
- Not around

Answers on Pg. B13

other people," Kubinski said. It's a habit she had since living in a shoebox of a New York City apartment as a fledgling 20-year-old. "And on other days, I absolutely need and crave that energy and feedback. Not just because me ego wants it, but because it helps me feel not alone." She captures such moments in her song "There's Where You'll Find Me." She said while she lived in Brooklyn Heights, she'd sit on a bench overlooking the East River and daydream as she watched the rest of the world buzzing over Manhattan.

Kubinski is a musician. She bares the curse of all creative souls: in the possession of a whimsical spirit floating upon the latest flights of fancy that draws her attention. Read the biography on her website. Those are her words. She grabs your hand into a dance of prose as she describes a New England childhood set to the music of Toni Mitchell, Carole King and Broadway musicals. A backwards glance from today would mistake a straight path between points A and B — a musical career set by design — but, then you'd fail to stop and observe. There were times she wanted to be a marine biologist. There is, too, an acting career in which she appeared in modest roles on the television series "Spin City" with Michael J. Fox, and the major motion picture film "Finding Forrester" with Sean Connery.

Kubinski's attention has also been drawn to works of the heart. A few years ago, her "Not So Different" provided an anthem for the autism community. Her lyrical song was ever present as the soundtrack for personal videos made by families who shared their stories about

"It's been transformative, because I think as with many people's experience, having this time to regroup and refocus and see how are things going to shake out as far as where you need to be to do the work that you do. It's worked out well for both of us to be here. It might be something that becomes more ongoing."

— Cassandra Kubinski

living their lives touched by autism. She's also been an outspoken advocate for Music for Autism, Susan Komen's Race for the Cure, and Swish: The Gay/Straight Alliance.

"Maybe I'm getting life right," Kubinski said. "When you're too far into yourself, I think for me, the Achille's Heel of that is, I can really start to overthink everything. Get like, I don't know if I'm doing it right. Like, am I getting this right at all? But, then you talk to other people you realize, everybody is on this journey. Everybody is striving for something, trying to make something work, feeling like they have to shift something to get something in balance; and it's just this ongoing experience of being human."



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FOOD and VINO

Win with chicken dinner

Cooking and serving chicken with certain foods can pack a flavorful punch, turning an otherwise bland chicken breast into a dish families won't soon forget. Such is the case with the following recipe for "Roasted Red Pepper, Sun-Dried Tomato and Feta Topped Chicken" from Laurie McNamara's "Simply Scratch: 120 Whole Homemade Recipes Made Easy" (Avery).

Roasted Red Pepper, Sun-Dried Tomato & Feta Topped Chicken

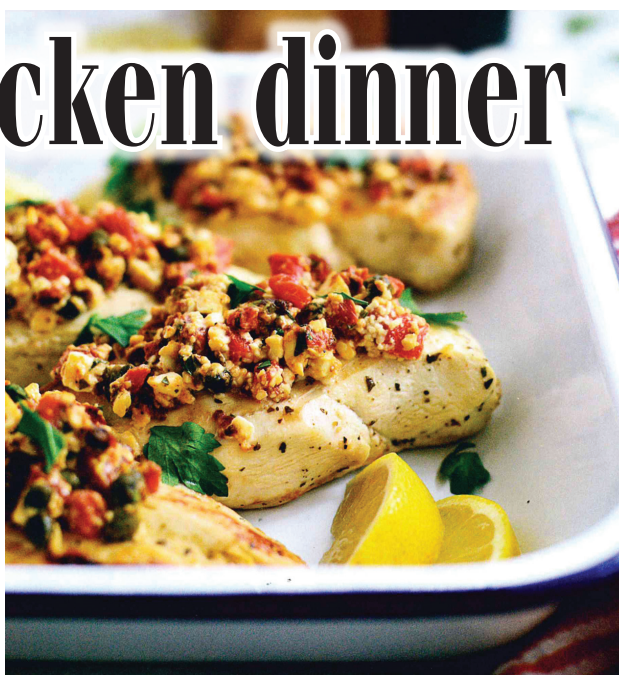
Ingredients: Serves 4

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (6 to 8 ounces each)
- 1/2 cup My Grandma's Greek Dressing (see below)
- 1/3 cup diced charred red bell pepper (see below)
- 1 tablespoon minced sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon brined capers, rinsed and drained
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

Place the chicken in a medium bowl or large resealable



bag and pour the Greek dressing over the top. Marinate the chicken on the countertop for 20 minutes. (Any longer and the lemon juice will start to break down, or "cook," the chicken.)

