

# WNYT/WNYA 4th Quarter 2020 - Issues

## Business

**10/6 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P**

### **Local theaters not surprised by Regal Cinemas' announcement to suspend operations**

Movie theater owners and employees are still digesting big news from Regal Cinemas. The movie theater giant announced it would be suspending operations at its more than 500 theaters on Thursday. The company partly blames Gov. Andrew Cuomo for the decision to close down due to strict coronavirus guidelines in New York. However, it is not just big movie theater companies suffering. The Madison Theatre in Albany reopened its doors in December after renovations, but then quickly shut down due to the pandemic. "Theaters like the Madison in Albany, they can't do this much longer," said Kevin Parisi, a partner of the Madison Theatre, talking about remaining closed. "This is not something we can sustain until next summer." Parisi said he has had to reduce staff and is unsure of how much longer they can survive with no plan on when they could possibly reopen. Thankfully, the Madison Theatre offers dining. So they've been able to offer that to customers. He said just like restaurants, bowling alleys, and casinos movie theaters can open with strict guidelines in place. If they don't reopen soon, the economic impact will be huge. "Unfortunately you're going to see this huge gap in millions of square feet of vacant entertainment space, which is critical to other retail," said Parisi. "It's critical to all sorts of businesses, to restaurants in the community." Parisi said all they are looking for is a timeline from the governor's office. "Even though we may get guidance we can open by Christmas or Thanksgiving, the reason you're seeing the announcement from Regal yesterday and some of these big studios is they can't just plan an opening tomorrow. They need to plan ahead," he said. Parisi said they need to plan ahead based on when movies are being released. Rich Azzopardi, a spokesperson from the governor's office, released the following statement regarding movie theaters reopening in New York: "We're moving heaven and earth trying to stop a second wave and people need to acknowledge that we're still in a pandemic and start to act like it. We understand some people are unhappy, but you know what, better unhappy than sick or worse."

**10/7 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

### **Saratoga Springs budget proposal includes property tax increase, layoffs**

The city of Saratoga Springs has submitted its 2021 budget proposal. The proposal includes a property tax increase for residents, layoffs, and a pay cut for all full-time employees. The city anticipates a nearly \$7 million budget shortfall amid the coronavirus pandemic. Under the proposed budget for 2021, residents would see a six percent increase in property taxes. In terms of reducing expenses, Saratoga Springs Commissioner of Finance Michele Madigan says all full-time employees will have their pay cut by 10 percent. Madigan says she hopes the wage cut will reduce the number of required layoffs. "I believe and hope that we all share a mutual goal of keeping as many jobs intact as possible; this reduction is a good investment towards that goal," Madigan said. The city says it will have to make some layoffs by January 1, and other layoffs are not completely off the table.

**10/12 – WNYT – 12P – 5P - 10/13 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

### **VT: Minimum wage to increase to \$11.75**

The Vermont Department of Labor says the state's minimum wage is going to increase \$0.79 an hour on January 1 to \$11.75. The minimum wage for tipped employees will also increase to \$5.88 per hour. In 2022, Vermont's minimum wage is set to increase to \$12.55 per hour. In February, the Vermont legislature mandated the increase after they overrode a veto of the plan by Gov. Phil Scott.

**10/18 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/19 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

### **Cuomo: Ski resorts can reopen Nov. 6 at half capacity**

In another step of reopening New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced ski resorts can open beginning Nov. 6. Ski areas will be able to open at 50 percent capacity. Lodges must have half as many people warming up or eating lunch than normal. Indoor areas will need to be cleaned and there must be social distancing. Ski lifts will only be shared with family members or others in your ski party.

**10/20 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/21 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

### **Regal to reopen in Crossgates, Colonie Center on Friday**

Regal Cinemas says they are ready to reopen some theaters. The theaters at Crossgates Mall and Colonie Center will reopen on Friday. The theaters did not release any specific details or safety guidelines just yet. Regal had shut down operations across the country earlier this month, but this past weekend Gov. Cuomo announced guidelines allowing movie theaters to reopen in New York state.

**10/23 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

### **Restaurant managers get creative with ways to stay in business**

The Massachusetts Restaurant Association says nearly one-fifth of all restaurants in the Bay State have closed permanently because of the coronavirus pandemic. Of course, restaurants have been relying on loyal customers to keep them in business through the hard times. NewsChannel 13's NBC affiliate in Springfield spoke with Aidan Lyons, a shift supervisor at Antonio's Pizza. He says outdoor dining and online delivery services have really helped. "We started our own delivery service in the spring, and that's been kept out business pretty consistent throughout the pandemic," Lyons said. Manager David Bourgeois also weighed in. "Business is going good, not great. We are still missing many people from the town. We're missing a lot of business from the town because not all the restaurants are open, but we're surviving," he said. Congress is still debating another bill that potentially helps small businesses.

**10/23 – WNYT – 5P**

### **Third-party delivery apps causing financial problems for local restaurants**

Capital Region leaders are highlighting issues that local restaurants are dealing with when it comes to third-party delivery apps. They say the pandemic has made restaurants reliant on companies like Grubhub or DoorDash, with no oversight or cost protections in place. Now they are asking those companies to give back to the restaurants who have been integral to their success. The group says in some cases, a 35% to 40% fee is charged to the restaurant for each delivery order.

**10/26 – WNYT – 5P**

### **Philanthropist turning long time Saratoga business into charity**

A Saratoga Springs philanthropist is buying a long-time local business and is turning it into a charity. Ed Mitzen, the owner of Fingerpaint, has purchased The Bread Basket and will donate all profits from the popular bakery to charity. A formal ribbon cutting will take place Thursday and the Mitzen Family will present a check for \$25,000 to Capital Roots, the Troy-based non-profit whose mission is to reduce the impact of poor nutrition.

**10/29 – WNYT – 5P**

### **Report: State sales tax revenues drop 9.5% compared to same period last year**

The New York State Comptroller's Office released a report Wednesday on sales tax revenues for the third quarter. The report shows a drop of 9.5 percent from the same period last year. However, the comptroller says that is a significant improvement from the second quarter, when sales tax revenues fell 27 percent.

**10/30 – WNYT – 6P**

**New York State Division of Budget predicting big revenue decline**

The New York State Division of Budget released its mid-year update on Friday. It is projecting a \$15 billion decline in revenues this year, and a total loss of \$63 billion over the next four years. The state says it reduced spending by \$4 billion in the past six months compared with the same period last year. That was done with a hiring freeze, postponing pay raises, and withholding 20% of local aid payments.

**11/6 – WNYT - 12P – 4P – 5P – WNYA – 9P**

**Taking the Kitchen to the Cloud, New Food Hall Opens in Albany**

You've probably heard of Troy Kitchen. It's a sort of gourmet food court where chefs rent booths. It's low rent for a restaurant owner just starting out, and you the customer, get to pick from a ton of different foods in one place. It was working. Then came the pandemic and the owner said the only answer was to take the kitchen to the Cloud. With a turtleneck and a blazer, you would have no idea Cory Nelson had been up all night working on putting the final touches on his brand new The Cloud Food Hall in Albany. This was supposed to be Albany Kitchen, and open in April. Then the pandemic hit and the Troy Kitchen model just didn't work anymore. "The fees just kept going up and up and up, until it just became almost impossible to sustain a business on a delivery setting, because the third party apps were taking so much in fees. So, I said, 'you know what, I'm going to have to develop my own app,'" said Nelson. You pick what you want to eat, when you want to pick it up. Then come in and get it at the window, or have it delivered within three miles. It's that simple. The concept is starting with five or six restaurants. "We reduced the labor structure, and we reduced a lot of our costs by going to the mobile structure. And that allows us to be a little more profitable, based on the projections," Nelson says he's using the savings to make all meals \$4.99. The first location is on Columbia Street in Albany, but Nelson says he wants 50 locations in 2021. Opening Day is Tuesday.

**11/10 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – 11/11 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Regal Cinemas in Crossgates, Colonie Center closing again**

The Regal Cinemas in Crossgates Mall and Colonie Center are closing again just weeks after opening. A source at the Colonie Regal confirms the closure, blaming fewer crowds and a shortage of new movies. Theaters in NY state were recently given the green light to open at 25% capacity and no more than 50 people per screen. Other Regal Cinemas in the Capital Region haven't opened at all since closing for the pandemic.

**11/12 – WNYT – 4P – 6P – WNYA – 9P- 11/13 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – WNYA – 9P**

**Toll booths become NY state history this weekend**

Paying for tolls at a tollbooth will be a thing of the past in New York state starting this weekend. The \$355 million transformation to cashless tolling has been years in the making. Signs were set to go up at 8 p.m. Friday, with the official switch happening at midnight. The tolling structure will not change and drivers will continue to be tolled by distance and exits traveled. The state has put up gantries along the Thruway that have high-tech cameras. They will collect E-ZPass data for customers. Those without E-ZPass get pictures taken of their license plate and sent a bill in the mail.

**11/17 – WNYT – 12P – 6P**

**Vermont approves new funding for businesses, hotels hurt by pandemic**

*Created: November 17, 2020 01:02 PM*

The state of Vermont has approved a new round of funding for those hurting from the pandemic. The Legislature's Joint Fiscal Committee allocated \$75 million for businesses and hotels hurt during the pandemic. Each business can apply for a grant of up to \$300,000. Another \$6.5 million is to help Vermonters with rent payments. The committee chair says they "don't have enough money to make everyone whole, so they're trying to find a way to keep everybody afloat."

**11/17 – WNYT – 12P**

**Settlement reached in hand sanitizer price gouging case**

New York's Attorney General has reached a settlement in a hand sanitizer price gouging case. Attorney General Tish James went after companies using Amazon to sell overpriced hand sanitizer at the start of the pandemic. James gave one example where a company named Mobile Rush sold eight-ounce bottles of Germ X for \$20 to \$30 a bottle. The product sells for \$1 to \$3 a bottle. Three companies must pay thousands of dollars in fines and restitution to customers. The attorney general says if you bought the overpriced sanitizer through Amazon, you will get an automatic refund.

**11/18 – WNYT – 5P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/19 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Independent Delmar pharmacy shuts down**

A Delmar staple for 15 years has closed its doors. Four Corners Pharmacy served their last customer on Tuesday night at 7:00pm. They spent all of today taking inventory and clearing shelves. The CVS pharmacy at 260 Delaware Avenue will take on customers' prescription records. A spokesperson with CVS says employees from Four Corners will be considered for positions there. The owners will continue to work in pharmacy related fields. It was the last independently owned pharmacy in Delmar.

**11/27 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Program in Albany's South End helps support black business ownership**

A new program in the South End of Albany is encouraging people to shop local this holiday season. An organization called AVillage Inc. -- in partnership with Flagship Ultra and Siena College said it's refocusing this shopping weekend by connecting creative professionals and families. They're calling it "Black Wealth Weekend" and they say it supports community building and black business ownership. They say they created a marketplace where people can find unique gifts for their loved ones, while also supporting entrepreneurship in the community.

**11/27 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Black Friday at Crossgates takes on subdued tone during pandemic**

With Thanksgiving behind us, the holiday shopping season is officially underway. Despite the pandemic, there was still a line outside Best Buy at Crossgates Mall. In the face of a pandemic, most shoppers NewsChannel 13 spoke with characterized it as a subdued Black Friday. The crowds appeared to be much smaller and the lines appeared to be much shorter. The sale prices are in the eye of the beholder. Flat screen TVs, laptop computers, or any other item or merchandise was being scooped up with less than a month to go before Christmas. It is a time of year when retailers are hoping to make back some or all of what they've lost over the last eight months of the pandemic. It is also a time when COVID vigilance needs to continue and when store capacity is also being limited.

**11/30 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P**

**NY state lawmakers introduce legislation to help restaurant owners through pandemic**

New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara and Senator Daphne Jordan have introduced legislation aimed at helping restaurant owners. The Save our New York state restaurants Act, if passed, would create a one-week sales tax exemption for food and drinks sold at restaurants and taverns. "Keeping our local businesses open and thriving is absolutely essential to the economic success of not only our communities, but also our entire state," Santabarbara said. "This new measure will provide a much-needed boost for small businesses that are owned and operated by our neighbors and friends. Helping restaurant owners increase their revenue will help ease the burden they're facing during these difficult times."

**11/30 – WNYT – 6P – WNYA – 9P**

**Capital Region businesses participate in Cyber Monday**

Online shoppers spent \$9 billion on Black Friday. Experts say spending on Cyber Monday could reach almost \$13 billion. Gracie's Apparel and Accessories in Latham was closed earlier this year due to the pandemic. During that time, they were able to create a website. They say they were busy on Small Business Saturday and now they are getting in on the Cyber Monday action.

**11/30 – WNYT – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/1 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Proposed legislation hopes to alleviate fiscal pressure on restaurants and taverns**

The past nine months haven't been easy. "Every day is a struggle and it seems almost every day or re-creating the paradigm of what it means to be a small restaurant," Maria Papa said, MORE Perreca's Owner. Those in the restaurant and hospitality business have like many, struggled to stay afloat, cutting staff and operating hours while adapting to the ever changing pandemic guidelines. "It's constantly constantly being flexible, looking at what alternatives are out there, and acting immediately," Papa said. Less than half a mile away at Katie O'Byrnes, John Keller had about twenty parties booked in this private room for December. Now, he's down to hosting just two of them. "The last 20 to 30 days have really been a tremendous challenge, the 10 o'clock {curfew} has hurried a lot of people to having to order food," Keller said. But new legislation proposed by Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara and Senator Daphne Jordan would create a one week sales tax exemption for food and drinks sold at restaurants and taverns to help alleviate some financial pressure. "You think about some of the really unique restaurants we have in this area, some of them are on the verge of just barely surviving," Santabarbara said. "That could mean the difference between staying in business or not staying in business," Papa said. Keller agrees, every little bit does help but it'll take the Small Business Administration delivering on Paycheck Protection Program loans, to ensure it won't be last call for good at his restaurant. "If your business does \$20,000 for a week it's gonna be \$1,600 in sales tax you don't have to pay. It will maybe help you out a little bit but in all seriousness what this industry needs is more PPP money to survive," Keller said. The 'Save Our New York State Restaurants Act' has bipartisan support.

**11/30 – WNYA – 9P- 12/1 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Death Wish Coffee donates \$15k to program helping hospitality workers for holiday season**

Death Wish Coffee is hoping to give hospitality workers a little break this holiday season. The coffee maker donated \$15,000 to Brewnited. Brewnited is made up of Northway Brewing, Adirondack Brewery, Bolton Landing Brewing, Druthers, Artisanal Brew Works, and Common Roots. The group founded a "Help for the Holidays" fund. Back in April, Brewnited donated all the profits from their negative-input-beer to help out-of-work hospitality employees in Saratoga and Warren counties.

**12/7 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – WNYA – 9P**

**Capital Region real estate industry sees unusual cold weather boom**

The real estate industry was hit hard at the beginning of the pandemic, but then saw a boom in the summer. Now with it being the middle of the school year and the holidays, realtors would normally see a slowdown in sales, but that's not the case. NewsChannel 13 spoke with Laura Burns, the CEO for the Greater Capital Association of Realtors. She says while the past spring was an adjustment for realtors in the area, having to figure out social distancing and showing homes through video conferences, the year quickly became the busiest year yet in real estate. She says she represents agents in 10 counties, and in October, they had more than 14,000 showings.

**12/9 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**Some Saratoga Springs restaurants shutting down for COVID winter**

In Saratoga Springs where restaurants count on out-of-town visitors, more establishments are shutting their doors for the winter. Already serving at half capacity, Hattie's has decided to shut down for January and February. The owners of Hattie's, which has operated continuously since 1938, say it's heartbreaking to close, even if it is just for a few months. Hattie's Chicken Shack in Wilton will remain open, because its setup is more conducive to takeout. Hattie's is joined by Prime at Saratoga National, Carson's Woodside Tavern, and Dunning Street Station. Even Racing City Brewing has stopped pouring in person.

**12/11 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/12 – WNYT – 8A**

**Capital Region hotels eagerly await return of travelers**

New data paints a bleak picture for the American hospitality industry, as experts say many hotels could be forced to close. In Saratoga Springs, hotel operators are committed to keeping the lights on and say they're staying afloat thanks to business and military travelers. However, according to hotel industry analysts, there have been one billion empty rooms this year. That's nearly 50% more empty room nights than 2019.

**12/14 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Albany essential restaurant workers to rally Monday**

Restaurant workers will rally in Albany on Monday. They are demanding a full minimum wage with tips in order to continue to work in the pandemic. They say tips are roughly 50 to 75 percent of what they once were since the pandemic began. Monday's rally is part of a statewide tour for restaurant workers. It is happening at East Capitol Park in Albany at 12:30 p.m.

**12/14 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – WNYA – 9P**

**Albany County executive signs legislation capping food delivery fees**

Albany County leaders are actively trying to help struggling restaurants. County Executive Dan McCoy signed an emergency order Monday putting a cap on delivery fees from third-party companies like Grubhub and DoorDash. Those fees will now be capped at 15%. McCoy says some of those fees had reached as high as 30%. The executive order goes into effect on Friday.

**12/21 – WNYT – 5P – 12/22 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Colonie candy shop sees sweet success during pandemic**

Despite the pandemic, Krause's Homemade Candy in Colonie is feeling the holiday surge. In fact, they're getting so many orders, they're finding it hard to keep up. The shop on Central Avenue in Colonie can only permit 20 customers in the store at a time. However, owner Tom Krause says tradition is keeping the store busy this time of year. You can also order online and do curbside pickup.

## **Government**

### **ONLINE ONLY**

**Vermont governor allows police force bill to become law**

Vermont Gov. Phil Scott has allowed a bill passed by the Legislature overseeing the use of force by police to become law without his signature. The new law outlines when police can use force and deadly force and bans certain restraints, such as neck holds. In a message to the Legislature Wednesday evening, Scott said he shared the goals of the bill of strengthening the state's use of force policies to protect citizens and law enforcement alike. He says he believes there are gaps in the legislation. Meanwhile, the Vermont chapter of the ACLU says the new law gives the state "the best statewide police use of force standard in the nation."

**10/6 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P**

**Remembering the victims of Schoharie limo crash 2 years later**

Tuesday marks a somber day in the Capital Region. Two years ago, 20 people were killed in one of the worst accidents in New York's history. The Schoharie limousine crash happened on October 6, 2018. In 2019, a memorial was unveiled at the crash site. The National Transportation Safety Board's final report came out last week. It finds the operator of Prestige Limousine, the New York State Department of Transportation, and the State Department of Motor Vehicles are all to blame for the crash. The limo had faulty brakes and should not have been on the road. The NTSB says DOT and DMV contributed to the crash by not stopping the company from operating. The limo company operator, Nauman Hussain, is facing criminal charges.

**10/5 – WNYT – 5P– 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Widow of limo driver in Schoharie crash files suit**

The widow of the driver killed in the Schoharie limousine crash is filing suit against the limo company's owners and Mavis Tire. The lawsuit points at several flaws with the limousine's braking system. It claims the limo should never have been on the road, and that the driver suffered a wrongful death.

**10/12 – WNYT – 12P – 5P – 10/13 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**VT: Minimum wage to increase to \$11.75**

The Vermont Department of Labor says the state's minimum wage is going to increase \$0.79 an hour on January 1 to \$11.75. The minimum wage for tipped employees will also increase to \$5.88 per hour. In 2022, Vermont's minimum wage is set to increase to \$12.55 per hour. In February, the Vermont legislature mandated the increase after they overrode a veto of the plan by Gov. Phil Scott.

**10/20 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 5P – 6P – 11P**

**Gillibrand introduces legislation to help small businesses through pandemic**

As small businesses across the Capital Region continue to struggle, a new loan program is being proposed to help them survive. U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is calling for legislation to create a new loan program to help them survive. She was in Hudson Monday introducing the "Reviving the Economy Sustainably towards a Recovery in 2020 Act" - or "RESTART" act for short. Gillibrand says the new program funds six months of employer and operating expenses for businesses. She says while the PPP was intended to help small and mid-sized businesses, many have slipped through the cracks and are struggling to stay in business. Gillibrand is among a group of more than 30 senators to co-sponsor the act.

**10/20 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Public hearings set as municipalities struggle with budgets**

The coronavirus pandemic has forced cities and towns all over to make some tough financial decisions because of economic fallout from the pandemic. In Saratoga Springs, the city will hold one of two public hearings about the 2021 budget Tuesday. It is a tough budget, as it calls for around \$7 million less than last year. The proposed spending plan calls for a six percent property tax increase and layoffs across all departments. The city's finance commissioner says the coronavirus and a dramatic shortfall in expected income has made it necessary to lay off 25 percent of DPW staff and 15 percent of police and firefighters. The city says now it is up to the unions and city department heads to figure out to make the needed cuts. The proposed budget also calls for eliminating all city recreation programs that are not budget neutral and self-sustaining. The public hearing begins at 6:45 p.m. at City Hall. Capacity will be limited because of the pandemic. In Troy, the city will hold committee meetings in regards to the budget Tuesday. Committee meeting topics range from public utilities to planning development. With the committee meeting, people can comment on that specific topic. Troy is dealing with a more than \$800,000 drop in revenue. To make up for the loss, the city is proposing a 1.69 percent tax increase. If passed, that would mean the average Troy taxpayer, with a property valued at \$150,000, would pay a little over \$37 more per year. Without aid from Washington, Mayor Patrick Madden says they are looking to defer a portion of the 2021 pension payment to the state. That would be paid back on a 10-year schedule. City leaders say they have avoided deferring pension payments in the past, but not doing so this year would mean an additional tax increase. The city of Schenectady will also hold a hearing on its budget on Tuesday.

**10/19 – WNYT – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/20 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Stefanik, Cobb square off in debate ahead of Election Day**

NewsChannel 13 is closely watching the race for New York's 21st Congressional District. Incumbent Elise Stefanik just squared off in a debate against Democratic opponent Tedra Cobb Monday night. It aired on WWNY in Watertown. The candidates went head to head on issues including a possible ban on assault weapons, President Trump's taxes, and the federal coronavirus response. "I think the president has done very well in terms of providing what we need in the North Country. As I said in my opening remarks, we have maintained the lowest positive COVID rates in the entire New York state," Rep. Stefanik said. "Take a look back at where we were in February, President Trump made the right but tough decision to ban flights from China. Cobb also weighed in on the issue. "The president should have made sure that we had PPE, that we had ventilators. The states were competing against each other, and unfortunately, the president left it up to the states," Cobb said. "We've had many spikes, and we're going into the winter, potentially facing more spikes." The 21st Congressional District includes all of Fulton, Warren, Hamilton, and Washington County. It also includes part of Saratoga County.

**10/21 – WNYT – 12P– 5P**

**Vermont voting already nearing half of 2016 totals**

With less than two weeks until Election Day, Vermont has already seen about half the number of votes cast as it did in the last presidential election. Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos said out of the 450,000 ballots sent out, just over 159,000 have been returned so far. That is roughly half of the 320,000 Vermonters who voted in 2016. NewsChannel 13's NBC affiliate in Burlington spoke with some voters in Williston. "I would say it has a lot to do with the way COVID has been handled or not been handled," Ron Paquette said. "COVID is just part of the whole big picture. It's more about what you're looking for after COVID, you know?" Nancy Brogna added. Vermonters who are choosing to vote by mail are urged to send their ballots back by this Saturday. Of course, you can still vote in person on Election Day.

