County plans to buy 11 Warren Street

By JEANNETTE WOLFBERG

HUDSON—The Columbia County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of Hudson’s 11 Warren Street, approved paying the county’s share of Columbia-Greene Community College’s 2023-24 budget, and heard an update on the Columbia County Farmworker Housing Project, at its meeting August 9.

The supervisors authorized the county to buy 11 Warren Street from Galvan for $3,350,000. The building is 18,622 square feet, set on .94 of an acre of land, and was built in 1985, according to a press release on August 11, where the county estimated that envisioned renovations plus the purchase price will total about $8.7 million.

According to the press release, the county currently anticipates using 11 Warren for its new voting machines, now in the basement of 401 State Street, and some departmental offices now in 610 State Street. In addition, officials consider 11 Warren to be flexible enough to accommodate some evolving needs. Supervisor James Guzzi (R-Livingston) noted the building’s open floor plan, with no load bearing...
Committee honors Tech/Sgt. Jack H. Hallenbeck

HUDSON—The Columbia County Honor a Veteran Committee will be honoring Tech/Sgt. Jack H. Hallenbeck from Hudson on Monday, August 28 starting at 9 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers at 401 State Street. The public is invited.

Jack H. Hallenbeck was born March 21, 1932, in Hudson. Mr. Hallenbeck attended elementary and high school at Hudson Central School District. Upon graduating in 1949, he went to work as a clerk for the V&O Press in Hudson.

He enlisted in the United States Army on January 24, 1951, and served for three years during the Korean War. After his initial training, he was stationed with Headquarters Corps, American Forces Far East 800th AU in Japan. Serving two years and nine days, Tech/Sgt. Jack H. Hallenbeck returned to the United States and was honorably discharged at Camp Kilmer, NJ, upon the completion of his enlistment.

For his service Tech/Sgt. Mr. Hallenbeck was awarded: the Army Occupational Medal, Korean Service Medal, United States Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the NYS Medal of Merit.

Returning to Columbia County, Mr. Hallenbeck continued his employment at V&O Press and the L&H Corporation until his retirement in 1997. He married Elizabeth (Betty) Jacox on June 27, 1954, in the First Methodist Church in Hudson and together they raised four children: Deborah, Donna, Diane and David.

Mr. Hallenbeck was very devoted to his family and community. He was past commander of the Korean War Veterans Chapter 283, past chairman of Honor-a-Vet, a member of VFW Post 1314, the Greenbush Reformed Church and the Greenport Seniors and Columbia County Golden Agers. He is remembered as a “true gentleman -- selfless, generous, loyal and loving -- who put others before himself.” One of Mr. Hallenbeck’s proudest accomplishments was helping to raise funds to erect a Korean War Veterans Memorial in Hudson.

Mr. Hallenbeck died on July 21, 2021, and was buried in the Mellenville Union Cemetery. He was predeceased by his wife Betty and left behind four children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was 89 years old.

SHEFFIELD, MA—Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) has just awarded $20,000 in grants to nine nonprofits in Columbia County to support early childhood literacy. Recognizing that the first years of life are the most critical for learning and development, BTCF helped launch the Early Literacy and Learning Network (ELLN) in 2016 to ensure that more children in Columbia County have the opportunity to reach their full potential. This partnership of nonprofit, education and government leaders is supporting parents through education and services, helping organizations collaborate and gain capacity to meet demand, and driving a countywide effort to communicate the urgency of early literacy.

Grants were awarded to these organizations:

- Chatham Public Library for the Leamos Bilingual Spanish English Story Time that will provide 17 sessions of a bilingual storyline entitled Leamos! (Let’s Read) with a professional Spanish speaking facilitator. Funds will also be used to continue to develop the children’s bilingual Spanish-English book collection.
- Claverack Free Library for 40 sessions of Baby and Me Story Time for new parents with infants.
- Columbia Childrens Center for the Purchase of a pre-k curriculum with a focus on language and literacy.
- Columbia-Greene Community College Day Care to expand and enhance the day care library programs to include book distribution, new literacy materials and activities.
- Columbia Opportunities, Inc to develop strategies to share with parents the specific information that children have learned and to help parents learn more about utilizing the investigative process as a means of supporting children in learning.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties for Early Literacy Education with 40 families one-on-one through the Parenting with Confidence program.
- Family Resource Centers of Columbia County (FRC) for Outreach to sponsor programs that encourage learning all summer long for preschoolers and early elementary school students, at the library and around the community.

Emily Bronson, senior community engagement officer for initiatives and special projects at BTCF said in a press release, “We are grateful to the organizations in Columbia County focusing on early literacy. This support will create literacy-rich opportunities that will positively impact the lives of young children and families in this region.”

Read more at berkshireregion.org

BCTF awards $20,000 to nonprofits in county

For more information contact the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) at 413-298-1718 or visit www.bctf.org.

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Kinderhook park named for Dunham family

By EMILIA TEASDALE

KINDERHOOK—At a ceremony on July 29, Village Mayor Michael Abrams read the Village Board motion declaring that “the village park at the western corner of Broad and Hudson streets be named Dunham Park in honor of James C. Dunham and the Dunham family, in recognition of the many ways Dunham family members have benefited Kinderhook through their legacy of public service and sacrifice.”

The pocket park is next to the bandstand and Village Square, where a statue of former Kinderhook resident and U.S. President Martin Van Buren is seated on a bench. James “Jim” Dunham has a long connection with the park and the village. According to the motion passed by the Village Board on July 12 to rename the park, Mr. Dunham’s “commitment to the village and public service started at a very young age. He served on numerous village boards and committees, including multiple terms as mayor and village trustee,” and generously donated his time and engineering expertise to important village infrastructure projects, such as the Kinderhook/Valatie side-walk-link project, the business district sewer project, and multiple street-repair initiatives.”

He has been an involved member of the Kinderhook Reformed Church and coached little league for over 30 years. “He has been active in civic life and volunteer activities as long as his son and daughter can remember and continues to volunteer today at age 80,” Mayor Abrams read.

Several former mayors spoke at the event on July 29, all praising Mr. Dunham for his commitment to the village and his involvement in many projects, including putting in the park.

Mr. Dunham’s grandparents, George E. Dunham and Jean A. Dunham, gifted the village a portion of the land comprising the park through a deed dated May 11, 1945. The motion says that according to local historian Ralph Dunk, George Dunham bought the building at 1-3 Broad Street from the heirs of Charles Palmer in 1944 and opened a second hardware store there after running a successful one on Main Street in Valatie.

Mr. Dunham was two years old when his father, Private George H. “Bud” Dunham, was killed while serving in the Third Infantry Division in the United States Army in France during World War II. He was raised by his mother, Mary (Van Schaeld) Van Astyne Dunham, on Sonnyside Farm, located now in the Town of Stuyvesant but once part of the Town of Kinderhook. His family has long been in the county and according to the motion “Dunham represents a trail-blazing family whose history dates back over 350 years in this immediate area.”

The motion also acknowledged his wife Bonnie Becker Dunham for her work on behalf of the community. “As a long-serving, dedicated, and skilled educator, Bonnie impacted the lives of many young people and their parents. She also assumed lead volunteer positions at local organizations, including the Columbia County Historical Society and the Kinderhook Reformed Church.”

Mr. Dunham, a retired engineer for the state, did not run for reelection but managed to serve from 2000 after serving, at that time, since 2016 (he was also mayor from 2002 to 2006) but he ended up having to stay in the job for several months due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the ceremony, he received a standing ovation from the crowd in front of the bandstand.

Developments on self-storage facilities issue

By DOUG LA ROCQUE

NEW LEBANON—For nearly a year the Town of New Lebanon has been debating the pros and cons of self-storage locations and the actual need for them (not the individual storage sheds one might have in their back yard). 11 months ago, the town board approved a one-year moratorium on any new construction or expansion of existing facilities. In that time, the Zoning Re-write Committee (ZRC) delved into the issue as part of their overall zoning re-write for the town and suggested no further self-storage be allowed. The ZRC opinion was forwarded to the planning board, which concurred. The ZRC’s stance came about in part because of some vehement opposition at a public hearing on a new self-storage application and because of complaints that existing facilities had not met all the conditions imposed upon them at the time their application was granted.

Three months ago, the owners of the Coon self-storage on U.S. Route 20, in the western portion of the town, applied for a waiver of the moratorium to construct at least three more self-storage buildings. Under New York State law, a town must consider such applications. That reignited the debate at successive meetings with town supervisor Tistrya Tishay Haughting and board member Norm Rasmussen indicating they saw the need for self-stor- age but with some very strict limitations.

At the July council meeting, it was decided to hold a public hearing on the Coon application and on a proposed extension of the moratorium, just prior to the August gathering. To the surprise of many, there was only one comment at the Coon hearing, a gentleman who urged it be rejected because of alleged non-compliance with the conditions set forth in the approved site plan, and to give the ZRC time to investigate what stipulations it might wish to set on self-storage. At the July meeting, the Town Board approved all the ZRC’s code changes, but pulled the self-storage prohibition from that resolution, asking them to reconsider it. When it came time to decide, the entire board was of the opinion a slow and steady approach was better than a knee jerk reaction. They voted to extend the moratorium for another six months and reject Coon’s application for an exemption to that moratorium. The vote in each case was unanimous. The councils has asked the ZRC to return a new proposal on the self-stor- age issue before the moratori- um extension expires.
Hudson.—The man who shot himself in the leg, got into his car, drove away and crashed into a Coarc van a block away on July 20, turned himself in and was arrested on multiple gun charges by the Hudson City Police, August 7.

Stephen Pabon, 31, of Hudson was charged with: second degree criminal possession of a weapon, a class C felony; third degree criminal possession of a weapon (previous conviction), a class D felony; fourth degree criminal possession of a weapon and unlawful possession of a certain ammuniton-feeding device, both class A misdemeanors.

Back on July 20 at 1:06 p.m., City Police received a call from Columbia County 911 reporting a man shot himself in the leg and then got into an automobile accident involving a Coarc van.

Patrols immediately responded to the area of First and Warren streets. There Officer Randy Smarrman found a man, who was shot in the right upper leg and bleeding badly. The man was subse- quently identified as Mr. Pabon.

An off-duty doctor was on scene and assisted the officer with first aide. The officer administered a tourniquet around the subject’s leg to stop the bleeding until Greenport Rescue was able to safely respond. Mr. Pabon was airlifted to Albany Medical Center.

The Hudson City Police, along with the other minors in the vehicle, were traveling from a party that occurred in Nassau. Further investigation determined that the driver, who was under the influence of alcohol, had solicited the party via social media resulting in the sizable underage attendance, police said.

Mr. Williams was issued an appearance ticket returnable in Nassau Town Court August 30 and released.

Initially, while patrolling State Route 20 in the Town of New Lebanon, July 23, State Police barracks observed a 2019 Honda Civic traveling over 100 miles per hour in a 45 mile per hour zone. Investigation during the traffic stop determined that the driver was under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. The vehicle also contained nine juvenile passengers, four of whom were under the age of 16.

Another arrest has been made in connection with the incident in which an alleged teenage drunk driver with nine passengers, including two in the trunk, was stopped in New Lebanon for going over 100 mph July 23.

Daquan R. Williams, 24, of Albany was charged with endangering the welfare of a child by State Police from Troop G of SP Schodack, August 11.

An investigation was conducted following the juvenile driver’s arrest on four counts by attempting to introduce Leandra’s Law, a class E felony.

The investigation deter- mined the 16-year-old driver along with the others in the vehicle, were traveling from a party that occurred in Nassau. Further investigation deter- mined the driver had solicited the party via social media after allegedly advertising the party on social media resulting in the sizable underage attendance, police said.

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“First arriving units had smoke showing and an active fire in the apartment above the Bar and Grill,” a rapid response went out from all the departments made up of firefighters from all the departments made up of our ongoing training, pre- paresness, and pre-planned mutual aid.

“Thank you to everyone who assisted with this call from the great dispatchers at 911 to everyone on scene. Without all of you this could have been a much more different post.”

Kinderhook, Niverville, Chatham and Claverack Firefighters responded to provide mutual aid. Columbia County Fire Coordinators assisted on scene and the Red Cross was turned on in. The Red Cross pro- vided financial assistance which can be used for necessities such as all personal items and clothing to four adults and nine children, ranging in age from 1 to 11. Volunteers also offered emo- tional support, comfort kits containing personal care items, and stuffed animals for the chil- dren.

Firefighters were back in service at 5:59 p.m.

Claverack

A subject escaped from Claverack Town Court after being placed in the custody of Sheriff’s deputies, August 15 at about 5 p.m., according to a press release from Columbia County Sheriff’s Office, State Police, State Forest Rangers, City of Hudson Police and the Village of Phoenicia Police. The subject was located a short time later in the Town of Claverack and taken into custody without incident.

At this time there is no threat to the public in the release said. Sheriff Knepf says expect to have a more detailed press release as the investigation permits.

To contact Diane Valden email dvalden@columbiapaper.com


Investigators check for fake IDs at summer concerts

Albany.—The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is in the midst of a summer-long crackdown on the use of false or fake ID’s to purchase alcohol at concert venues statewide. Operation Prevent is led by DMV investigators to prevent underage drinking or worse—drinking and driving. They will work closely with investigators from the State Liquor Authority, State Police, State Parks Police, and local law enforcement at venues across the state throughout the summer months.

