



George Lombard Jr.'s journey to the majors

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Keeler in the Morning radio show cancelled

Casey Pritchard
Utica Observer Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

After 45 years spent working in the radio industry, Bill Keeler was abruptly informed his show Keeler in the Morning, was cancelled.

Hosted on WIBX 950 AM, Keeler posted on social media on August 20 that he had been cancelled by corporate right after he was finished with his morning show.

“My last day with Townsquare Media

was today,” Keeler wrote on his Facebook page. “I was told I could apply for other positions that might be available with the company outside the market. Based on what I’ve seen happening throughout the radio industry nationwide, I knew a day like this could eventually come, although I certainly didn’t expect it to happen today.”

Beginning in radio

Keeler began in radio with an internship with WLFH radio in 1981. He started

doing morning radio in 1989 and while he originally thought that radio would be a stepping stone to television, Keeler said in a 2018 O-D interview he liked how he could make people laugh and tug at their heart strings, strictly through sounds.

For the last 13 years, Keeler has been at the Marcy studios doing his show and said he was grateful to the people he worked with, calling them “...some of the most talented people in the industry.”

He also thanked those that tuned in, calling his listeners “...the greatest audi-

ence in radio.”

“Every day, that audience inspired me to get up in the morning and do the work I’ve been passionate about since I was 17 years old,” he wrote. “I will always be grateful for that relationship and for the incredible support listeners have given me over the years.”

Keeler went on to say that he has been planning a career move for the last month.

“The thought of going down a different road has been incredibly exciting,” he wrote. “Please stay tuned.”

185th Herkimer County Fair revives a longtime tradition



The Herkimer County Fair wrapped up its 185th year on Aug. 23. The fair included rides, various vendors, a demolition derby, pageants, agricultural exhibits, live music, tractor and truck pulls, and much more. PHOTOS BY DANIEL DELOACH/UTICA OBSERVER-DISPATCH

For more pictures, See Page 3A

‘Explosive diarrhea’ parasite cases climb

New York reporting numbers nearing 1,000

Madison Scott
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

The New York State Department of Health has reported an additional 41 confirmed cases of cyclosporiasis in the state since Aug. 12, bringing the total number of cases this year to 973 through Aug. 17.

The New York State Department of Health is posting weekly updates on confirmed cyclosporiasis cases every Wednesday through the end of August.

Here is what to know.

See CYCLOSPORIASIS, Page 2A

Kratom ban finalized with signing of local law

Casey Pritchard
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Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente Jr. has made it official and signed the legislation prohibiting the sale of kratom and kratom-derived products throughout Oneida County.

The action comes after a public hearing on the local law was held on Aug. 12. The signed legislation has been submitted to the New York State Secretary of State in accordance with state requirements.

“This important legislation becomes law, and with it comes a clear message: Oneida County will not stand by while products that pose serious risks to our residents are sold in our communities,” Picente said. “Kratom and kratom-derived products have no place on store shelves in Oneida County. We are taking decisive

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