

## Health Care

1-07-2016 THE MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM HAS RELEASED A NEW DOCUMENT ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN UTICA HOSPITAL PROJECT. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SELECTED SITE ACROSS FROM THE UTICA AUDITORIUM SET OFF A FIRESTORM OF CONTROVERSY LAST MONTH. THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO COST NORTH OF HALF A BILLION DOLLARS AND TAKE CLOSE TO A DECADE TO COMPLETE. BUT CRITICS SAY EVEN THE LATEST ANSWERS ARE STILL AVOIDING SPECIFICS ABOUT WHY THE AUDITORIUM SITE WAS SELECTED AND WHAT CRITERIA WERE USED TO MAKE THE CHOICE.

10-13-2016

GET A FLU VACCINATION. THAT'S THE RECOMMENDATION FROM LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS WITH FLUE SEASON JUST AROUND THE CORNER. OFFICIALS SAY EARLY VACCINATIONS ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN, THE ELDERLY, AND PREGNANT WOMEN, AND MOST INSURANCE PLANS FULLY COVER THE SHOTS. LAST YEAR THE UTICA ROME AREA WAS POUNDED BY TWO WAVES OF FLU INFECTIONS. IN RESPONSE LOCAL HOSPITALS RESTRICTED VISITATIONS TO HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE PATIENTS FROM SECONDARY INFECTIONS. VACCINATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT MOST DRUGSTORES AND CLINICS RUN BY YOUR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

10-27-2016

BEWARE THE SPORTADE FRUIT PUNCH, AT LEAST IF YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO MILK. STEWART'S SHOPS ARE RECALLING THE ISOTONIC SPORTS DRINK BECAUSE SOME BOTTLE ARE CONTAMINATED WITH MILK. THE PROBLEM EFFECTS ROUGHLY 16-HUNDRED BOTTLES OF THE PRODUCT THAT WERE DISTRIBUTED ACROSS UPSTATE NEW YORK AND VERMONT. ALL OF THE PROBLEMATIC SPORTADE DRINKS HAVE

AN EXPIRATION DATE OF DECEMBER SECOND PRINTED ON THE NECK OF THE BOTTLE. CUSTOMERS CAN RETURN THEIR DRINKS TO ANY STEWART'S SHOP FOR A FULL REFUND

11-09-2016

ONE OUT OF STATE MEASURE COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NEW YORK. MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS VOTED TO LEGALIZE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA USE. THAT INCLUDES CARRYING UP TO AN OUNCE OF MARIJUANA, STORING UP TO TEN OUNCES IN THEIR HOME, AND CULTIVATING UP TO SIX MARIJUANA PLANTS. UNDER THE LAW NEW YORKERS COULD TRAVEL TO MASSACHUSETTS AND LEGALLY PURCHASE MARIJUANA, AND RESIDENTS THERE ARE FREE TO GIFT AN OUNCE OF WEED TO ANYONE OVER 21

11-10-2016

AMERICA'S GREATEST HEART RUN AND WALK GOT UNDERWAY YESTERDAY. NOBODY WAS HITTING THE PAVEMENT JUST YET, BUT ORGANIZERS KICKED OFF THE ANNUAL FUNDRAISING THAT CULMINATES WHEN WALKERS AND RUNNERS HIT THE ROAD DURING THE FIRST WEEKEND OF MARCH NEXT YEAR. THE EVENT FEATURED FOUR RED CAP AMBASSADORS WHO'VE BEEN TOUCHED BY HEART DISEASE AND WILL HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF THE ISSUE. ORGANIZERS ARE HOPING TO RAISE JUST OVER 1-POINT-1 MILLION DOLLARS AT NEXT YEAR'S EVENT.

11-11-2016

UTICA'S DOWNTOWN HOSPITAL PROJECT HAS HIRED A P-R FIRM, BUT DETAILS ABOUT WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING ON ARE STILL SCARCE. EARLIER THIS YEAR OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THEY'D SETTLED ON DOWNTOWN UTICA AS THEIR CHOSEN LOCATION. BUT THE CRITERIA FOR THAT DECISION IS STILL SECRET, AND DETAILS OF THE HOSPITALS LAYOUT HAVEN'T BEEN REVEALED. THE HIRING OF

THE PAIGE GROUP TO HANDLE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMES AS SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE PROJECT CONTINUES TO GROW, FUELED BY A LACK OF INFORMATION.

11-22-2016

PATIENTS WHO NEED MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT WILL SOON BE ABLE TO GET IT FROM THEIR COMPUTERS. THE STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH HAS APPROVED PSYCHIATRISTS TO OFFER SERVICES REMOTELY VIA COMPUTER TELECONFERENCING. THE MOVE IS SEEN AS A WAY TO FIGHT THE CRIPPLING SHORTAGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS AVAILABLE IN RURAL AREAS. UNDER THE LAW LICENSED PROFESSIONALS WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET WITH PATIENTS USING PROGRAMS LIKE SKYPE OR FACEBOOK VIDEO CHAT.