In a medium bowl, combine the bell pepper, tomatoes, capers, parsley, salt, black pepper and feta.

In a 12-inch cast-iron or other oven-safe skillet, melt the butter with the olive oil over medium-high heat. Remove the chicken from the marinade and let any excess marinade drip back into the bag. Place the chicken top-side down in the skillet and sear for 4 to 6 minutes. Turn the chicken over and divide the pepper and feta mixture over the top. Slide the skillet into the oven. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes, or until the chicken is cooked through. Carefully transfer the chicken to a platter and let it rest

for 5 to 6 minutes before serving.

My Grandma's Greek Dressing

Ingredients: Makes 3/4 cup

- 1 large clove garlic
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed in your palm
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice, strained of pulp and seeds
- 1/2 cup olive oil

Pass the garlic through a garlic press into a glass jar or resealable storage container. Add the oregano, salt and pepper. Pour in the lemon juice and olive oil.

Shake. Pour. Swoon.

Store the salad dressing in the refrigerator, but pull it out 10 to 15 minutes prior to using to warm up the solidified oil, or run the jar under warm tap water. Store in the refrigerator for 3 to 4 months.

Charred peppers

Directions

Grill: Heat a grill to medium-high. Place a pepper (or peppers) on the grates, close the lid and let it char for 5 minutes. Rotate and repeat this process until all sides are charred. After 12 to 15 minutes, the skin should be black and blistered.

Gas stovetop: Using metal tongs, hold the pepper over a medium-high flame, rotating it to create an even char.

Oven: Preheat the broiler to high and crack the oven door. Place a washed pepper on a foil-lined, rimmed baking sheet and slide it under the broiler, rotating it every few minutes until it is charred.

HOROSCOPES

September 2020 Week 5

ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

A debate is growing inside of you, Aries. You do not know whether you should lean toward practical decisions or have a little fun. Why not do both?

TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

Taurus, maintaining balance will be challenging this week. There's a conflict for which you can't seem to find a resolution. Give things a little more time.

GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

You may be daydreaming a bit too much lately, Gemini. It's time to get your head out of the clouds and focus on some practical matters that need to be addressed.

CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

Cancer, when you are in charge of a situation, you have to keep in mind others' feelings before offering a critique. Take a moment before you give commentary.

LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

Try to keep your emotions in check this week, Leo. This is not the time to let your feelings seep into a work environment. You have to remain focused and firm.

VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Virgo, even if something rubs you the wrong way this week, don't let others know. Surround yourself with people and activities you love so you can boost your mood.

LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

Libra, your artistic side is ready to get a little attention. Maybe you will redecorate a room or design a website. Channel those creative urges purposefully.

SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

What was moving along so smoothly just yesterday may hit a snag now, Scorpio. Don't let this sidetrack you. You just may have to put forth a little extra effort.

SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

The pace of your life is bound to slow down a bit in the days to come, Sagittarius. This will be a welcomed change from the hustle and bustle that has been the norm lately.

CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

Capricorn, something keeps pulling your focus away from the task at hand. This may be the universe telling you that this project needs to be delayed for a bit.

AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

Don't stress about making hard decisions or commitments, Aquarius. You already have the next few months planned out, as you like to be two steps ahead all the time.

PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

While someone may be pushing you to take action, it is even better if the motivation comes from you. Take a step in the right direction.

CULTURE

Winter is nigh

State politicians lend ear to struggling eateries

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

Winter is coming.

The catchphrase carries a tangible sense of dread for restaurateurs scrambling to survive 2020 beyond a game of lockdowns, restrictions, regulations and price gouging.

Owners who sat with Assemblymembers Pat Fahy and John McDonald on Tuesday, Sept. 22, said incoming business is anywhere from 70 to 90 percent of what it was last year. "But, it's hard to say, now," Tess Collins said. "The weather is changing."

