

6/11/18-NEW YORK'S PROPOSED BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS IS DEAD IN THE WATER. BACK IN APRIL GOVERNOR CUOMO CAME OUT IN FAVOR OF LEGISLATION THAT WOULD OUTLAW THE FAMILIAR SHOPPING BAGS AND IMPOSE A TEN CENT FEE FOR PAPER BAGS. THE MOVE WAS DESIGNED TO CUT BACK ON THE 23 BILLION PLASTIC BAGS NEW YORKERS USE EVERY YEAR. BUT WITH JUST A WEEK LEFT IN THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION THE MEASURE HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF PASSING. THAT COULD LEAVE THE STATE WITH A PATCHWORK OF LAWS PASSED BY LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES.

6/12/18-TOXIC ALGAE BLOOMS ARE GETTING WORSE ACROSS NEW YORK. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION. FOR THE FIRST TIME THEY'RE MONITORING THE PROBLEM ACROSS THE STATE, AND THE LATEST REPORT FOUND 19 BODIES OF WATER SUFFERING FROM BLUE GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS. THOSE GREEN, SWIRLING CLOUDS IN THE WATER ARE CAUSED BY EXCESSIVE NUTRIENTS IN THE WATER, MOST OF IT GENERATED BY RUNOFF FROM THE SURROUNDING AREA. SO FAR THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY CASES IN HERKIMER OR ONEIDA COUNTIES.

6/12/18-HERKIMER COUNTY HAS A SERIOUS LYME DISEASE PROBLEM. OVER HALF OF THE DEER TICKS COLLECTED ACROSS THE COUNTY WERE INFECTED WITH THE ORGANISM THAT CAUSES THE DISEASE. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH. OF THE 49 COLLECTED DURING THE MOST RECENT SURVEY 55 PERCENT TESTED FOR LYME CAME UP POSITIVE. OFFICIALS SAY YOU CAN AVOID EXPOSURE TO THE POTENTIALLY DEBILITATING DISEASE BY AVOIDING BRUSHY AREAS, USING A TICK REPELLENT, AND CHECKING YOUR BODY FOR ANY TICKS AFTER COMING BACK INSIDE.

6/18/18-THE FORECAST IS FILLED WITH HOT, HUMID TEMPERATURES, AND OFFICIALS ARE WARNING RESIDENTS TO TAKE COMMON SENSE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE HEAT. THAT INCLUDES KEEPING AN EYE ON ELDERLY NEIGHBORS WHO MAY HAVE ISSUES DEALING WITH SOARING TEMPERATURES. RESIDENTS SHOULD ALSO THINK TWICE ABOUT LEAVING PETS OR CHILDREN INSIDE A CAR FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME. WITH AN AIR TEMPERATURE IN THE UPPER EIGHTIES IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES FOR THE INSIDE OF A CAR TO BECOME LETHALLY HOT, EVEN WITH CRACKED WINDOWS.

6/18/18-DON'T BE SURPRISED IF YOU SEE BLACK BEARS IN THE SUBURBS. STATE OFFICIALS SAY THEY'RE GETTING A WAVE OF BEAR COMPLAINTS THIS YEAR AS JUVENILES THAT HAVE BEEN KICKED OUT OF THEIR MOTHER'S DEN START ROAMING THE STATE. MOST OF THE BEARS ARE SIMPLY TRAVELING THROUGH SETTLED AREAS ON THEIR WAY TO TRACTS OF WILDERNESS. BUT ON THE WAY THEY CAN CAUSE PROBLEMS WITH BOTH HUMANS AND PETS AS THEY SEARCH FOR FOOD. THAT CAN INCLUDE RAIDING BIRD FEEDERS AND GARBAGE CANS. BEARS IN URBAN AREAS SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE STATE D-E-C.

6/21/18-NEW YORK'S BEAR POPULATION IS GETTING LARGER, IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION SAYS IT MAY BE EXPANDING BEAR HUNTING TO HELP KEEP NUMBER OF ANIMALS UNDER CONTROL. AND HUNTERS TAKING PART IN THOSE EFFORTS COULD BE SEEING SOME RECORD SETTING BEARS. LAST WEEK D-E-C OFFICIALS TRAPPED A NUISANCE BEAR IN STEUBEN COUNTY THAT WEIGHED IN AT A WHOPPING 560 POUNDS. THAT ANIMAL WAS TAGGED AND RELEASED AWAY FROM HUMANS. THE LARGEST BEAR ON RECORD IN NEW YORK WEIGHED 750 POUNDS.

6/27/18-FOOD SCENE IS GETTING SOME MORE NATIONAL ATTENTION. A COLUMN BY FOOD AND WINE WRITER DAVID LANDSEL HAS HIGH PRAISE FOR THE CHOCOLATE CROISSANTS FROM BITE

BAKERY, SAYING THEY'RE THE BEST HE'S HAD OUTSIDE OF PARIS. HE ALSO HAD GOOD WORDS TO SAY ABOUT THE TAILOR AND THE COOK AND UTICA COFFEE. THAT COMES JUST WEEKS AFTER TRAVEL CHANNEL HOST ANDREW ZIMMERN PAID A RETURN VISIT TO THE CITY FOR AN UPCOMING EPISODE OF HIS SHOW.

6/29/18-TEMPERATURES ARE EXPECTED TO SOAR WELL INTO THE NINETIES THIS WEEKEND, AND OFFICIALS ARE WARNING RESIDENTS TO TAKE THE HEAT SERIOUSLY. FORECASTERS SAY THE COMBINATION OF HIGH TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY WILL SEND THE HEAT INDEX SOARING OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THAT MEANS IT'S HARDER FOR THE BODY TO COOL ITSELF. EXPERTS SAY YOU SHOULD AVOID STRENUOUS ACTIVITY, MAKE SURE YOU'RE THOROUGHLY HYDRATED, AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF POOLS, FANS, AND AIR CONDITIONING TO HELP KEEP COOL.