The underage drinking enforcement efforts will continue through September 17. In total, 28 underage drinking enforcement efforts are sched- uled at concert venues across the state during that time.

“Our investigators are well- trained to spot fake IDs, and we have added security mea- sures that make our licenses and non-driver IDs increasingly difficult for counterfeiters to copy. You may think we’re trying to spoil your fun, but it is not fun to end up in a hospital, a jail or a morgue from a night spent drinking when you’re under-age,” DMV Commissioner and Chair of the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee Mark J.F. Schroeder said in a press release.

Acquiring a fake ID can also increase a person’s vulnerability to identity theft. And beyond the illegal action, underage drinking can pose serious risks to a young person’s health and development.

Operation Prevent enforcement sweeps will be conducted at summer concert venues across the state. Customers under the age of 21 found to be using fake or another indi- vidual’s IDs to buy alcohol can be ticketed and their licenses can be suspended or revoked for a minimum of 90 days to up to one year.

Last year, more than 550 people received tickets during the seasonal crackdown on the use of fake IDs to purchase alcohol. A total of 580 fake documents were seized. There were 305 tickets issued for attempting to use fake IDs, and another 46 tickets for violations of the Alcohol Beverage and Control Law.

Operation Prevent is sup- ported by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee. The committee coordinates traffic safety activities in New York, and it awards federal highway safety grant funds to local, state, and not-for-profit agen- cies for projects to improve highway safety and reduce deaths and serious injuries due to crashes.

New Yorkers struggling with addiction, or whose loved ones are struggling, can find help and hope by calling the state’s toll-free, 24-hour, 7-day-a-week HOPEl ine at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7569) or by texting HOPENY (HOP) on your mobile phone to 467369.)
Emergency Services: healthy service, weak funds

Hudson—The Mental Health Awareness and Creative Arts Gallery, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit public charity, is building up for its second annual fundraiser at Lightforms, 743 Columbia Street, Saturday, August 20 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with the peak celebration and speaker at 6 p.m. According to a press release from Mental Health Awareness & Creative Arts Gallery President Brian Belt, the gallery was the recipient of a $20,000 award from the Columbia County Department of Human Services (DHS) as part of the recent “payout of opioid abatement funds under Dan Almasi & Company, has recently contracted with the patient’s perspective,” Mr. Keeler said on July 31. In 2010 Columbia County revamped its EMS and became the first in the state to set up a system of contracting with existing agencies to cover under-served areas, Mr. Keeler said. Under this program Columbia County “consigns” ambulance services from local EMS agencies on an “as-needed basis,” providing both mutual aid and resource posting, the Fitch report noted. There are currently five such agencies: Chatham Rescue Squad, Community Rescue Squad, Greenport Rescue Squad, Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP), and Valatie Rescue Squad. Together these five agencies cover the whole county, Mr. Keeler confirmed. Community Rescue Squad serves Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale. NDP, headquartered in Rhinebeck in Dutchess County, also serves Clermont, Gallatin, Germantown and Livingston. The county pays those agencies for their services. Initially the 2010 revamp met its goals. Response times to medical emergencies fell by 40%, Mr. Keeler said. More areas got timely service. The local agencies’ finances stabilized, the Fitch report said. But by last year, a situation had changed. Challenges included increased call volume, staffing shortages, off-load times at hospital parking lots, reimbursement expectations, inter-facility transports, and specialization of hospitals—which makes inter-facility transports more necessary. In addition, the Fitch report noted, each agency has its own overhead costs. They compete with each other for staff and share some staff, while a sharp increase in the cost of living in Columbia County makes it “difficult” for EMS personnel to live here. Furthermore, the Albany Med Health System, Columbia Memorial Health’s parent company, has recently contracted with a private for-profit ambulance company, Ambulanz, to transport patients between facilities. Though this would reduce workload pressure on the county’s local ambulance agencies, it would also reduce their revenue, and that would increase the amount of taxpayer money local EMS services will need, Mr. Keeler said. The county’s 911 Dispatch “is currently providing excellent communications services,” with proper controls in place for performance and quality assurance, “though it needs updating,” the Fitch report says. Fitch says the contract system’s current model seems not to “provide optimum value for” its cost, primarily because of “limited controls in place regarding the county’s funds.” As solutions, the report recommends “more controls regarding the county funds,” and possibly merging agencies. The Fitch report asks: “How can the county alter response expectations to limit potential taxpayer subsidy? Ultimately the county and municipalities must determine what they can afford to ensure an equitable response and baseline level of service.” Mr. Keeler gave reduced response times as an example of the system’s success up to now. He said that in addition to “value for resources invested,” benchmarks should include clinical outcomes.

Donation shortfalls may impact blood supply

Hudson—The American Red Cross has seen a shortfall of about 25,000 blood donations in the first two months of the summer, which makes it hard to keep hospital shelves stocked with lifesaving blood products. By making an appointment to give blood or platelets in August, donors can keep the national blood supply from falling to shortage levels. Right now, the Red Cross especially needs type O negative, type A positive, type B negative and type A negative blood donors, as well as platelet donors. For those who don’t know their blood type, making a donation is an easy way to find out this important personal health information. The Red Cross will notify new donors of their blood type soon after they give. The Red Cross needs donors now. Schedule an appointment to give by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). All who come to give throughout the month of August will get a $10 gift card to a movie merchant of their choice. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org. Upcoming blood donation opportunities are:

• August 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Columbia Memorial Health Support Services Building, 65 Prospect Avenue, Hudson
• August 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Immaculate Conception Church, 732 State Route 20, New Lebanon

MHA and CA gallery hosts fundraiser in Hudson

Hudson—The Mental Health Awareness and Creative Arts Gallery is dedicated to erasing the stigma in having a mental illness. Defy societal labels.” According to a press release from Mental Health Awareness & Creative Arts Gallery President Brian Belt, the gallery was the recipient of a $20,000 award from the Columbia County Department of Human Services (DHS) as part of the recent “payout of opioid abatement funds under Dan Almasi & Company, has recently contracted with Memorial Health’s parent company, Columbia Memorial Health. The report asks: “How can the county alter response expectations to limit potential taxpayer subsidy? Ultimately the county and municipalities must determine what they can afford to ensure an equitable response and baseline level of service.” Mr. Keeler gave reduced response times as an example of the system’s success up to now. He said that in addition to “value for resources invested,” benchmarks should include clinical outcomes.

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Help support school supply collection

ANCRAM—Until August 26, Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association will collect school supplies at three locations:
- Ancram—leave school supplies at the Ancram Town Hall, 1416 County Road 7, during Town Hall business hours (www.ancrammy.org/town-hall)
- Ancram Post Office, 1295 County Route 7, and Ancramdale Post Office, 11 County Route 7, during post office hours

They are collecting school supplies for the Taconic Hills, Pine Plains, and Webutuck schools.

ANHNA has been advised that there are children in three communities who need our support. The school supplies ANHNA collects and purchases help offset some of the out-of-pocket expenses local teachers regularly must make to keep their students supplied.

Many school supplies are on sale now at nearby stores. If you are not able to shop for these items yourself, ANHNA will accept donations and, in turn, purchase the supplies the students need.

School supplies needed: pencils and pencil cases, child’s scissors (blunt end), pens, folders with pockets, Crayola crayons (for thin), 3 ring binders, colored pencils, 3 hole loose leaf paper, erasers, notebooks, magic markers, durable back packs, glue sticks and tissues.

If you have any questions, call Laura Ponkos 518 329-2031 or Karen Davenport 518 929-7451 or email ANHNAinfo@gmail.com

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law as they are a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.

CGCC’s accreditation reaffirmed by MSCHE

GREENPORT—Columbia-Greene Community College (CGCC) received notification that its accreditation has been reaffirmed for an 8-year term following a comprehensive evaluation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

The accreditation came with a rate “no follow-up” requirement and comes at a time when several colleges in the Northeast have been issued warnings or are losing their accreditation.

“By any measure, the exceptional affirmation of accreditation from MSCHE underscores the commitment of Columbia-Greene’s administrators, faculty, and staff to advance our mission since the last site visit in 2012,” commented the college’s President Carlee Drummer in a press release.

“The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) report also confirms Columbia-Greene’s reputation as one of the best community colleges in New York.”

MSCHE’s evaluation team commended Columbia-Greene on a wide variety of criteria, including: its quality and inclusiveness of the mission and goals; its appointment of a chief diversity officer and the establishment of an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility Committee as part of ongoing efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive learning and working environment and promote equity and inclusion efforts aimed at fostering a welcoming climate on campus; the quality of faculty, many of whom are winners of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching; and the college’s embrace of Open Educational Resources across the curriculum.

As part of the MSCHE review process, Columbia-Greene prepared a 100-page self-study report that took nearly two years to complete and entailed the cooperation and support of its nearly 200-person staff.

Dean’s List:

Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, SC—More than 2,400 undergraduates at Coastal Carolina University (CCU) were named to the dean’s list for the spring 2023 semester. Students who make the dean’s list have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher (3.25 for freshmen) for the semester. Those earning this honor include: Amelia Canetto, Hillsdale; and Benjamin Hunter, Copake.

SUNY Cortland

CORTLAND—More than 2,300 students earned recognition for academic excellence on the SUNY Cortland dean’s list for the spring 2023 semester. The dean’s list is the highest ranking for undergraduate students in their respective academic areas of the university. Students must earn a minimum 3.3 grade point average for the semester to make the list.

Students who made the dean’s list include: Amelia Canetto, Hillsdale; and Benjamin Hunter, Copake.

St. Lawrence University

CANTON—Chris Davis, Hudson, has been named to St. Lawrence University’s dean’s list for achieving academic excellence during the spring 2023 semester. He is a member of the class of 2024 and is majoring in government. Mr. Davis attended Hawthorne Valley School.

To be eligible for the dean’s list, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

University of Maryland Global Campus

ADESPEL, MD—Auston Stanhope, Hudson, was named to the dean’s list for the spring semester at University of Maryland Global Campus.

To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.

Purchase College

PURCHASE—Purchase College announced that more than 1,200 students were named to the dean’s list for the spring semester. Students who have earned this academic honor have maintained a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and taken a minimum of 12 credits. For BA and BS programs, a cumulative GPA of 3.50 is required. For BFA and MFA programs, a semester GPA of 3.75 is required.

Local students include: Aidan Collins, Chatham; Logan Shields, Ghent; and Zia Williams, Hudson.

University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD, CT—The University of Hartford has announced the students who have been named to the dean’s list for spring 2023.

Local students include: Madison Drahushuk, Hudson.

SUNY Oswego

OSWEGO—SUNY Oswego recently recognized Columbia County residents as high academic achievers on its dean’s list for the spring 2023 semester.

Students who made the president’s list have achieved a 4.0 grade point average during the spring 2023 semester.

Dean’s list students are those attaining semester grade-point averages between 3.3 and 3.79 while carrying required academic credits.

Students on the dean’s list include: Spencer Bates, Valatie, journalism, creative writing; Leah C. Foster, Germantown, psychology; and Bishwokriti J. Rayamajhi, Hudson, biology.

University of Rhode Island

KINGSTON, RI—The University of Rhode Island has announced the spring 2023 dean’s list.

Students named to the dean’s list represent nearly all of Rhode Island’s cities and towns, all six New England states, New York and New Jersey, and many other states and countries.

To be included on the dean’s list, full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

Local students include: Hannah Braley, Chatham; Ainsley Zaik, Ghent; Madalyn Bray, Kinderhook; Haleigh Jennings, Niverville; and Sam Kubous, Valatie.

President’s List:

Coastal Carolina University

CONWAY, SC—More than 1,000 students were named to the president’s list at Coastal Carolina University for the spring 2023 semester, including Kaitylyn Delventhal, Hillsdale. Students who made the president’s list have achieved a 4.0 grade point average during the semester.
Community plans to

Continued from Page 1

Benchmark Development to erect on the site a new building, about four stories high and “designed to reflect” Hudson’s “historic character,” with 68 apartments atop retail spaces and underground parking. But in the press release, the county depicts the building as it is now, “all on one level, with 30 outside parking spaces” in front.

Questions to both the county and Galvan about possible closing dates were not answered by press time.

On another matter, Carly Drummer, the President of Columbia-Greene Community College (CGCC) attended the August 9 meeting and “reported that enrollment was up 30% over the summer session,” according to a meeting audio. Meanwhile, the supervisors approved contributing Columbia County’s $3.4 million to CGCC’s $20.1 million 2023-24 budget.

The meeting started with a public hearing with updates on Columbia County Farmworker Housing Rehabilitation Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This specific grant is for $250,000 for the Klein’s Kill Fruit Farm in Germantown for worker housing. Klein’s Kill Farm, according to its website, has been in a family for four generations and grows apples, peaches, and nectarines. The hearing ended with Board Chairman Marc Murell (R-Stockport) asking for comments, “and there were none.”