**10/23 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P - 10/24 – WNYT – 6A**

**Saratoga Springs domestic violence agency to move to Malta and expand services**

They've been operating out of a hodgepodge of basement offices in Saratoga Springs for years. By this time next year, Wellspring will have its own building to better serve those who've been abused. "You can get out and when you get out, stay out," says Pennesia "Penny" Peters, who was a victim of abuse. When she reached her breaking point, she turned to Wellspring. She came to the cramped, hard-to-find offices in the Collamer Building where Wellspring staff counseled her and got her and her son a place to stay. They squeeze in a thousand victims a year here. A corner is the food pantry, and the children's area is also the lobby. They call the rooms where they provide counseling to victims, "cubbies." They are so narrow that when you reach out with both arms you touch each wall. They need a place with windows where victims can be comforted, and they need space to hold classes on how to become self-sustaining. Wellspring Executive Director Maggie Fronk says they've talked about it for years. "But then COVID struck," said Fronk. That was the final push to pull the trigger on an 8,000 square foot building on Route 9 in Malta. They'll break ground early next month. "We need space that we can do this work and provide safety from domestic violence and sexual assault while also maintaining health safety," Fronk said. She says the high-profile location where thousands of cars pass every day will serve as a reminder that they're there to help those like Peters who suffered. She offers this advice to those who feel trapped: "Go to Wellspring first and speak to a staff member and let them know what's happening." Wellspring plans to be in the new building in time for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October 2021.

**11/3 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P**

**Albany polling site sees steady stream of voters**

Polls have been open for six hours in New York, and NewsChannel 13 is seeing a steady stream of voters heading to the polls. Jill Konopka was at First Church in Albany at noon Tuesday. It is one of Albany's many polling locations. Poll workers say they are expecting a lunch crowd and another crowd around dinnertime.

One volunteer said it was the first time he could remember there being a line outside the church as the doors were opening at 6 a.m. New York's polling locations are COVID-19 conscious. Masks are required, hand sanitizer is available, and there are socially distant markings on the floor to help keep voters safe and comfortable. Many voters say they are excited that Election Day is finally here, and they are thankful that election season will soon be over. "I think it is going to be close," said Natasia Brown of Albany. "I feel like for some reason, I feel like voting really mattered more this year than ever, so I feel like a lot of people who never even thought about voting are going to be voting." Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple says they have had no issues at any polling locations in the county.

#### **11/3 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 11/4 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

##### **NY 20th Congressional District: No winner yet**

The 20th Congressional District is waking up Wednesday without a winner officially declared. However, the race is all but over in that district. Democrat Paul Tonko is leading over challenger Liz Joy. Dan Levy was at Joy campaign headquarters watching the numbers come in. After nine days of early voting, followed by 15 hours of Election Day ballot casting, finding out who the winner is in New York's 20th Congressional District will have to wait just a little longer. "I'm not going to concede this race. We are going to wait for every single vote to be counted," Joy told her supporters. Republican Liz Joy says she remains cautiously optimistic and extremely proud. "I'm very excited because we've already done better than any challenger ever before this up against Tonko," Joy explained. Tonko spoke with reporters via Zoom two hours after the polls closed Tuesday night. "I respect the fact that every vote needs to be counted," Tonko said. The six-term Amsterdam Democratic incumbent, without claiming victory, acknowledged victory is well within reach. "It's a crazy night. It's going to be a long, long torturous couple of hours," Tonko said. "The people are speaking loudly, so we are going to wait," Joy told her supporters. "It is looking like it is a competitive sweepstakes out there, and hopefully, we get to that winner's circle," Tonko told reporters. Any absentee ballots that were postmarked by midnight on election night will be part of the official count.

#### **11/4 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 5P**

##### **Scott wins another term as Vermont governor**

Vermont's incumbent Republican Gov. Phil Scott has won reelection to the office he has held since first being elected in 2016. In Tuesday's balloting, Scott defeated Democratic challenger Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman. Scott did not do any in-person campaigning ahead of the election, relying on a number of debates with Zuckerman and email and direct mail messages to the people of Vermont. While Scott is a Republican in a heavily Democratic state, he is seen as popular with the public and has been given high marks for his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Zuckerman, a 48-year-old farmer from Hinesburg, campaigned on promises to do more for to advance progressive causes such as saying wealthy people should pay more in taxes and Vermont should do more to combat climate change.

#### **11/3 – WNYT - 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P - 11/4 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

##### **Election officials waiting to call race on changing Saratoga's city charter**

A change to the Saratoga charter was up for a vote on Election Day. If passed, the charter would change the city's government leadership to a city manager. The last time this question was on the ballot, it was defeated by 10 votes. Emily Burkhard spoke with the chair of the Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee, Sarah Burger. She was on the phone with Board of Election officials and poll watchers trying to get a sense of whether voters would approve the referendum to change the city charter. Burger says at this point the race is close, but there are more votes against the change to the charter. However, there are enough absentee ballots that have not been returned that they are waiting to call the race. "I mean it's still a significant spread," Burger said. "With record-breaking absentee ballots, I think it's worth waiting for. The Board of Elections will begin opening those absentee ballots next week on November 10. NewsChannel 13 will continue to provide updates on these stories when they become available.

#### **11/3 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – 11P**

##### **Stefanik, Cobb make final push for 21st Congressional District**

Election Day is one day away, and NewsChannel 13 is closely following the race for the 21st Congressional District. The two were on the campaign trail across the district this past weekend. Rep. Elise Stefanik was in Saratoga County on Saturday, rallying for a fourth term in Congress. Democratic challenger Tedra Cobb spent Saturday in Plattsburgh rallying her supporters. "This is a very distinct clear choice of policy differences. I advocate for lower taxes and have never voted to raise taxes. My opponent has 20 times," Stefanik said. "Well I think what we are hearing from voters is what we have been hearing all along this trail, and that is they're worried about their future, they are worried about health care, they are worried about putting food on the table, and their jobs," Cobb said while campaigning. Elise Stefanik defeated Tedra Cobb in their first match up two years ago with 56 percent of the vote.

#### **11/4 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

##### **Tonko holds huge lead in NY 20th congressional race**

Paul Tonko appears to be heading back to Washington to represent New York's 20th congressional district. The Democrat has a 13-point lead over Republican challenger Liz Joy. With 161,742 votes so far, Tonko is winning 56% to 43%. That's with 99% of the precincts reporting. Any absentee ballots that were postmarked by midnight on election night will be part of the official count. Tonko is currently serving his sixth-term in Congress. In his previous four elections, he has never garnered less than 61% of the vote. New York's 20th backed Hillary Clinton for president in 2016. Before that, the district supported Barack Obama twice by large margins.

#### **11/8 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P**

##### **Capital Region voters react to election results**

Several gatherings took place across the Capital Region Saturday, both in celebration and protest of the presidential election results. Many supporters of Joe Biden said they feel relieved and proud of their involvement in this election, but those who support President Trump said the fight still isn't over yet. "I don't accept it right now, I am not ready to go party for our new president let's put it that way," said a Trump supporter who did not want to be identified. "The majority of Americans voted against meanness and I think that's really important," said Mark Emanation, Director of the Capital District Area Labor Federation. "They voted, they want something different and I think that's important." Others expressed concerns about voter fraud. "I think that this is just one step in a very long process that about is about to ensue," Staten Island resident Stephanie Locricchio said. "I do not accept the results and I hate to echo the chambers of what's been happening for the last four years, but he'll never be my president." Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan reiterated the fraud claims made by President Trump are baseless. "When you spread lies and misinformation that hurts our democracy and we are ensuring that every vote is counted," Sheehan said. "When you look at boards of elections across the state, across the country they are made up of hard-working people who take their jobs very seriously." Though it may a little longer before all litigation relating to the election is complete, in the meantime Biden supporters said they're eager to see the changes promised on the campaign trail. "Just because he's in we need to lobby him as well we need to hold him accountable to the policy in the legislation that he's pushing as well," said Maurice Brown, Political Director for 1199SEIU. "No matter what happens he [Biden] is the right person to try to bring us together because I don't think people enjoy this back-and-forth and this bickering and this left-right, red-blue," Denise Murphy DeGraw said. "We are one country and we are all neighbors we need to move forward." Many people also said they are interested to see how President Trump handles the new aid package for states and municipalities that are still struggling as coronavirus case numbers continue to climb across the country. Stay tuned to NewsChannel 13 for updates on this story.

#### **11/4 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – 11P - 11/5 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

##### **Woerner not declaring victory over Catalfamo despite lead and large absentee advantage**

Both Carrie Woerner and Dave Catalfamo went door-to-door last week as election day got closer and the race did too. The race to represent much of Saratoga and Washington counties in the state assembly will be decided by absentee and military ballots. With a 991 vote lead and an advantage of 3,000 more ballots sent to Democrats than Republicans, Woerner could declare victory, but she's not. "I want every voice to be heard. I want every ballot, and then we'll see what the result is, but right now we feel really good," said the three-term incumbent Democrat. Catalfamo, a Republican, carried Washington County. He admits catching Woerner with the absentee ballots is an uphill climb, but wants the process to play out. "They deserve to have their vote counted and whether or not

that's good for me or bad for me, that's almost irrelevant," he said. It appears 75% of registered voters cast a ballot in this race, which is believed to be a record. Both candidates call that a victory. "Even if they voted against me, it's great that people participated in the process," said Catalfamo, who credits his support of law enforcement as the reason for the narrow margin. Woerner says voters support her because they know they can count on her to address their concerns. "They have gotten to know me as somebody who is committed to being responsive to the individual needs of businesses and families in our community." The boards of election will start counting the absentee and military ballots next Tuesday in Saratoga County and next Thursday in Washington County.

**11/5 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/6 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**NTSB releases full report on deadly 2018 Schoharie limo crash**

Over two years after the tragic limo crash in Schoharie claimed 20 lives, officials with the National Transportation Safety Board have finished their investigation. The report said if Prestige Limo had properly maintained the brake system in the 2001 Ford Excursion, it probably would have been able to stop safely at the intersection of Routes 30 and 30A in Schoharie. "Today's NTSB report got us a lot closer to more full explanation," defense attorney Lee Kindlon said. The 103-page report said the improper vehicle maintenance and licensing of the driver falls on Mavis Discount Tire, Wilton Truck Center, Prestige Limo, the driver himself as well as the New York State Departments of Transportation and Motor Vehicles. Kindlon, the attorney representing Prestige Limo operator Nauman Hussain, said the report reinforces what he's been saying about this case all along. "We've been saying since day one it can't just be that we point the finger at one guy and call it a day because then you know it's never not going to happen again," Kindlon said. NewsChannel 13 received this statement from DMV and DOT officials: "Prestige demonstrated egregious disregard for public safety by willingly, knowingly and recklessly evading state oversight in operating the crash vehicle in direct violation of state law. NTSB's own report on this crash reaffirms that Prestige repeatedly violated New York State law and was never authorized at any time to operate for-hire commercial passenger vehicle service in the State. We exercised our full authority under the law." The NTSB believes there are similarly ill-equipped vehicles out on roads across the country right now, putting the public at risk. Kindlon hopes the proceedings motivate transportation officials to do something about them. "We all want safe roads I think this process is going to get us a lot closer to that," he said. Kindlon said they are doing everything they can to move forward with the criminal trial. He said with coronavirus restrictions, it's been difficult to find a location large enough to accommodate families of the victims, members of the press and courthouse staff. Stay tuned to NewsChannel 13 for updates on this story.

**11/14 – WNYT – 6A – 8A**

**Gov. Baker warns residents to rethink Thanksgiving plans**

Governor Charlie Baker is telling Massachusetts residents that their Thanksgiving plans need to be different this year. He says no extended family and friends around the table, just immediate family. Through public data and contact tracing, state officials are learning that small gatherings are causing the second wave of coronavirus. Baker says if you have more than 10 people for an indoor gathering, you could be fined \$500.

**11/16 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/17 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Fulton County Sheriff's Office says they won't enforce gathering order**

Fulton County Sheriff Richard Giardino says he is not going to enforce Gov. Cuomo's Thanksgiving executive order limiting the amount of people at holiday celebrations. Giardino posted to social media that an executive order applying directly to citizens for private conduct is usually not a law. He says there are no penalties attached, and you can't be arrested. He added that he was not sure it could sustain a constitutional challenge in court for a several reasons including-- your house is your castle. NewsChannel 13 spoke with Sheriff Craig Apple about the same issue. "I think sometimes it is in the messaging, and some people would rather be asked to do something or not to do it, as opposed to being told," Sheriff Apple said. "I'm asking people, please, abide by the rules. Bars close at 10 p.m., you can do curbside takeout until midnight, and gyms close at 10 p.m. The gatherings, listen we just want everyone to be safe that is all. We aren't trying to bust anybody's stones or wreck holidays. We have lost many great people due to this pandemic. I know that fatigue has kicked in and it is very concerning." County officials believe an order of that kind can certainly affect businesses who refuse to comply, but shouldn't impact people's private lives.

**11/18 – WNYA – 9P- 11/19 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Families of Schoharie limo crash victims respond to Mavis Tire**

Mavis Tire is trying to have lawsuits filed against them, from the 2018 Schoharie limo crash, dismissed. Mavis says their actions did not cause the crash, and the company can't be held accountable. In response, attorneys for the victim's families released a statement stating: "The families of the victims of this tragic crash are offended that Mavis would dare to suggest it's many failures and negligent acts were not a cause of this horrific crash. We will vigorously oppose this frivolous motion."

**11/19 – WNYT – 4P – 5P- 11/20 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Van De Water concedes to Delgado in NY-19 race**

Republican Kyle Van De Water has conceded to Rep. Antonio Delgado in the race for New York's 19th Congressional District. The race was still undecided as counties processed thousands of absentee ballots. Delgado declared victory the day after the election.

**12/1 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Albany Police unveil new program to improve community relations**

The Albany Police Department unveiled a new program meant to get their officers talking with residents about community-police relations. It's called "Time To Talk - Community and Cops Collaborating" or T3C3. Chief Eric Hawkins and April Purcell-Bacon, a longtime resident, will be running the discussions. They won't be open to the public or the news media. It will just be select members of the community and patrol officers.

**11/19 – WNYT – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/20 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Schumer completes 62 county tour calling for more relief for small businesses**

In the midst of a global pandemic, Sen. Chuck Schumer completed his annual tour of all 62 counties in New York state. The senator spoke Monday in Athens, Greene County about the need for more federal relief for small businesses. When he was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1998, Schumer promised he would visit each and every county every year. What made Monday's visit extra special for him is that it's the senator's 70th birthday.

**11/23 – WNYT – WNYA – 9P- 11/24 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Schumer addresses hospital cuts**

*Created: November 23, 2020 03:23 PM*

Fulton County's lone hospital could stand to lose nearly \$5 million over the next decade unless Congress acts soon. Sen. Charles Schumer was at Nathan Littauer Hospital on Thursday to promise that he will not allow federal money for rural health care to dry up. He pointed out opposition from Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and others to fund rural hospitals. "But last night they've agreed to sit down and the staffs are going to sit down today or tomorrow to begin to see if we can get a good COVID relief bill. So there's been a little bit of a breakthrough in that McConnell's folks are finally sitting down and talking to us," Schumer said. Unless they come up with a plan, Schumer says Capital Region hospitals stand to lose \$58 million.

**12/1 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**City of Saratoga Springs closes City Hall offices due to COVID-19**

Starting Tuesday, Saratoga Springs City Hall offices will be closed to the public until further notice because of COVID-19. Mayor Meg Kelly tells NewsChannel 13 that City Court will remain open, and the City Council will meet Wednesday in the Music Hall starting at 7 p.m. The city will limit the public's access, but they will live stream the meeting on their website.



12/8 – WNYT – 5A – 6A

#### Public libraries in Albany, Schenectady suspend in-building services amid pandemic

The Albany Public Library is temporarily suspending in-building services starting Tuesday. The move comes just one day after the Schenectady Public Library announced it was suspending all in-building services. You can still borrow books and other library materials from both, but you have to order in advance and pick-up curbside.

12/14 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – WNYA – 9P

#### Albany County executive signs legislation capping food delivery fees

Albany County leaders are actively trying to help struggling restaurants. County Executive Dan McCoy signed an emergency order Monday putting a cap on delivery fees from third-party companies like Grubhub and DoorDash. Those fees will now be capped at 15%. McCoy says some of those fees had reached as high as 30%. The executive order goes into effect on Friday.

12/16 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P

#### Gov. Cuomo dealing with \$15 billion budget deficit

Gov. Cuomo addressed the state's \$15 billion budget deficit on Wednesday. He called on Congress to provide immediate relief although the latest proposal does not include state and local funding. Cuomo also responded to a call by some state lawmakers for a tax hike on the wealthy. He says taxes and cuts need to be negotiated as part of the budget process. Cuomo says the state is providing \$1.5 billion to organizations that need cash flow between now and when the new budget is agreed on in February or March.

12/27 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/28 – WNYT – 5A – 6A

#### Troy Mayor Patrick Madden tests positive for coronavirus

Troy Mayor Patrick Madden has tested positive for coronavirus. Madden made the announcement in a statement on Sunday, saying: "Earlier last week, I tested positive for COVID-19 after exhibiting mild symptoms consistent with the virus. I am currently quarantined consistent with health protocols, and will continue to do so in compliance with guidance from state and local health professionals. This is a reminder of how easily coronavirus can be transmitted between individuals, even while wearing a mask, social distancing, and washing hands. My symptoms continue to improve, and I look forward to a speedy recovery." Troy City Hall staff have recently been on remote work and rotating schedules. City Hall remains closed to the public.

## Family

10/7 – WNYT – 5P

#### Pittsfield's mayor discourages trick-or-treating

Updated: October 07, 2020 09:12 PM

Created: October 07, 2020 08:52 PM

Trick-or-treaters should stay home. That's the request from the Pittsfield Mayor. Linda Tyer says the city will not be hosting its annual Halloween parade. She also discourages residents from trick-or-treating, as it is categorized by the CDC as a high-risk activity. Tyer recommends participating in safe, low-risk activities.

10/6 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – WNYA – 9P

#### Walks in the woods help compile state's fall foliage reports

According to I Love NY's official fall foliage report, we should see peak color in much of the Adirondacks and Catskills this weekend. If you've ever wondered exactly how they figure out where and when to peep the most colorful leaves, it's as simple as a walk in the woods. Going for a walk with Kathy Miller and her 10 ½-year-old standard poodle, Roxy, makes you look a little more carefully at the changing colors of fall. Miller, a native of Glens Falls, with a family home in Queensbury on Lake George, has a perfect spot to peep leaves. So when I Love NY put out a call for leaf peepers, she immediately became one of their peeps. She checks the same trees each day and views the changing colors with a critical eye. Are they dull, average, or brilliant. She then reports back to the state on Tuesday of each week, so they can assemble their official fall foliage report and map in time for the weekend. Miller says the hardest part is predicting what the leaves will look like on the weekend.

10/11 – WNYT – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/12 – WNYT – 5A

#### Asphalt Artistry that Adds Up

It's not really pain-by-numbers, it's more like paint-to-find-out-the-number -- of people who live in the city of Troy. "I think we will see if there's an increase or an uptick in people actually completing their census in this area," said Kendra Farstad, a professional artist who is overseeing the Community Mural Project. That's the impetus for turning Sixth Avenue in the Collar City into a concrete canvas: to engage and activate the community so that everyone is aware the deadline to fill out a census form is October 31st. "I think even as long as we have a couple of kids bringing their parents and saying, 'Look mom, I'm an artist.' I think that's a success. To bring about success in the their street scape, the Arts Center of the Capital Region is teaming up with the city of Troy to create a neighborhood mural to promote the 2020 Census. Even if the young kids involved don't grasp the importance of getting the count right, the is some day they will. "If you show them while they're younger how important this is," theorizes volunteer artist Sam Brody of East Greenbush, "When they grow up or when they make their own family, they know how important it is to contribute to their community like they are right now." Professional artist Kendra Farstad says she's encouraged the kids have found something to be passionate about. "I'm fielding questions about, 'Well, what is a census?' she says, "That's a really cool thing to get out to a young child, that you have a voice and that you can use your voice and it can make a difference." "I think they'll start to find an interest in what the message actually is, especially as they get older," Brody adds. The guys sitting at the census table nearby say the asphalt artistry seems to be working, which puts everyone in the fast lane to success. "As long as people drive by, they see this message," Farstad suggests, "Perhaps they fill out their census or perhaps it gets them thinking, or perhaps it makes them say I want to go make art when I get home. Any of those things is a win." Census results help determine how billions of dollars of federal money is shared with local communities. In communities like Troy, only 54% of the people have filled out their census forms so far. That means messages like the one painted on Sixth Avenue become that much more urgent.

10/18 – WNYT – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/19 – WNYT – 6A – 8A

#### Guilderland family hopes to raise money for food pantry with Halloween display

A Guilderland family is hoping their Wizard of Oz themed Halloween display will help raise money for a good cause. You may remember the family put up the Beatles Abbey Road Halloween tribute last year. This year, they've created a Facebook page, and they are gathering donations for the Guilderland Food Pantry. So far, they've raised more than \$200. You can see the display at 815 Via Marchella in Guilderland.

10/16 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/17 – WNYT – 5A – 6A

#### YMCA, USDA partnering to distribute 60k pounds of food to Capital Region

Capital District YMCA officials are working with the US Department of Agriculture Farmers to Families Food Box Program all month long to distribute food that otherwise would go to waste. There were four distribution locations and times throughout the Capital Region on Friday and each was swarmed with cars from the start. "We've had a tremendous turnout and you know at some point we're going to run out of food here but as you can see the need is great," said Dave Brown, President of the Capital District YMCA. Feeding America said before Covid-19 food insecurity in the US was at its lowest point since before the Great Recession, but even then 37 million people, including 11 million children were food insecure. Fast forward to this year, Feeding America estimates more than 54 million people, including 18 million children may experience food insecurity because of the pandemic. That's why the USDA is working with YMCA officials to distribute

food that would've otherwise gone to restaurants. "We're happy we could be on the receiving end," Brown said. Rebecca Atwell, Executive Director of the Troy Branch of the YMCA said they had about 30-40 pounds of food in each box. "They are full of fresh vegetables fresh fruits there's some pre-cooked chicken there's eggs and then dairy products," Atwell said. "So they could have anything from a gallon of milk, cheese, sour cream, yogurt it's really whatever the distributors had and didn't want to go to waste." YMCA officials said though times are tough, everyone who stopped by to pick up a box had a smile on their face, even if it was under a mask. "They're coming in there getting stuff for other people who can't get out of their houses and they're helping out and I think that's what this is all about is helping one another out through this difficult time," Brown said.

**10/12 – WNYT – 4P – 10/13 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

#### **Eagle Scout builds new sign for Gloversville ballpark**

If you have driven past Parkhurst Field in Gloversville recently, you may have noticed a new road sign at the historic ballpark. It's the handiwork of Kyle Wood, a member of Boy Scout Troop 5051. He said he wanted to help Parkhurst as he looked for an Eagle Scout project, but was not expecting to build something so prominent or so permanent. Wood said he was honored by the opportunity.

**10/27 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – WNYA – 9P**

#### **Celebrating Halloween during a pandemic**

*Updated: October 27, 2020 07:42 PM*

*Created: October 27, 2020 05:52 PM*

Make no bones about it, Patricia Voellm-Pasinello loves Halloween. "With COVID, I feel like everybody's had a really rough year," she said. "So I tripled the size of what I normally have to give people something fun to drive by and enjoy it, and I hope they are." She kept adding to the display on Synders Corners Road in Wynantskill over a couple of weeks. "Because I put up some and you have other ideas, so I went to the store to buy maybe one more. Came home with five more!" she said with a laugh. This is a different Halloween. During a pandemic, people are wondering about going trick-or-treating, how much candy to buy, how many trick-or-treaters they might have, and how to give the candy out. With all the uncertainty, places like the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Capital Area are offering alternatives. "Parents are asking us all the time, are you guys running a program, do you have fun stuff for them, so this is one of the ways that we're reaching out to the community," said BGCCA Program Director David Gordon. "We heard you, and so now we're doing an event for you." They're having a free Spooktacular at the Albany clubhouse Friday evening and twice on Halloween. "This year is completely different," said Gordon. "We know everybody is very cautious and very health conscious. We want to be on the cutting edge of that and actually be pioneers of doing something COVID-friendly so the kids can have some normalcy." NewsChannel 13 found them packing up goodie bags for the event, as they get ready for hundreds of kids to walk the "haunted hallway." Some of the items for the goodie bags were donated by Carmen Lombardi, who connected with the group after seeing a previous story here on NewsChannel 13. She didn't like the thought of kids losing out on so many fun things this year. "So she took it upon herself to reach out and see if she could donate some treats and snacks and cookies, just to help add to the bags that we're making and help make Halloween a little more special for our kids this year," said BGCCA Director of Development and Individual Giving Jimmy Bulmer. As NewsChannel 13 first reported last week, Knickerbacker Park in Lansingburgh will be a free Trick-or-Treat Street on Halloween. The city of Amsterdam will hold a drive-through trick-or-treat in Veterans Park - all ways to keep some Halloween fun, so kids don't lose out when so much else has changed this year.