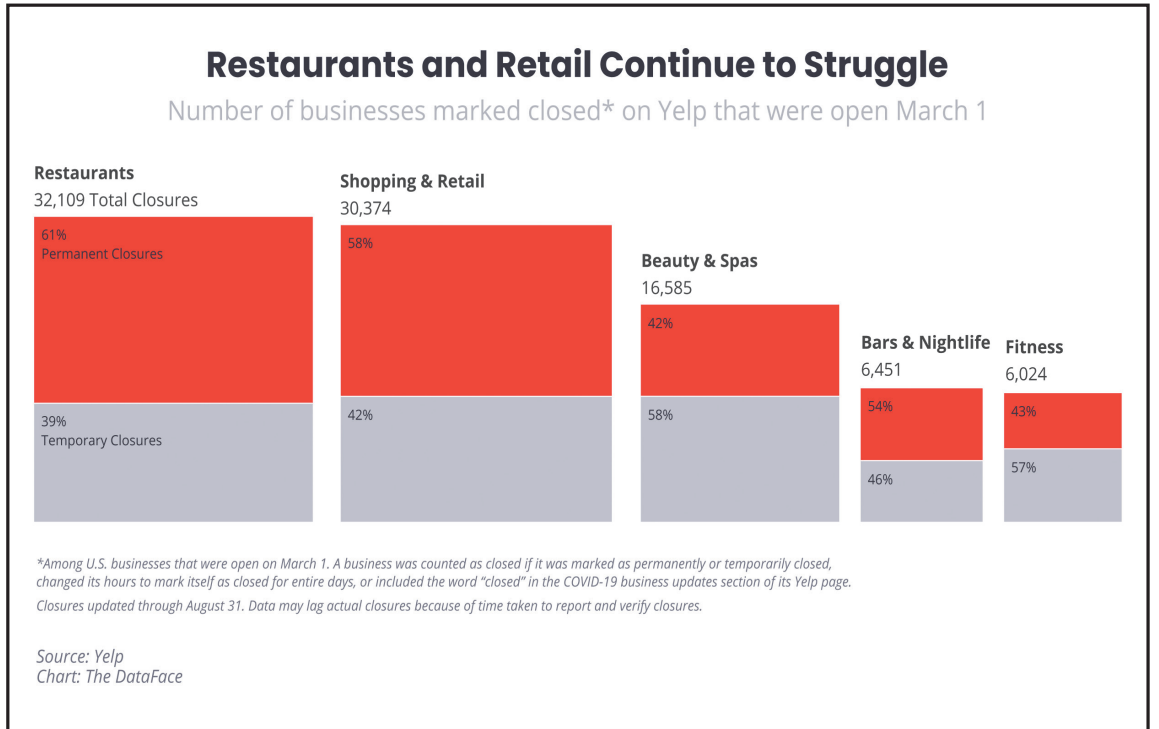
The owner of McGeary's in Albany's Clinton Square said her outdoor patio has allowed patrons to return and eat. Takeout and outdoor dining have allowed eateries to maintain a semblance of pre-pandemic days. The extra seats help because, as owners said, indoor dining restrictions are near

impossible for business. Fahy and McDonald have said they are pushing Gov. Andrew Cuomo to increase indoor capacity from 50 to 75 percent.

Fall arrived a week early in the Capital District, bringing nighttime temperatures down into the 30s last weekend. It was an unwelcome forecast for Jason Pierce at Savoy Taproom. He did not sit at the Sept. 22 roundtable discussion, but he's one of several restaurateurs who have ushered customers outdoors. As the weekend approached, he launched an online plea for support.

"Order takeout. Grab a hoodie and enjoy a drink and some food on a heated patio," Pierce wrote. "Show your support for those restaurants that you know are doing everything they can to keep you safe by making a reservation and joining them for a meal in their dining room. Do what you can to help them survive the coming months."

This month, Yelp published a bleak report on the national restaurant scene. The online



▲ Of the more than 30,000 restaurants who reported themselves closed on Yelp, more than 60 percent have locked up for good.

review publisher reported more than 30,000 restaurants closed, which were previously open in March. Of those that have closed their doors, 61 percent shuttered permanently. Another 54 percent of bars and nightclubs have closed for good, according to Yelp.

Eateries with portable food have a better success rate. Pizza places, delis, food trucks, bakeries

and coffee shops flourish, relatively, compared to breakfast and brunch restaurants, burger joints, sandwich shops, dessert places and Mexican restaurants that struggle. But that success doesn't translate well for businesses who use third-party delivery services. Dominick

Continues on B11

editors' playlist the spot 518

Good lord, I am tired. Aren't we all? It's been a heck of a year so far and we still have more to go. I'm hoping, but not optimistic, that COVID-19 sorts itself out by the end of winter so we can begin what the new normal will be. Whatever comes down the pike next, we've proven we can handle it. The 518 is not down for the count.

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Vince Palmeri

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Don Henley

Golden Slumbers/ Carry That Weight/ The End
The Beatles

Poison
Alice Cooper

Who'll Stop the Rain
Creedence Clearwater Revival
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Answers on Pg. B13

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From page B9 ... Winter is nigh

Purnomo, wine director and co-owner of Yono's, said those services take 30 percent from each order. "Not reinvested. It goes to someone who has no vested interest in your business."