Also at the meeting:
•The Ihabtot Craner Varsity Softball Team and the Chatham Varsity Baseball Team received plaques in honor of their 2023 State Championship titles
•The supervisors appointed Mary King of Hillsdale and John Bradley of Claverack to the County Environmental Management Council for up to two years
•Chairman Murell appointed a Climate Smart Work Group consisting of Supervisor Brenda Adams (D-Canaan), Supervisor Tistyra Houghting (D-New Lebanon, minority leader), Supervisor Ron Knott (R-Stuyvesant), Supervisor Timothy Ooms (R-Kinderhook), Senior Planner Don Metz and County Clerk Holly Tanner

The supervisors granted permission to the city of Solid Waste to declare one mower, one 1992 cad and chassis, and one 2011 Chevrolet pickup truck to sell by auction.

Who needs affordable

Continued from Page 1

WHO NEEDS AFFORDABLE

May 2023: rents have likewise soared; and workers across all sectors of the economy, and especially the younger generation, are either priced out of the ownership and rental markets or are paying more than they can afford on basic housing.

In general, economists and federal guidelines say an owner or renter should not pay more than 30% of annual gross income on housing costs. In Columbia County, 49% of renters pay more than that figure, according to the State Division of Local Government Services. Families earning the median family income are priced out of the ownership market unless they commit to spending substantially more than 30% of their income on mortgage and other housing costs.

In specific terms, who does this situation affect?

Chris Brown was hired as the Housing Development Coordinator for the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) in January 2023. CEDC had just been awarded a three-year contract with the county to further the development of affordable housing. Mr. Brown had deep credentials in the housing field, having co-founded the Troy Community Land Bank and worked for both the Troy and Berkshire County Planning Departments.

There was just one small problem. Mr. Brown couldn’t find a place he could afford to rent in Columbia County. The hurdle? Not only were the rents unaffordable but also there simply weren’t many listings. Mr. Brown had already spent a year looking for an affordable home. In January 2023, having landed the job to tackle the county’s affordable housing crisis, Mr. Brown succumbed and rented an apartment that was unaffordable by prevailing standards.

Mr. Brown conducts an informal survey of the rental market for his job. A recent look showed 26 units in the entire county for rents of less than $2,000/month. All but five were in Hudson. To afford $2,000/month in rent (i.e., to spend less than 30% of income on rent) requires an income of at least $80,000/year. The median income of all householders in the county exceeded that amount in 2022, which essentially means that half of all households cannot afford to rent such housing as is available.

Moreover, the median income for those 25 and younger was only $28,000 and for those over 65 was slightly below $70,000 — meaning that most of those groups would be priced out of the rental market.

At about the same time Mr. Brown was hunting for an apartment, Lisa Gallina was hired as the Executive Director of the Cornell Cooperative Extension for Columbia and Greene Counties (CCE). At 53, holding two Masters degrees and having worked previously in environmental administration and communications at several colleges, she was looking to move to a farmhouse in the county.

The county’s housing market was a shock. Even though she had funds from the sale of a condominium in Beacon, Ms. Gallina found that the homes she could afford uniformly featured old electric and septic systems, required considerable work and were a far cry from the farmhouse she imagined. In the end, she settled for a prefab ranch house, and borrowed more than she had planned.

Yet, Ms. Gallina considers herself lucky. In the last year, CCE has lost four of its 28-person staff because of their inability to find local housing. She called the four “young people who care about local agriculture and education.”

At 23, Destiny Hallenbeck has already accomplished a great deal. She was the valediction orator of her 2018 class at Chatham High School, she graduated from Union College in 2022 and, while there, she served both as president of the statewide College Democrats of New York (2019, 2020) and a member of the Chatham School Board (2020-22). Currently, Ms. Hallenbeck is employed as a Constituent Advocate for Congressman Pat Ryan (D-19).

Ms. Hallenbeck is firm in her desire to stay in Chatham, even while all her siblings have moved away to enjoy the benefits of easier housing markets, but she also understands the broad effects of the housing crisis.

In her years on the school board she saw young and excited teachers come to Chatham for their first jobs, only to move away after a year or two to Troy, Albany or Schenectady where they could better afford to live. She is working on a new Comprehensive Plan for the town, looking at measures that will enhance affordable housing, such as allowing accessory dwelling units (like the old mother-in-law apartment), shrinking minimum lot size requirements and improving infrastructure (water and sewage capability) to allow for more housing.

Much as the lack of affordable housing ultimately impov-
‘Jersey Boys’ to play Chatham for three week run

CHATHAM — “Jersey Boys,” the most requested show in Mac-Haydn Theatre history, will play the Chatham summer theater for three weeks, August 18 to September 3.

Winner of both the Tony and Olivier Award for Best Musical, “Jersey Boys” is a story of rags to riches, celebrating the most requested show in American history.

The production will feature scenic design by Alvicia Cross, lighting design by Andrew Groover, costume design by Claire Mezzetta, sound design by Andrew McGinley, hair and makeup design by Emily Allen, and props design by Adriana Ayala.


Rounding out the cast making their Mac-Haydn debuts are Taye Martin as Hal Miller and others, Kevin Weldon as DeCarlo and others, and Jacob Atkins as Joe Pesci and others and the Frankie Valli alternate.

For tickets and information, visit www.machaydntheatre.org or call the box office at 518 392-9292.

Outdoor sunset movie night returns to Olana

GREENPORT — The Olana Partnership (TOP) and Upstate Films Hudson Valley Picture Show will present “Hugo” for a special outdoor sunset movie night at Olana State Historic Site. Pack a picnic and enjoy this family favorite, during a summer outdoor evening on Olana’s East Lawn, Friday, August 18. The evening will begin with a pre-screening live performance by the Anatole Trio and concessions.

“I’m so happy to partner with Upstate Films for a second time this year to bring family friendly cinema to Olana,” said Carolyn Keogh, director of education and public programs at TOP, in a press release. “I encourage everyone to enjoy this special movie under the stars before summer comes to a close.”

The Hudson Valley Picture Show is a traveling cinema festival held under the stars. During this special screening at Olana, Upstate Films will be selling concessions including wine, beer, and popcorn.

Frankie’s Hudson Valley mobile bar and coffee shop will be serving seasonal favorites. The Anatole Trio will play a special pre-screening performance as the sun sets behind the Catskill Mountains.

Doors will open at 7 p.m. and a pre-screening musical performance will kick off the night at 7:30 p.m. Show time at 8 p.m. Tickets are $14 for adults and $10 for members of Upstate Films and The Olana Partnership. All children’s tickets are free.

In the event of inclement weather this screening will move to an indoor location, details will be sent to ticket holders. To learn more and purchase tickets visit OLANA.org.
Hudson Valley—The Churchtown Dairy Round Barn presents a community production of Shakespeare’s romantic comedy “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” directed by Carol Rusoff, with a diverse all-local Hudson Valley cast running the gamut from seasoned professionals to first-time actors. Presented by Churchtown Dairy as a free summer community production, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will have performances on three nights only: Friday, August 25; Saturday, August 26; and Sunday, August 27 at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Free and open to the public, this event has limited seating.

“When I first walked into the Churchtown Dairy Round Barn 12 years ago, I was struck by its resemblance to what I imagined Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre in London must have been like centuries ago and my imagination took flight,” said Rusoff, in a press release. “The glorious round barn will gracefully morph into a bridge, a social tool for togetherness in theater, among cast, crew and audience, which reaches beyond regular theater-goers and makes Shakespeare accessible to all the diverse communities in the region. “As a long-time Columbia County resident, I worry about Hudson nature of theater, among cast, crew and audience, is indeed a bridge, a social tool for togetherness and change. Believing in grass roots action and results, we are creating production in which the glorious round barn will gracefully morph into a free community theater venue for all—The Churchtown Dairy Globe!” All performances of this production are free and open to the public. Round-trip bus transportation will be provided from Hudson to increase access for community members who do not drive.

The cast of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” features actors hailing from Hudson, Catskill, Stuyvesant, Claverack, Chatham, Germantown, Clermont, Saugerties, Hillsdale, New Palz, Albany, and other Hudson Valley towns and includes performers with professional credentials working alongside those who are making their stage debuts. One such first-time actor is Wood-Mike Bruno, a teenager who grew up in Saint-Marc, Haiti, and moved to Stuyvesant in July 2021 to escape the violent unrest and instability in his native country. Separated from his parents, he now lives with an uncle and attends Ichabod Crane High School.

“Everything here is new for me. This is my first experience in theater and with Shakespeare. I’m excited to be learning about Shakespearean language and its emotions and tone.”

The cast also includes Shaq Sinclair, a special needs educator from Hudson working with children with autism; recent SUNY New Palz graduates Oscar Nieves who is new to the stage, and Zach Gibson who will also play Count Paris in “Romeo & Juliet” this October at Opus 45; T Boris-Schacter who appeared in “Mother of Us All” at Hudson Hall (2016) and Hudsonite Sean Allison, whose one-man show “If It Bleeds It Leads” will preview at the Spotty Dog in Hudson and premiere in the United Solo Festival at Theatre Row in NYC this October.

Creative and production team includes choreography by Debra Hughes who founded and directs the Hudson Valley Academy of Performing Arts; props design by theater artist, puppeteer, and designer Carlo Adinolfi who is co-artistic director of the multi-disciplinary company Concrete Temple Theatre; costume design by Katherine Boa who has been designing costumes for Shakespeare & Company’s local high school productions since 2019; music direction by Christine Poterk (cello/lyre) who is a native of Germany living in Kinderhook; stage management and co-direction by director, writer, and producer for Shakespeare & Company’s local high school productions since 2019. Suni Zavattaro (assistant director) is a local chef now working at Willa’s in Catskill, Molly McClaren as Titania and Zach Gibson as Bottom in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”
DAY 2: The Arts & Shows!

h) The Making of Handwoven Textiles at Mill River Mill, 9:30-11:30 am, upstate, registration required. Email info@millrivermill.org.

i) Art Exhibit Opening at the New York Country Fair, 10 am-4 pm, Hurleyville, New York. Free admission.

c) The Hudson River School Art Show at the Olana Historic Site, 11 am-4 pm, Hudson, New York. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for seniors and students, and free for children 12 and under.

The Weekend Wrap-Up

a) See more events at our website calendar, thecolumbiapaper.com.

b) Check out our events search engine at thecolumbiapaper.com/events.

c) Follow us on Facebook for updates on upcoming events.

d) Subscribe to our newsletter to receive event updates directly to your inbox.

2 To have an event listed here, send the information (including date, time, address, and contact information) via email to news@columbiapaper.com or mail to The Columbia Paper, PO Box 487, Ghent, NY 12075-0482, at least two weeks before the event.

Because of the high volume of workshop listing requests, we can list only workshops that are free, for-fee donations or where all proceeds support a nonprofit community organization.

Area Attractions

AUSTERTZLITZ HISTORY CENTER, 812 Rt 203, Spencertown. History of Austertilz area from 1750s to date. Special exhibit: Education in Austertilz from 1800s to 1970s. Open Sat, 9-11 am, or by appointment: 518 352-7207.


COCAPE IRON WORKS, 35 Valley Rd, Copake Falls. 15-min self-guided tour available on website, podcastradio.org. Admissions: $5 adults, $4 seniors, kids under 5 free. Tours Fri-Sun, 10 am-4 pm. Free.


FASYN MUSEUM OF FIREFIGHTING, 117 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson. Wed-Sun, 10 am-3:30 pm, closed major holidays. Adults $12, children 2-17 $8, under 2 free, family rate (adults & 2 children) $25. 518 822-1875 fasyfmuseum.com.

ICHABOD CRANE SCHOOLHOUSE & 1737 Lykens Van Alen House, 2589 Rte 9H, Kinderhook. Open select weekends, 11 am-4 pm. Guided tours of mill, including outdoor exhibit, Early Heritage of Columbia County, open daily dawn to dusk. chsny.org. 518 758-9265.

OLD AUSTERTZLITZ, 11550 Rt 22, oldaustertilz.org.

RIDERS MILLS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 112 Riders Mills Rd, Chatham. Original 1795 one-room school house, tour by guide. Available by appointment Sat-Sun, 9 am-5 pm. 518 794-7264 or 518 794-7146.

ROBERT JENNINGS HOUSE, 113 Warren St, Hudson. Open for library research, tours on scheduled days, by appointment. 518 826-9746, Hudson.org.

ROELIFF JENNINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM, 8 Miles Rd, Copake. Fall: The First 40: A Celebration of Local History Preserved. Sat & Sun 2-4 pm. roefallsensites.org. 518 329-0652.


THOMAS COLE NAT’L HISTORIC SITE, 218 Spring St, Catskill. Home, studios of Hudson River School painter. Audio tours. Guided tours Fri-Sun, 10 am-4 pm. Tickets throughsmoc.org.


KINDERHOOK, intersection of Rtes 9H & Hudson St, 8:30 am-12:30 pm. Over 25 vendors, live music, food, special events. IchabodCraneFarmersMarket.com.

Hudson, corner of 6th St & Columbia St, 9 am-1 pm. Over 30 vendors, food, live music. Through Nov 18. hudsonny-farmersmarket@gmail.com, 518 300-3486.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ongoing


Through August 27
SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE for Tecumseh Hills, Pine Plains, Webutuck School Districts. School supplies can be dropped off at Ancram Town Hall or Post Office, or Ancramdale Post Office. Send monetary donations made payable to ANNAH TO PO Box 97, Ancramdale, NY 12503. Questions? 518 726-2341, 726-7451, ANNAHinfo@cghs.org.