**10/28 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/29 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

#### **Capital Holiday Lights in the Park theme to be announced**

The Albany Police Athletic League will be announcing this year's Holiday Lights in the Park theme Wednesday. This year's event will be different because of the coronavirus pandemic. Some events have been cancelled and others have been modified, but Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan says the show will still go on. Price Chopper and Market 32 puts on the annual event. Holiday Lights in the Park runs from November 27 until January 3 in Washington Park.

**11/6 – WNYT – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/7 – WNYT – 6A – 8A**

#### **"Teen Night" providing safe spaces in Albany**

On Friday night, the Boys & Girls Club of the Capital Area held the first "Teen Night" since the pandemic began. Organizers said they wanted to give teens a place to connect with one another and to learn about resources in our area. They feel it's sorely needed amid the pandemic and the gun violence we've seen this year. Program Manager David Gordon said they had a full roster of teens coming to the club regularly, but after the pandemic hit they saw their numbers drop off. Friday night's event kicks off not only biweekly "Teen Night" events, but also a new teen program that's going to be available three days a week at the club. Gordon said they're offering free use of the basketball courts, recording studio, dance spaces, game room and computer lab. Though those activities are attractive, Gordon said the most important thing to the teens is being with one another. "I think the response from a lot of teens is I want to hang out with my friends you know my parents are kind of leery of where we're going, we just need a safe place that we can go to have fun and parents feel safe that we're going there," Gordon said. "I think the Boys & Girls Club will provide that." Mark Bobb-Semple, a Boys & Girls Club board member, grew up as a club kid. He said the connections he made there saved his life. Naturally, he wanted to give a new generation of teens that same opportunity. "That's the formula you know positive adults, food and a good time you know and so that formula works no matter where it is," Bobb-Semple said. With the days getting shorter, some parents are comfortable with their teens walking to the club in the dark. That's where community partners, like Just Be Ready, step in to help. "So what we try to do with just be ready to provide transportation to some of those kids who can't get here," Just Be Ready President Kevin Mitchell said. Iyana Weedon, 14, and Layla Ford, 16, said "Teen Night" is definitely something the community needs right now. "I feel like it can change people like the way they think of violence, towards violence so I think that's a good idea," Ford said. "It was just fun to get out the house for this," Weedon said. "Teen Nights" will be taking place at the Delaware Avenue location every other Friday night.

**11/2 – WNYT – 5P – 11P- 11/3 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

#### **Grow Amsterdam NY to host Pumpkin Smash**

Now that Halloween is over, what do you do with your jack-o-lanterns? You could bring them to Veteran's Field Park in Amsterdam this weekend for the second annual Pumpkin Smash. It is a drop-off only event because of the pandemic. A group called Grow Amsterdam NY will turn your donations into compost.

**11/6 – WNYT – 6P – 11/7 – 6A**

#### **Capital Roots volunteers turn Rensselaer green**

Volunteers from Capital Roots are turning the city of Rensselaer green. They were planting trees and installing a rain garden and border gardens Thursday, while maintaining a proper social distance. It's part of their urban greening project, which was put on hold earlier this year due to the pandemic.

**11/14 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/15 – WNYT – 7A**

#### **Brunswick soccer tournament benefits former player battling brain cancer**

The Brunswick community came together to support one of their own on Saturday. Garnet Loveday was recently diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer and needed emergency surgery, but he didn't have insurance at the time. When his former soccer teammates learned he's facing hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical bills, they stepped up to help. "It just goes to show no matter where any of Tamarac alumni are we come together and help one of our own," Loveday's friend and former teammate Cody Sargood said. Dozens of former teammates, coaches and community members gathered for a soccer tournament to benefit Garnet after he was diagnosed with a pineal parenchymal tumor in early September. He and his fiancé Autumn set a date to be married and he was going to be added to her health insurance coverage, but neither of those things happened before he had to have surgery. "My brother is one of the most healthy, active people I could ever imagine so it's definitely, it surprised us and there was quite a while where we really weren't sure if he was going to make it so it's been quite an experience for all of us," Corry Loveday said. Loveday said Garnet has been out of the hospital for about a month, though he's still receiving chemo treatments out in buffalo where he now lives. Garnet is now insured, but he's still facing \$300-500,000 in bills for treatment he received when he wasn't. "The finances are I think the biggest worry and they seem to continue to mount higher and higher so any help from anybody is really what we're looking for," Loveday said. The



Brunswick soccer tournament raised over \$3,000 to go toward Garnet's bills. His former coaches spoke about his character at the event. "He's just somebody we all think very highly about and as you can say you know he played for us 13 years ago and the turnout is over 45 former players so it's really special," Tom Clemente said. "It's been great, it's a lot bigger turnout than I thought given the times I'm just glad that the Tamarac community could get together and do this for him," Sargood said. There is also a GoFundMe page raising money for Garnet. In just a few weeks, they have already raised over \$86,000.

**11/15 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – WNYA – 9P**

**Saratoga's Broadway Deli offering free roasted chicken to families in need**

Saratoga's Broadway Deli wants to make sure families in need have a hot meal this holiday season. Until December 31, the deli is offering a free roasted chicken to families in need of one for the holidays. The business says there will be no questions asked. Those in need can simply call and leave their name, number, and the date it is needed for. "This year has been good to us. In fact, it has been our best year since opening. Record sales. But we understand that for many this was the worst year of their life. Lost their job, lost their income, and some of you even lost a family member. As the cold and darkness set in, hope can be a little hard to find. So we would like to help at least a little bit. The community has been generous to us, so we would like to be generous back. We aren't asking any questions. We're not asking for any proof. You say you need a hot roast chicken to provide a nice holiday meal for your family, we got you covered. Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa. Whatever the reason, up until the 31st you can count on us," the deli wrote on Facebook.

**11/14 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/15 – WNYT – 7A – 8A**

**Participants take a dip at Lake George's Polar Plunge**

People took to the frigid water of Lake George Saturday for the annual Polar Plunge at Shepard Park beach. The event raises money for Special Olympics. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the number of plungers were limited, so organizers turned it into a contest. The event was split into multiple waves with the first groups being the highest fundraisers.

**11/23 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 4P – 6P**

**Capital City Rescue Mission to prepare Thanksgiving meal boxes**

Volunteers will be putting together more than 100 Thanksgiving meal boxes Monday, to send out to people around the Capital Region. The Capital City Rescue Mission will be assembling and distributing the boxes. Last week, NewsChannel 13 reported that the Capital City Rescue Mission is getting ready to feed as many as 1,600 people this Thanksgiving. The dining room will look different this year. It will be spaced out and socially distant. If you want to help with the event, there is still time. "On Thanksgiving we still have some spots for volunteers to come in and help us out in the kitchen and that area. There will be spacing and masking, and we will protect everybody. We do feed the homeless and the needy every day. We never stop," Executive Director Perry Jones said. Monday's preparations begin at 9 a.m.

**11/22 – WNYA – 9P- 11/23 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Volunteers distribute Thanksgiving baskets in Saratoga County**

Volunteers in Saratoga County handed out 1,000 Thanksgiving baskets this weekend. The baskets were distributed across four sites, as part of the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council's Annual Thanksgiving Basket Project. NewsChannel 13 was there over the weekend at the Ballston Spa National Bank. "We've been doing food drives throughout the pandemic, and we are just very lucky at BSNB that we've been working throughout the whole pandemic," said Melissa Mewhorter of Ballston Spa National Bank. "We wanted to give back to the community and thought this was a good way to get some food to the people in Saratoga County in need." This year, the project expects to help more than 5,000 people, a 25 percent increase from last year.

**11/23 – WNYT – 5A**

**World Awareness Children's Museum hosting Slime Lab event**

The Children's Museum in Glens Falls is hosting a Slime Lab special event Monday. The event starts at 1 p.m. The museum is closed for general admission right now. They are limiting the event to eight children. The cost is \$6 per child and \$3 per adult. You can register by calling 518-793-2773.

**12/6 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Berkshire Boys & Girls Club temporarily suspending operations**

The Berkshire Boys & Girls Club is shutting down most services through Dec. 17. Everything other than child-care and remote learning is cancelled due to a rise in COVID-19 cases. The opening of the ice rink at the club in Pittsfield is also on hold for now.

**12/7 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P - 12/8 – WNYT – 6A**

**Broadway producers from Saratoga Springs bring Christmas magic to new platform**

*Updated: December 07, 2020 04:33 PM*

*Created: December 07, 2020 01:13 PM*

A Saratoga Springs couple who's been producing shows for the Broadway stage for years have branched out to a new platform. In the middle of a pandemic, Elliot and Cathy Masie are taking their work directly to the masses. The name of the new Christmas show produced by the Masies is "The Nice List" and their motivation for doing it lands them both squarely on top of it. It's a year in which Santa can't be together with his elves at the North Pole, so the elves are left to figure out who goes on the "Nice" list and who is "naughty." The entire 40-minute show is staged as a teleconference, and that's pretty much how it was created. The actors isolated from one another in their apartments, recording their roles individually before it was edited together. All of the actors are stars of stage and screen. Santa was Broadway's original genie in "Aladdin." The lead elf starred as Aladdin. The show was even featured this week on "Entertainment Tonight." Elliot and Cathy Masie produced "The Nice List" because they were drawn to its story of empathy, and they wanted to help actors who've been out of work for months. The Masies have some serious chops, producing "Godspell," "The Prom," "Kinky Boots" and "SpongeBob" on Broadway. They say "The Nice List" is their favorite because it has an uplifting story at a time when we can all use one.

**12/8 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/9 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Cobleskill students "Shop with a Cop"**

This is one call that Cobleskill police look forward to every year. It's time to Shop with a Cop, thanks to the generosity of this community. It's a day that Officer Cody Whittaker wouldn't want to miss. We asked him what is the best part of the day. "Seeing the smile on the kids' faces," he answered. Police cars picked up students from school, then drove to Walmart for the annual Cobleskill Shop with a Cop. Police officers put on their Santa hats for this visit. They get to do some Christmas shopping through the eyes of a child. Students paired with officers and checked off items on Christmas lists. Along the way, there was a chance to get to know each other a little bit. Police say sometimes they see their young partners again out in the community. "Maybe they're having a bad day, hey listen, I remember you! And they remember us from this, instead of that other day. It does help us build some connections in our community that is of a positive nature," said Officer Whittaker. "It's about building those relationships with the students, with the kids. Letting them know that police officers are ordinary people, just like everybody else," said Cobleskill Police Chief Jeffery Brown. "And we enjoy this just as much as they do. It's a good chance for us to get to know the students, to bond with the students, and to have a good time with them." The chief says the students and officers were screened, among other safety precautions. Every year, the generosity of the community makes all this possible. "We weren't able to put out our donation jars like we usually do this year, just because we didn't know if it was going to be able to happen or not," said Chief Brown. "So we wanted to kind of wait and see. So we didn't get that part of it, but we do have some residents and some businesses that have been very generous in their donations this year." Despite the pandemic, donations this year were so good, they were able to increase the amount students to get to use for their shopping.

**12/23 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/24 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Christmas community dinner at Copake diner**

The Christmas spirit is alive and well in a diner. A waitress is giving out free dinners on Christmas to anyone, no questions asked. Colleen Unden has worked at Dad's Copake Diner for 19 years. Last year, when she realized there was no Christmas community dinner, she created one, feeding about 100 people at the town park building. This year, COVID changed her plans for another sit down meal. It's now a ham dinner takeout. Colleen does it because she cares and "cause the world needs more of it." She also knows this has been a tough year. "There's definitely more of a need in every aspect -- in the monetary ability to put the food on the table, or the person that's depressed because they're not with their family." Diner owner Brian Peacock gave the okay for her to use the restaurant. She put out the word, and the calls to reserve kept coming. Everyone is welcome, no questions asked. "I tell them I don't need a reason," she said. "On the flyer, it says who is this offered to -- anyone reading that flyer can and please call. I don't need to know why you want a dinner, just come and have a dinner!" The numbers of meals this year has climbed to 300. Pickup is scheduled in five-minute increments for social distancing. Volunteers will help, and donations from people and businesses cover food costs. Any money left over goes to the local food pantry. "The response has been amazing," said Unden. "On Facebook alone, the original flyer was seen over 32,000 times. That's amazing! To start in a little tiny place in Copake, and to be seen, and to be that huge!"

## **Health**

**10/6 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**Computer system is game changer for breast cancer patients needing radiation**

There's a new system much like a video game that's helping protect the hearts of some breast cancer patients undergoing radiation treatment. Treating cancer of the left breast poses a unique challenge because of the proximity to the heart. However, if the patient takes a deep breath and holds it, more space is created between the heart and the point of radiation. That space can protect the heart. However, how do you take the same breath every time? Usually patients are guided by the technologist. However, that can be confusing as the patient is told to breathe a little more or less deeply. Enter the Identify System. It shows the patient on a screen the exact spot to hit as they breathe in. Only when they hit the mark is the radiation delivered. Protecting the heart helps prevent cardiovascular problems down the road.

**10/7 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/8 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**St. Peter's, Ellis Medicine consider joining forces**

St. Peter's Health Partners and Ellis Medicine are looking at a possible merger. Leaders of the two health care systems have signed a letter of intent to explore a partnership. It is the first step in a review process that will continue over the next several months. A final agreement will require approval by the Board of Trustees at both St. Peter's and Ellis, along with state and federal regulators.

**10/16 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P - 10/17 – WNYT – 8A**

**Communication system big help to Saratoga Hospital during pandemic**

A tried and true technology at Saratoga Hospital paid big dividends when the pandemic hit. It's a communication system that's helping save time, money, and prevent a shortage of PPE. The device called Vocera is worn by most all staffers who have direct patient interaction. The key to its value nowadays is that it works underneath the PPE. Vocera went online back in December 2014. Saratoga Hospital uses 500 of the rechargeable devices. Fifty were added when the pandemic hit.

**10/16 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 10/17 – WNYT – 6A – 8A**

**North Colonie senior collecting hats for kids with cancer**

The annual Hatsgiving is now underway. Soon-to-be 17-year-old Jeremy Wernick started the project when he was still in elementary school. He had shaved his head to raise money for childhood cancer research. NewsChannel 13 has been following his efforts all along as his dad used to be our executive producer. This year's collection efforts may look a little different due to coronavirus, but the need still exists says the North Colonie senior. They need your help now through the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. You can drop off hats at Sunmark Federal Credit Union or Recovery Sports Grill. You can even start collections of your own if it follows coronavirus safety guidelines. The hats need to be new. They can be store-bought or handmade. The 501c-3 non-profit collected more than 6,400 hats last year, shipping them to 60 hospitals in 43 states and the nation's capital for kids near and far undergoing chemotherapy.

**10/22 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P**

**Cuomo: NY state infection rate is 1.2%**

Gov. Cuomo released the latest data Thursday from another 135,000 coronavirus tests. There are 1,628 new cases. The infection rate is 1.2% There are 986 people hospitalized across the state, which is up 36. In the Capital Region, the positivity rate rose from 0.8% on Tuesday to 0.9% on Wednesday. In the Mohawk Valley, the positivity rate rose from 0.5% on Tuesday to 0.6% on Wednesday. Unfortunately another 15 people across the state died. None of them were from the Capital Region or Mohawk Valley.

**10/29 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P**

**Coronavirus cluster found at Albany County Department of Health**

A coronavirus cluster has been found at the Albany County Department of Health. County Executive Dan McCoy says four employees tested positive. The rest of the department is now being tested. All Albany County Department of Health employees will now work remotely for two weeks. "This is an example of our employees doing the right thing - wearing a mask, social distancing, frequently sanitizing their hands and still contracting the virus. I have said it hasn't gone away and it can impact anyone," McCoy said in a statement. Clinics are cancelled.

**10/29 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**Stretch of Route 9 quickly being transformed into health hub**

A stretch of Route 9 in Clifton Park is becoming a health hub. It's little wonder that stretch just south of Halfmoon is appealing for health care providers. It's one of the fastest growing areas in the state over the past few years. Ortho NY opened a new facility there on Wednesday. It's the first of its many locations to house all the services it provides, including pain management, imaging, physical therapy, and urgent care. It's also been designed with COVID concerns in mind. That means protection for patients in waiting areas, for staff in communal areas, and an upgraded HVAC system to clear viral particles from the air. Upgrades outside include heated sidewalks at the entryways and charging stations for electric cars. You'll find those amenities at a nearby doctor's office, under construction, spearheaded by CDPHP. That facility will house a number of different medical specialties. It's billed as the "doctor's office of the future."

**11/9 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**UAlbany epidemiologist warns of possible hurdles with new vaccine**

With the climbing coronavirus numbers, there's worldwide excitement on the announcement by Pfizer and BioNTech that their vaccine candidate outperformed expectations. In the first interim analysis, the vaccine was found to be more than 90% effective at preventing COVID-19. That's far better than the 50% the FDA said it needed to see. However, don't throw out your masks just yet. Dr. Eli Rosenberg, an epidemiologist and assistant professor at UAlbany School of Public Health is also on Gov. Cuomo's vaccine distribution advisory task force. He says the 90% prevention figure from this Phase 3 study means if 100 people are exposed to coronavirus only 10 would become sick and that gets us well on the way to taming this viral beast. However, we don't yet know about long-term protection and if everyone, despite age or underlying health conditions get the same immune response.

**11/10 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- WNYA – 9P**

**Go Red for Women luncheon goes digital**

The annual Go Red for Women luncheon has gone virtual, and is a two-day event this year. The event offers tools for healthier living. It focuses on women making a commitment to stand together with Go Red for Women and taking charge of their own heart health. If you missed Tuesday's event, the second one happens on Thursday from noon to 12:45. NewsChannel 13's Benita Zahn is the emcee for both events, which are free.

**11/17 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**RPI's strict coronavirus plan pays off**

RPI had an aggressive COVID testing plan – 80,200 tests were done with 18 positives during the fall semester. Testing along with tight policies for mask wearing, social distancing, and other preventive measures paid off. Now the school is looking ahead to when the COVID vaccine is being rolled out. Right now, the two leading vaccine candidates from Pfizer and Moderna, need to be kept at very low temperatures. That's where RPI may be able to help. RPI President Dr. Shirley Jackson says they'll be reaching out to the state to see if their services are needed. As for students attending school now, they'll be tested for the virus before heading home for Thanksgiving this weekend. Dr. Jackson says as soon as their results are in, they're instructed to head home. If anyone tests positive, they'll remain in isolation on-campus until they're cleared to leave.

**11/18 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Cuomo urges sheriffs to enforce COVID-19 regulations**

The governor's message to local law enforcement agencies on Wednesday was if you see it, stop it. Gov. Cuomo called the announcements made by several Capital Region sheriffs regarding Thanksgiving holiday gatherings frightening. NewsChannel 13 has reported several county sheriffs have gone on the record saying they do not believe they should enforce the executive order which limits at-home gatherings to 10 people. Sheriffs in Rensselaer, Washington, Saratoga and Fulton Counties have previously said they will not enforce the order. "That I believe violates that person's constitutional oath. I don't believe that person is a law enforcement officer. I believe that person should not be certified as a law enforcement officer. I don't want a law enforcement officer who says I'm only enforcing the laws that I like or that I think should be enforced," said Cuomo. Cuomo said enforcement should not violate privacy and officers are not expected to go knocking on doors to see how many people are inside a home. However, if it appears there is a large gathering taking place, law enforcement should intervene. "It's very hard to restrict. It's very hard to regulate and it's very hard to police. So, yeah. Is it hard to police, yes. But if you see it, stop it. That's really the point of the law. If you see it, stop it. Don't invade privacy, don't do any of that, but if you see it, stop it," said Cuomo.

**11/20 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P- 11/21 – WNYT – 6A – 8A**

**Albany Med outlines plans for Dec. 1 nursing strike**

Outside Albany Medical Center Friday morning, nurses of the New York State Nurses Association at AMC announced they plan to go on strike for one day on December 1 over "atrocious staffing" levels and "substandard PPE" and other conditions they believe undercuts safe patient care and threaten potential harm to nurses and their colleagues. "We have just delivered our ten-day notice to management. It says that we will strike for one day on December 1. This is not something we set out to do, what we set out to do was make absolutely certain that our patients get the treatment they need and the quality care that they deserve," said Albany Stat Nurse Lenore Granich-Berghela. The NYSNA nurses are demanding critical improvements in staffing and infection control as the hospital continues fighting a second wave of COVID-19. Lenore Granich-Berghela added, "A pandemic is not a time for understaffing or cutting corners. For failing to supply us with equipment we need for our protection and also to keep our patients safe, it has created an unsafe working environment. Some of you may ask how can you strike? Patients are in need and there's a pandemic. To this I can only say, yes patients are in need. We cannot meet that need unless management recognizes its own obligation to patient care. [Thursday] night, the nurses once again voted in overwhelming majority to reject Albany Med's contract proposal that completely ignores retention. That completely ignores retention to improve staffing and ensure patient safety. It was insulting and Albany Med should be ashamed." Hours later, Albany Med leadership outlined plans to ensure patient care during the one-day strike, including hiring temporary nurses and they encouraged all patients to keep their appointments, reminding the public they are open, safe and ready to continue fighting coronavirus. President and CEO Dennis McKenna stated, "Let me assure you Albany Med is prepared, we will continue to care for our patients safely and without interruption. Albany Med has been dedicated to patient care, research and education since its founding and we will not abandon our mission." McKenna adding the hospital "has made every effort to ensure the safety of our patients and workforce-from adequate supplies of personal protective equipment to necessary staffing levels." McKenna says they had not had layoffs or furloughs. "A strike is always by definition disruptive to a medical mission, but a strike in the middle of a pandemic for baseless reasons is totally irresponsible," added McKenna. McKenna said NYSNA nurses have "exploited" the pandemic, but he considers the hospital's 2,000 nurses critical partners in the mission and dedication of their workforce especially during the coronavirus pandemic. "Since the beginning, Albany Medical Center has negotiated in good faith with the union. That continues today. We've held 74 bargaining sessions with NYSNA, and we've reached 80 tentative agreements. While we were very hopeful we would avert a strike, we must first agree to a contract that's fair to all of our nurses and all our employees and is centered on patient care." McKenna said the vote to strike was rushed, and some nurses did not get to vote. "The contract we've put in front of NYSNA involves safety, fairness and fiscal responsibility and quality, and it will not jeopardize our mission." As the pandemic continues to surge, hospital leadership says they continue following CDC guidelines and if masks are re-used, they are cleaned with ultraviolet light or aerosolized hydrogen peroxide.