11-25-2016

NEW YORK IS EXPANDING IT'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM. THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS MOVING TO ALLOW NURSE PRACTITIONERS AND PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS TO PRESCRIBE MARIJUANA PRODUCTS. ONCE THAT MEASURE IS APPROVED THEY'LL HAVE TO COMPLETE A CERTIFICATION COURSE BEFORE WRITING PRESCRIPTIONS. NEW YORK'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA SYSTEM HAS HAD A ROCKY START, WITH ONLY 740 DOCTORS OF THE THOUSANDS IN NEW YORK REGISTERING FOR THE PROGRAM.

11-29-2016

ONEIDA COUNTY IS GETTING A NEW TOOL IN THE FIGHT AGAINST OPIOID ADDICTION. STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS WERE ON HAND YESTERDAY FOR THE OPENING OF A NEW DRUG TREATMENT CLINIC IN ROME. THE FACILITY CAN HANDLE UP TO 150 PATIENTS UNDERGOING METHADONE TREATMENT FOR ADDICTION. ONEIDA AND HERKIMER COUNTIES HAVE SEEN AN EXPLOSION IN OPIOID ABUSE, FUELED BY CHEAP HEROIN AND READY SUPPLIES OF DIVERTED

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS LIKE OXYCONTIN. UNTIL NOW ADDICTS HAD TO TRAVEL TO SYRACUSE FOR METHADONE TREATMENT.

12-04-2016

MEDICAL MARIJUANA CAN BE PRESCRIBED FOR CHRONIC PAIN IN NEW YORK. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, WHICH IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEFINING FINAL REGULATIONS FOR THE CHANGE. THE SHIFT MARKS A MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE STATE'S MEDICAL MARIJUANA PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN SLOW TO CATCH ON WITH BOTH DOCTORS AND PATIENTS. AND ACCESS IS AN ONGOING PROBLEM. PATIENTS IN THE UTICA ROME AREA HAVE TO TRAVEL AT LEAST FIFTY MILES TO OBTAIN MARIJUANA PRODUCTS FROM A DISPENSARY.

12-06-2016

THE RED CROSS NEEDS YOUR HELP. SPECIFICALLY, IT NEEDS YOUR BLOOD. OFFICIALS SAY THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY DROUGHT OF BLOOD DONATIONS HAS ARRIVED, AND THEY'RE LOOKING AT A MAJOR SHORTFALL IN THE AREA'S BLOOD SUPPLIES. THAT INCLUDES A CRITICAL NEED FOR O-NEGATIVE, A-NEGATIVE, AND B-NEGATIVE BLOOD. THE SEASONAL DIP IN DONATIONS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR AS REGULAR DONORS MISS BLOOD DRIVES BECAUSE OF HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES. YOU CAN FIND A FULL LIST OF THE AREA'S LOCATIONS FOR DONATING BLOOD AT RED-CROSS-DOT-ORG.

12-14-2016

HOW SHOULD THE STATE DEAL WITH DANGEROUSLY INSANE SUSPECTS? ALISON DANO BELIUS THINKS THEY SHOULD BE HELD IN A TREATMENT FACILITY FOR THE SAME TIME PERIOD THEY WOULD HAVE SERVED IN PRISON FOR THEIR CRIMES. SHE'S THE MOTHER OF LAUREN SYLVIA BELIUS, THE SIX YEAR OLD GIRL FATALLY STABBED BY DAVID TREBILCOCK DURING A MENTAL BREAKDOWN, AND SHE'S BEEN CAMPAIGNING TO GET THE LAW CHANGED. SHE'S APPEARING ON THE

DOCTOR PHIL SHOW TOMORROW IN SUPPORT OF A LAW NAMED AFTER HER DAUGHTER.

12-16-2016

THE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR THE STATE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE HAS BEEN EXTENDED THROUGH SATURDAY. YESTERDAY WAS THE ORIGINAL DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR ONE OF THE MANDATED POLICIES, BUT YOU'LL NOW HAVE UNTIL 1 P-M ON THE SEVENTEENTH. OFFICIALS SAY THIS WAS THE BUSIEST ENROLLMENT PERIOD YET, WITH OVER 55-THOUSAND PEOPLE SIGNING UP FOR COVERAGE IN THE PAST THREE DAYS. ANYONE WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE WILL BE FORCED TO PAY A FINE BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

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12-29-2016

IT'S HERE. THE FLU HAS OFFICIALLY ARRIVED IN NEW YORK. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER. HIS ANNOUNCEMENT TRIGGERS A LEGAL REQUIREMENT THAT ALL HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHO AREN'T VACCINATED AGAINST THE VIRUS HAVE TO START WEARING SURGICAL MASKS WHILE WORKING WITH PATIENTS. SO FAR THE FLU HAS BEEN DETECTED IN 39 OF THE STATE'S 62 COUNTIES, AND OVER 650 PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED WITH SEVERE FLU SYMPTOMS.