Through August 15
SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE for New Lebanon & Ichabod Crane School Districts. School supplies can be dropped off at Maverick’s New Lebanon, New Lebanon’s Post Office, Library or Town Hall, Unity No. 9 & F & M Lodge, Valatie, K’s Gymnastics, Valatie. Monetary donations: gofund.me/796hid6756. Questions liviusc3@lebanonvalleycy.org.

Through September 15

Through September 22
APPLY TODAY for Spencertown Academy’s All Write: Fiction Writers Conference on Nov 5-12. Open to all writers of ages 18 & up. Applications are available for local writers. Submission guidelines: spencertownacademy.org.

August 17
AN AFTERNOON OF MUSICAL PERFORMANCES at Roeliff Jansen Historical Site. 218 Spring St, Catskill. Featuring Lauren Strasburg & Ozzy Blevins. Free. BryantNutrition@gmail.com.

August 19
CAR SHOW, Stephentown Fire Hall at 35 Grange Hall Road, 10 am-4 pm. Antique autos, classic cars, tractors, hot rods, fire trucks, food vendors, raffles. Vaccine available. 515 Door prizes. Trophies. Vendors welcome; tables $20. Walk-ins, special requests or questions? Contact stephentownfiredepartment@gmail.com. Rain date August 20.

BOOK SIGNING, Roeliff Jansen Historical Society Museum, 8 Miles Road, Copake Falls. 10 am-4 pm. Author Maryann Proper Barto signs her book, “A Story from a Maker’s Daughter: The Hill.” During Copake Falls Day.

COMMUNITY CARE CLINIC, Hudson Area Health, 51 N 5th St, 11 am-2 pm. Free. Monarda Community Care offers drop-in care clinic, including ear aching, punctures, ears, acupressure, variety of free herbal teas, Fentanyl test strips, more. hudsonwellness.org.

CROELL PARK DAY, Crielin Park, 2940 Rt 66, Chatham, 2-4 pm. Entertainment, door prizes, dog performance by Amoukanama Circus. More recreation@chathamnewyork.us.

COCKTAILS IN THE GARDEN, N Chatham Free Library, 4207 Rt 203, 5-8 pm. $5. Signature cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, conversation in library garden. Space limited, reservations required; northcathamptonlibrary.org/about/fundraising/fundraising-events.

August 23

August 24
JOBS & BRYANT NUTRITION PLLC, 3326 Rt 9, Hudson, 10 am-4 pm, free. Networking, job opportunities, career growth. More BryantNutrition@gmail.com.

August 25
BLOOD DRIVE. Immaculate Conception Church, 732 Rt 20, 1:30-5:30 pm. Appointments: 800 733-2767, redcrossblood.org. Red Cross Blood Donor App.

August 25-26

August 25-September 4
THE HUDSON FESTIVAL. information @create-council.org. More thehudson.org.

August 26
POCKET PETS CONTEST, 8525 Old US Route 9, Kinderhook. $3 registration, clockwise. 9:30 am. Open to pocket pets. Application: cghs.org.

September 10
RACE DAY, Olana Historic Site, 218 Spring St, Hudson. Boarding 9 am-1 pm. Free. Kids’ Fun Run, 10 am. Applications: forms.gle/ VeUw9Tq3t6nB19QA.

September 11
BOOK SIGNING, Spencertown Academy’s All Write: Fiction Writers Conference on Nov 5-12. Open to all writers of ages 18 & up. Scholarships available for local writers. Submission guidelines: spencertownacademy.org.

September 17
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September 18
NEW LEBANON & Ichabod Crane School Districts. School supplies can be dropped off at Maverick’s New Lebanon, New Lebanon’s Post Office, Library or Town Hall, Unity No. 9 & F & M Lodge, Valatie, K’s Gymnastics, Valatie. Monetary donations: gofund.me/796hid6756. Questions liviusc3@lebanonvalleycy.org.

September 19
THE EMPIRE STATE PILGRIM’S FESTIVAL. locations vary in Hudson. Full schedule: thehudsons.org/festival.

September 26
POCKET PETS CONTEST, 8525 Old US Route 9, Kinderhook. $3 registration, clockwise. 9:30 am. Open to pocket pets. Application: cghs.org.
Shakespeare & Company announces two-day tag sale fundraiser

Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kent Street, Lenox, MA, has announced a tag sale fundraiser on Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fundraising event gives patrons the opportunity to discover fun and funky treasures including theatrical props; Mid-century Modern furniture; decorative objects; fine art; books; antiques; vintage costumes, and household and garden wares. Highlights include an eight-foot Egyptian statue, a gold lion statue, a Matisse serigraph, an Adirondack twig rocking chair, and more. Early buyers can shop starting at 8:30 a.m. on Friday with a $10 early buyer’s fee. The tag sale is organized and staffed by members of the Shakespeare & Company Volunteer team.

First Saturdays
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 1-2 pm. For beginners. Children led by adult dungeon master through complicated role playing game. Space limited for each adventure, reservations: claveracklibrary.org.

Fourth Saturdays

SECOND TUESDAYS
BYO BOOK CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3:30 pm. Free. For ages 0-8. Come talk about latest favorite read. Registration: klein@chatham.k12.ny.us, 518-392-3662.


HOMEWORK HELP, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 5-7 pm. K-12 homework assistance available in English & Spanish. Se habla Español. Roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

First Thursdays
GRAB A GO SCIENCE KIT, New Lebanon Library, virtual event. Pick up supplies from library (550 Rt 20), tune into blog for instructions. newlebanonlibrary.org.

Fridays
PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. Ms. Becky leads stories, songs, take-home craft. For ages 0-5. New schedule spaces also available. 518 851-7120, info@claveracklibrary.org.

Wednesdays
LIBRARY PLAYGROUP, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:15 am-12:15 pm, free. For caregivers & children ages 0-5. No registration required. chatham-publiclibrary.org.

STORY TIME, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 10 am, free. For toddlers-kindergarten with Debbie Wiede. claveracklibrary.org, 518 851-7120.

PLAYGROUP FOR CAREGIVERS & CHILDREN, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:15 am-12:15 pm, free. Play, socialize, have fun. For children ages 0-5. chatham-publiclibrary.org.

SMALL WONDERS STORY TIME, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 10:30 am, free. Younger patrons up to 35 months join Miss Ann for songs, movement, stories. newlebanonlibrary.org, 518 794-8844.


LEGO CLUB, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 4 pm. For grades 2-5. claveracklibrary.org

HOMEWORK HELP, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 5-7 pm. Tutors available for grades 3-8. Small group study spaces also available. 518 851-7120, info@claveracklibrary.org.

Wednesdays
PLAYTIME WITH TIA, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 10:30 am, free. Open to preschoolers & families. Space limited. claveracklibrary.org.

THURSDAYS
LEGO THURSDAYS, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, noon-6 pm. Roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

MOVEMENT & MUSIC, Hudson Area Library, 5 N 5th St, 4-5 pm, free. With Abbey Lappen. Celebrate spring with songs, stories, fun motions. Through Aug 24. programs@hudsonarealibrary.org.

DIVERSIFY TEEN GROUP, Taconic Hills High School, virtual. For teens, 7 pm, free. Social justice groups with Pine Plains High School. Email for link, diversifyingteens@gmail.com.

Fridays
PRESCHOOL STORY HOUR, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. Ms. Becky leads stories, songs, take-home craft. For ages 0-5. chatham-publiclibrary.org.

PLAY GROUP, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 10-12:30 pm, free. For beginners. roejanlibrary.org.

SATURDAYS
ART WORKSHOPS, Art Omi, 1405 CR 22, Ghent, 10 am-noon. $15/adult or $30/20 sibling. For ages 5-12. Developmentally-appropriate projects encouraging curiosity, experimentation, creative thinking. Register: artnom.org/education/saturday-childrens-workshops.

Continued on Page 12
Plein Air Plays continue this weekend

The second week of the Ancram Opera House’s Plein Air Plays begins with performances on Thursday, August 17; Friday, August 18; Saturday, August 19; and Sunday, August 20. With limited time and availability, now is the moment to secure your spot for this roving performance where art and nature converge. Pictured is one of the three plays presented, “Giving Up the Ghosts,” written and performed by Salty Brine. A gravedigger in a small town finds himself trapped in an existential crisis that has him contemplating everything from love to philosophy to dead pets in his search for the answer to life’s biggest question. Tickets are at www.ancramoperahouse.org.

As summer comes to a close, we announce a series of music in the park events. New & experimental music created by 2023 residents and artists, 518 392-3666, capitpond-concerts.

SEPT 2
THE KNIGHTS ORCHESTRA, Clark Art Institute, 225 South St, Williamstown, 4 pm, free. Edward Greg, Nordic folk songs, Antonin Dvořák, original composition by Colin Jacobsen. Bring picnic, seating. clarkart.edu.

DRIVE THROUGH HISTORY Road Trips, Columbia County Historical Society, free. Explore Columbia County with themed self-guided road trips.

www.cohsyn.org/drive-through-history.html

In-person or virtual appointments. 518 392-3666, chathampubliclibrary@chatham.kt2.ny.us.
August 26
WORLD OF WONDERS OPEN HOUSE, Farmscape Ecology Program, 1075 Harlemville Rd, Ghent, 10 am-4 pm, free. Celebrate Farmscape’s 20th anniversary with butterfly house tours, interactive wonder stations, more. Rain date: Aug 27. hvfarmscape.org.

August 29
LIBRARY DIRECTOR TAMMY GASKELL speaks to Hillsdale’s Safe at Home Committee monthly Coffee Hour at Hillsdale House, 2634 State Route, 10-11:30 am.

September 2, October 7
HILLSDALE: OUR STORY & PORTRAITS, special screenings presented at Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market, 9140 Rte 22, Hillsdale, 10 am-1 pm. Two-part video documentary on Hillsdale created by Julia Brandi & Marilyn Herrington. RoelffJansenh@gmail.com.

ON STAGE
Through September 3

August 17-20
PLEIN AIR PLAYS, locations vary, times vary, $20-$60, $15 students. Three site-specific new works, cocktails, dinner included. Tickets: ancramoperahouse.org.

August 18-20
DROWSY CHAPERONE, Valatie Community Theatre, 3031 Main St, Valatie, Fri/Sat 7 pm, Sun 2 pm, $15 adults, $10 children/seniors/students. Tickets: valatiecommunitytheatre.org, 518 758-1309.

August 21-22
OPEN AUDITIONS, Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Pl, 7 pm. Casting for four roles in Outside Mullingar, auditionees will be asked to read from script. Irish brogue helpful. Details: ghentplayhouse.org, 518 821-5213, jmilt1943@gmail.com.

August 23, 25
EVENTS Calendar
Continued from Page 13

August 25-27

August 25, September 1
SAID AND DONE, TSL, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 7:30 pm, $5-$10. New performance work by Linda Mussman in collaboration with Claudia Bruce & Charlotte Stickle. Tickets: thehudsoneye.com/festival.

August 31, September 2-3

September 1

September 2

ON VIEW

ART SCHOOL of Columbia County, 1198 Rt 21C, Ghent. Mon, Tue, Thurs, Sun noon-3 pm, 518 672-7140. Artschoolofcolumbiacounty.org.


BASILICA HUDSON Back Gallery, 110 S Front St, Erika DeVries: Seven Sisters. basilicaohudson.com.


BLUE HILL Gallery, C-GCC, 4400 Rt 23, Greenport. 518 828-4181.

Caldwell Gallery Hudson, 355 Warren St, Slice of Summer: Online Exhibition, up through Sept 8. Fri-Sun 11 am-5 pm. 518 828-7087, jay@caldwellgalleryhudson.com.


CHATHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11 Woodbridge Ave. Open library hours. chathampubliclibrary.org.

CLARK ART INSTITUTE, 225 South St, Williamstown. Promenades on Paper: Eighteenth-Century French Drawings from the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Tue-Sun, 10 am to 5 pm. clarkart.edu.

CLAVERACK Library, 629 Rt 23B. Birds, up through Sept 8. Open during library hours. claveracklibrary.org.

DAVIS ORTON Gallery, 114 Warren St, Hudson, Sat-Sun 11 am-5:30 pm, by appointment. davisorongallery.com. 518 567-4056.

D’ARCY SIMPSON ART WORKS, 409 Warren St, Hudson. Fri-Sun noon-5 pm.

The Columbia Paper Journalism Fund
The fund supports local reporting on education, economic development, the arts, the environment and health care, in print and online, by The Columbia Paper. The goal of the fund is to secure charitable resources to sustain and expand this reporting, which contributes to the civic, cultural and economic vibrancy of Columbia County.

To help sustain local journalism through a tax-deductible donation, please visit www.berkshiretaconic.org/ColumbiaPaper. If you have any questions about making a gift to this fund, please contact Kelly Sweet, Community Engagement Officer, at ksweet@berkshiretaconic.org.

Simply scan the QR Code to make a donation at www.berkshiretaconic.org/ColumbiaPaper.
ELIZABETH MOORE FINE ART, 105 Warren St, Hudson. Fri-Sun noon-6 pm. elizabethmoorefineart.com.