**11/24 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 11/25 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Albany Med nurses rally again for a fair contract**

Nurses at Albany Medical Center are speaking out again. They're demanding what they say is a fair contract that puts patient care and safety first. This comes less than a week before the nurses' strike, planned for December 1. "The hospital and our state diminished the standards of safety putting us all at risk. We are expendable in their eyes," said Tanya, a nurse who works with COVID-19 patients. While speaking last week, Albany Med President and CEO Dennis McKenna said during the pandemic, when the community needed them the most, they were at their best. McKenna also said that it is totally irresponsible to call for a strike in the middle of a pandemic. However, the New York State Nurses Association says working conditions are unsafe at Albany Med. On Wednesday they sent the following concerns to NewsChannel 13: The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) calls for masks to be re-used only if there is NOT a 90 day supply of equipment. The state says all hospitals have a 90 day supply. Albany Medical Center says it has a 90 day supply. The question is: why are hospital executives forcing nurses to re-use masks up to 20 times on many different people? Albany Medical Center must stop moving patients from floor to floor without getting the results of a COVID test back. We must make sure that the virus is not spreading from floor to floor, unit to unit. Why is Albany Medical Center mixing patient populations in a way that could easily spread the virus? Albany Medical Center created a nurse to patient crisis staffing ratio that they are now actively violating. It was essential in the spring for proper patient care and it remains essential for the fall surge. NYSNA says they have filed two complaints with the National Labor Relations Board concerning Albany Med. NYSNA says the hospital has been illegally encouraging nurses to quit the union. Albany Med released the following statement to NewsChannel 13 in response: "Albany Med never encouraged any nurses to leave the union. Because our nurses deserve the facts, we have published information about the choice of union membership, and that is perfectly legal." NYSNA says their second complaint pertains to Albany Med refusing to release an employee member of the union's bargaining committee for future negotiations because of the strike notice scheduled for December 1.

**11/30 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Albany Med nurses still planning one-day strike Tuesday over PPE concerns**

Nurses at Albany Med are planning a one-day strike Tuesday to demand the hospital stop forcing them to re-use personal protective equipment. The nurses told NewsChannel 13 at a rally over the weekend that the hospital is forcing them to re-use masks up to 20 times with different patients. The group also says 20 nurses were exposed to COVID the last two weeks alone. CDC guidelines say masks should only be re-used if a facility does not have a 90-day supply. **Albany Med released the following statement over the weekend:** "NYSNA's claims are growing more preposterous as their strike approaches. There were no outstanding issues with respect to PPE during contract negotiations. Albany Med follows all federal and state guidance for PPE, and our supply of PPE is adequate. Our focus remains the safety of all our patients and colleagues. Despite NYSNA's baseless accusations, Albany Med will continue its mission of patient

care, research and education. Albany Med is a place of healing, and as the number of coronavirus cases continues to rise, we know our community needs us now more than ever. Because of that sacred trust, we will not abandon our mission."

**12/1 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/2 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P**

#### **Albany Med nurses strike over staffing, PPE concerns**

Hundreds of nurses at Albany Med were striking for 24-hours Tuesday. On top of failed contract negotiations, nurses say there are safety concerns such as insufficient staffing and supply of PPE. They claim the hospital is not protecting them from COVID by neglecting to provide enough PPE. They say they are forced to use N95 masks over and over again, up to 20 times on different patients. According to the Centers for Disease Control, masks should only be re-used if a facility does not have a 90-day supply. Albany Med has a 90-day supply. Albany Med CEO Dr. Dennis McKenna called the walk out "irresponsible and heartbreaking." He assured the public the N95 masks are adequately disinfected in line with federal and state guidelines. The hospital says patients are still being cared for, and 76% of the shifts scheduled during the strike were covered by remaining nurses and hired temporary staff. NYSNA has filed an OSHA complaint against the hospital with 14 points outlined.

**12/3 – WNYT – 12P – 5P – 6P – 11P**

#### **Albany County reports record number of COVID-19 hospitalizations**

Albany County reported a new record for COVID-19 hospitalizations on Thursday. County Executive Dan McCoy announced that there are currently 90 people in the hospital. That's up from 84 on Wednesday. Of that number, 14 people are in the ICU. McCoy says that is the highest number of people in the ICU since mid-April. The hospitalization rate stands at 1.46 percent. That is up from 1.39 percent on Wednesday. The County also reported 137 new positive cases of the coronavirus, and five more coronavirus-related deaths Thursday.

**12/7 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/8 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

#### **Schenectady telemedicine program could help 911 patients avoid ER**

Schenectady police and fire departments are expanding a new program that gives more medical options for people when they call 911. When firefighters and paramedics arrive at a call, they will spend a little more time with patients to find the right type of care they need. It may be the hospital ER, but it could be an urgent care center or a doctor's visit the next day. The doctors at United Concierge Medicine are also available on the call through telemedicine. Mayor McCarthy says this will provide more services for residents while also saving money. The Schenectady Fire Department started the program last month. In the first 40 calls they took, 30 of them did not need to go to the emergency room.

**12/9 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

#### **New York expects 170K vaccine doses this weekend**

New York state will set up 90 regional distribution centers capable of cold storage to distribute the coronavirus vaccine once it is procured by the federal government. Gov. Andrew Cuomo told reporters Wednesday that the vaccines will be sent "where we ask them to send it." Cuomo said the state will set priorities for "not only where it goes, but who gets it as the first set of priorities." Cuomo said New York is expecting an initial allocation of 170,000 doses. He said they could begin arriving as soon as this weekend. Cuomo also said the state has written a letter to Congress seeking additional federal aid. "I am telling you: We cannot close this financial gap without federal aid, and that's what the letter to Congress says."

**12/10 – WNYT – 5P**

#### **Glens Falls Hospital employee fired for refusing flu shot**

A 27-year employee of Glens Falls hospital was fired last week after she refused to get a flu shot. That's according to NewsChannel 13's media partners at The Post-Star. They say Lisa Amorosi checks in patients at the cancer center. Amorosi says she had a bad reaction to the flu vaccine twice, and had worn a mask during the six-month flu season for the last five years instead of getting the vaccine. However, this year, the hospital required all non-allergic workers to get it, or they would be fired.

**12/14 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/15 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

#### **Albany Med administers first doses of new coronavirus vaccine**

Albany Med began administering its first doses of the vaccine Monday afternoon. A batch of 975 doses of the Pfizer vaccine arrived at Albany Medical Center. They call these the first dose vaccines, meaning they are the first of the two doses that are required for full immunity. That means 975 people will be able to get one of these and then have to wait for dose two to arrive. They say they're making sure the doses are spread across the different departments and are administered equitably. Amorosi says she was evaluated by an independent allergist who offered a different version of the vaccine, but she decided it wasn't worth it to find out if there were a negative impact. She says her quality of life is more important to her. [Glens Falls Hospital sent the following statement to NewsChannel 13:](#) Glens Falls Hospital, like all hospitals in the region, has always had a mandatory immunization policy. This year we added the influenza vaccine to the mandatory list. As health care workers providing care to some of the most vulnerable in our population we determined that the responsible stance to take within our organization is to make flu vaccination mandatory. This is the norm, not the exception, among almost all Capital Region hospitals. According to our senior director of Human Resources, all employees who wished to be considered for a medical exemption were asked to submit the NY State DOH Medical Exemption Statement for Health Care Personnel form to our Employee Health team. If they believed they were allergic to the vaccine they were referred to a physician allergist (independent – not a GFH employee) at no cost to the employee. If the allergist determined the employee had an allergy to an ingredient in the vaccine, several options were available; a form of the vaccine that did not include the ingredient the employee was allergic to, or if there was no other option they would be granted an exemption. If it was determined that there was no allergy to the vaccine, the employee was offered additional options including a nasal version, or receiving the vaccine in several smaller doses over time. If an employee was determined to not be medically allergic to the vaccine, and refused all options for immunization, they were asked to leave the organization.

**12/15 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P**

#### **NY state reports another 10,000+ new coronavirus cases**

More than 10,000 new coronavirus cases were reported as New York state released the latest numbers on Tuesday. Another 128 people died. There were 743 more people hospitalized, bringing the total hospitalization numbers to 5,982. The state's infection rate is 5.33%.

**12/15 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

#### **Albany County continues sounding alarm over coronavirus surge**

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Despite the arrival of the vaccine, people need to remember coronavirus remains a very real threat. That was the message in Albany Tuesday when the county executive and health commissioner delivered the latest infection numbers still headed in the wrong direction. The second surge in Albany County is blowing away the numbers from earlier in the pandemic. Total positive cases as of Tuesday were at 8,120. That's 178 more than Monday, and 156 of them have no idea where they got it. There were also 3,317 people under mandatory quarantine on Tuesday. That's the largest number of people placed under quarantine. There were also two more coronavirus related deaths since Monday – a man in his 60s and a woman in her 70s. However, the age groups McCoy continues to worry about are younger. Most of the positive cases are from 20-29 year olds, but 10-19 years olds are rising fast. That's a problem. Health Commissioner Elizabeth Whalen says for now, the most effective weapon in the fight against the virus is a mask.

**12/6 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Albany International Airport begins offering COVID-19 testing kits to travelers**

Albany International Airport has started offering coronavirus testing kits to qualified travelers. Departing and arriving passengers may be tested. To qualify to get a test as an arriving passenger, you must have traveled to Albany International Airport and completed the required four-day waiting period. The fee for the self-administered test is \$35 and can be paid for with cash or credit.

**12/28 – WNYT – 7A – 8A - 12/29 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Vermont launches dashboard to track coronavirus vaccination rates**

Vermont has launched a dashboard to let people know how many residents have been vaccinated and the number of doses administered. The Green Mountain State has received more than 11,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine, and is on track to have received 34,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine by New Year's Day. Vermont's health commissioner says more than 6,300 people in the state have been vaccinated so far.

## **Education**

**10/6 – WNYT – 12P – 5P**

**Excelsior scholarships in jeopardy**

New York's Excelsior Scholarship remains in jeopardy. A new interview by CNBC sheds light on the continued revenue problems in New York state. New York has lost billions in revenue during the pandemic. NewsChannel 13 reported in July that the Higher Education Services Corporation was putting new applications on hold. Now the HESC says they are giving out scholarships for the fall 2020 semester, but may stop there. Spokesperson Angela Liotta tells the cable network the level of federal funding to New York will determine the state budget and funding for financial aid programs.

**10/6 – WNYT – 4P – 5P**

**Capital Region produce delivered to dozens of school districts**

Produce grown in the Capital Region is going to dozens of school districts. It's part of Capital Roots Farm to School program. There are currently 33 school districts are involved. However, with more federal and state farm-to-school grants, they are working to expand their network. Capital Roots made a delivery to Bethlehem High School Tuesday morning. The program began in 2017, delivering farm-fresh products to school students.

**10/7 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P- 10/8 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**La Salle Institute going co-ed after 170 years**

The La Salle Institute in Troy will become co-ed. It's been an all-boys school since it was founded 170 years ago. The change was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees. It goes into effect next September.

**10/13 – WNYT - 4P - 5P – 6P - WNYA – 9P**

**Green Island invests in technology for students**

*Updated: October 13, 2020 06:30 PM*

*Created: October 13, 2020 05:15 PM*

Orders for Chromebooks have skyrocketed because of the pandemic, leading to backorders and delays. School districts are working together to come up with solutions. The Green Island school district is working on getting a computer for every student for remote learning. The district ordered 125 Chromebooks last spring, which have been delayed and may not arrive until next year. "We were slated to receive them in September, but nationwide, obviously, there's a shortage," said School Superintendent Kimberly Ross. While Green Island waits, nearby Watervliet schools donated some to help. "We had some extras available that we could lend," said Watervliet Assistant Superintendent Donald Stevens. "Not the newest, but something that could get them by. Everybody's looking for Chromebooks right now. They're a hot commodity." Students need to stay connected, and they have to be prepared in case of another shutdown. Many classes are live-streamed these days. Green Island bought hotspots to lend out when needed. All schools are trying to be fully equipped. "We are waiting for a few more Chromebooks to make sure we get every student and every teacher to have one," said Stevens. "They're all on backorder. We keep waiting by the door to see when the delivery arrives, but we will be one to one." The Chromebook donation is just one example of the collaboration between districts. "Green Island has a history of partnering with districts like Watervliet, Cohoes, North Colonie, throughout the years, but the pandemic has actually strengthened our relationships," said Ross. Schools in Capital Region BOCES meet at least once a week to share information and ideas. Districts partner for everything from food programs to services to transportation and technology. Green Island is looking to buy some tablets for some of its youngest students. When the Chromebooks they ordered finally arrive, the donated ones from Watervliet will be used as backups, or donated to another district that needs them.

**10/6 – WNYT – 6P**

**Children get a Head Start in Washington County**

At Head Start in Washington County, all the things for little hands are spaced out and cleaned. The classrooms are at half capacity, but all the young students are served. Head Start shut down when the schools did, but if the children couldn't come in, the staff went to them, delivering the meals they would have gotten here, plus about 15,000 diapers. They also made five thousand masks. These days, about 140 students are in classrooms, and about 100 are remote. Head Start is for children younger than kindergarten, at a critical time. "Everything is multiplying in that little brain of theirs at top speed," said L.E.A.P. Executive Director Traci Ross. "So the more stimulation they have, the more they learn now, makes it easier for them to learn as kindergartners." There are Head Start programs in five locations in Washington County: in Hudson Falls, as well as Granville, Whitehall, and Cambridge. But L.E.A.P. does a lot more, providing rides to seniors for crucial medical appointments. It's a service that didn't stop during the pandemic. The need has gone up for the food pantry, which now delivers. "We realized that we have a huge population in Washington County that doesn't have access to transportation. So when we realized that was the case, we started to deliver three days of food to those families that were in need throughout Washington County and we're continuing that service throughout this time period," said Ross. L.E.A.P. is also seeing more people go through its employment center these days. At Head Start, they love hearing the shouts and laughter back on the playground. "The kids are happy to be back," said Ross. "They're happy to be with their friends and they miss their teachers. Our teachers are wearing masks and face shields to protect themselves and the other children." Food delivery for children in Head Start began during the shutdown, and it continues now for students who are remote.

**10/30 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P**

**Ichabod Crane High School moves to remote learning through November 6**

*Created: October 30, 2020 11:50 AM*

Twenty-five employees at the Ichabod Crane High School are in quarantine after three positive coronavirus cases. District officials say a middle school student and two high school students tested positive for the virus. All three had direct contact with a case in the elementary school. Students in the high school will continue learning remotely through November 6. In-person/hybrid learning will resume on Monday, November 9. The other schools in the district will continue with in-person learning.



**11/5 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**January Regents exams cancelled in NY amid pandemic**

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the New York State Education Department has canceled Regents Exams set to take place in January. The New York State Education Department made the announcement Thursday morning. They say they will propose modifications to the testing requirements that students normally need to meet in order to get their diploma. They have not made any decisions regarding the Regents in June and August of next year.

**11/9 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Berkshire County community vows to have snow days during remote learning**

Learning doesn't mean the end of snow days – at least according to one Berkshire County community. NewsChannel 13's media partners at the Berkshire Eagle report Lenox Public Schools will suspend all instruction when hazardous snowfalls affect travel. The district notes some teachers and students don't live in the district proper and power could go out in spots. That would make it tough to teach remotely, and to get needed materials from school.

**11/27 – WNYT – 4P – 5P**

**Ohio stranger donates 600 books to Albany elementary school**

Christmas came early for hundreds of kids at Pine Hill Elementary School in Albany. It didn't come from the North Pole, their school district, or a charitable organization. It came from a complete stranger more than 600 miles away. Principal Tia Corniel says it started on a Tuesday afternoon, when she received an email from an unknown address. The email said there would be three shipments of books coming. Two days later, three big boxes filled with 600 books arrived - brand new, age appropriate, and as diverse as Pine Hills' student body. The mysterious benefactor was Rachel Eiche, an early childhood education professor at Defiance College in Ohio. When the pandemic first began, she was watching Gov. Cuomo's daily press briefings. She says New York's story and its perseverance, made her feel hopeful, and she appreciated that. The best way she thought she could say "thank you" was to find a school to send books to.

**12/2 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P**

**Rensselaer Park Elementary School to remain closed until January**

A school in the Lansingburgh Central School District will remain closed. Rensselaer Park Elementary School was set to open this month. However, the district announced the building would remain closed until January. This is because of funding issues in the district and COVID-19 concerns.

**12/7 – WNYT – 5A – 6A- 12P**

**Berkshire Boys & Girls Club temporarily suspending operations**

The Berkshire Boys & Girls Club is shutting down most services through Dec. 17. Everything other than child-care and remote learning is cancelled due to a rise in COVID-19 cases. The opening of the ice rink at the club in Pittsfield is also on hold for now.

**12/8 – WNYT – 11P – WNYA – 9P- 12/9 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Saint Rose cutting more than two-dozen academic programs**

The College of Saint Rose Board of Trustees approved a plan to reduce academic expenses by \$5.97 million. To do that, the college is eliminating 25 programs in 2021. The cuts will include 16 bachelor's degrees, six master's degrees, and three certificate programs. Interim President Marcia White said almost every college across the country is facing similarly difficult decisions. She said students enrolled in programs that will be eliminated next year will have individualized plans so they can finish their degrees. "These are very, very painful decisions but they're decisions that are the right decisions to be made at the right time," White said. White said the move will preserve long-term stability of the college. This is after the college already cut \$8 million in administrative expenses months ago. White said after they recognized they needed to make more cuts, they began to work collaboratively with the staff and faculty members. "It came down to programs with that the expense outweighed the return of revenue," she said. "So when you look at that there were 25 programs out of 109 that we currently offer that are going to be eliminated." White said 34 tenured staff members will lose their positions. An additional eight full-time visiting faculty will not have their annual contracts renewed. "These recommendations are made School districts still plan for snow days during pandemic

**12/15 – WNYT – 4P – 6P- 12/16 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**School districts still plan for snow days during pandemic**

Many schools in the Capital Region have moved classes online to keep students and staff safe from the spread of coronavirus. NewsChannel 13 reached out to area school districts for their plans. Here's what some districts say: Guilderland High School is the latest to keep their students remote until January 4. The district says schools will be closed when snow or poor road conditions make travel difficult or impossible. That means no classes. If they exceed the planned number of snow days, they may make additional days remote-only instruction days. The Cohoes School District has a similar plan. They say they have snow days built into their schedule and will use a traditional approach. North Colonie says in the event of inclement weather, schools will either function on a one-hour delay or they will be closed. There will be no two-hour delays this year due to the change in building schedules to comply with coronavirus protocols. "with deep respect for the faculty their scholarship, their teaching, their mentoring of our students and what they've brought through their service to this community and to this institution," she said. NewsChannel13 asked White about if the college is already preparing plans for more potential cuts. She said the college has already launched a centennial campaign in an effort to raise funds. "I'm hoping that people who support really truly support Saint Rose and want to support it in the future will be partners with us to build on our success," White said. "I think that will go a long way with helping us find financial stability because were proving that we're doing the things that need to be done to move this college forward." Stay tuned to NewsChannel 13 for updates on this story.

**12/30 – WNYT – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Saratoga Sheriff: Underage super-spreader party under investigation**

It was a super-spreader event that could land a pair of area school teachers in super hot water. It's a story with several unsettling circumstances that include: positive COVID tests, quarantining, and perhaps unlawfully dealing with minors, not to mention the hardship now facing thousands of families whose kids can't go to school when the new year begins. The story begins in Gansevoort, Saratoga County back on December 18, at a house party attended by as many as 50 people. "We had some kids who tested positive, it basically started early to mid last week," said Don Lehman, spokesman for Warren County. Lehman says a dozen people who attended the party have since tested positive for COVID. Thirty people are in quarantine. Because many of the attendees were students at Glens Falls High School, that district will begin remote learning when classes resume on January 4. "There's parents that are frankly pissed," said Ashley Shepherd, the mother of three students in the Glens Falls School District. "We're scrambling to figure out how all of a sudden we're supposed to accommodate our kids." Two of Shepherd's three children have special needs. "My fourth grader is autistic," she says, "It's not going to work. He doesn't learn virtually, which ultimately is going to cause regression."

# WNYT/WNYA 4th Quarter 2020 - Projects

## Today's Women

**10/1 WNYT – 5P**

### **Albany-native, 21, makes a name for herself in spa care**

Nzinga Braswell was a teenager when she left Albany to move to Atlanta. Now at 21, she's an entrepreneur and teaching us all a lesson on how to live your dreams. Braswell is running her own day spa, called Her Face Beauty. The Albany native moved to Atlanta when she was 15, has always had an independent spirit, and has never been a follower who waits for permission from others. She says it was a risk to leave college to open her business, but says she needed to follow her heart. She started a men's skin care line two months ago. She sold out, and while people here in Albany can't wait until she restocks, Braswell is already thinking of her next move.

**10/8 - WNYT – 5P – 10/11 – WNYT - 8A**

### **Woman lends a helping hand to people in tough times**

When CDTA recognized people in the community who have worked hard on behalf of others, Sirena Cordova was one of the recipients of the award, and it's easy to see why. She has met people during some of the toughest times of their lives, when they were homeless and in need of shelter, when they were victims of domestic violence, or when they needed food stamps. She worked three jobs at the Albany County Department of Social Services, Unity House Domestic Violence Center, and Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. She developed this work ethic to provide for her family as a single mom of two kids, but she maintained it because she recognized the needs of others and wanted to help. She believes in what she calls "the comeback," that things can improve for people if there's a helping hand extended.

**10/15 - WNYT – 5P – WNYA - 9P - 10/18 – WNYT - 8A**

### **Albany business combines hula-hoop and fitness fun**

Tyresha Moncrieffe has fond memories of being a kid and enjoying hula-hooping. However, it was something she thought was just child's play. Fast-forward to today, and she's back to hula-hooping. Now her hoops have weights in them, and she's loving it even more. She thought combining fitness and fun might make for a business, teaching women how to improve their health through hula-hooping and enjoy doing it. The business is called Dance Hall Hoops. In addition to in-person classes on Delaware Avenue in Albany, she also has virtual classes. She says you will sweat!

**10/22 - WNYT – 5P – WNYA - 9P - 10/25 – WNYT - 8A**

### **Domestic violence victims share their stories to help others**

October is "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month." According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 20 people per minute on average are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. A local woman is pulling back the curtain on her own abuse, hoping to prevent others from going through what she endured. In her book, "The Mask behind the Mask," Shana Gourdine's goal is for those who have experienced domestic violence to examine the many masks they've worn as they've tried to survive the ordeals they've been through. In her new companion piece, a film called "Through Their Eyes: The Mask Behind The Mask," she goes even deeper and allows victims to do something many of them haven't - be transparent about what happened to them at the hands of their abuser. The idea for a film she says began when she heard the numbers of abuse victims were going up during this pandemic. Although domestic violence victims may have felt afraid to share their stories in the past, Gourdine says that's changing. She used social media for her project and got a pretty immediate response.

**11/5 – WNYT - 5P - 11/8 – WNYT - 8A**

### **RPI architectural student hopes to change lives with her building designs**

If you've never heard of a social architect, meet Aida Ayuk. The third-year architecture student from RPI, who lives in the DC area, believes in building and repurposing buildings to change people's lives. Her goal is design buildings with spaces that meet the needs of the tenants, like buildings with work spaces so moms can care for their kids and work from home. Changing the world through architecture has sent Ayuk to also look at creating homes using nontraditional energy sources.

**11/12 – WNYT - 5P – 11/15 – WNYT - 8A**

### **Grandma achieves dream of college degree**

NewsChannel 13 first introduced you to Bridget Singh-Liebson in 2017. A native of Guyana, she dreamt of coming to the United States, and her dream came true. Considered the land of great opportunity, Liebson thought everyone here had a Mercedes, so she worked two jobs and bought a white Mercedes. Life was good. She raised her kids and became an empty nester. Then she started to work on her second dream, earning her GED. She was 56. She persevered and earned it. Next, she went back and looked at that 2017 interview. She realized there was another dream she had to fulfill – a college degree. Now, the 60-year-old grandmother has that, too!

**11/19 – WNYT - 5P – WNYA - 9P - 11/22 – WNYT - 8A – 12/25 - WNYT – 6A**

### **Albany, Schenectady lawyers join forces to help communities of color**

Income inequality can do more than just determine where you live and what you're able to afford. It can also impact the decisions you make, and the consequences of bad decisions can last a lifetime. So two lawyers have joined forces to bring much needed affordable legal services to communities of color, hoping to turn lives around. Raysheea Turner and Kim Wallace met just a little over a year ago at an event. They realized they were both public defenders, Turner from Schenectady County and Wallace from Albany County. Being public defenders wasn't all they had in common. Both had grown weary of the recidivism they saw. So they decided to open their own law firm that would make a social impact as well as money. They offer services like personal injury, wills, trusts, estates, and LLC's. They also teach classes on gaining wealth and homeownership. To be further instep with their community, they offer their services virtually.