Owners said they feel delivery services are taking advantage of them. Five years ago, they quoted service costs to be as low as 10 percent. They could opt to pay more, up to 30 percent, to receive preferred service, but fees have steadily climbed since with no added perks. Restaurants have grown dependent on the services these past several months, so threatening to quit the service holds no weight, said Purnomo. "They know

we can't play hardball."

Grubhub has presented itself as one of the industry's loudest proponents despite questions over delivery fees. The food-ordering and delivery service said it spent \$100 million in its second quarter to support restaurants and drivers. In an August letter to Washington, Founder and CEO Matt Maloney pledged his support for The Restaurants Act of 2020.

The proposed legislation provides a \$120 billion Revitalization Fund that will infuse capital into local economies and help small, independent restaurants.

"The plight of



Restaurants cushioned the blow from virus-related restrictions placed on indoor seating by moving outdoors. That saving grace, however, will be lost to them once winter weather sets in and they want Gov. Andrew Cuomo to know that before it is too late.

Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518

restaurants is of such a magnitude that it requires federal intervention," wrote Maloney.

The Tuesday morning panel discussion was the first of an anticipated month-long tour Fahy and McDonald each plan so as to listen to local businesses and the challenges they face. So far, restaurateurs are asking for increased capacity, alcohol to-go orders, reduced taxes on alcohol purchases and a 15 percent cap on delivery fees.

"These small businesses, and restaurants, are the backbone of our communities," Pierce said. "They employ our friends, brothers, sisters, parents and children. Establish another round of Payroll Protection loans, pass the Restaurants Act."

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From page B4 ... ASO returns to concerts

American musical hero, This Land Sings is a perfect way to celebrate voting and the election season. The Symphony released its new CD of the work on NAXOS last spring to great critical acclaim.

Another highlight of the reimagined season celebrates Beethoven, just days before his 250th birthday in December. "By featuring two of Beethoven's earliest major orchestral masterpieces, Creatures of Prometheus and Symphony No. 1, we want to showcase the young composer just beginning to take the world by storm," said Miller. "And

by including Michael Torke's riveting Beethoven-inspired work, Ash, and Extra(ordinarily) Fancy, a gorgeous double oboe concerto by Viet Cuong, we are celebrating the modernity and relevance of Beethoven's artistic vision."

The 2020-2021 season features a brilliant collection of new works, including seven world premieres, by a magnificent assortment of extraordinary composers, including Andre Myers, Viet Cuong, Jessie Montgomery, Caroline Shaw, Tyson Davis, Tanner Porter, Michael Torke, George Tsontakis, Carlos Bandera, Nina Shekhar,

Clarice Assad, Molly Joyce, Chris Theofanidis, and Alexis Lamb.

The season also features iconic works by great composers of the past. Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 will feature soloist Inon Barnatan. The orchestra will perform symphonies by Haydn and Schubert, and Brahms' Serenade No. 1 in its exquisite, seldom-heard original version. Debussy's Afternoon of a Faun and Mahler's Symphony No.4 will be presented in beautiful chamber orchestra versions.

The 2020-2021 season runs from October through the American Music Festival in June. An Albany Symphony subscription includes all streamed events and in-person

concerts once they can safely resume. Because of social distancing, seating will be available only to subscribers. Purchasing a subscription will guarantee tickets for in-person concerts. Subscriptions are available by calling the Albany Symphony Box Office at 518-694-3300. For more information about the Albany Symphony and the 2020-2021 Season Reimagined, visit www.albanysymphony.com.

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collaborate with local arts organizations to create a new orchestral piece to express each town's unique heritage. This community-building project was featured in The New York Times article "Hell or High Water, an Orchestra Celebrates the Erie Canal."

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6	5	9	1	2	7	8	4	3
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 Stefanie Markiewicz Spotlight News Advertising Representative <table border="1" style="margin: 5px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">This Week</td><td style="padding: 2px;">Overall Points</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">9-5</td><td style="padding: 2px;">34-11</td></tr> </table>	This Week	Overall Points	9-5	34-11	 John McIntyre Spotlight News Publisher <table border="1" style="margin: 5px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">This Week</td><td style="padding: 2px;">Overall Points</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">8-6</td><td style="padding: 2px;">31-14</td></tr> </table>	This Week	Overall Points	8-6	31-14
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9-5	31-14								



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