FASNY Museum of Firefighting, 117 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson, admission. Then, Now & Always: Firefighting from the Cradle of Rome through the 1900s. Wed-Sun 10 am-4:30 pm. 518 822-1875 fasnyfiremuseum.com.


FLOW CHART SPACE, 348 Warren St, Hudson. Second & fourths Sat, 11 am-6 pm. flowchartfoundation.org/exhibitions.


GROUNDLESS, 727 N 5th St. Open library hours. hudsonarealibrary.org.

HENRY, 348 Warren St, Hudson. Fri-Sat noon-6 pm. 518 826-2345.


Hudson AREA LIBRARY, 51 N 5th St. Open library hours. hudsonarealibrary.org.

Hudson HALL, 327 Warren St. David Michtyre: Walking, opens with reception Aug 24, 5-7 pm. Tue-Fri, 9 am-5 pm, Sat & Sun, noon-5 pm. 518 822-1438. hudsonhall.org.


J. DAMIANI Gallery, 8 Anthony St, Hillsdale. Barns of Columbia County. By appt, jdamianigallery@gmail.com. Sat 11 am-4 pm.

JOYCE GOLDSTEIN Gallery, 19 Central Square, Chatham. Thurs-Sat 1-5 pm, Sunday 1-3 pm. 518 764-8989. joycgall@fairpoint.net.

KAATERSKILL Gallery, 369 Hudson St. Hudson. By appt. jdaiangiorgi@gmail.com. 518 828-0135. KAATERSKILL Gallery.

KINDERHOOK KNITTING MILL, 8 Hudson St. Fri & Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 11 am-4 pm. shakermuseum.us, kinderhookknittingmill.com.

LABspace, 2642 Ri 23, Hudson. Eliza Solvenir: Infinity Weight, up through Sept 10. Sat & Sun 1-5 pm, no appt necessary. julietlabspace@gmail.com. 917 749-2857.

LIGHTFORMS Art Center, 743 Columbia St, Hudson. Brian Dickerson: Constructed Paintings & Drawings, up through Aug 20. Fri 3-7, Sat-Sun 11:30-5 pm. By appointment 917 330-6262. lightformsartcenter.com.


MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS & Creative Arts Gallery, 717 Columbia St, Hudson. Antirecovery books display. For information on artists & associated activities, stigmafreeart.org. Donations for operating costs accepted: facebook.com/Mental-Health-Awareness-and-Creative-Arts-Gallery-28017969521974.


PHILMONT LIBRARY, 98 Green St, Ste 2, Hudson. turley.gallery.

PRIVATE PUBLIC GALLERY, 330 Warren St, Hudson. 212 286-0750, privatepublicgallery@gmail.com.

PS21, 2800 Ri 66, Chatham. James Casebere: Solo Pavilion for Two or Three. 518 392-6121. PS2@chatham.org.

ROE JAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY, 8091 Ri 22, Copake. Landscapes & Escapes: Collages, up through Aug 31. Open library hours. roejanlibrary.org.


SEPTEMBER Gallery, 4 Hudson St #3, Kinderhook. Laleh Khorramian: MYTH MAKER, opens with reception Aug 19-5-7 pm, up through Oct 15. Kristen@septembergallery.com.


SPENCERTOWN Academy Arts Ctr, 790 Ri 203. Sat & Sun 1-5 pm. spencertownacademyarts.org. 518 392-3693.


THOMPSON GIROUX Gallery, 57 Main St, Chatham. Thurs-Mon 11 am-5 pm, by appointment. 518 392-3336, thompsongrouxgallery.com.

TURLEY GALLERY, 98 Green St, Ste 2, Hudson. Turleygallery.com.

WINDHAM FINE ARTS, 5380 Main St, North Snowscapes. 518 734-6650. Windhamfinearts.com

WINDOW ON HUDSON, 43 S 3rd St, Hudson. Max Sterling: Grave Matters, Shallow Reliefs & Other Philosophical Waxings. windowonhudson.org.
**COMMUNITIES**

**COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Get plenty of antiques, classics at car show

STEPPHTOWN—The Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department Car Show is happening Saturday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cruise on over to the Stephentown Fire Hall at 35 Grange Hall Road to check out the freshly detailed and buffed to the nine’s vehicles. The event includes antique autos, classic cars, antique tractors, hot rods, antique fire trucks, plus food, vendors, and raffles. There is something for everyone to enjoy.

The entry fee for vehicles is $15. Door prizes and trophies will be awarded. Vendors are also welcome; tables are available for $20. Walk-ins and spectators enter for free, but a donation is suggested.

Interested in reserving a vendor table at the car show? Email stephentown-firedepartment@gmail.com. Rain date is Sunday, August 20.

Butterflies, birds come in for a landing

CLERMONT—Crazy Kids Story Hour: Butterflies and Birds takes place at the Clermont State Historic Site Visitor Center, 1 Clermont Avenue, Saturday, August 19 at 11 a.m.

Attention families with small children, join Clermont staff for an hour of garden stories, tasty snacks and a fun-themed craft.

Kids can read books about bees, butterflies and birds, decorate a birdhouse and enjoy a tasty snack.

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Children get in free, their guardian’s are $5.

Space is limited, advanced registration is required at: https://bookseo.com/clustermont

CORN TAKES ON MANY FORMS AT FEST

STUYVESANT—The Stuyvesant Corn Festival returns to the historic railroad station through Open Space Institute/ Stuyvesant Pathways.

In 2012, Mr. Locricchio, a NYC chef with a weekend home in Stuyvesant, démystified corn as a food source, origins, and the culture it has brought to this country.

Also on the menu is Stuyvesant Corn and Potato Chowder, a recipe from Matthew Locricchio’s book, “Teen Cuisine.”

Join the cornhuskers down by the Hudson river. All funds raised go to the continuing restoration of the railroad station through Open Space Institute/ Stuyvesant Pathways.

Call Marilyn at 518-758-6474 with any questions.

Firefighters get no pay, but wear cool hats

STEPHENTOWN—The Stephentown Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD) relies solely on volunteers to respond to emergencies in the community. When someone calls 911, it’s not a paid professional coming to help. It’s their neighbor.

Members are a diverse group from all walks of life, in all age groups, with many different talents and interests. What members share is the desire to help their neighbors and community. SVFD needs additional help to keep doing all they do. They especially need some younger members of the Stephentown community to step up and join.

Learn more about why SVFD members answered the call to volunteer. Join members of the SVFD for a free community screening of the family-friendly movie, “Odd Hours, No Pay, Cool Hat.” Sunday, August 27, 7 p.m. at the Stephentown Fire Hall, 35 Grange Hall Road. This newly-released documentary highlights the critical role volunteer fire departments play across the country.

Canaan historians have a challenge to meet

CANAAN—The Canaan Historical Society has received a $5,000 matching grant from the W.G. Pomeroy Foundation.

The society will receive a dollar match for each dollar raised during the challenge up to $5,000. The match must be met by October 1.

The funds raised and the match from the Pomeroy Foundation, a potential total of $10,000, will be used for a Structural Stabilization Project for the Society’s 1829 Meeting House. Having re-roofed the meeting house in 2001, the historical society contracted for a Building Condition Survey conducted by Thaler, Relly, Wilson, Architecture & Preservation of Albany in 2002. That survey developed a three-stage program of restorations for the historic meeting house; the first priority of work is structural stabilization. The historical society will reach out to the community to raise the funds to meet this match. Donations of any size are appreciated and may be mailed to Canaan Historical Society, P.O. Box 111, Canaan 12029.

Additional support for the structural stabilization project has also recently been granted from the Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation ($5,000) and from the Bank of Greene County ($1,000). An update on the 1829 Meeting House Restoration Project will be shared at the historical society’s annual meeting August 19, 3 p.m. at 13 Warners Crossing Road. Refreshments will follow a short business meeting.

Residents picnic, hear music

NEW LEBANON—Residents are invited to the New Lebanon Town Picnic and Music in the Park for an afternoon of free food and live music, courtesy of the Town of New Lebanon and local donors, at Stamford Park Weisbach Pavilion, 170 Old Post Road, Sunday, August 20 from noon to 4 p.m.

Feast on free hamburgers, hotdogs, corn and soft drinks. Beer and wine will be for sale by the Roaring 20s. Picnickers should bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Cornhole to benefit fund for firefighter’s son

ANCRAM—A benefit Cornhole Tournament hosted by the Ancram Fire Company and Upstate Baggers takes place rain or shine at the Ancram Firehouse, 1306 County Route 7, Saturday, August 26. The benefit tournament will be held in memory of fallen Ancram firefighter Stewart Hunt. All profits will go to set up a trust for Mr. Hunt’s five-year-old son, Zachary.

Register at 9 a.m., bags fly at 10 a.m. Entry fee is $80 per team payable on event day. Food and drinks will be sold, no outside food or drinks allowed. Limited to 80 teams, 4 games round-robin followed by double elimination. Sign-up on SCOREHOLIO or contact Mike Williams at 518-391-5527.

Seniors plan ahead for BBQ and luncheon

NEW LEBANON—The Lebanon Valley Seniors meet the first and third Fridays of the month at the New Lebanon firehouse, 520 State Route 20 at 1 p.m. The group is always looking for new members.

Upcoming events include a member barbecue August 25 and a luncheon at Lakeview to remember loved ones, September 15. The group’s bus trip to Silver Birches is full at this time. Still ahead will be a bake sale, pot lucks and Christmas party. For questions call Mary Defreest at 518-733-0009.

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Hudson lighthouse awarded $20,000+ grant

HUDSON—The Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Society (HALPS) has been awarded a $20,008 grant from the Preservation League of New York State. The grant will be used for a geotechnical study examining and assessing the foundation of the lighthouse, its stability, and impacts of external factors. The findings from this study will serve as a vital blueprint for implementing necessary restoration and preservation measures, according to a press release.

The work is necessitated by the findings of the 2021 underwater survey using lidar technology, which revealed the alarming and accelerated foundation damage.

Barto signs her book

COPAKE FALLS—The Roliff Jansen Historical Society Museum, 8 Miles Road, presents a special book signing event by author Maryann Proper Barto, Saturday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during Copake Falls Day. Ms. Barto will sign her book, “A Story from a Basket Maker’s Daughter: The Hill.” She grew up in the rustic village known as The Hill, the isolated inhabitants having long-depended upon one another for survival. Though they fear the consequences of their carefully kept secrets, the story’s central characters realize the time has come to venture out of their secluded surroundings and into the unfamiliar and rapidly changing world beyond The Hill.

While at the museum, visitors can peruse the society’s summer exhibition, The First 40: Celebrating Local History, which revealed a treasure trove of historical items, including a large display of Tapihkanic baskets, many made by Ms. Barto’s mother. Admission is free. Visit www.roeliffjansenhsm.org for more.

Farmscape opens ‘World of Wonders’

HARLEMVILLE—Join the Farmscape Ecology Program (FEP) for an open house at the Creekhouse, 327 County Route 21C, Saturday, August 26 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to celebrate the FEP’s 20th anniversary. This free, drop-in event features a variety of “wonder stations” highlighting new ways to experience and appreciate the wonders of the natural world through different senses and perspectives:

• Sound Wonders, the wonderful world of singing insects
• Small Wonders, microscopic wonders of plants and insects
• Hidden Wonders, the wonders inside: natural specimens and old books
• Weather Wonders, historical weather station, seasonal signs
• Suitcase of Wonders, animated 3D map of Columbia County

This free, drop-in event features a variety of “wonder stations” highlighting new ways to experience and appreciate the wonders of the natural world through different senses and perspectives.

The Preserve New York Grant is a highly competitive program dedicated to supporting the preservation of cultural and historic landmarks throughout New York State. The results of this geotechnical study will be crucial in guiding future restoration efforts, ensuring the structural soundness of the lighthouse while preserving its architectural heritage. The project aims to safeguard this cultural treasure, allowing visitors and future generations to appreciate its historical importance, maritime legacy and envision its future.

The Hudson-Athens Lighthouse in the middle of the Hudson River between the Village of Athens and City of Hudson, was built in 1874 to guide ships safely around the Middle Ground Flats. The lighthouse continues today to be an active aid to navigation.

Connect with HALPS at hudsonathenslighthouse.org, facebook.com/hudsonathenslight and instagram.com/hudsonathenslighthouse.

In case of inclement weather, the rain date is Sunday, August 27. If a decision to postpone is made, it will be posted at www.hawthornevalleyfarm.org/fep (or that Friday at noon).

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE
Go to www.theupstater.com
A strange find

By Nancy Jane Kern

GREENPORT—The Olana Partnership has launched a new program series titled, “Lessons from the Land” at Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G. The series explores how humanity shapes the landscape and how the land shapes humanity.

This program is offered for free for all Columbia and Greene county residents as part of a Humanities NY grant award which will also support Spanish-language translators during each offering to broaden access to this program and to Olana.

During each program, naturalists, herbalists, and ecologists will lead a new perspective on Olana’s 250 acres. By connecting with Olana’s physical landscape through dialogue and hands-on explorations, each visiting speaker will give a deeper understanding of Olana not only as a historic artist-designed landscape but as a site for appreciating the natural world and exploring humanity’s connections to and histories with the land. This program series uses this season’s exhibitions to transform Olana’s Historic Photography Collection Unearthed as a framework to provide perspective on the earth around here and examine the layered ways humanity interacts with the natural world.