**12/3 – WNYT - 5P - 12/6 – WNYT - 8A**

### **Women find success with new hair accessory business sparked by kids**

Our world hasn't gotten back to normal yet. However, that hasn't stopped women from moving forward and trying their hands at things they might not have done if this year hadn't been so challenging. That's the case of three local women. They are friends, moms, and now also businesswomen. They had no experience running a hair accessory line for girls, but they were missing their old lives when they were part of the workforce. Then they paused and took a second look at all their daughter's hair clips, barrettes, and fun little hair fashions. That inspired them to start an online business.

**12/10 – WNYT - 5P - 12/13 – WNYT - 8A**

### **Woman's outdoor gear line a hit during pandemic**

Tracy Slocum loves the great outdoors. About three years ago, she set out to combine luxury and fun in a blanket. NewsChannel 13 first brought you her story on the waterproof blankets she designed called Pretty Rugged. Then, Oprah selected Slocum's dog blanket, a smaller version of her original idea, as one of her "favorite things." Fast-forward to 2020 and the pandemic. However, instead of worrying, Slocum and her team got to work as people were being advised to distance themselves and head outdoors, they decided to make outdoor events more tolerable, creating products like the lap blanket, which people quickly snapped up, along with restaurants opting for outdoor dining. They also decided to create a line of outdoor clothing-like bomber jackets, large purses, capelets, vests and more. So even though their wholesalers stopped buying because of the pandemic, their retail was up over 40%. Slocum says business is about understanding when to pivot but also how to create products to make people's lives a little better.

**12/17 – WNYT - 5P – WNYA - 9P - 12/20 – WNYT - 8A**

**Latham business adapts to changing times by switching from brick-and-mortar to online**

When coronavirus hit, many businesses had to pivot, including those that had been doing very well with their brick and mortar stores. Karen Macielak owns Bumble B's Ladies' Boutique. They were in Latham's Newton Plaza. However, when the pandemic hit, she had to shut down. She always knew in order for business to survive, she had to grow it online. At the same time, there was an opportunity to get out of her lease, so she made the decision to shut down the physical store. However, making the pivot to online hasn't been easy. With no computer skills, she had to teach herself how to launch the site. She's getting good feedback, and she hopes for the holidays old customers will return and new ones will give her a try.

## **Stem 13**

**10/2 – WNYT - 6P – WNYA - 9P – 10/3 – WNYT - 6A**

**Bethlehem freshman makes finals of National Braille Challenge**

A local high school student hopes his accomplishments will inspire others who are visually impaired. Sean Meek is a freshman at Bethlehem High School. For the second time in two years, he made the finals of the National Braille Challenge. He has been working with braille for years and says the technology continues to improve his reading skills. Sean is encouraging his friends to compete in the challenge next year.

**10/16 - WNYT - 6P**

**Report: Capital Region scientists on a roll with patents, inventions**

A new report out this month shows Capital Region scientists recorded more than 1,400 new patents on inventions last year. That was twice as many patents filed in our region than the rest of New York state. We are second only to California in high-tech innovation. The partnership between colleges and business is a key factor in that success. The report out by Center for Economic Growth shows the semi-conductor business in the Capital Region is on a roll. The number of new invention patents increased by 8% last year. Dr. Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik says we are doing research in all areas surrounding chip production and design. She says it produces a climate of innovation.

**10/23 - WNYT - 6P – WNYA - 9P**

**RPI professor helping to simplify coronavirus tracking**

Tracking the spread of coronavirus has been simplified by an RPI professor and a colleague at the University of Washington. Using an app and some laboratory science, they can track where people go and see how that corresponds to outbreaks and death. RPI Professor Yunfeng Shi and University of Washington Professor Jeffrey Ban turned to a transmission model based on one used to predict chemical reactions. That was married to information from the Google app, Mobility, and data from Johns Hopkins on deaths from coronavirus.

**11/13 - WNYT - 6P – WNYA - 9P – 11/15 – WNYT - 7A – 8A**

**STEM helping GE get veterans back to work**

General Electric is using STEM to help veterans get back into the workforce. The Junior Officer Leadership Program gives top military talent the chance to jumpstart their careers at General Electric. The program involves three rotations at GE Renewable Energy, in addition to professional development training. The program started in 1996 and has more than 110 GE Energy business alumni.

**11/20 – WNYT - 5A – 6A - 6P – WNYA - 9P – 11/21 – WNYT - 6A – 8A**

**Digital literacy program based in Albany being offered to adult learners**

Your computer skills go hand in hand with your ability to work in emerging tech fields, and your ability to work from home. Starting in early December, Albany Can Code is offering a digital literacy program for adult learners. If you want to get into computer programming, Albany Can Code also offers entry level classes that can help students break into the tech fields.

**11/27 - WNYT - 6P – WNYA - 9P – 11/28 – WNYT - 8A**

**MiSci presents model train show**

The Museum of Innovation and Science in Schenectady is presenting its annual model train show. It features five concurrently running tracks weaving through freight yards, a town called Plasticville, and an amusement park. Many of the first steam locomotives in the world were built in Schenectady. Thomas the Tank Engine and the Polar Express are also travelling the main loop of the display. The show continues through January 16.

**12/02 – WNYT - 5P**

**Woman on mission to help students achieve through STEM**

Students are falling behind in math in the wake of the pandemic. That's the findings of an education assessments group. The group looked at elementary and middle school students, and also found a disproportionately large number of poor and minority students missed assessment testing this fall. For Kayla Miller, the gaps in STEM-related courses has caused her to take it upon herself to help students achieve. Miller loves science and it all started in elementary school and continued in high school. As she entered college at Central Connecticut State University, she realized there were few students in her classes, like biomolecular science which she majored in, who looked like her. She felt the lack of exposure to science, technology, engineering, and math had to be the reason, so she set out to change that. She created STEM Kings & Queens in 2019. She's taught summer workshops focusing on cells, exposing kids to fun projects, and science history on people like Henrietta Lacks, an African-American woman whose stolen cells have been used in labs for 65 years and helped create vaccines for HPV, helped make the polio vaccine available to the world sooner and became important to gene mapping. This year, she was working with the Albany City School District on science projects when COVID-19 struck. Unable to be in schools, she went online with a new interactive website teaching kids coding, genetics experiments and how to understand COVID-19.

**12/22 – WNYT - 5A – 6A – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Organization donates Chromebooks to high school seniors in Albany**

The Workforce Development Institute is donating new Chromebooks to a special group of students in Albany. A hundred new Chromebooks were headed to students at the Abrookin Career and Technical Center on Tuesday morning. The high school seniors will get to keep the computers, which gives them a great start on their careers. The mission of the Workforce Development Institute is to grow and promote jobs in New York state.

**12/25 – WNYT – 6P – 12/26 – WNYT – 6A – 8A**

**Colonie company praised for environmentally-friendly way to insulate jackets**

There are special honors for a Colonie company that is using technology to improve its carbon footprint. PrimaLoft makes synthetic insulation that goes into puffy jackets. Insulation is typically made with a process that relies on fossil fuels like coal or gas, but PrimaLoft came up with a new, more environmentally friendly insulation called PrimaLoft PURE, which stands for produced using reduced emissions. PrimaLoft has won "Popular Science" magazine's Grand Award in the Best of What's New Competition for 2020 in the sports and outdoor activities category. "We changed our materials, we changed our processes, we changed the equipment we make it on and we fundamentally modified how the traditional method works. By doing so, we were able to reduce our carbon emissions by 48%," explained PrimaLoft President and CEO Mike Joyce. Right now, Patagonia's Nano Puff is the only jacket using this eco-friendly insulation, but Joyce hopes to partner with more companies in the new year.

## **Commit to Kids**

**10/5 – WNYT - 4P - 5P – 6P**

**Clifton Park doctor opens up outdoor exam rooms for coronavirus screening**

While children are both less likely to contract coronavirus and have a severe case, they're not immune. That's prompted Dr. Harry Miller of Four Seasons Pediatrics in Clifton Park to open two outdoor exam rooms, converting sheds with pop-up tents into an area to screen his young patients for coronavirus. This limits exposure to his staff. Some children won't even make it this far. They will stay in their cars. The equipment outside is what you would find inside. Dr. Miller says the practice has screened 250 children for coronavirus so far. When the temperature drops, Dr. Miller says they will use space heaters to warm the sheds, which are locked nightly. There's also a security system in place.

**10/12 – WNYT - 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – 10/13 - WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Eagle Scout builds new sign for Gloversville ballpark**

If you have driven past Parkhurst Field in Gloversville recently, you may have noticed a new road sign at the historic ballpark. It's the handiwork of Kyle Wood, a member of Boy Scout Troop 5051. He said he wanted to help Parkhurst as he looked for an Eagle Scout project, but was not expecting to build something so prominent or so permanent. Wood said he was honored by the opportunity.

**10/12 – WNYT - 6P**

**Albany teen goes far in national chess championship**

NewsChannel 13 wants to congratulate 16-year-old Martha Samadashvili from Albany. She tied for eighth place over the weekend in the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship in chess. The tournament was held online this year because of the pandemic. Martha started playing chess when she was 8 and a year later she was the North American Youth Champion. We're told she is also a two-time geography bee champion at her school.

**10/13 – WNYT - 4P - 5P – 6P - WNYA – 9P**

**Green Island invests in technology for students**

Orders for Chromebooks have skyrocketed because of the pandemic, leading to backorders and delays. School districts are working together to come up with solutions. The Green Island school district is working on getting a computer for every student for remote learning. The district ordered 125 Chromebooks last spring, which have been delayed and may not arrive until next year. "We were slated to receive them in September, but nationwide, obviously, there's a shortage," said School Superintendent Kimberly Ross. While Green Island waits, nearby Watervliet schools donated some to help. "We had some extras available that we could lend," said Watervliet Assistant Superintendent Donald Stevens. "Not the newest, but something that could get them by. Everybody's looking for Chromebooks right now. They're a hot commodity." Students need to stay connected, and they have to be prepared in case of another shutdown. Many classes are live-streamed these days. Green Island bought hotspots to lend out when needed. All schools are trying to be fully equipped. "We are waiting for a few more Chromebooks to make sure we get every student and every teacher to have one," said Stevens. "They're all on backorder. We keep waiting by the door to see when the delivery arrives, but we will be one to one." The Chromebook donation is just one example of the collaboration between districts. "Green Island has a history of partnering with districts like Watervliet, Cohoes, North Colonie, throughout the years, but the pandemic has actually strengthened our relationships," said Ross. Schools in Capital Region BOCES meet at least once a week to share information and ideas. Districts partner for everything from food programs to services to transportation and technology. Green Island is looking to buy some tablets for some of its youngest students. When the Chromebooks they ordered finally arrive, the donated ones from Watervliet will be used as backups, or donated to another district that needs them.

**10/14 – WNYT - 4P - 5P – WNYA – 9P**

**Fonda girl making masks to help get out the vote**

A Fonda girl is trying to help people do something she can't - and that's vote. Addison Weigel is only 10 years old, but she knows the importance of voting, so she's doing what she can to help others get to the polls. She decided to make masks in memory of her heroine, the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Addison then sells them and donates the money to groups that help get out the vote. People from 11 states have contacted her and purchased masks. Addison has raised nearly \$780.

**10/21 – WNYT - 6P – 11P – 10/22 – WNYT - 5A – 6A – 12P**

**Whitehall High School to likely stay closed until March after summer flood**

Whitehall High School students likely won't return to in-person classes until at least March. A powerful storm in August dumped nearly seven inches of rain in a very short time, and badly damaged the school. The district hoped to bring students back in the second marking period, but Superintendent Patrick Dee now says extensive asbestos and mold abatement must be done. He also says much of the work from a construction project this summer was also lost in the flood.

**10/22 – WNYT - 4P – 10/23 - WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**East Greenbush CSD considers all in-person kindergarten**

The East Greenbush School District is considering bringing back all of its kindergarten students back into the classroom. All K-12 students in the district are currently learning under the hybrid model. Superintendent Jeff Simons says looking at preliminary data, only kindergarten could be brought back into school five days a week while complying with state regulations. If the change is made, kids would return at all five elementary schools in November. The district has had five students test positive this semester. About 21% of students opted for full remote learning.

**11/10 – WNYT – 12P**

**National Apprenticeship Week spotlights vocational education**

It's National Apprenticeship Week - a time to focus on vocational education. Questar BOCES trains young people in many trade skills, offering them the ability to go to work for local companies right after graduation. The Capital Region program is only the second of its kind in Upstate New York. The owner of John Ray & Sons says the program helps him staff his fuel business.

**11/10 – WNYT - 5A – 6A – 4P - 5P**

**Support for vets marches on in Duanesburg despite pandemic**

Despite the cancellation of Albany's Veterans Day parade, another local, annual parade much smaller - but big in spirit, continues. The 20-year tradition at Duanesburg Elementary School lived on Tuesday morning. There were masks and instead of marching relatives of students who served our country paraded by in their vehicles. However, even a pandemic could change the feeling of respect and appreciation. The school's Veterans Day parade is usually a little bigger. It includes the high school band. However, there was no less emphasis on teaching kids why the day is so important.

**11/18 – WNYT - 5P – 11/21 – WNYA – 9P**

**Cape Cod family turns treehouse into lavish homeschool classroom**

With so many students remote learning and homeschooling, some parents are still struggling to find the best space for their kids. One Cape Cod family found a unique solution in their backyard. The building was already there. It just needed a little conversion. The tree school includes a ladder that leads to a reading nook and even has a time out room. Their mom, Erin, is their teacher.

**11/20 – WNYT - 4P - 5P - 11/22 – WNYT – 7A**

**Albany school's art project inspires others to embrace differences**

Aside from the pandemic, one of the resounding themes of 2020 has been the quest for social justice. Some have tried to bring about change with peaceful rallies. Others with violent protests. However, at Arbor Hill Elementary School, important lessons are being learned using construction paper, scissors and crayons. Faces of students and teachers crowd the windows at the school. They're self-portraits they've created for a very special art Gallery of Uniqueness.

**12/11 – WNYT - 6P – WNYA – 9P – 12/12 – WNYT - 6A – 8A**

**Tonko sponsors bill to help students in school learn more about artificial intelligence**

A bill sponsored by local Congressman Paul Tonko would provide schools with grants and other support from the National Science Foundation. Tonko says he was inspired by Nathan Wang, a former Shaker High Student now studying biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins University. "Whether or not learning AI will push you towards a specific field, I don't know, but I do know for certain that it will definitely inspire more people into STEM," said Wang. Tonko's legislation is part of the National Defense Authorization Act, which passed the Senate on Friday, but President Trump may veto it.

## **13 Investigates**

**10/5– WNYT - 6A – 10/10 – WNYT - 6A – 8A**

**Landlords, tenant advocates at odds over state eviction moratorium**

Some landlords in the Capital Region say their tenants took advantage of Gov. Cuomo's eviction moratorium. The whole state came to a sudden crash at the beginning of March when the coronavirus pandemic hit. For Raphael Peeralta, who rents out his home in Rotterdam, it meant dealing with difficult tenants. They refused to pay rent -- even though Peeralta says the woman who lived there was on disability and the man went back to work as a barber at the end of May. They eventually moved out in September, leaving this mess behind. Peeralta is now out \$5,000. "Right now, we owe mortgage on this house, and there is only a wish, I hope it magically appears. I don't know, they have no intention of paying us money," Peeralta said. In Gloversville, Jeff Walters found himself in a similar situation. Walters owns a few properties, and he has been a landlord since the 90s. When the pandemic hit his tenants - who also left this apartment a mess when they ran out -- said they couldn't pay the rent. However, tenant advocates say the moratorium is necessary so no one ends up on the street during a global pandemic. The governor's eviction moratorium ended on October 1. While it appears he extended it, tenant advocates say he really just extended and expanded the Tenant Safe Harbor Act. It gives a renters a legal defense if landlords take them to court for non-payment of rent. Tenant advocates says a new moratorium needs to be put in place to stop all evictions. They say no one should be kicked out of their home, putting them on the street or in a congregate setting living situation -- a place they could more likely catch coronavirus. A spokesperson with the New York State Unified Court System says no evictions are taking place right now. They said a landlord can file, but any action is stayed. However, another concern is when then do get back to court, how will tenants will have the money to pay off the bills racked up during the pandemic they were able to put on hold. Advocates recently rallied in front of the state Capitol - not only for a moratorium, but also they want legislation passed that would cancel rent and mortgages for 2020. NewsChannel 13 reached out to Gov. Cuomo's office about what assistance there is for these landlords being left to foot the bill in a lot of cases. They sent us a few links, one to the New York Forward Loan. Small landlords can apply and it says they will prioritize loans for landlords whose properties are in low and moderate income census tracts or serve low to moderate income tenants. The program is something none of the landlords NewsChannel 13 spoke with knew about. The governor's office also directed us to information about short-term mortgage forbearances. However, that won't bring back the money these landlords have shelled out. It's a trying time for both renters and small-time landlords who are hoping for real relief soon.

**10/8 – WNYT - 4P - 10/11 – WNYT – 7A**

**Trio of Capital Region residents share unique coronavirus experiences**

There is still a lot to be learned about the coronavirus and as the months have passed, more and more people are starting to share their unique experiences. NewsChannel 13's Jacquie Slater met with three different Capital Region residents who had three very different experiences with one common diagnosis. Margaret Barry was diagnosed with coronavirus in July. She's pretty sure she picked the virus up at a small get together of friends, just eight people. The group met the state's guidelines for gatherings at the time. Margaret says she lost her sense of taste and smell about a week later. Margaret is part of that 80% the CDC and officials talk so much about. That's the percentage of people who have the virus with only mild to moderate symptoms. They treat it on their own at home, and fully recover in about two weeks. Joel Kaplan, 79, was considered high risk for developing severe symptoms. He contracted the virus while already in the hospital for a partial lung removal. Kaplan says his fever never spiked too high. However, he experienced burning in his eyes. The only symptom that was all-consuming was the nausea, which lasted for weeks. From start to finish, Kaplan was in hospital care for 40 days. He was never placed on a ventilator, and says he has no lingering side effects. Some people who survive coronavirus report lingering side effects, sometimes severe. The term COVID long-hauler is used to describe these cases. One of them is Maya McNulty of Niskayuna. She was in a coma and on a ventilator for six weeks. Six months after being diagnosed, she has a long list of ongoing side effects. Maya initially thought she would have a six-month recovery period. Now she's beginning to think a full recovery might never be in the cards.

**10/15 – WNYT - 5A – 6A – 12P - 4P – 10/18 – WNYT – 8A**

**13 Investigates: High Use in the High Peaks Part I**

Hiking in the Adirondacks seems to be more popular than ever. 12 million people visit the Adirondack park every year. That's more than Acadia, Yellowstone, and Yosemite combined. That was before the pandemic. After this summer season, some groups say we are at a tipping point, and we must act now to save our forests. If you've driven from the Northway to Lake Placid, you've seen it: Mountain above, long line of cars parked on the roadside below. Route 73 has a parking problem. Even the "no parking" signs at Giant Mountain don't completely stop people. Drivers will just take the ticket. This past holiday weekend, a long line of cars had tickets in that no-parking zone. Throughout the entire Route 73 corridor last weekend, the DEC says about 150 cars received tickets. That's the road safety problem, we wanted to see the impact on the trail first hand. We met Tyler Socash at the trailhead of Cascade Mountain, on a weekday after Labor Day in early September. If the tattered and torn trail register is any indication, Cascade is a popular peak. According to the latest data, nearly 35 thousand people hiked it in 2016. That's more than double the amount a decade before. Socash works with the Adirondack Mountain Club, educating hikers on being more responsible. He's an accomplished hiker himself. Outside of the Blue Line, Socash has hiked the Appalachian Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and the Te Araroa Trail in New Zealand. Nowadays in the Adirondacks, he brings a



garbage bag on each hike, picking up other people's trash. On our hike, Socash found face wipes, a bag from a dog owner, orange peels, and a sign of the times: face masks. Socash also deals with something else: toilet paper. We saw lots and lots of it on our hike up Cascade. Socash buries it, when people leave it. There's that impact, then there's erosion. Hundreds of thousands of boot steps do damage over time. The trail gets lower, and big rocks and roots emerge. That makes hiking the trail tougher. People venture off it, just a little bit, making it wider and wider. How wide? A photo from the Adirondack Council from the 1980s on Cascade shows how one part of the trail grew to 25 feet in 2018. The issue of trail erosion has been talked about for decades in the Adirondacks. The DEC said this in its High Peaks Unit Management Plan, published in 1999: "Most trail problems are the result of poor trail location and improper construction and maintenance rather than the amount of use. Some trails are over 100 years old and were initially located to achieve the shortest distance between two points or where construction was easy. Their poor location often makes erosion control difficult." There is a reason for all those hikers. When you get to the top, all 4 thousand and 98 feet, it is glorious. "They want to get outside, they want to have fun, they want to have an opportunity to see some wildlife. And maybe to experience those intangibles of wildness," said Socash. "I've noticed during the pandemic there are a lot of user groups coming to the Adirondack Park, which is fantastic," said Socash. "...The thing I'm noticing is most people are just a bit unprepared and many of them are biting off a little bit more than they can chew." "When I summit steward on Mount Marcy, one of the most remote places in New York State, I'm often told this exact sentence: 'this is my first hike in the Adirondacks.' And I think, 'wow, you've chosen to hike a marathon before your first 5k.'"

#### 10/15 – WNYT - 5P – 6P – 10/18 – WNYT – 8A

##### High Use in the High Peaks Part II: The Solutions

When it comes to managing the current problems with the amount of hikers in the Adirondack's High Peaks region, priority number one for DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos is Route 73 below. "My biggest concern is seeing cars stacked at trailheads, and risk the people who are getting in and out of their cars. God forbid anybody gets hit," said Seggos. The relatively new 'no parking' signs at Giant Mountain are not deterring all hikers yet. This past holiday weekend, cars were lined up in the no parking zone with tickets left on windshields. The DEC says 150 parking tickets were handed out this past weekend along the entire Route 73 corridor. Route 73 runs right through Keene, Joe Pete Wilson is the town supervisor. Here's what that behavior, tells him. "People are determined to meet their goals," said Wilson. "When they decide they're going to hike Indian Head or Giant. It's tough to deter them, if you're not reaching them until they're trying to park." Here's what Seggos said about the idea of significantly expanding parking lots at trailheads in that corridor: "You can't expand the parking lots at those locations, there's just no room. That corridor in particular," said Seggos. "There are very steep cliffs on one side and water on the other. Even if forest preserve constitutional protections didn't exist, you'd have limited place to move people. So the shuttle system is the only answer to that corridor." Shuttles are a tough sell during a pandemic, but that's a long term solution for the DEC. Then the issue of the trails. "In good wilderness management, it would look at 'how can we maintain our trails, so they protect the natural resources?' I think we have a lot to do in the Adirondacks for that. I think we've seen a lot of resource degradation, a lot of natural resource damage in the High Peaks because of human overuse," said Peter Bauer, Protect the Adirondacks Executive Director. An Adirondack Council assessment in 2018 found 130 miles of trails in the High Peaks alone that are too steep, too wet, or otherwise unsustainable. Another of the Council's studies found 56 percent of the trail mileage in the High Peaks "fails to meet the modern design standards for sustainable trails". The Council argues parts of many trails need to be redesigned and reconstructed. The issue of trail erosion has been talked about for decades in the Adirondacks. The DEC said this in its High Peaks Unit Management Plan, published in 1999: "Most trail problems are the result of poor trail location and improper construction and maintenance rather than the amount of use. Some trails are over 100 years old and were initially located to achieve the shortest distance between two points or where construction was easy. Their poor location often makes erosion control difficult." New York is already working on a new trail to Cascade Mountain from the state's Mount Van Hoevenburg facility. Ideally, it will be a facility and trail that can handle the needs of 35 thousand hikers a year. Some float the idea of a center or hubs to provide ideas for alternate hikes, and a notification system if parking lots fill up. When it comes to trash and toilet paper, four groups in the Adirondacks agreed last year they want front-country stewards and information at trailheads. People who would educate hikers on how to respect the environment, even how to use the bathroom in the woods. People who can do a job like Tyler Socash. "People just don't know about the Leave No Trace framework. The Leave No Trace principles give us a great chance to recreate responsibly," said Socash. And then the issue of the amount of forest rangers to handle the amount of hikers, and hiker rescues. "I'm totally committed to their numbers. Making sure they, not only have the right force, that they have the right support from assistant forest rangers and other divisions," said Seggos. Seggos says he's committed to a new academy if there's money in the budget. In our interview, Commissioner Seggos said he's open to almost all of the ideas from the groups we brought to him. But there is one hot button issue in the Adirondacks: permits. The idea of needing a reservation to get to a hike's trailhead. In Part III of High Use in the High Peaks ... we examine the issue of permits in the High Peaks.

