



SHERWOOD IN THE FOREST WITH ROSIE



A scene from the towpath along the Erie Canal. [JULIE SHERWOOD PHOTOS/MESSENGER POST MEDIA]

A trek on the Erie Canal



Julie Sherwood and Rosie

You feel like you can walk forever along the Erie Canal with its flat, wide path and scenic river views. I didn't want to miss fall on the Erie Canal so Rosie and I headed to a favorite jumping off point on the canal towpath, walking several miles over and back from the famous Coal Tower in Pittsford.

The giant tower was once used for coal storage to service residents and boats on the canal.

See SHERWOOD, A8



Fall foliage reflects in the Erie Canal near Pittsford.

About this feature

Look for "Sherwood in the Forest" generally online on Mondays and in print on Tuesdays — featuring the trail treks of Rosie the redbone hound and her companion, Daily Messenger reporter Julie Sherwood. Email jsherwood@messengerpostmedia.com or find Julie on Twitter: @MPN_JSherwood.

LOCAL/STATE A3

MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE WILL COUNT

Voters who might not have voted in recent years and show up to vote on Election Day might be in for an unpleasant surprise.

This is how many NY children lost a parent to COVID

By David Robinson
New York State Team
USA TODAY Network

At least 4,200 children had a parent or caregiver killed by COVID-19 and 325,000 children were pushed into or near poverty due to the pandemic's economic fallout in New York, a recent study found.

Further, the coronavirus crisis disproportionately hit children in communities of color, with Black and Hispanic children facing the death of a parent or caregiver at twice the rate of Asian and white children, according to the report by United Hospital Fund, a public health advocacy group.

"This pandemic is like nothing we've ever seen before. The closest comparison in the state would be 9/11, when more than 3,000 children lost a parent," said Suzanne Brundage, co-author of the report, referring to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Losing a parent or caregiver during childhood raises a child's risk of developing a range of poor outcomes over their lifetime, including poorer mental and physical health," she added.

Among the findings of the report:

One in 600 Black children and one in 700 Hispanic children had a parent of caregiver killed by COVID-19, compared to one in 1,400 Asian children and one in 1,500 white children.

See COVID, A4

Statewide plastic bag ban underway

By Isabel Keane
USA TODAY Network

ALBANY — Gone are the days of single-use plastic bags at New York grocery stores and retailers — the state's plastic bag ban is now in effect, after being stalled since March, state officials said.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation said it would begin enforcing the ban Oct. 19, meaning any store offering plastic bags moving forward could face fines.

Enforcement of the law,

passed by state Legislature in March 2019 and quickly signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, was delayed, in part because of a lawsuit brought by the plastic bag industry.

Poly-Pak Industries of Long Island sued the DEC in mid-March, in an unsuccessful attempt to block the measure, claiming it lacked rational basis and conflicted with other state laws.

Implementation of the new law, signed into effect last year, has also been delayed in part because of the coronavirus, which caused court

delays that prevented the state from enforcing the ban for the past seven months.

Anyone required to collect state sales tax must abide by the law, state officials said.

Paper bags may still be available depending on where you live and shop, though they may cost 5 cents each.

Cities and counties can adopt a 5 cent paper carry-out bag fee, but the DEC encourages shoppers to bring reusable bags with them to grocery stores and other retailers.

See BAN, A4



A plastic bag is seen near a Hopewell farm field in 2019. The statewide ban on single-use plastic bags goes into effect Monday. [MIKE MURPHY/MESSENGER POST MEDIA FILE PHOTO]

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