“Lessons from the Land” supports Humanities New York’s vision to strengthen civil society and the bonds of community, and to create engaged inquiry and dialogue around social and cultural concerns.

“By bringing on speakers with diverse expertise and backgrounds, I hope this program will provide a wide range of visitors with opportunities to learn more about how we connect with the natural world and the land we inhabit,” said Carolyn Keogh, director of Education and Public Programs for The Olana Partnership.

On Saturday, August 26 at 6 p.m., Nicole Badia, founder of Gr8k Black Hudson, presents “Moving and Healing with Mother Earth: A Sunset Walk and Workshop.” During this nature walk and workshop, she guides participants through Olana’s landscape, discussing the health benefits of regional species and the ways to connect with nature through movement and mindful meditation. A seasoned yoga practitioner and performing artist, she leads a short yoga practice inspired by the flora onsite. The program culminates with a hands-on activity where participants are invited to create their own herbal tea blend or a mugwort smudge stick to take home.

Antonia Pérez of Herban Agriculture and Laura Chávez Silverman, founding naturalist of The Outside Institute, guides participants a chance to observe ecological concepts firsthand and think more about the relationship between humans and their surroundings. Identifying flora, fauna and fungi’s edible and medicinal properties will help participants cultivate an intimate connection to their surrounding.

Free refreshments will be served following each program. Space is limited and advance registration is required. This program is free for Columbia and Greene County residents, $15/person or $10/members of The Olana Partnership. For more information or to register, visit olana.org or call 518-751-6938.

ANCRAM—The Columbia Land Conservancy announces an upcoming forest health workshop called, “Women Owning Woods.” This event at the Overmountain Public Conservation Area, 138 Catalan Road, aims to inspire and educate women interested in land ownership and stewardship. It will be held on August 23, 10 a.m. to noon. The rain date August 25.

The program is designed to foster connections, provide valuable resources, and empower women to take an active role in caring for and managing their own woodlands.

At this workshop, staff will set up plots to monitor deer impacts in Columbia Land Conservancy forests. The workshop starts with a presentation about Assessing Vegetation Impacts from Deer (AVID) before getting in the woods and interpreting deer browse study areas. Participants will learn how to set up and monitor AVID plots in their own woods.

Attendees should bring weather-appropriate clothing and footwear, sunscreen, smart phone, notebook and pen, water bottle, hiking shoes, light snacks, and anything else need-ed to be comfortable on a summer day outside. Participants who plan to stay for lunch should also be bringing food for a picnic meal.

The workshop is open to women of all backgrounds and experience levels who have an interest in land ownership and conservation. Attendees are encouraged to come with questions, ideas, and a willingness to learn using the diverse range of perspectives shared at the event. WOW is a group of women landowners and natural resource professionals from the Catskills and the Hudson Valley regions. The Watershed Agricultural Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties, and the Columbia Land Conservancy organized this group of professionals and landowners as a way to foster learning experiences and discussions about forest property. The group tailors events and programs to women who own and/or manage forest lands and who need to bervide either a woman or a landowner to join, clcrtrust.org/events.

Women wonder what to do about woods

ANCRA—The Columbia Land Conservancy announces an upcoming forest health workshop called, “Women Owning Woods.” This event at the Overmountain Public Conservation Area, 138 Catalan Road, aims to inspire and educate women interested in land ownership and stewardship. It will be held on August 23, 10 a.m. to noon. The rain date August 25.

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The female. We learned a live male can’t injure us, but the female with the small pincers can give us a nasty bite. Both spray a foul smelling and seedy saliva secretion.

The dobsonfly was near a famous trout stream—perfect habi-tat for it—is nocturnal and probably was attracted to the street light in front of the restaurant. The dobsonfly eggs hatch into lar-vae called hellgrammites that like well oxygenated water. They are segmented, have legs and gill filaments along their sides, grow up to 2 & 3/4” long, live under stream bed rocks, are aggressive insect eaters, and will bite fishermen who may use them as bait. In the 1946 DC comics introduction of the villain called the hellgrammite (transformed entomologist Roderick Rose) who challenged Batman, Superman, and others. His pow-ers were not like the real insect, but were an interesting associa-tion. This villain could become a grasshopper-like being that sprays a foul smell with a large, segmented stick in the stream, the real hellgrammite crawls onto a stream bank, puppates in a cocoon over winter, and eventually emerges in a four-footed form, the fly-ing adult. An adult female lays about 3,000 eggs, dies, and the eggs begin the cycle again. It would be interesting to know if insects remember any of their life stages. Metamorphosis has puzzled and intrigued humans for ages, and this is still one question that even “What’s That Bug” is unable to answer. For more information go to: http://www.watsthatbug.com/
Alley II launches 50th season at the Hudson Area Library

Hudson—On July 28 and 29, the Hudson Area Library hosted a series of community events to celebrate the launch of Alley II’s 50th season of dynamic modern dance performances.

Alley II (the younger version of the world-renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater) visited Hudson for a weekend of free community programming for all ages.

To start, filmmaker John Campbell moderated a panel discussion with former Alley Associate Artistic Director Masazumi Chaya, immediately following a film screening of the 2021 Alley documentary, a portrait of legendary choreographer, Alvin Ailey.

Then, some of Alley II’s professional dancers led two masterclass dance workshops, providing a fun and enriching opportunity for Columbia County youth of various ages and skill levels to engage with the company’s community outreach projects.

Finally, the Alley II dancers shared a public dance performance to a packed house. Participants and audience members were thrilled to take part in this rare and wonderful experience, witnessing some of the most talented dancers in the world in Hudson.

This program was presented in partnership with JINTIME, LLC and Operation Unite, NY and it is supported by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation’s Fund for Columbia County.

Roe Jan Library hosts River Trio on August 20

COPAKE—Join the Roffill Jansen Community Library, 9091 State Route 22, on August 20 at 3 p.m. for an afternoon of classical music with the River Trio. The trio will play music of Haydn, Myšák, Vecí, Boccherini, Dvorak, Yradier, and Virollos. Cellist Jay Shulman is a 36-year member of the Long Island Philharmonic. He is active as a chamber music player, recitalist, and teacher and has produced CD reissues of the music of his father, cellist and composer, Alan Shulman. He plays with English violinist Kathryn Aldous.

Ms. Aldous has been a member of English String Orchestra and RTE National Symphony Orchestra in Ireland. She moved to the Hudson Valley in 2010, and plays with the Vermont Symphony, Albany Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra, and teaches and plays at Bard College.

The trio is completed with professional dancers led two masterclass dance workshops, providing a fun and enriching opportunity for Columbia County youth of various ages and skill levels to engage with the company’s community outreach projects.

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Library has important programs for seniors at Hillside’s Safe at Home Coffee Hour

HILLSDALE—Tammy Gaskell, director of the Roffill Jansen Community Library, will be the guest speaker at the next Hillside’s Safe at Home Coffee Hour at Hillside House, 2634 State Route, August 29 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Gaskell has both a PhD in American history and a master of library science. She has worked as a historian and editor prior to this position at the library. She spent many years at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where she was director of publication and scholarly programs. She edited a scholarly journal and magazine, oversaw the fellowship program and began and managed the society’s digital history projects.

As director of the Roe Jan Library since 2018, she has increased funding through successful voter resolutions to increase tax support from all three towns, Auster, Copake and Hillsdale and has increased grant support to ensure enhanced collections and programs. She has developed and supported a committed team which understands the importance of customer service and collection development.

As chair of the Columbia Libraries Association since 2021, she has worked to strengthen collaboration between county libraries, supporting shared programs, outreach and resources.

Ms. Gaskell leads a conversation about the various services and programming at the library with a focus on programs that may be of particular interest to seniors such as lectures on health topics and reading and discussion groups on aging. According to the library’s annual report, “a local library is an essential community organization that knows and responds to the needs and interests of the community it serves. It means working with the community—not just for it—so that our local community thrives.” She embodies this value and is committed to serving the Roe Jan community.

“Those who need a ride or want further information about the Coffee Hour, or the Safe At Home Committee, should contact Natalie at 518-265-2113.”
Fonda championship battle

IT HAS ALL COME DOWN to just six points for the Fonda Speedway Amsterdam Truck Center Modified Track Championship as Demetrios Drellos will go into the final night of points leading by a mere six points over defending champion Matt DeLorenzo.

Drellos is trying to pull off the same feat as DeLorenzo did in 2022 by picking up both the Fonda and Albany Saratoga Speedway Championships.

Looking for his third Fonda championship (the first was in 2007), DeLorenzo will be looking to change his luck after last week’s flat during the Modified feature that had the point lead over to Drellos.

Looking at their record for the season at Fonda both drivers have picked up one win each, with Drellos having nine top 5s as DeLorenzo had eight top 5s during a season that found Mother Nature winning her share of the races.

Sitting a third distant is young gun Alex Yankowski, who makes the long haul from Covington Township, PA, and would work his way around the top side of the historic speedway to his liking, sitting third with 47 points.

CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT

Championship Night is a special night for those who stand proud on Checker Board Square and join a list of great drivers who have had that feeling. Winning a championship is tough. Winning a championship at a track with so much history and a list of champions that is a who’s who no matter what the division is even tougher and more gratifying.

The 2023 race season has found tight racing action in all divisions that will come down to one special night at the “Track of Champions,” Fonda Speedway.

A talented field of the mighty Amsterdam Truck Center Modifieds made their way to the track on a night that had been producing a great night of action-packed racing on a smooth, fast, multi-groove racing surface.

The fans were in for a treat come feature time. It was Bobby Hackel IV, fresh off a win at Five Mile Point Speedway, fourth at the STS event at Acton Track USA, and a recent winner of a new Bicknell Chassis.

Dave Camara led the field to green with Hackel grabbing the early lead going into turn one, leading down the backstretch, through turns 3 and 4 and powered his 97 under the flag stand to lead lap one. Jack Lehner moved to second with Camera third. The caution flew on lap 3 for the 2RJ of Ronnie Johnson, who had slowed.

During the caution DeLorenzo headed to the hot pit for a pit stop before turning his attention to his wife and kids at home. Meanwhile, DeLorenzo watched the race from the side.

As good as the race was out front, working their way through the pack was Drellos, Stewart Friesen, Matt Sheppard and Yankowski, with DeLorenzo on the charge. Now that’s some talent.

Working your way through the Fonda field is tough. When the track is as fast as it was Saturday night that charge to the front just got a whole lot tougher.

It was Friesen and Drellos working their way into the top 5 when the caution flew for Sheppard, who was making a rare Saturday appearance looking for those all-important NASCAR points, and went pit with a flat right rear and would return to the battle. Back to green, Hackel had the new Bicknell Pro Powered hot rod on the move powering to the lead as Friesen worked his way to third, getting past Yankowski.

Drellos and Yankowski raced hard going forward, with Drellos working his way into the top 5 and Yankowski with his foot to the motor plate. Our front, Hackel was on cruise control as the racing inside the top 5 was heating up with Lehner and Yankowski battling side by side on a track that was showing no signs of slowing down while Yankowski, Drellos and Warner were having a battle of their own.

With Friesen working his way to second, it was Hackel, Friesen, Lehner, Drellos and Yankowski holding down the top 5, with Sheppard and DeLorenzo still working their way forward.

The caution was out for David Schilling. This would be the last time a caution would fly as we would go all green flag laps to the end.

Hackel and Friesen were side by side at they went into turn one, with Hackel powering the top side with perfection and becoming the leader down the back stretch as Sheppard and DeLorenzo had worked their way to just outside the top 5.

Changing lanes, Friesen started to run the bottom and started to close in on the 97 but ran out of laps as Hackel continued to power the high side with perfection and that new combination is all he needed to pick up his first Fonda Speedway Modified feature win with Friesen, Drellos, Lehner and Yankowski rounding out the top 5. Sheppard and DeLorenzo working their way to sixth and seventh.

MORE RACING

There were two drivers doing double duty during the night as Danny Varin, who pulled out of the Modified feature, and Hackel were both in ESS Super Sprints. WOW were the 360 winged warriors fast as they were pushing the limits on the high side and putting on a show for the fans.

With his talent and experience at Fonda, Danny Varin showed the field the fast way around the famous quarter mile after starting sixth and taking the lead from Jordan Poitier on lap 13.

The early going found Bobby Hackel IV grabbing the lead of the ESS Earl Halquist Memorial Winged Super Sprints feature, holding off Jordan Poitier for the lead until Poitier worked his way around Hackel to become the new leader on lap 6. With the battle out front Varin was making his way to the front running the fast line around the high side and he was coming for the win.

Taking second on lap 8, Varin quickly started to reel in Poitier. Getting a great run on the high side out of turn 2, Varin was able to power his way down the back stretch and work his way to the lead, coming out of turn 4 and even never looked back, picking up the popular win with Poitier, Jordon Thomas and Paul Colagiovanni finishing third, fourth and ninth, with Matt Tanner rounding out the top 5 with a great run after starting 13th on a track that continued to be smooth, fast, and multi grooves.