#### 10/16 – WNYT - 5A – 6A – 10/18 – WNYT – 8A

##### High Use in the High Peaks Part III: Permits

The draw of the High Peaks seems to be even stronger nowadays. There are so many hikers, many are asking, is it time to talk about permits? "It's not an easy conversation to have. It's just time to start having the conversation," said Raul "Rocci" Aguirre, Deputy Director and Director of Conservation for the Adirondack Council. It's a touchy subject. Some groups like the Adirondack Council say it's time to start considering some way to limit hikers at busy trailheads, in order to protect the land from further damage. "I wouldn't even say there's a fixed idea. I think there's an idea you have to do it right from the beginning," said Aguirre. "We are not afraid of taking a hard look at permits. Mount Katahdin has had permits for 50 years," said Peter Bauer, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks. Bauer wants to look at permits for a few of the most popular High Peaks trails at certain times. "In our society, we handle permits all the time. We do it when we go out to dinner. We do it when we go out to the movies," said Bauer. "...If you look at it as simply restricting use, we don't think that's the whole picture and the complete picture. It guarantees people that they're able to pursue the opportunity and the hike they want to do." Joe Pete Wilson is the town supervisor in Keene, right in the heart of the High Peaks. Wilson has dealt with illegally parked vehicles and hikers turning backyards into bathrooms. He has seen the impact first hand, and here's what he thinks. "Permits would be like just slapping a big Band Aid on the High Peaks. It's not addressing the fundamental things. Without the front country infrastructure, the staffing, the information hubs, how are you going to do a permit system anyway?" said Wilson. And then there's the DEC. In large part, it comes down to them. "All the things we just talked about: shuttle service, parking lots, education, better trails, better trailheads. Those are the things that need to be addressed before we get to the very complicated and cumbersome permit system," said Basil Seggos, DEC Commissioner. All the groups talk about a bigger plan including the aforementioned improvements. It's just where permits fall in that plan. Seggos says he has the will of the governor to get all the things he mentioned done. So, when does it get done? "Well, everything comes down to money," said Seggos. It's not just the DEC, the state has been talking about financial help from the federal government to help make up for lost revenue from the pandemic. "If we aren't going to get this federal support. I don't see how we undertake, as a state, so many of the important initiatives we need to do." So the trash, the toilet paper, the erosion, the rare alpine vegetation. Until changes happen, and really even after they do, it all comes down to you, and how you treat the wilderness.

#### 10/19 – WNYT – 12P - 4P - 5P – 6P

##### DEC gives look at new Cascade Mountain trail

The DEC is giving NewsChannel 13 a look at the progress to its new trail to Cascade Mountain from the Mount Van Hoevenberg Sports Complex outside of Lake Placid. The new trail is known as a Class V Trunk Trail. That means it is built to shed water and hardened to be sustainable. It will be 18 to 26 inches wide. Here's what DEC's press office says about the trail: "Once completely built, hikers taking the new trail up Cascade Mountain will start at the Mt. Van Hoevenberg Sports Complex. There are two new trails being built that start here. First the new MVHE Trail up Mt. Van Hoevenberg (originally named Mt. Van Hoevenberg East Trail), which will take hikers approximately two miles to the amazing view of the High Peaks from the ledges at the top of Mt. Van Hoevenberg. The new Cascade Mountain Trail will depart from the MVHE Trail about one mile from the trailhead, they both share the same trailhead and first section. Once on the Cascade Mountain Trail, it will go another ~4.5 miles to the summit of Cascade Mountain, with an overall trail grade of less than 10 percent. Both of these trails are being built to Class V Trunk Trail standards (see chart of trail classifications below), which will allow them to handle high use. DEC is following the most current trails industry standards for sustainable trail building. The target tread width on these two trails

is 18"-26" with some sections wider than 26" to allow for passage of multiple hikers...The MVHE trail will be open this fall for winter recreation with hiking continuing while finishing touches are completed in 2021." Compare the new trail to parts of the current trail from Route 73 that are 25 feet wide in some sections. The DEC has been talking about the issue of these heavily eroded trails for decades. "The old way of making a trail was signing straight up a mountain. That would, when it rained, help erode the trail itself. The modern trail is switchbacks, and different materials, like stone and wood, so it can last for 100 years," said Basil Seggos, DEC Commissioner. This new modern trail will be longer, but it will be much more gradual. The new trail will be 5.5 miles to the summit, compare that to the current trail that is only 2.2 miles to the top. The current trailhead along Route 73 also presents parking issues, with hikers often parking their cars on both sides of the roadway after the trailhead parking lots fill up. The Mount Van Hoevenberg complex has five parking lots. The DEC says ORDA will have the final post-construction parking space count. An estimated 35,000 hikers climb Cascade every year.

#### **10/30 – WNYT - 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

##### **Landlord attempting to get rent money that wasn't paid during the pandemic**

NewsChannel 13 followed up with a property owner that is out thousands of dollars after his tenant would not pay rent. Some landlords in the Capital Region have been struggling to pay the bills due to the eviction moratorium that was put in place by Gov. Andrew Cuomo during the pandemic. Paul Burke headed to Schenectady County Small Claims Court Friday. His tenant was not paying rent this summer even though Burke said he knew he was working. "He pretty much told me to my face, Paul, I'm going to play the COVID card and I'm going to wait until the government kicks me out," said Burke. The tenant then left the home in the middle of the night. Burke ran into trouble at small claims court Friday. "I was called up to the bench and the judge told me they could not serve the tenant because they didn't have his address," explained Burke. "It was sent to his previous residence and returned back to the court, so they said there's nothing they can do if he's not here to represent himself." Burke now has 30 days to find his tenant and serve him the paperwork, but he's at a loss on how to find him. "I did go online, paid a premium service for the white pages to see if I can get his address, I checked an address there that I thought was after where he lived with me, he wasn't living there," said Burke. "I've been online to his Facebook account; he's got a business and didn't see anything there." Burke is out \$7,700 and the most he can get in small claims court is \$5,000. Burke said he is now looking at hiring an attorney to help him figure out the next steps, but that will cost more money. "The process is pretty simple, but you're definitely on your own," said Burke about small claims court. "There's nobody there to guide you through the process you got to make sure you do this, this and this so that's been frustrating." It is frustrating, but at least Burke has been able to get in a courtroom. For many landlords during the pandemic they're still waiting for their day in court. The New York State Court System said right now no evictions are taking place and all warrants are stayed.

#### **11/16 – WNYT - 4P - 5P – 6P**

##### **Inmate at Greene Correctional placed in solitary claims retaliation**

Four weeks of uncertainty seem to be coming to an end. For Alaina Givhan and her husband a battle with the Greene Correctional Facility has some closure. "He did have a hearing [Monday]. They asked him if he'd be okay with completing a hearing without the officer there. He said, yeah at this point he just wants it to be over with, and they said, 'Okay, the hearing is finished, here's your disposition paper. Go pack up your stuff you're going back to general population,'" said Alaina. Since October 21, Rashad Givhan has been in a solitary cell at Greene. He was placed in what is known as Administrative Segregation immediately after Alaina first spoke with NewsChannel 13 on camera after her husband and others tested positive for COVID-19 but received multiple conflicting test results. Alaina says Rashad was handcuffed and taken out of his quarantine dorm and was not allowed to take his personal belongings. NewsChannel 13 contacted the Department of Corrections the next day as Alaina and Rashad believed he was being retaliated against. DOCCS told NewsChannel 13 a sergeant in another dorm had heard inmates blaming Rashad for loss of visitation at the facility even though NewsChannel 13 reported that the decision to suspend visitation was made at the request of NYSCOPBA, the union that represents corrections officers. Within hours of our first call with DOCCS, Rashad once again had his own things and access to a tablet to make phone calls. However, weeks later, Rashad was still in solitary waiting on a hearing that Alaina says was pushed back even though there was a deadline to have it completed. Alaina says Rashad hasn't been receiving personal email and was confined to his cell 23 hours a day. Rashad was told his hearing was delayed because the sergeant who filed the complaint wasn't available to participate. When questioned about the hearing DOCCS told NewsChannel 13 the hearing was postponed because Rashad requested a call with his attorney. DOCCS says Greene says they tried to contact the attorney multiple times but never got a call back. However, Rashad did speak with his attorney on November 5 and says the initial hearing was held on the 11th at which point it was postponed further. NewsChannel 13 spoke with a representative from the Prisoners Rights Project who says they have no record of Greene attempting to contact the attorney. They confirmed they mailed out a legal packet to Rashad back on October 27 and then sent a second one last week after Rashad alerted them he never received it. After multiple calls to DOCCS from NewsChannel 13 on Monday, Rashad was given a new hearing that afternoon without prior notification but seemingly with a positive result. "I'm hopeful that today is the end because administrative segregation can go on forever," said Alaina. "A lot of sleepless nights but I think I'm gonna sleep well tonight." DOCCS confirmed to NewsChannel 13 that Rashad was returning to general population in an email that read: "Following the completion of his Administrative Segregation Hearing this afternoon, the Chief Hearing Officer determined that the individual would be released from Administrative Segregation and will be placed back into general population."

#### **12/9– WNYT - 4P - 5P – 6P**

##### **Virus cases overwhelming Saratoga County contact tracers**

Coronavirus cases are surging in Saratoga County. As NewsChannel 13 reported on Tuesday, contact tracing is being prioritized, but some people with positive tests still aren't being contacted. That includes NewsChannel 13's Jacquie Slater, who tested positive for the virus last week. Guidelines earlier this year required 30 contact tracers per 100,000 residents. Right now, the county only has 23, in addition to department staff. Since November 24, Saratoga County's active cases jumped from 372 to 854. That's a 145% increase in just two weeks.

## **Healthbeat**

#### **10/5 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

##### **Health Beat: Help for the Disabled to Wear Mask**

Some folks are opposed to wearing masks, but there's enough evidence to warrant wearing them to prevent transmission of coronavirus. Marianne Simon, director of behavioral and therapeutic supports at the Wildwood Programs, discusses how to help the disability community wear them.

#### **10/5 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

##### **Health Beat: Senior Health**

Most seniors resist moving into a nursing home -- preferring to live at home. How to do that is a challenge. That's why Hudson Headwaters Health Network is crafting the PACE program. It stands for Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly. Linda Spokane, vice president for population health at Hudson Headwaters, fills us in.

#### **10/5 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

##### **Health Beat: Mindfulness**

No one will argue that these are trying times. So it's important we take time for self-care. A growing movement in that area is mindfulness. Ellen LaDieu is the lead faculty program director at Excelsior College's school of nursing. She is also a certified advanced holistic nurse.

**10/8 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

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**10/8 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

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**10/22 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Heart Disease and Inflammation**

Heart disease remains one of the top killers. How to tame that may be tied to inflammation. Dr. Gabrielle Fredman is a researcher and assistant professor at Albany Medical College and has been doing cutting edge research into this.

**10/26 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Kidney Damage and COVID-19**

There's a side effect of COVID-19 you may not be aware of -- kidney damage. Dr. Jorge Cerda, a nephrologist with Capital District Renal Physicians, is here to explain.

**10/29 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Breast Cancer Survivorship**

As we wrap up Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the need to support women who've been diagnosed, to encourage women to be screened, the need to fund research to find a cure -- none of that goes away. That's why the American Cancer Society runs Hope House, which right now has gone virtual. It offers an array of programs for people dealing with a cancer diagnosis. Among those who know the value of support is Beth Hanley. She was diagnosed with breast cancer 12 years ago. She reached out to me recently looking to share her journey in hopes of helping others traveling that road.

**11/2 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Bariatric Surgery to Prevent COVID-19 Complications**

Elective surgery was put on hold during the height of the pandemic. Now that it's resumed, there's a particular type of surgery seeing great interest -- bariatric surgery. The procedure known as gastric bypass helps the morbidly obese shed weight. It's now well-documented that obesity raises your risk of complications, even death, if you contract COVID-19. Joining me now is Dr. Jessica Zaman, a bariatric surgeon at Albany Med.

**11/5 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: COVID-19 Treatment Update**

As the number of COVID-19 cases keeps climbing, the pressure to bring a vaccine to market increases. So does the pressure to find a treatment that will stop the virus from wreaking havoc on those infected. There's much going on in the pharmaceutical world. So I've asked Dr. Joe Bertino, editor of the Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, to be my guest again.

**11/9 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Everything UR**

When your childhood gives you lemons, sometimes you're able to turn that into lemonade. Such is the story of Greg Cohane, who says his was a toxic childhood. Now he and his partner Bob Bascom-Cohane created Everything UR, an apparel line based on one-word positive affirmations. They host a fundraiser to support COVID-19 frontline heroes and there's a foundation to provide support to those who are struggling to overcome their start.

**11/16 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: HIV Program**

With the dominance of COVID-19, concerns about HIV have taken a back seat. But that continues to be a health issue. For many, it ties into substance abuse. So it's a confluence of health concerns. Dr. Tomoko Udo is an associate professor at the University Albany School of Public Health and co-associate director of the Center for Collaborative HIV Research in Practice & Policy.

**11/19 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: National Hospice Month**

No one likes talking about end of life, but by having that discussion you can better insure you regain control over how you want to live. Since November is National Hospice Month, Carla Braverman is my guest. She's the CEO and president of the Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State.

**11/23 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Scleroderma**

Scleroderma and Degos are both rare diseases. Scleroderma leads to hardening of the skin and connective tissue. It may be localized or systemic. It causes narrowing and loss of small blood vessels, hardening of the skin and certain internal organs, the presence of auto-antibodies, and common overlap with other connective tissue diseases. The Steffens Scleroderma Foundation is dedicated to finding a cure and raising awareness. Michelle Morgan is with the foundation. She's also an assistant professor at Russell Sage College and the dietetic internship director.

**11/23 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat Live: COVID-19 Vaccines**

As of Nov. 23, there are three vaccine candidates showing 90 percent or better protection.

Despite that, the warning about avoiding large groups, wearing a mask, and social distancing continues. And the numbers keep climbing.

So we've got two experts to answer your questions. Dr. Steven Hanks is the chief clinical officer for St. Peter's Health Partners and Dr. Eric Yager is a virologist and an associate professor at Albany College of Pharmacy.

**11/26 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: New Stroke Center at Glens Falls Hospital**

Stroke is a leading cause of death in the United States, killing more than 130,000 Americans each year. That's 1 of every 20 deaths. Prevention is key, but so is early treatment. Glens Falls Hospital was recently certified as a primary stroke center. That means the hospital can handle a full range of stroke-related medical problems. With us is Cassandra Moore, director of the neurology and stroke program.

**11/30 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Great American Smokeout**

Kicking the habit is one of the toughest things to do. Earlier in November, we celebrated the Great American Smokeout. But the lessons of the smokeout are ongoing. Erin Sinisgalli, director of community health programs for St. Peter's Health Partners, joins us.

**12/3 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Medicare Selection**

How to pick the health insurance plan that will best serve your needs? That question is always complicated -- especially if you're moving into Medicare. The open enrollment period ends Dec. 7. but you get to select any time during the year as you turn 65. To help us figure it out, we're joined by Sharon Graham, a regional director at the Center for Medicare Services.

**12/7 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Doctor Burnout**

As the number of cases of COVID-19 keeps rising so does the stress on medical providers. Communication is key, but it's often impeded in times like this. That's where Dr. Bernard Bandman comes in. He's the executive director Center for Communication in Medicine, a division of the Institute of Medical Humanism.

**12/10 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: New Osteoporosis Program**

When our bones break down faster than our bodies can rebuild them that can leave our bones brittle and more likely to fracture. The condition is osteoporosis. Getting a diagnosis early so treatment can begin just got easier at Columbia Memorial Hospital thanks to new equipment that went online. The chief of radiology at Columbia Memorial Hospital, Dr. Tariq Gill is here to explain.

**12/14 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Center for Aging and Policy Studies**

Too often the elderly are overlooked and their needs go unmet. A consortium of three Upstate New York universities landed a five-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute on Aging to fund the Center for Aging and Policy Studies. One of those universities is UAlbany's School of Public Health. Dr. Benjamin Shaw -- associate dean for research and a professor in the department of health policy, management, and behavior -- is the point person for the project here.

**12/17 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Vitamin D and COVID-19**

In this run-up to wide scale vaccination against COVID-19, how to stay healthy is paramount. There's been much discussion about the role vitamin D might play. Dr. Nicole Avena, assistant professor of neuroscience at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and visiting professor of health psychology at Princeton University, is my guest to discuss this.

**12/21 – WNYT - 4P - 5P**

**Health Beat: Talking About Miscarriage**

More than 200,000 pregnancies will end in miscarriage. That's about 10 to 20% of all known pregnancies. It can be emotionally devastating. Making it more difficult is the social taboo about discussing this. Recently the Duchess of Sussex, Megan Markle, went public about her experience, urging people to ask "Are you okay?" Before her loss we heard from model and television personality Chrissy Teigan about her miscarriage. So what can we learn from them? How can we kick the stigma of this conversation to the curb?

## **CRComeback**

**10/5 – WNYT – 6P – 11P**

**Glens Falls confident cash-strapped state will pay for downtown revitalization**

The work goes on on South Street. Once known as the Street of Dreams, the state is helping Glens Falls realize its dream to transform this now-decaying section of the city. "That's going to be a real driving force for downtown," said Mayor Dan Hall during an interview Monday. New York's Downtown Revitalization Initiative awarded Glens Falls \$10 million in August 2016, long before the pandemic which led to a double-digit drop in sales tax revenue. With the city's individual DRI projects approved and underway, including turning a parking lot at a former OTB parlor into a year-round farmers market, the bills will start coming in. Hall says he's been notified that state funding will be cut for some programs. "But we have had nothing about the projects that are going on with the DRI." So the mayor remains cautiously confident that the state will reimburse them when the city submits the bills. "I can't say we don't have any fears, but we're pretty optimistic that we're okay," said Hall. Senator Betty Little tried her hand with family at the new pickleball courts in the city Monday, and then told NewsChannel 13 that she'd be the first to cry foul if the state didn't come through with the money it promised. "They were told to go ahead, and they went ahead, so there's no way the city of Glens Falls could come up with that kind of funding," Little said. The mayor says he expects the new market to be open by this time next year, and he fully expects the state to pay for it.

**10/5 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 10/6 – WNYT – 5A - 6A**

**Loudonville church breaks ground on expansion they say is much-needed during pandemic**

Shovels went into the ground at St. Pius in Loudonville. The new Parish Life Center will be home to gathering areas, meeting rooms, and a volunteer room. It's all about helping people connect. "And so one of the things we need is some more space to be able to try and deepen our faith and help people who are hurting and to help people to connect, which we're finding in this COVID period is really a basic human need," said Fr. James Walsh of St. Pius X Church. It's a \$5 million dollar project for the two-story building facing Crumitie Road. Much of that came from donations, in just over a year of fundraising. "You're going to see the fruits of this project for years to come," said Kevin Bette of First Columbia. "There are so many good things that father and the bishop want to do in this facility. We're going to celebrate marriages, baptisms, we're going to grieve the deceased, we're going to train young people, we're going to give adults places to volunteer." At a time when some churches are shrinking or closing, this one is growing, adding more than 100 families a year. There is also a school. The push here is to foster a sense of community, to bring people in, and to build relationships. Church leaders say now, perhaps more than ever, that's important. "And we think of so many people that feel isolated, that are hurting, that are in pain, and what can we do to reach out, to provide a space where people can be safe, and where people can tell their stories," said Bishop Edward Scharfenberger. "And support one another because we are by nature social. We need those connections." Construction, which was delayed by COVID, is expected to take about a year.

**10/8 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Cuomo: Record high number of coronavirus tests reported in NY state**

Gov. Cuomo says a record high 145,811 coronavirus tests were reported in New York state Wednesday. The positivity rate is 1.01% without the hotspot areas downstate, and 1.26% with the hotspot areas. In the Capital Region, the positivity rate dropped from 0.9% on Tuesday to 0.5% on Wednesday. In the Mohawk Valley, the positivity rate rose from 0.4% on Tuesday to 0.5% on Wednesday. Unfortunately, another 10 people died. None of the people who died is from the Capital Region or Mohawk Valley.

**10/11 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – 10/12 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Malta Sunrise Rotary supplies local businesses with free emergency masks**

Malta Sunrise Rotary is looking to help stop the spread of COVID-19 by supplying 40 Malta businesses with free emergency masks for customers who left one at home. It is all part of the rotary's "Stop the Virus" campaign. "There is no reason to turn away a customer who has left their mask at home," Rotary President Larry Levine said. Levine says the masks are three-ply, with a high-density screening system. Free emergency masks are available for people who may need one at the Malta Town Hall, Malta Round Lake Library, Malta/Stillwater Emergency Corps, Village of Round Lake, and other local businesses. For more information, please contact Larry Levine, President Malta Sunrise Rotary at 528-522-5283 (llevinepe@gmail.com), or Paul Sausville at 518-885-4533 (engineer@nycap.rr.com).

**10/9 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**Saratoga Springs budget calls for layoffs of police, firefighters and DPW employees**

City leaders have proposed a 10% across the board pay cut in an effort to save as many jobs as possible. The Department of Public works is looking at a 25% cut in staffing under the proposed 2021 budget. Finance Commissioner Michele Madigan says it's not easy, but the cuts have to come from somewhere. "The COVID-19 pandemic is driving the reduction in expenses across the board." DPW Commissioner Skip Scirocco says the budget puts vital services like plowing snow in jeopardy. Scirocco said via email Friday, "The bulk of the budget deficit is unacceptably balanced on DPW. I'll be fighting for changes so residents and businesses can still receive the services they rely on." The budget also calls for a 15% reduction in police and firefighter staffing. "I'm a taxpayer, homeowner, my family lives here and this would be devastating to the emergency services that we provide," said James Morrow, president of the firefighters' union and a city firefighter for 24 years. Madigan and other city leaders remain hopeful that federal aid for municipalities will come through to help them avoid layoffs and make up for the shortfalls of the summer without fans. "This is all pandemic driven," said Mayor Meg Kelly. "Without the racetrack, without SPAC, that's 1.5 million people that didn't come into our city to shop, eat and sleep." The first public hearing on the proposed budget will be October 20 at 6:45 at City Hall.

**10/9 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 10/10 – WNYT – 6A – 8A**

**Albany mayor tests negative for coronavirus**

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan has tested negative for coronavirus. Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy also attended the event in Syracuse on Wednesday. He tested negative. Both placed themselves in precautionary quarantine after the mayor of Binghamton, who was in attendance, found out he had coronavirus. NewsChannel 13 is told neither of them are displaying any symptoms.

**10/14 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P**

**New guidelines allow for indoor visitation at VT long-term care facilities**

After months of keeping interactions between loved ones outside or completely separated, new guidelines are now in place allowing visitors to come back indoors in Vermont nursing homes. The state prohibited visits to nursing homes in March. Vermont allowed visits to resume in June, but only outside visits. With colder weather coming, the new guidelines come as welcome news to the families and friends of loved ones in long-term care facilities. The new guidelines say that the state will allow indoor visitation in facilities where county coronavirus positivity rates are between zero and 10%. Overall, the state has had less than a 5% positivity rate since May. However, if the rate does exceed 10% in a county, the state will only allow outdoor or compassionate care visits. If a facility has a positive case, the state will suspend visits except for compassionate care. Compassionate care is defined as medical and emotional care for terminally ill patients. There are strict rules in place for indoor visits including, health screenings, physical distancing, wearing a mask, and handwashing. Each facility will only allow two visitors at a time. Vermont Gov. Phil Scott acknowledges the pandemic has been hard for everyone, but especially for those who had to go months without seeing loved ones in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. NewsChannel 13's NBC affiliate in Burlington spoke with Human Services Secretary Mike Smith about the decision. "This will be a huge change for our long-term care facilities, and we encourage all that are anxious family members to be patient as they work to adopt these new expectations," Smith said. In New York, facilities have to be coronavirus-free for at least 14 days before allowing limited visitors. The group Take Back Our Nursing Homes will be rallying outside the New York State Capitol Wednesday. The group is pushing for essential care givers to be allowed access to relatives in nursing homes and adult care facilities. They say they would follow the same guidelines as staff.

**10/15 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P**

**Saratoga Springs eager for parking garage to open**

After years of debate and about 12 months of construction, the Saratoga Springs City Center parking garage will open in just about 10 days. Final touches were being added Thursday to the five level, 600 space structure. It's connected to the City Center through an enclosed walkway and is expected to help them land bigger conventions. "We have multiple events that have signed contracts already because this structure's in place. It also opens up a whole new tier of corporate event that we were not considered for in the past," said Ryan McMahon, executive director. It's also expected to ease parking congestion for people shopping and dining downtown. "It's just going to get people to spend more time downtown," said Kathy Crager, owner of Walt and Whitman Cafe. "It's going to support all of our local businesses." There's green space outside and space on the ground level where a farmers market could be held. On the top floor, there's room tents, and there's a catering prep room. They expect conventioners will love having some outdoor space for gatherings. "Go up to the roof of the parking structure to have a nice tented reception and then come back downstairs to dinner. That's a real advantage," McMahon said. When they hold the soft opening later this month, it will be the end of hard work to finish a project decades in the making. "It's a great feeling to finally get a project of this magnitude that will help downtown Saratoga done," said McMahon. Beginning in January, the first hour will always be free, but after that it'll cost a dollar an hour up to a maximum of \$15 a day. It'll open the week of October 26. A grand opening is scheduled for the week of November 10.

**10/16 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – WNYA – 9P**

**Rensselaer County: 4 COVID-19 cases traced to nursing home**

Rensselaer County reported seven new cases of the coronavirus Thursday. The Rensselaer County Health Department has traced four cases to residents at Van Rensselaer Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation. There have been 1,033 cases in the county since the outbreak began. There are currently seven people in the hospital, and one of those people is in the ICU.

**10/17 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 10/18 – WNYT – 7A – 8A – 10/19 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Gov. Cuomo announces that movie theaters outside NYC can reopen at 25% capacity on Oct. 23**

New York movie theaters outside of New York City can reopen starting October 23 according to Governor Cuomo. During the governor's briefing Saturday, he says that the theaters may open at 25% capacity or a maximum of 50 people per screen. Only the counties that are below 2% on 14-day average will be allowed to have their theaters opened.

**10/19 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Gov. Cuomo announces vaccine administration plan**



The Cuomo administration has also laid out a draft plan for giving COVID-19 vaccines. The plan aims to make sure that the vaccine is safe and effectively distributed to those who need it. Given the many unknowns at this point in the vaccine development process, the draft program is designed to be flexible. "Are we going to get one million doses at a time? Are we going to get five million doses at a time? Do they all come in one week? Do they come in several weeks? Do we have to find the refrigeration equipment? Do you provide the refrigeration equipment? You know, you need the answers to all these questions before you can come up with a real plan," Gov. Cuomo said. Healthcare and frontline workers will receive the vaccine first under the plan. The vaccine will then be distributed to senior citizens, all other essential workers, and finally - healthy adults and children.

**10/23 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P**

**Capital Region movie theaters reopen for first time since March**

Some Capital Region movie theaters started reopening for business Friday, but changes are in place. NewsChannel 13 visited Regal Cinemas in Colonie Center to see how it was going. There are some big changes you'll notice as soon as you walk in. For starters, hand sanitizer locations are scattered throughout the theaters and lobby areas. Masks are necessary for employees and patrons. There will be staff monitoring to make sure people are following the rules inside the theater. People are allowed to take their masks off when they are eating or drinking. State guidelines right now are no more than 25% capacity and no more than 50 people total per screen. They have four newer movies they're screening as well as some older titles.

**10/26 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P - 6P**

**Gov. Cuomo comments on coronavirus progress**

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is blasting White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows for his comments on CNN. Meadows told CNN, "We are not going to control the coronavirus pandemic." Meadows' comments come as new cases just hit a record high in the United States. The US reported more than 83,000 new cases nationwide on both Friday and Saturday - surpassing a previous daily record of over 77,000 set back in July. In New York, the statewide positivity rate is 1.35 percent. Out of the 120,000 tests Saturday, just over 1,500 came back positive. Gov. Cuomo commented on the remarks made by White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows during a phone-conference Sunday, saying the statement is a reflection of the federal government's approach from the beginning. "They have believed from the beginning that they can't control the virus. That is the only rationale that explains the denial and the lying. If you believed you could control it, then you'd try to control it; if you don't believe you can control it, then you lie about it and deny it and you minimize it," Cuomo said. Meadows says, while the virus cannot be controlled, the Trump Administration is going to make sure there are "vaccines, therapeutics, and other mitigations" to slow the spread.

**10/26 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P - 6P**

**Capital Region sees uptick in coronavirus positivity rate**

The Capital Region is seeing an uptick in coronavirus cases. The positivity rate for coronavirus cases in the Capital Region jumped from 0.8% Saturday to 1.5% on Sunday. In the Mohawk Valley, the positivity rate rose slightly from 0.6% on Saturday to 0.7% on Sunday. Gov. Cuomo says more than 80,000 tests were done across the state Sunday. The highest percentage of positive cases in the NewsChannel 13 viewing area was Columbia County at 3.9%. The lowest was Fulton County, which saw no new cases. Meanwhile, Gov. Cuomo says the state's recent microcluster strategy targeting small areas is working to stop small spreads downstate before they become larger. The state as a whole has a 1.45% positivity rating including the focus areas and a 1.18% rating without them. Unfortunately, another 12 people across the state died, including two people from Saratoga County. Gov. Cuomo also accused the Trump administration of throwing in the towel against coronavirus without ever putting up a fight. The governor characterizes the White House pandemic response as "one of the great governmental derelictions of duty and responsibility ever."

**10/28 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Gov. Baker: The holidays have to look and feel a lot different**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has issued guidance on how to stay safe during the holidays. Gov. Charlie Baker and the Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Marylou Sudders say the holidays have to look and feel a lot different this year. NewsChannel 13's NBC affiliate in Springfield reports that Bay State officials are asking people to celebrate Thanksgiving with only the people in their household. "The science on this one is pretty clear, gathering in groups indoors for an extended period of time with family and friends is likely the worst possible scenario for spreading the virus," Gov. Baker said. If you are still planning to host a large event with extended family, the state could issue a fine for not following the state's public health guidelines. You are also reminded to wear a mask, minimize the time you are together and do not share food or drinks.

**10/32 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**VT's approved travel area shrinks as COVID-19 cases grow**

Vermont has some stricter rules in place for out-of-state travelers after an increase in coronavirus cases. They are asking New York residents not to enter the state unless it is for essential travel. According to Vermont's travel map, fewer than 900,000 people can visit the state without a mandatory quarantine period. Vermont reported 140 positive cases of COVID-19 between October 12 and 26. According to Gov. Phil Scott, much of the recent spread has stemmed from small social gatherings. "We still have a pandemic we're dealing with right now. We can't let our guard down. We have to make sure we wear our mask and when we attend events, make sure everyone is following the guidelines," Gov. Scott reminded Vermonters. Gov. Scott says an outbreak that began at a Montpelier skating rink in early October continues to spread to other members of the community. The total number of infections from the outbreak has now reached 70. Gov. Scott says the problem wasn't with the people playing the sport itself. "It wasn't on the ice, it was off the ice. Social gatherings, carpooling, so we're going to have to tighten that up," he said. The state's health commissioner said Tuesday that the nation and even the immediate region could be labeled as dangerous. Officials went on to say now is not the time to get lax with guidelines, especially heading into the holidays.

**10/30 – WNYT – 5P – 6P**

**Pandemic forces big changes for organization supporting Capital Region veterans**

Every night in the United States, 50,000 veterans are homeless. The Veterans & Community Housing Coalition in the Capital District is doing its part to help those veterans locally. VCHC as it's known supports men and women of all branches who have served our country to ensure they land on their feet when they come home. On top of providing temporary and permanent housing for our veterans, VCHC provides support services. It helps vets find healthcare, financial assistance, food, clothing, and job placement.

**11/2 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Skidmore suspends 46 students after Halloween party**

Forty-six students at Skidmore College are suspended after a Halloween party on and off campus. According to an Instagram post from Skidmore News, the college's student-run newspaper, a female student was injured by a male student. The female student was allegedly pushed to the ground when she tried to break up that party on campus. The victim was taken to the hospital. Skidmore College says it's investigating reports of unacceptable behavior, including that incident. The school's spokesperson tells NewsChannel 13 the 46 students are on interim suspension for violating Skidmore's COVID-19 guidelines.

**11/4 – WNYT – 12P**

**New coronavirus travel restrictions begin in New York Wednesday**

A new system of coronavirus travel restrictions begin in New York Wednesday.

Gov. Cuomo announced the changes last weekend. There is no more quarantine list for people coming and going from the state. Under the new system, travelers must be tested within three days before coming to New York, quarantine for at least three days after getting to New York, and get a test on the fourth day. If both tests are negative, you are good to go. This does not apply to people in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

#### **11/4 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

##### **UAlbany suspends men's basketball activities after positive coronavirus test**

The University at Albany men's basketball program has temporarily suspended all men's basketball activities. Someone within the program tested positive for coronavirus and so the proper protocol is now being taken. The team will resume practice pending additional test results. UAlbany opens its season on November 28 at home against Marist.

#### **11/6 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P**

##### **2 Lake Placid breweries temporarily close**

Several breweries in Lake Placid have voluntarily closed after two employees tested positive for the coronavirus. The Lake Placid Pub and Brewery and the Big Slide Brewery and Public House are both temporarily closed. Both employees were already in quarantine when the positive tests were reported. Albany Veterans Day Parade to be replaced by wreath-laying ceremonies

#### **11/6 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 11P – 11/7 – WNYT – 6A - 8A**

##### **Albany Veterans Day Parade to be replaced by wreath-laying ceremonies**

The city of Albany is canceling its Veterans Day parade because of the pandemic. The annual parade usually brings out thousands of people, including current and former service members. In lieu of the parade, there will be two wreath-laying ceremonies next Wednesday. The first is at 11 a.m. at the Mater Christi Memorial Grove on South Lake Avenue. Another ceremony will be held at noon in Lafayette Park, across from the Capitol. Attendance at each event will be limited to 50 people and masks are required.

#### **11/11 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 11P**

##### **Capital Region hospitals gear up as coronavirus increase takes hold**

As Capital Region hospitals start filling again with coronavirus patients, the treatment arsenal is better stocked now than when the pandemic started. Doctors are more able to save lives thanks to the drug Remdesivir, convalescent plasma, steroids, and a better understanding of when to use ventilators. At the moment, we're told the local PPE supply is adequate. However, there's still great concern. Dr. Gregory Wu, a critical care and emergency medicine doctor at Albany Med says everyone is feeling the stress from this surge, especially as they see the patient count climb. Dr. Wu acknowledges coronavirus fatigue, but says vigilance is critical now to keep a lid on this surge. He reminds everyone to mask-up when you're with others Albany Med serves as incident command for the Capital Region so it closely monitors the regional situation.

#### **11/12 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 11/13 – WNYT – 5A - 6A**

##### **Wreaths needed for veterans' headstones at Saratoga National Cemetery**

It's a tradition around here, and around the country.

On the Saturday before Christmas, volunteers fan out across the vast Saratoga National Cemetery and place wreaths at each of the headstones. The arrangements come from Wreaths Across America, who asks for sponsors to spend \$15 apiece before the end of the month. Then on December 19, 2,000 people show up to place them as green and red holiday recognition for heroes buried here. It usually involves a ceremony before the small army of volunteers spreads out across the cemetery, wreaths in hand. However, remembering is more complicated this year. Organizers are hopeful coronavirus won't keep people from sponsoring a wreath or two. The wreath ceremony won't be open to the public this year, but it will be live-streamed on Saratoga National Cemetery's Facebook page. They're staggering the volunteers into two-hour blocks this year. People sign up for their time and their section of the cemetery on the website. "We say no veteran ever dies, and we do that by memorializing them and paying tribute to their sacrifice," said Scott Lamb, cemetery director at Solomon Saratoga National. This is the 15th year Anita Martin has served as Wreaths Across America's volunteer site director at Saratoga National, but the first year she's organized the effort during a pandemic. "We aren't sure day-to-day what the requirements will be of us, but we want to get as many sponsors to send us a wreath, so we can place one at every grave," said Martin. That means 13,100 are needed to meet the always growing demand. "I don't think any veteran shouldn't get a wreath," said Lamb. Martin says for three years running, they've gotten enough for every grave. They're hoping the pandemic doesn't change that.

#### **11/13 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P**

##### **COVID-19 deaths surpass 10,000 in Massachusetts**

Massachusetts has hit another somber milestone with the coronavirus pandemic. State health officials announced that deaths from the coronavirus have surpassed 10,000. For two days in a row, the Bay State has recorded more than 2,000 new cases a day. The surge comes one week after Gov. Charlie Baker put in a new curfew, essentially shutting down the state at 10 p.m. each night. Leaders in Pittsfield are taking additional steps to lock the city down again starting Friday, saying a surge in cases makes the city high risk. The city is suspending dining at all restaurants starting Friday. Takeout and delivery can continue. Pittsfield Public Schools are going fully remote through at least December 4. Municipal buildings, like City Hall, will also be closed to the public starting Friday. The city says they have had 170 positive cases within the past three weeks; the cases have been linked to large get-togethers in restaurants and large private gatherings at homes.

#### **11/13 – WNYT – 12P - 4P**

##### **NYS shuts down jury trials as virus cases spike**

The state of New York has shut down jury trials for a second time in an effort to try to curb the spread of the coronavirus. New York Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks alerted courts around the state about the pause. He says there will be no new trials or grand juries. In September, criminal jury trials resumed in the Capital Region after being paused for months because of the pandemic.

#### **11/16 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

##### **Gov. Cuomo threatens to sue Trump administration over vaccine**

Gov. Cuomo is not backing down from his harsh criticism of the Trump administration. He is once again threatening to sue the federal government if it does not come up with what he considers an equitable vaccine distribution plan. Surveys show 50 percent of Americans would not take the vaccine because they do not trust the federal government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. That is why the governor also said Sunday that New York and seven other states would review the eventual vaccine-approval with independent medical experts. "President Trump must learn the lesson: Stop the abuse. Stop the division. Stop the anger. Stop the hatred. Stop the narcissism and spend your last months actually trying to help people and repairing the damage you have done," Gov. Cuomo said. "I've tried to work with the Trump administration and argue morality and principle for four years. You're better off trying to argue with a rock." Gov. Cuomo says mistakes have been made during the pandemic, and he said denying the mistakes will only assure they will be made again.

#### **11/20 – WNYT – 12P - 4P - WNYA – 9P**

##### **Albany County reports 87 new COVID-19 cases**

Albany County Executive Dan McCoy says there have been 87 new positive cases of the coronavirus between Thursday and Friday. Of the 87 new cases, 59 do not have a clear source of infection at this time. The number of people who are under mandatory quarantine has also increased. There are

now 1,962 people under mandatory quarantine, up from 1,941 on Thursday. County Executive McCoy also reported five new hospitalizations since his briefing on Thursday. There are currently 45 people in the hospital, and 10 of those people are in the ICU.

**11/27 – WNYT – 6P – 11/28 – WNYT – 6A- 7A**

**Watervliet closes City Hall to public due to virus**

The mayor of Watervliet has closed City Hall to the public until further notice to try to slow the spread of coronavirus. Charles Petrocelli signed an executive order Friday, extending the state of emergency he first put into place a week ago. Anyone caught inside the building without approval from his office will be charged with a misdemeanor.

**11/30 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 6P**

**City Beer Hall, Mad Jack Brewing Company close amid increase in COVID-19 cases**

The City Beer Hall in Albany is temporarily shutting down. The owners announced the decision on Facebook. They said that because of the rise in COVID-19 cases, they feel it is the right thing to do. In Schenectady, the Mad Jack Brewing Company at the Van Dyck also closed its doors. Their website says their decision was based on new COVID-19 regulations and concern for staff and customers. The restaurants did not say if and when they will reopen.

**12/1 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 12/2 – WNYT – 5A - 6A-**

**Saratoga Springs food pantry seeing dramatic increase in demand during pandemic**

Judy McNaughton and Diane Watson are doing the work usually handled by a team of four or five volunteers per shift. They offer their time to fill requests for food for families in danger of going hungry. Both have been lending a hand for five years. "It does a good service for the community," said Watson. "I like coming here. I like the people." These days because of COVID, there are fewer volunteers and more people in need than ever. Over the past eight months demand is up dramatically. Franklin Community Center says during the pandemic they've provided food to 588 families they hadn't helped before. They've offered the staples to more than 2,300 families this year, and they're grateful the shelves remain fully stocked. Executive Director Kari Cushing says the charity has been fortunate. "This pandemic, I mean, it's been horrible, but there's been a lot of really great things." Things like donations of food and Christmas toys for more than 600 children who'd otherwise go without. However, Cushing worries what will happen after Christmas. "Right now, we have a hard time even accommodating the amount of food that comes in because our space is so limited, afterwards, our shelves will be bare again." Cushing expects the need to continue to be up significantly until the pandemic is over. "Right now, we don't know when that is, so we are a really small group of people trying to make sure to continue to support a much larger demand than we're accustomed to."

**12/2 – WNYT – 12P - 4P - 5P - 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Cuomo: NY state to receive first vaccines on Dec. 15**

Gov. Cuomo says the goal line is in sight. He says New York is expecting its first delivery of Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine on December 15. That's assuming the vaccine gets all the necessary federal approvals. The first delivery of the vaccine will be enough for 170,000 New Yorkers. Initial doses will be prioritized for people in nursing homes and health care workers. Later in the month, New York expects additional deliveries from Pfizer and one from Moderna. Both companies revealed promising results from the clinical trials. Pfizer 90% and Moderna 94%. The news comes on the day 8,973 people in the state tested positive for coronavirus. Nearly 4,000 people are hospitalized. Sadly, another 69 people died.

**12/2 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Gov. Baker urges COVID-19 precautions in houses of worship**

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker is urging anyone attending services at houses of worship to follow COVID-19 restrictions. He says the state is seeing clusters of COVID-19 cases tied to places of worship. The governor says there have been 36 clusters since the start of the pandemic. Even with cases on the rise in the Bay State, the governor says there are no plans to shut things down again at the moment.

**12/4 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Cuomo: NY will opt into fed plan to vaccinate nursing home residents, staff**

Gov. Cuomo held a late afternoon news conference on Friday announcing that the state will take an offer by the federal government to vaccinate nursing home residents and staff. New York will have enough vaccine in the next two weeks to treat a third of the most high-risk health care workers. That's about 170,000 people. As for numbers, we have a statewide positivity rate of 5.4%. The rate is 7.3% within the hotspots. Sixty New Yorkers died since Thursday. Health Department data shows 70% of the state's infections are coming from households and small gatherings.

**12/7 – WNYT – 12P - 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**NY tells hospitals to boost beds, could curb indoor dining**

Governor Andrew Cuomo had a special guest for his press briefing Monday. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the National Institute of Health, joined him to talk about where we go from here. Cuomo and Fauci said the game plan is changing as hospitalization rates rise across the state. Just over 4,600 people are in hospitals, that's up 160 people from Sunday. "I think that's the ultimate bottom line," Cuomo said. "Can your hospitals handle the increase until you start to see a reduction from the vaccination?" On Monday Cuomo said DOH ordered hospitals to increase bed capacity by 25%. The state is also calling all available retired nurse and doctors to re-register free of charge to help with potential staffing issues. Cuomo believes that could put an additional 20,000 nurses and doctors on the front lines. Fauci also expressed concerns about a surge upon a surge, as he doesn't believe we've seen the full effects of Thanksgiving gatherings and travel yet. "Without substantial mitigation, the middle of January could be a really dark time for us," he said. Cuomo asked Fauci if he agrees with the 10-person limit on private gatherings, a policy many states have imposed. Fauci said 10 actually may be too many people, but also stressed there's a more important factor to consider. "You want to make sure that you don't get people who just got off an airport or a plane or a train and came in from Florida or came in from wherever," Fauci said. "That's even more risky than the absolute number." Cuomo asked Fauci about when he thinks New York could hit the critical vaccination threshold. Fauci said first, more people need to be educated about the vaccine. If all goes well with that, Fauci predicts people in nursing homes and on the front lines will be immunized in January or February, with "regular people" or those without underlying health conditions being vaccinated in early April. "If we do that well by the time we get into the core of the summer and get to the end of the summer and into the start of the third quarter of 2021 we should be in good shape," he said. "That's what I'm hoping for." Cuomo also asked Fauci about positivity rates in schools, which have been relatively low in New York. Fauci said he's seeing similar trends across the nation. "Which is really a good thing," he said. "Which is one of the reasons why you know when we were talking about what the best strategy would be we would say something like you know close the bars, keep the schools open." Fauci also stressed the importance of subsidies for those bars and restaurants that may be forced to limit indoor dining, or close altogether if hospitalization numbers become high enough. Stay tuned to NewsChannel 13 for updates on this story.

**12/7 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 12/6 – WNYT – 5A - 6A**

**Watervliet offers Christmas display, by appointment only**

The city of Watervliet's annual tree-lighting ceremony was canceled this year because of the health crisis. Instead, they're offering a socially-distanced Christmas display. The Dutch Reformed Church near the police station is lit up once again, thanks to the city of Watervliet and the Historical Society. The Christmas display is by appointment only, so visitors will have the church to themselves for each 10-minute period. Santa will be on the stage, socially-distanced. Every year, the city gives out ornaments, but months ago, in the midst of the pandemic and tough times, the mayor decided against that expenditure. "I can't be thinking about furloughs and cutting costs and then going out and buying ornaments," said Watervliet Mayor Charles Patricelli. However, then he thought what about homemade? He reached out to friend Lucy Ryan, who's now busy making little mask ornaments that

won't cost the city anything. The mayor and his wife are donating the cost of the materials. Around the pews, you can find other pieces of city history, like the St. Patrick's Church cross and St. Brigid's and Curtin's Grill signs. People donated for the display and volunteers worked hard to put this together. "And in these times when there's so little that we really can do, this is something that we can do safely and feel comfortable with," said organizer Peggy Germano. The display is also a way to use this historic church, which had fallen into disrepair. "Watervliet is of Dutch origin and this is one of the most beautiful churches in Watervliet, and we'd like to preserve it, if possible," said Tom Ragosta, president of the Watervliet Historical Society. The free Victorian Christmas display is at the Dutch Reformed Church at 1501 First Avenue from noon to 4 p.m. on December 12 & 13, and 19 & 20. To make an appointment, you can call Peggy Germano at (518) 466-0089. Anyone who is bringing children is asked to give Peggy their names in order to help Santa welcome them.