The Sweatg Factory Apparel 602 Sportsman, who are also in a battle for the championship, finds Payton Talbot going into Championship Night with a 25-point lead over Chad Edwards. At the drop of the green with the two major point chasers starting deep in the field, 17th and 19th, it was veteran and fan favorite Happy Harry Shaffer taking the early lead.

Our front, Shaffer was hitting his marks and was able to get the jump on three restarts. On the move were Talbot and Edwards, racing each other and the fine field as they were working their way into the top 5. You could not even hear the drivers getting off the gas into one and two.

For Shaffer it was Brett Mortensen, who was putting on the pressure and would make the move on the high side of four to be the new leader.

A late caution brought the field back to Mortensen’s rear deck with 10 laps to go. Once back to green, Mortensen continued out front. The championship is tough.

Looking for his third Fonda championship (the first was in 2007), DeLorenzo was at the top of his game as a motorsports journalist and he had the utmost respect of all in the sport. Chasin’ Racin’ would like to extend our deepest thoughts to JoAnn, his wife, and the entire family. Don will be deeply missed.

Mark Kane

Demetrios Drellos looking for his first Fonda Speedway goes into Championship Night with a six-point lead.

Fonda championship battle
Hudson—Mary E. Gruber Gruber, 88, passed away at Columbia Memorial Hospital after a brief illness August 8, 2023. She was born July 2, 1935 in Hudson, the daughter of Charles Pendergast and Eileen Moore Pendergast. She was predeceased by her parents; a sister, Jayne Finn and a son, Michael Edward Soule. She was educated in the Hudson School District graduating from Hudson High School in 1953. She started her career with the New York Telephone Company in 1954 as an operator in Hudson. She went on to hold several positions with the company including the office union representative. She was active as a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, serving as secretary 1977-1978, vice president 1979-1980 for the Kingston Club, which included the Hudson, Catskill, Kingston, Monticello areas and also served as president of the Mid-Hudson Council of the Pioneers. She retired in 1985 and moved to Florida with her husband, Kurt. They resided in Florida for 30 years before returning to Hudson in 2015. On her return, she became involved with the Adult Learning Institute at C-GCC. She will be remembered for her infectious smile and great sense of humor. Left to cherish her memory is her son, David Paul Soule and his wife, Sally of Longmont, CO; a daughter, Renee Marie Soule Dinardi and her husband, James of Hudson; a brother and sister-in-law, Robert and Janie Pendergast of Hudson, five grandchildren, Michael Dinardi and Winey Wager of Buford, GA, Mark Dinardi of East Greenwich, Charles Soule and Kyle of Denver, CO, Michelle Soule and Jackson Dickerson of Longmont, CO; and John Soule and Mary of Longmont, CO; seven great-grandchildren, Wy, Lennox, Atlas, Ender, Hunter, Brynn and Kadence, all of Colorado; a nephew and several nieces.

There will be no visitation hours to honor her request. A private funeral will be held at her family’s convenience. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Columbia Memorial Hospital Foundation. As a CMH patient, she received great care and kindness during her final days. Arrangements are through the Bates & Anderson - Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home, Hudson.

Hudson—Michael P. Greenhouse, 62, of Hudson passed away August 8, 2023. Born in Hudson, May 19, 1961, he was the son of Henry "Hank" and Elaine Greenhouse. "Mike" graduated from Hudson High School and University of Connecticut and also enjoyed listening to music, collecting baseball cards, visiting with employees and customers of businesses around Greenport. He is survived by: his broth- er, Kenneth (Brooke) Greenhouse and his companion of more than 20 years, Joan Holodock. In addition, he leaves behind many loving rela- tives. He was predeceased by his parents.

A private memorial service will be held at Cedar Park Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the American Kidney Association or the charity of their choice. Arrangements were with the Bates & Anderson – Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home, Hudson.

Hudson—Robert "Bob" Turk, 84, of Hudson passed away Friday, August 11, 2023. Born March 21, 1939 in Hudson, he was the son of Charles and Evelyn (Kaminski) Turk. He retired from the V & O Press after 25 years of dedicated work. He then was best known as a City of Hudson bus driver for more than 10 years. He was an avid outdoorsman enjoying fishing, hunting and camping and especially duck hunting on the Hudson River. He was a life member of the Federation of Polish Sportmen and the Roe Jan Boat Club. He was also a lifelong New York Yankees fan, and a dog lover. He will be remembered for walking his dogs “around the block” from Union Turnpike around Atken Avenue. He also took great pride in, and loved decorating his home for Christmas.

Robert Turk (1939 - 2023)

Hawthorne Valley Farm Science Ecology staff will demonstrate the equipment and explain how it works. Visitors will be able to learn about and interact with early weather instruments, try their hand at being meteorolo- gists, and reading weather con- ditions on instruments. Come learn more about their history and use.

A daily almanac derived from meteorological and sea- sonal observations made by 19th century observers in the area will also be available for perusing, as well as historical weather maps. The staff will talk about how historical weather observations provide a window into how weather and climate has changed since Martin Van Buren's time, and some of the local effects those changes are having today.

For more information call 518-758-9689 or visit www.nps. gov/mava.

Edwin Kendall Aneroid Barometer. Photo contributed

Has the weather changed since Marty's time?

Kinderhook—Join staff at the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site to view a historical weather station dis- played in the Martin Van Buren House. Hawthorne Valley Farm Science Ecology, Saturday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The weather station display will feature antique and replica weather instruments.
ALBANY—Michael J. Horkan, retired lieutenant of the Poughkeepsie Police Department, age 60, of Ghent passed away peacefully Thursday, August 10, 2023 at Albany Medical Center. Born in Rhinebeck, February 5, 1963, he was the son of the late James and Jean Horkan. He is survived by: his sisters, Pat (Swend) Beecher of Rhinebeck, Madeline Whittaker of Hudson, Theresa Horkan of Hampton Bays and Jean Horkan of Hillsdale. He was predeceased by his brother, James Horkan, III. Survivors also include his loving nieces, nephews, great-niece, great-nephew, cousins and so many friends. He will be dearly missed by all.

Robert A. Aluisio (1949 - 2023)

HUDSON—Robert Allen Aluisi, 74, of Hudson died Saturday, August 12, 2023 at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Born in Youngkers, January 9, 1949, he was the son of the late Emerico and Grace (Ingui) Aluisi. He was a landscaper with Flowering Gardens in Copake Falls for many years until his retirement. He was survived by: three sons, Tony (Anne) Aluisio and his fiancée Victoria Revere and Nicholas, and his wife Renee, and their son Asher; his brothers, Thomas (Madeline) and Robert (Eileen); his sister, Carolyn (George) Weber; several nieces and nephews, and his lifelong friend, Debbie (Pete) Kane.

ROBERT A. ALUISIO, JR.; 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. There are no services planned at this time. Arrangements were with the L. F. Schermerhorn and Dorance Funeral Home, Greenport.

L. F. SCHERMERHORN and DORANCE

Dawn M. Drake (1961 - 2023)

HELENA—Dr. Matthew “Mattie” Drake passed away surrounded by family in Albany, August 9, 2023. He battled Muir-Torre Syndrome cancer for nearly two decades and bravely outlived multiple prognoses. He was a vibrant person, loving friend and dedicated father.

OBITUARIES

Celebrations of life are a time for us all to come together to celebrate a life and remember our loved ones. If you or a loved one would like to have their obituary published in The Columbia Paper, please contact our classified department at 413-652-2934 or email ads@columbiapaper.com. We will be happy to help guide you through the process.

Elizabeth A. Van Keuren (1962 - 2023)

CHATHAM—Jane Hannay Meyer passed away peacefully at her home in Chatham, August 14, 2023.

Robert Aluisio (1949 - 2023)

ALBANY—Michael J. Horkan, Jr., Kenneth VanAlphen, Jr., Randy VanAlphen, John Van Alphen; daughters, Carolyn (George) Weber; several nieces and nephews, and his lifelong friend, Debbie (Pete) Kane.

ALBANY—Michael J. Horkan, Jr., Kenneth VanAlphen, Jr., Randy VanAlphen; daughters, Carolyn (George) Weber; several nieces and nephews, and his lifelong friend, Debbie (Pete) Kane.

Dawn M. Drake (1961 - 2023)

Robert Aluisio (1949 - 2023)

ALBANY—Michael J. Horkan, Jr., Kenneth VanAlphen, Jr., Randy VanAlphen; daughters, Carolyn (George) Weber; several nieces and nephews, and his lifelong friend, Debbie (Pete) Kane.

Robert Aluisio (1949 - 2023)

ALBANY—Michael J. Horkan, Jr., Kenneth VanAlphen, Jr., Randy VanAlphen; daughters, Carolyn (George) Weber; several nieces and nephews, and his lifelong friend, Debbie (Pete) Kane.
**Obituaries**

**Scott diMonda (1968 - 2023)**

GREENPORT—Scott D. diMonda, 54, of Greenport died Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at his home. Born in Meadowbrook, November 28, 1968, he was the son of Patricia Vandereof of Greenport and the late Cesare diMonda. He was a corrections officer for several years with the NYSDOCCS and recently the owner of Tactical Warriors in Greenport. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and brother. He will be greatly missed by: his beloved wife, Tammy L. (Burnett) diMonda; sons, Morgan diMonda (fiancée Bria Collier) and Taylor diMonda; daughter, Danielle; stepdaughter, Krisha (Nick) Halvax; his brother, Michael Vandereof; sister, Vanessa Vandereof and her grandchildren, Isabella and Viora Monson; and parents, Vito diMonda and Watson Halvax, Charlotte Rose diMonda, and Luca Lapheare-diMonda. Calling hours and funeral services were held August 13, 2023 at the Sacco Funeral Home, 700 Town Hall Drive, Greenport.

**Anna Camarda (1931 - 2023)**

OLD CHATHAM—Anna Camarda (nee Nicastro) passed peacefully in her sleep August 9, 2023 at the age of 91. Born September 3, 1931 in Palermo, Italy, she was the daughter of Giuseppe and Angela (nee Di Marco) Nicastro. She was predeceased by her parents, brother, and sister-in-law, and brother-in-law. She immigrated from the United States in 1948 to be married. She was predeceased by two sisters-in-law, five grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Affectionately known as “Hurricane Anna” by friends and family, she was a strong and fiercely independent nurturing woman. Her energy (and voice) filled every room she entered. She was well-known and well-loved—especially for her cooking. They retired to Palm Bay, Florida, in 1981 where she made her home until 2019 where she moved to Old Chatham to live with her daughter. They made their home until 2019 where she moved to Old Chatham to live with her daughter. She is survived by: her husband, Carlo Camarda, predeceased her in 1988. She is survived by: her sisters, Gaetana Gentile of New Jersey, Rosalia Mora of Arizona, and sister-in-law, Graziedda Nicastro of Brooklyn; her children, Maria Cosenza (Jim Johnson), Joseph Cosenza (Paula Fagone), Mario Cosenza (Kim Poynter); 10 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

**Philip R. Bower (1950 - 2023)**

CHATHAM—Philip R. Bower, Jr., 73, of Chatham or (Gent) died peacefully at home in the company of his loving family, Monday, August 14, 2023.

Born in Hudson on January 28, 1950, he was the son of the late Philip and Thelma (Snyder) Bower. After high school, he worked for 50 years at Knight Transportation of Phoenix, AZ, and was an avid motorcyclist. He leaves behind to cherish his memory: his loving partner, Debbie Wheeler; sons, Shane (Miranda) Bower, Bryan (Kristina) Bower, Justin (Tina) Bower; daughter, Sara (Mike) Wagner; brothers, Larry (Tina) Bower and Leo Bower; one sister, Vera Bedell; 11 grandchildren, one great-grandchild; lifelong friends, Terry and June Byler; his western buddy, Gigi; many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Edwards Johnson. He was an avid car and motorcycle enthusiast who also enjoyed watching NASCAR. He was also an avid pool player and has been in the local league since 1998. In addition, he was a long-time leader of Boy Scout Troop 752. He is survived by: his wife of 42 years, Joan Johnson; his two sons, Nelson and his fiancée Kristina Ott and Brian Johnson; his two granddaughters, Jazmine and Cierra Johnson; his two grandsons, Nelson and his fiancée Jazmine Johnson; and his brother, Michael Johnson.

**Alan B. Johnson (1952 - 2023)**

ALBANY—Alan “A.J.” B. Johnson, 71, of Claverack passed away unexpectedly August 7, 2023 at Albany Medical Center. He was born June 11, 1952 in Mt. Kisco to the late Nelson and Marjorie (Williams) Johnson. He worked for 50 years at Verizon Telephone as a watch engineer. He was predeceased by his father, Alan Johnson, and his brother, Edwards Johnson. A time for sharing memories and offering condolences will be Sunday, August 13 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake. Interment will take place at the convenience of the family.

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Philanthropist Joan K. Davidson dies at 96

HUDSON—Joan Kaplan Davidson, president of Furthermore, died August 11. She was 96.

In 1959, Ms. Davidson founded Furthermore in publishing as a program promotion of the J. M. Kaplan Fund and established its office in Hudson. Furthermore supports publication of nonfiction books that address the environment and the natural and built environment. Since its inception, the program has assisted more than 1,400 books, granting over $8 million to nonprofits across the United States, Canada and Europe.

As a friend, Birdmayer, program director of Furthermore and the Alice Award said, in a press release, “Joan loved books for their sake. She believed in the power books have to inform, interpret, provoke thought, and speak for the public interest. Across the country, exceptional books that might not have come into being without her support stand as a legacy. We will miss her immeasurably and applaud her good work today.

In addition to her leadership of Furthermore, in 2013, Ms. Davidson was awarded the annual price of Giving and was recognized for her contribution of $500,000, which is chosen by a jury of professionals and award annually to an illustrated book that makes a valuable contribution to its field and demonstrates high standards of production. Books selected by the award jury for the Alice short list each receive $5,000. At the end of 2023, $385,000 will be given in support of illustrated publications.

Ian Fickinger, director of The Frick Collection said, also in the release, “First for Furthermore and then for the Alice Award, Joan Davidson created a unique mark in the literary world. Furthermore stands out among foundations for its support of nonfiction books with grants that are often critical for funding leading to their publication. The Alice recognizes books that exemplify the successful combination of the text and the latest visual image of the well-made illustrated book. Inherent in Alice books is a special sense of intimacy, as the reader turns the pages to discover fresh insights.

Joan Davidson made a heroic commitment to the writers, editors, designers, illustrators, and publishers who create our beloved books. As chair of the Alice Jury, I and my colleagues found great pleasure in furthering Joan’s vision and hope that her spirit will carry forward.”

In 2022 Joan Davidson created a speaker series hosted at the Carriage House at Midwood, her property in the Hudson River Valley. Ms. Davidson sponsored the program, under the aegis of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, to encourage participants to, “Listen, see, think, agree, disagree, and have fun!”

A native of New York City and longtime resident of Columbia County, Ms. Davidson devoted her life to public service. She served as chair of the Hudson-Fulton- Champlain Quadrilateral Commission and the New York State Commission on the Arts and as commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.

From 1977 to 1993, she was president of the J. M. Kaplan Fund. As president emeritus until her death, she continued to support design, and quality of life of New York City while supporting numerous Hudson Valley nonprofit organizations dedicated to the environment, social justice, the arts and historic preservation.

Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-10th) said, “Joan K. Davidson was a beloved friend, an inspiring role model and an influential leader. Ms. Davidson, whose passion for our state, majestic Hudson River, culture, arts and stories was unwavering. She spent her life fighting for our landmarks and cultural institutions, for our beautiful natural resources, and for a more just and equitable society. I will always picture Joan at Midwood surrounded by family and friends, orchestrating multiple conversations about arts and politics. Everywhere there are piles of fascinating books, many made possible through the remarkable Furthermore grants in publishing program which she launched in 1995 from a little office in the City of Hudson. Joan will be greatly missed, but she has left us an extraordinary legacy.”

The J. M. Kaplan Fund was established in 1945 by Ms. Davidson’s father, businessman and philanthropist Jacob Merrill Kaplan (1891-1987), who was its president until 1977. Today the fund is managed by an Operating Board that consists of five Kaplan’s seven grandchildren.

Under Ms. Davidson’s leadership, the J. M. Kaplan Fund was a driving force for her father, often stepping in as the first funder for organizations working to preserve threatened cultural and historic resources, restore New York landmarks and achieve social justice. With a modest endowment and supported by the Joan K. Davidson Legacy Fund, the J. M. Kaplan Fund pledges support for solutions to complex problems. Ms. Davidson explained, “We didn’t give huge amounts of money. To us the point was to use strategic money, to get something of major consequence.”

Ms. Davidson lived in Manhattan and the Hudson Valley with many of her four children, twelve grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren in residence nearby.
This is our Summer Double Issue. We do it every year, so our next print issue will come out August 31.

**Editorial**

**Was ‘dignity’ involved?**

The woman left her car door open in the parking lot. I could see her one moment and not the next from my desk as she hovered outside our office. A minute or so of that and she came just inside, leaving the porch door open behind her.

I said, “You don’t have to wear…”

“… I always wear a mask,” she said, cutting me off.

She was looking for a local hamlet not far away. She peeled off the pandemic mask and asked if we had a computer in the newsroom that would show her the way to her destination. She said she was frightened to use digital devices; you had to get so close to people.

I tried describing the route. She answered questions that hadn’t been asked. And then abruptly she paused. “You mean there’s only one stoplight?”

“One,” I said.

“I know that place,” she said, smiling.

She waved a sheet of paper or maybe a map as she got into her car. She shouted something that sounded like, “treat… with dignity!”

It could have been thank-you. But I had no close match finding a phrase that fit. The truck traffic on nearby state Route 66 is at its loudest in the late afternoon. Keep in mind that this is a very poor example of reporting. Editors generally require contemporary notes and, in stories of conflict or controversy, we want to know details that might reveal conclusions that the facts don’t support.

I’ve been repeating the words that our visitor left with. They might offer insights to the year ahead. I think of them as reminders that listening to strangers can tell you things you hadn’t considered. It can take you in all sorts of directions.

Take your pick, maybe something like climate change and clean water. What’s occupied my mind for much of the last few days is the question: Are we ready to protect ourselves from a new pandemic or some variant of Covid-19? We’re seeing the answer unfold as we live through these harrowing events. But this time the story is stripped down to the facts, no media horse-race noise, no shameless political lies.

That doesn’t mean Trump/MAGA lies are being criminalized. They simply do not count as evidence in a court of law, where only provable facts matter. Nor are rules to protect witnesses and keep a jury pool from being tainted assaults on speech.

This case is not about free speech. It’s about the right to vote and have our votes counted, the bedrock foundation of majority rule.

I urge everyone to read the indictment, which you can find at justice.gov, and decide for yourself. And then VOTE.

Patricia Goldsmith

Livingston

**Letters**

**Farm Bill could do so much more**

To the Editor:

Thank you to the publishers and editors of the Columbia Paper for publishing the in-depth and superbly written two-part article by reporter Deborah E. Lams on the forthcoming 2023 Farm Bill. As residents of Columbia County, we enjoy the beautiful landscape of our agricultural community, and the beautiful healthy, nutritious food we can purchase directly from our local farms or at farmers markets, without realizing the challenges of our more than 500 small local farms that have historically received little benefit from the Farm Bills that are reauthorized every 5 years.

Given the clear evidence that climate change is seriously impacting the world’s food supply, now is time for Congress to pass a farm bill that vastly increases support for climate smart, small farm conservation practices that enrich soil health, grow healthy food, and make the earth more resilient to storms, rather than continue to direct massive federal funding to large industrial scale farming that causes significant environmental degradation due to these farming practices.

Stephanie Susman

Clermont

**Most important vote is yours**

To the Editor:

I’ve read the most recent indictment of Donald Trump, and although it’s a legal document, it is intentionally very readable. It’s a clear and compelling story; in large part because we all lived through these harrowing events. But this time the story is stripped down to the facts, no media horse-race noise, no shameless political lies.

That doesn’t mean Trump/MAGA lies are being criminalized. They simply do not count as evidence in a court of law, where only provable facts matter. Nor are rules to protect witnesses and keep a jury pool from being tainted assaults on speech.

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I urge everyone to read the indictment, which you can find at justice.gov, and decide for yourself. And then VOTE.

Patricia Goldsmith

Livingston

**Clermont hosts open house for plan update**

CLERMONT—On August 19 from noon to 5 p.m. at Firehouse #2, 65 Firehouse Road, Town of Clermont residents have the opportunity to input and make changes to the proposed updates of the town’s Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan drives decisions and planning for the town such as where homes, offices or stores can be built; how the town invests in the community; protection of working farms and woodlands and access to clean air, clean water and a healthy, sustainable environment. Residents have worked together to develop recommendations on how the town will manage its growth, increase affordable housing, adapt to climate change, advance social justice and encourage economic development. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the public comment period.

Since February 2022, when initial work began, committee members, with assistance from LaBella Associates, have received comments from the public indicating their priorities and concerns for the town.

These comments have been incorporated into the draft Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan draft update contains a number of goals for consideration when shaping the future development of the town.

The draft Comprehensive Plan will be available online at www.clermontny.org. Comments and questions can be addressed to clerkmontcomprehensiveplan@gmail.com or call Mary Howard at 518 929-5866.

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**Postmaster**: Send address changes to The Columbia Paper, PO Box 482, Ghent, NY 12075.
Rained-out car show is back for another try

GHENT—Saturday, August 26 has been set as the rain date for the fourth annual “Poor Boyz” car show on the grounds of the Ghent VFW Post #5933, 2237 State Route 66 opposite the Ghent Firehouse.

The event was supposed to take place June 17, but was called off due to inclement weather which has plagued this summer’s car show schedules all along the East Coast.

Free to the public, the show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with $15 show car vehicle registration from 9 a.m. to noon.

All makes and models of cars, trucks and motorcycles are invited. Following the noon registration cut-off, judging will begin. Awards presented at about 3 p.m.

Highlights include 30 trophies plus three major awards (Club Pick, Commander’s Choice and Best in Show), 50/50 raffle, food all day, music, Swap meet and other vendors are welcome.

Easy access off Route 66 with ample spectator parking. Call 518-567-1374 or 518-751-6783 with questions.

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place a classified, email ads@columbiapaper.com or call 518-392-1122

Help wanted

LOOKING FOR PART TIME DRIVER for disabled residents to take to appointments, shopping, errands and misc. Please have a clean driving record and current eye exam within the last year. Columbia County, NY area. Call or text (518)567-6002.

Items wanted

SHOP AT THE COLUMBIA COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE. We have wonderful new and recycled donated building materials, new paint, appliances, windows, doors and more. Our inventory changes weekly. Stop by 829 Route 66 (intersection of SH) Wednesday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Seeking Transformational Leader

Executive Editor

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide leadership and guidance to the editorial team, including editors, reporters, photographers, and other staff members.
- Develop and implement editorial strategies to ensure the newspapers meet the needs and interests of the local communities.
- Oversee the planning, assigning, and editing of news stories, features, and other content across multiple publications.
- Ensure the accuracy, fairness, and quality of all published content, adhering to ethical and professional standards.
- Collaborate with the advertising and marketing departments to develop content that supports revenue generation and advertising goals.
- Stay updated on local, regional, and national news trends, identifying opportunities for coverage and community engagement.
- Manage the editorial budget, including resource allocation, expenses, and vendor relationships.
- Foster relationships with community leaders, organizations, and readers to understand their needs and maintain a strong community presence.
- Oversee the recruitment, training, and performance evaluation of editorial staff members.
- Stay informed about industry developments, emerging technologies, and best practices in journalism to enhance newsroom and community engagement.

Qualifications

- Bachelor’s degree in journalism, communications, or a related field. A master’s degree is a plus.
- Proven experience in a similar editorial role, preferably within the newspaper industry.
- Strong leadership and management skills, with the ability to motivate and inspire a team.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with a keen eye for detail and accuracy.
- Deep understanding of journalistic ethics, standards, and practices.
- Knowledge of community journalism and the ability to identify and cover local news stories.
- Familiarity with digital publishing platforms, social media, and multimedia storytelling.
- Ability to work under pressure, meet deadlines, and adapt to changing priorities.
- Strong organizational and problem-solving skills, with the ability to multitask effectively.
- A passion for community journalism and a commitment to serving the needs of local communities.

Contact Mark Vinciguerra by emailing markvinciguerra@ravennews.com

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Southeastern Columbia County offers a unique life style, blending country living with nearby access to a wide variety of enjoyable experiences. The towns of Copake, Hillsdale, Ancram, Taghkanic and Gallatin offer a mix of independent businesses, organic produce and flower farms, a number of local distilleries and breweries, one of the area’s largest farmers markets and numerous outdoor recreational areas. Close by are the cultural activities and shops in nearby Hudson, New York and the western Berkshires of Massachusetts.

The population in these towns includes both multi-generational families and newer residents who have chosen to call this beautiful area home. The area is located two hours from New York City, two and a half hours from Boston, one hour from Albany, and is accessible by frequent train service from New York City.

An important element of the region is access to health care services. In 2016, Columbia Memorial Health established a new Rapid Care Center and relocated its existing Callan Family Care practice in a new center adjacent to the rescue squad on 283 Mountainview Road to help meet the needs of the broader Roe Jan region.

Status of Copake Rapid Care Center
The Copake care center is an important part of the CMH/Albany Med Health System, and we remain committed to its operation. However, much has changed in recent years, including a regional and national shortage of health care providers. This shortage is impacting every health care organization. For CMH, the provider shortage has profoundly impacted the Copake Rapid Care Center. At present, despite significant ongoing recruitment activities, CMH has been unable to secure a provider necessary to consistently operate rapid care services at Copake. Therefore, at this time, the Copake Rapid Care Center is closed. We view this status as temporary, and we are working with state and local leaders to identify strategies to re-establish this service as soon as possible.

Health Care Services Remain Available at the CMH Copake Location
Not to be overlooked, however, is the Copake primary and family care practice of Dr. Dorinda Midwood at Callan Family Care—also located at 283 Mountainview Road. Dr. Midwood provides care to patients age 2 and up, and is accepting new patients. The office’s hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. To make an appointment call 518-329-3900.

We will provide an update concerning the status of the Rapid Care Center as the matter evolves.

Dorothy Urschel
President and CEO, Columbia Memorial Health