**12/10 – WNYT – 5P – 11P – 12/11 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**22 sisters at St. Joseph's Provincial House test positive for COVID-19**

There is a COVID-19 outbreak at Saint Joseph's Provincial House in Latham. NewsChannel 13 obtained a memo from the nursing home that serves the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The memo says 22 sisters tested positive for the virus. A statement from the facility said most have been able to recover at home.

**12/11 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Mayor Sheehan temporarily suspends civil service rules to hire more dispatchers**

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan is temporarily suspending civil service rules, so more dispatchers can be hired. Two members of the Communications Division have tested positive for the coronavirus. Ten others have COVID-19 symptoms and are in quarantine. As a result of the current shortage, a contingency plan has been activated with the Colonie Police Department and the Albany County Sheriff's Department to ensure 911 calls get answered.

**12/11 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – 12/12 – WNYT – 6A – 8A**

**COVID testing program at Albany International Airport designed to make 'friendly skies' safer**

Officials at Albany International Airport are stepping up their efforts to test more people for COVID-19. All airport employees will be able to get tested voluntarily for coronavirus at no cost on a regular basis. Airport CEO Phil Calderone says it's a saliva test. The swabbing from inside their mouth takes just a few seconds, and once it's sent to Upstate Medical in Syracuse for analysis, results are expected back within 24 to 48 hours. Calderone boasts the new technology is the gold standard for the industry, and it makes Albany Airport the first airport in the world to implement it. In the meantime, COVID testing for passengers at a cost of \$30 each is also scheduled to land at the airport soon, with an ETA by the end of the month.

**12/15 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Berkshire Health Systems expects vaccine to land Tuesday**

The first shipment of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine is expected to arrive at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield on Tuesday. The shipment will include 1,950 doses for Berkshire Medical Center. The hospital tells NewsChannel 13's media partners at the Berkshire Eagle the company is working to vaccinate doctors around the Berkshires. Berkshire Health systems sent out a survey to all employees, asking if they want to get a vaccine right now. Those who chose to wait will have the opportunity to get it later. Gov. Charlie Baker says the initial 60,000 doses will be delivered to 21 hospitals. They will then be redistributed. Massachusetts expects to receive 300,000 first doses of the two-shot vaccine by the end of the month.

**12/15 – WNYT – 5A – 6A 12/16 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**First shipments of COVID-19 vaccine arrive in Vermont**

The first freezer-packed shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine have arrived in Vermont, marking the beginning of a mass vaccination process there. The first shipment is about 2,000 doses. It was split evenly between the State Vaccine Depot and the University of Vermont Medical Center. It is just the first part of a weekly 5,850 doses that are expected through the rest of December. On Tuesday, the Health Department is expected to receive 1,950 doses of the vaccine. Later this week, another 1,950 doses will ship to pharmacies to vaccinate people at long-term care facilities. Vermont state health officials say priority populations, like high-risk health care workers and people living at long-term care facilities, will receive the first vaccines. In addition to receiving the Pfizer vaccine, the state has already pre-ordered doses of the Moderna vaccine, which is awaiting FDA approval. NewsChannel 13's NBC affiliate in Vermont spoke with staff at LCB Senior Living about the vaccine. "We're very encouraged by that. We obviously want to make sure that it's done in a safe, effective way, and we're relying on science for that," said Ted Doyle, of LCB Senior Living. "But assuming that the efficacy is what they say it is, and the side effects are containable and not too dangerous, we're excited about it." Right now, the number of vaccine doses that are approved and shipped is based on a state's population and national supply, so health officials are stressing that Vermonters need to keep up their efforts to stop the spread of the virus.

**12/15 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 12/16 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Albany County D.A. asks Cuomo to suspend grand jury gatherings**

Albany County District Attorney David Soares is asking Gov. Cuomo to suspend the convening of grand juries. In an open letter to the governor, Soares says that five of his staff members have tested positive since November 21. Before that, there were zero cases since March. Albany County's grand jury proceedings have now been suspended indefinitely, after the most recent positive case. Soares is asking the governor to reinstate an executive order that was in place from March through October 4. He says the vast majority of the operation takes place with people sitting close to one another. Soares notes many of his employees are working from home, but can still be reached by phone during normal business hours.

**12/16 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Cuomo unveils plan to vaccinate general public starting late-January**

Gov. Cuomo wants New York to be the first state in the nation to be COVID-free. He outlined an initial plan Wednesday to get the general public vaccinated starting in late January. Albany Medical Center is designated as the vaccination hub in the Capital Region. Hospital officials will work with local governments and stakeholders to manage distribution. "In New York state, no person will have to pay a penny for a vaccination," said Gov. Cuomo at his Wednesday briefing.

**12/18 – WNYT – 6A – WNYA – 9P – 12/19 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Coronavirus hospitalizations drop in New York state**

On the 293rd day of coronavirus in New York state, Gov. Cuomo says there is some good news in the numbers. As of Friday morning, 6,081 people were hospitalized for the virus statewide, down 66 from Thursday. In the Capital Region 331 people were in area hospitals being treated for the virus. That's .03% of the total population.

**12/28 – WNYT – 4P – 5P – 6P – 11P – 12/29 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**NY state attorney general warns of vaccine scams**

New York State Attorney General Letitia James is out with a warning for all New Yorkers to watch out for vaccine scams. As NewsChannel 13 first reported on Saturday, an Orange County healthcare provider is being investigated after allegations surfaced that it is giving out a COVID-19 vaccine without authorization. James is warning that may not be the only scam attempt. She is reminding New Yorkers that no vaccine is available yet to the general public. That is still several months away. Right now, the state is vaccinating nursing home residents, staff, and high-risk medical workers. If you have information on a possible scam, report it to the Attorney General's Office. You can report the scam online.

**12/30 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

### **Cuomo: More groups eligible for COVID-19 vaccine as deliveries continue**

More New Yorkers will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination this week. Gov. Cuomo made the announcement during his daily briefing Monday. The state is expected to receive and deliver 259,000 more doses of vaccines in the coming days. Urgent care center employees, anyone administering vaccines, and residents of addiction services facilities will be eligible to receive a first dose. By the end of the week, Gov. Cuomo says the Capital Region will have received more than 53,000 doses of the vaccines.

## **Lesson Plan**

### **10/2 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 6P - 10/3 – WNYT – 5A - 6A**

#### **Siena College doubling testing; closing campus to visitors**

Siena College is going to double the amount of testing it does on campus. This comes after six people were found to be positive Friday out of 140 that were tested. The campus is temporarily closed to all visitors starting Saturday. All dining services on campus will be limited to takeout. All clubs, organizations, and recreational activities will be conducted virtually.

### **10/5 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P - 4P - 5P**

#### **Ballston Spa School District starts in-person learning**

The Ballston Spa School District started off the year remotely. However, students headed back for a hybrid model of learning on Monday. There was excitement mixed with some anxiety as students headed back. Superintendent Ken Slentz says it started off rough, but they quickly got the hang of their online system. Students in grades K-5 will be in-person Monday through Thursday. Middle schoolers will go two days in-person, two days at home depending on your last name. High schoolers grade 9 through 10 go one week, then the next week grades 11 through 12 go in. All students will be remote on Fridays to allow for things like parent and student outreach, teacher planning, and more cleaning.

### **10/6 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

#### **SUNY Cortland shifts to remote learning after passing case threshold**

All in-person classes and activities at SUNY Cortland are on pause Tuesday after an increase in positive cases on campus. There are currently 101 cases, and that means the school has met the 100-case threshold to transition to remote learning under the New York State Department of Health guidance. Dorms will remain open and students can stay on campus. SUNY Cortland's president says they will retest the students for COVID-19.

### **10/7 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

#### **Syracuse University reporting COVID-19 outbreak**

Syracuse University is reporting a new COVID-19 outbreak on campus. The vice chancellor sent a notice out saying dozens of cases have been connected to off-campus parties held last week. At last check, 45 people have tested positive, all connected to these gatherings. The university is expecting more cases. Due to the outbreak, Syracuse University is limiting gathering sizes and moving move campus events online.

### **10/14 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P - 4P**

#### **New Rensselaer County COVID-19 cases include Averill Park student**

Rensselaer County is reporting eight new cases of the coronavirus. The new cases bring the total number of confirmed cases in the county to more than 1,000 since the pandemic began. One of the new cases is a 16-year-old from Brunswick, who is a student at Averill Park High School. That case is causing 52 students, two staff members, and five teachers to quarantine. The Rensselaer County Department of Health is now reaching out to the nearly 70 people affected by this, and the district is working to disinfect areas of concern at the school.

### **10/14 – WNYT – 12P**

#### **Member of North Colonie high school community tests positive for COVID-19**

A member of the North Colonie high school community has tested positive for the coronavirus. The school confirmed the case Wednesday. The school says the person was last in the high school on October 8. School officials say the person had limited contact with students. The person is currently in quarantine and will not return to the school until the Albany County Health Department clears them. The school says the health department will reach out to anyone who was in close contact with the person. The district has also deep cleaned all areas of the school where the person was located.

### **10/21 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P**

#### **Duanesburg teachers find new ways to teach in-class and remote**

School looks different these days. "I was kind of nervous on my first day because I didn't know what it was going to be like, but it was pretty good," said 5th grader Noah McMaster. Duanesburg 5th graders are hard at work. Teachers are working with students in class and remote students at the same time. "He makes it seem easy," said student Izabela Quiernan-Allende. "All the online students really do behave themselves, so it's not distracting. I can actually pay attention to the lesson." For some subjects, it's one person teaching all three classrooms and all remote students at once. Other classrooms can hear him and see what he's putting up on the screens. "Usually we just have to do a classroom with 15 to 25 students and me, and I can go at my own pace and things like that," said teacher Rich Duff. "But now it's 50 kids, and 15 of them are online, and we have three teachers and three classrooms, and we all have to be on the same page." "Planning made it work. Planning made us work better, more collaboratively," said teacher Christopher Danapilis. It's a new world of education and a challenging one. Teachers come up with new ways to keep students focused and engaged. "I feel like I have become a better teacher because of the situation that we're in because I have to really be at it every day and get out of that comfort zone that I've been in for so many years, and be able to provide the best experience and education for my students," said Danapilis, who has been in the education field for 22 years. "I think we're seeing different styles of our teaching, and we're seeing each other how we teach on a daily basis," said teacher Jacob Armstrong. "We're taking and learning from each other and even with the kids, we're learning from each other and how to adjust to these settings and these classroom settings, so it's been actually, for me, it's actually been a great experience because I think the checks and balances have been really able to strengthen our teaching, this year especially." Even when instruction is coming from another room, a teacher is in each classroom to help. Yes, there's someone right there. That's helpful that I'm able to just ask and there's always someone there," said student Guenever Evans, who is happy to be back. "I'm glad that we're able to be in a classroom together." This new way of teaching is in full swing here, and these teachers are up for the challenge.

### **10/26 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P - 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

#### **2 Capital Region school districts transition to remote learning**

Several schools in the Capital Region are switching to remote learning because of confirmed cases of COVID-19. On Sunday, the Bethlehem Central School District announced the high school would be going all remote for the week. Just last week, the district confirmed five new cases of the coronavirus. District officials say the cases and the large amount of students needing to quarantine led them to the decision. They say 65 students and eight teachers will have to quarantine because of recent positive cases. They say they will be remote until at least Friday. The district will then re-evaluate the situation and let families know what the plan is moving forward. According to the district and the Albany County Department of Health, at least two of the positive cases have been linked to a party that took place outside of school. They say people were socializing without masks or social distancing. The school is reminding students and parents to be responsible with their actions. The Brunswick Central School District is also going remote. The district wrote a letter to families saying a bus driver in the district tested positive for the coronavirus. The Rensselaer County Health Department recommends the district goes



fully remote for all students, grades K -12. They say it will give the district the opportunity to conduct a full, deep clean of all transportation vehicles. The district will continue to update the community on when they could possibly reopen.

**10/27 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 10/28 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**SUNY requiring on-campus students to test negative for COVID-19 before leaving for Thanksgiving**

In a few short weeks, SUNY students will be heading home for the holidays, but they'll have to test negative for Covid-19 before they leave. The new rule applies to any students who take a class in person, use services like the library or dining halls or are working on campus. The policy calls for them to get a test as close to their departure date as possible. "Our students have been doing this now for the last couple of weeks, they are used to this," SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras said Tuesday. "What we found though is you have to adapt sometimes." Malatras said in order to prevent spikes in cases across the state and country, all SUNY colleges and universities will have to develop plans to test the 140,000 students in the system by November 5. "We have a larger responsibility to our broader community that's why we're doing this and we have the capacity because of all the testing we've created at SUNY using SUNY researchers," he said. Malatras said Upstate Medical University has already tested some 270,000 saliva tests from SUNY students, faculty and staff this semester. If a student who lives on-campus tests positive, they'll have to follow New York State Department of Health guidelines and quarantine there for 14 days. The guidelines said students can leave the moment they get negative test results. Students that live off-campus and test positive have a bit more flexibility. "For students who want to go home all we say is work with your local health department make sure they sign off on saying it's safe, that you have a space to do this and then the normal rules apply," Malatras said. Off-campus students who can't quarantine at home will be allowed to stay on-campus. Malatras said critics have claimed students could easily get around complying with the new rule, but he said compliance hasn't been an issue thus far, and he doesn't expect it to become one now. "They want to know if they have the virus because they don't want to go home and infect their mother or their father or their grandparents," Malatras said. "They want to do the right thing." UAlbany freshman Amber Ellis agreed. "That makes me feel better because you're not bringing something home to your families and spreading it to where you're from," Ellis said. Malatras said SUNY had already planned to go entirely virtual after Thanksgiving. Though the policy hasn't been developed yet, Malatras said they will likely pre-test students before they come back to campus in the spring. That's welcome news to senior Athilah Bhandia, an international student from South Africa, who has permission stay on campus for the remainder of the semester. "I think it's a lot safer you know especially for the students that stay on campus because you know you go home and you interact with a lot of people so I think it's a proper safety precaution to take," Bhandia said. Faculty members are also strongly encouraged to get tested before the end of on-campus instruction this fall.

**11/3 – WNYT – 5A – 6A – 12P**

**Several SUNY Schenectady classes move online after 2 positive COVID-19 cases**

*Created: November 03, 2020 09:14 AM*

Several classes at SUNY Schenectady are going virtual for at least two weeks. Two people at the college tested positive for the coronavirus. They are members of the School of Hotel, Culinary Arts and Tourism. The school says the infected people did not have any direct contact with the public.

**11/8 – WNYT – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 11/9 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**SUNY releases COVID-19 plan for spring semester**

SUNY has released a system-wide plan to allow campuses to safely return to in-person instruction in the spring semester amid the coronavirus pandemic. The plan was developed in consultation with public health experts within the university system, as well as campus, faculty, student, and union leadership. Main components of the plan include: All students to be tested for COVID-19 upon return. Pushing the start date of the spring semester for in-person instruction until February 1, 2021. The cancellation of spring break in 2021. All returning students must complete a seven-day precautionary quarantine prior to their arrival on campus. Mandatory mask wearing at all times, even with social distancing. A "What Students Should Know" plain language information to be sent to all students so they know what to expect this spring at individual campuses, such as how many courses will be online, hybrid, or in person. SUNY has decided that spring instruction will remain remote until February 1 and spring break is cancelled to reduce COVID-19 spread and travel. Campuses are allowed to build in single-day, midweek reading days throughout the semester as an alternative instructional pause. If colleges opt to do so, students will be highly discouraged from leaving campus. Any on-campus services in support of religious observances must follow normal density, face-covering, and quarantine/isolation protocols. Any student planning to live, work, or take classes on campus, or utilize campus facilities such as the library, gym, or dining hall must test for COVID-19 when they return for the winter and/or spring semester. Students must first confirm that they have completed a seven-day precautionary quarantine prior to returning to campus. They must then either present evidence of a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days prior to their return, or submit to a campus-administered upon arrival—but no later than five days after their return to campus. Students who present documentation of a positive diagnostic test within the prior three months are exempt from the return test. In addition to mandatory pre-testing, all students must complete a seven-day precautionary quarantine prior to returning to campus. The plan is subject to any changes in federal or New York State guidance.

**11/9 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 11/10 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**UAlbany going fully remote for rest of semester**

UAlbany is going fully remote for the rest of the fall 2020 semester. That starts this Tuesday, November 10. The school said Monday it comes after a "significant spike" in coronavirus cases. Campus housing will remain open. The last day of classes will be Nov. 24, with final exams Nov. 30 through December 7. The spring semester will begin February 1.

**11/10 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Several Capital Region schools report new virus cases; NYSUT launches COVID-19 tracking tool**

Almost 50 people in the Albany School District are also moving to remote learning Tuesday after someone in the district tested positive for the virus. The district says that person rode on buses over the last several days, and those buses service multiple schools. **The locations include:** Albany High School, Montessori Magnet School, New Scotland Elementary and Maywood Elementary School, Edmund J. O'Neal Middle School, Parsons Child and Family Center. In Rensselaer County, Averill Park High School is going remote after a student tested positive for the virus. That is expected to last through the week. The state's largest teachers union, NYSUT, launched a new website Monday to help track the virus in New York's schools. It includes a mapping tool that shows the information district by district.

**11/30 – WNYT – 5P – 6P – 11P**

**Albany County announces 68 new cases; new rapid test program for schoolkids**

After a high of 147 new cases in Albany County Friday into Saturday, there was a lower number Monday, with 68 new cases of the virus reported. However, that's more than 900 new cases in the county since November 1. Albany County Executive Dan McCoy announced a new program Monday to get schoolchildren rapid tests.

**11/17 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Rensselaer County reports highest-single day total for positive COVID-19 cases**

Rensselaer County is reporting a large spike in cases of the coronavirus. County health officials reported 38 new cases between Sunday and Monday, shattering the previous record of 32 cases in a single-day. Several of the new cases include students in the Lansingburgh Central School District, East Greenbush Central School District, Uncommon Schools Troy Prep, Averill Park Central School District, and Rensselaer City School District. The cases also include health care workers and people living in health care facilities. County officials say they are also seeing high numbers of people in quarantine for exposure and travel. There has been a slight decrease in the number of people being hospitalized.

**11/24 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P – 11/25 – WNYT – 5A - 6A**

**SUNY testing finds just over 0.5% positive for virus statewide**

Leaders in the SUNY system are releasing the COVID-19 test results for their students heading home for Thanksgiving. All 64 campuses required students using on campus facilities to test negative before they could go home. They tested over 150,000 students and staff. Of those, 956 came back positive which is a positivity rate of just 0.63%. That's much lower than the state's number for its general population. There are currently 880 students across New York in quarantine before they can go home. SUNY students will not return to campus for the spring semester until February 1. Speaking at SUNY Schenectady, Chancellor Jim Malatras commended SUNY students for doing the right thing. "If we were a state, we would be the lowest state positivity rate in the nation. While students often have been criticized for being the vectors of spread of the virus, this goes to show you that students can step up and do the right thing," said Chancellor Malatras. At SUNY Schenectady, only four students have tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the semester.

**12/1 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**East Greenbush Central School District bus driver tests positive for COVID-19**

The East Greenbush Central School District says 45 students and two employees are in quarantine after a bus driver tested positive for the coronavirus. The Rensselaer County Health Department says all families have been notified. School officials say there will be no impact on the school schedule.

**12/7 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Troy Prep temporarily moves to remote learning**

Troy Prep students will be learning remotely Monday. The school posted on Facebook that there is a shortage of bus drivers Monday, so the elementary, middle, and high school are all closed for Monday. They are expected to return to the classroom Tuesday.

**12/6 – WNYT – WNYA – 9P – 12/7 – WNYT – 5A - 6A**

**All students at the Albany Academies move to online learning**

All students at the Albany Academies are moving to online learning Monday after two staff members tested positive. Two other people have symptoms, and they are waiting for results. The school says these people had close contact with a lot of the other staff and students.

**12/11 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 6P – 11P – WNYA – 9P**

**Winter sports championships, high-risk sports postponed over virus concerns**

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association canceled winter sports championships and postponed all high-risk sports until further notice. Those sports include bowling, boys' swimming, gymnastics, indoor track, hockey, skiing, and wrestling. The association says there were concerns with increased travel, hotel accommodations, and transportation logistics.

**12/15 – WNYT – 5A – 6A**

**Several Capital Region schools move to remote learning through the holiday break**

A steady rise in cases in the Capital Region is continuing to have an impact on schools. The North Colonie Central School District joins a list of schools that are going remote until after winter break. The district reported eight new cases on Monday. North Colonie Superintendent Joseph Corr sent a notice to parents saying it is because of the number of active cases and the amount of students and staff members that are quarantined. All students in grades K-12 are already fully remote this week after positive cases. In-person classes are now set to resume on Jan. 4. One school in the Averill Park Central School District is also going remote. The decision comes after district officials announced three new cases on Monday. Two of the new cases are at Poestenkill Elementary School and one is at Algonquin Middle School. Due to the new cases, officials say staffing is stretched thin. Starting Tuesday, K-5 students will continue learning in-person. Algonquin Middle School students will transition to remote learning through the end of the month.

**12/28 – WNYT – 4P - 5P – 12/29 – WNYT – 5A - 6A**

**Glens Falls school district blames parties for decision to go remote**

The Glens Falls School District is going fully remote in January and district leaders say an underage drinking party and sleepover played a big role in that decision. They say so far, more than 10 positive coronavirus cases have been linked to this super-spreader event, and they expect more. A statement posted on the district website says due to the number of students and adults now in quarantine, and based on advice from the health department, Glens Falls City School District will go fully remote for at least two weeks, beginning on Monday, January 4.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Event</u>
10/17/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Benita hosted a Pride Anniversary Gala. Albany, NY
10/18/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Benita hosted an in-person and virtual fund raiser for Making Strides-American Cancer Society
10/19/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Benita virtually hosted the Women of Excellence awards given by the Albany Chamber of Commerce
10/23/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Virtual member of a panel on PRSA
11/1/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Virtual host of a fundraiser lunch for Susan G. Komen
11/6/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Virtual host of fundraiser lunch for Women Against MS
11/7/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Virtual host of Crohns and Colitis fundraiser
11/10/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Virtual host of Go Red For Women fundraiser for American Heart Association
11/12/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Virtual host of Go Red For Women fundraiser for American Heart Association 2 day event
11/19/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	volunteered at the Toys For Tots warehouse to pack toys with the Marine Corps Reserves
11/25/2020	Benita Zahn, anchor/health reporter	Delivered meals for Equinox
11/19/2020	Reid Kisselback, meteorologist	volunteered at the Toys For Tots warehouse to pack toys with the Marine Corps Reserves
12/21/2020	Reid Kisselback, meteorologist	Zoom meeting with the 2nd grade class from St. Jude the Apostle. The topic was weather.
10/26/2020	Christina Talamo, meteorologist	Zoom session with 3rd grade class from Mendon Center Elementary School in Pittsford, topic was weather for their climate unit.
10/26/2020	Christina Talamo, meteorologist	Zoom session with 3rd grade class from Mendon Center Elementary School in Pittsford, topic was weather for their climate unit.
12/21/2020	Christina Talamo, meteorologist	Zoom meeting with the 2nd grade class from St. Jude the Apostle. The topic was weather.
12/21/2020	Allison Finch, meteorologist	Zoom meeting with the 2nd grade class from St. Jude the Apostle. The topic was weather.
11/20/2020	Steve Baboulis, GM & VP	Panel member in a CEO Roundtable for Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce in regard to how businesses are handling covid.
Nov & December	Ashley Miller, sports anchor/photographer	organized two card writing campaigns to be sent to area nursing homes
11/19/2020	Ashley Miller, sports anchor/photographer	volunteered at the Toys For Tots warehouse to pack toys with the Marine Corps Reserves
11/19/2020	Chris Onorato, sports anchor/photographer	volunteered at the Toys For Tots warehouse to pack toys with the Marine Corps Reserves
11/19/2020	Jerry Gretzinger, reporter/anchor	volunteered at the Toys For Tots warehouse to pack toys with the Marine Corps Reserves