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THE COLUMBIA Paper

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Town Board praises long time historian

By DIANE VALDEN

ANCRAM – She was the guardian of town history for nearly three decades.

Clara Van Tassel, 85, retired from her post as town historian as of the first of this year, so the Town Board took the opportunity to recognize her for her years of service at the February 15 Town Board meeting.

Mrs. Van Tassel, born and raised in the Ancram hamlet, took over the preservation of the town's historical and cultural resources, including its treasure trove of artifacts, from the late Ethel Miller on January 3, 1995. Ever since then Mrs. Van Tassel has been town historian or assistant town historian. Now, she has turned over the keeping of the town's historic archives to Robin (Roche) Massa. Katie (Boothby) Hunt will serve as assistant historian.

In a phone interview this week, Mrs. Van Tassel, who previously worked as a nurse, said her historian duties involved examining history and "keeping track of current town events because someday they will be history."

Continued on Page 7



David Lee

In Ancram, grills and boys and grownups too get a tastier side of winter

To give the winter doldrums a little taste of summer, the Ancram Fire Company had a chicken barbecue on Saturday, February 24. The chicken halves were arranged on the grates of a huge barbecue pit behind the firehouse. There, in the chilly February wind, the chickens spent about 2-1/2 hours grilling. The meals included potato salad, an ear of corn, cole slaw, a roll and an ice cream sandwich. Dan Brazie and Will Lutz are checking the meat for "doneness."

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By *Lorna Cherot Littleway*

History Interpreter speaks on foundation of slavery in NY

THE IRVINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY in Westchester County presented a talk, "Correcting The Foundational Years of Slavery in New Netherland/New York," via Zoom on Sunday, February 11. The speaker, Lavada Nahon, has been the Interpreter of African American History for the NYS Office of Parks since 2019 when the position started. Ms. Nahon is a culinary and cultural historian of the Mid-Atlantic region, 17th – 19th centuries with an emphasis on enslaved cooks in the homes of the elite class.

In her opening remarks, Nahon excitedly proclaimed, "Research is happening everywhere! In New York, in the

Caribbean, in the Netherlands." NYS has 35 historic sites, 15 from the Colonial Period and is in the process of updating its permanent collections. She added that there is a "heavy wave of research" that has expanded our knowledge "with so much detail."

Nahon posed the question that divides historians: Was New Netherlands (New York) a slave society or a society with slaves? Nahon is decidedly in the former camp. She shared some recent information that has come to light and how it shifts the narrative around enslavement in New York. But, first, Nahon answered the question, What is a Historic Interpreter? "We talk to the public," she

said. They are the "gateway" between researchers and the public.

Nahon recalled that when she was 24 years old she visited the Brooklyn Museum and discovered that the top floor housed a Dutch Room and wondered why, thinking that such an exhibit would be more appropriate in a European country. But over time Nahon learned that the Dutch were integral players in the Colonial slave trade.

The first ship transporting Africans to Jamestown, VA in 1619 was a Dutch privateer. The New York History Journal recently reported that on August

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Jolene Race appointed executive director of county Recovery Kitchen

HUDSON – Jolene Race has assumed the position of Executive Director of the Columbia County Recovery Kitchen. She formerly served as director of the Columbia County Solid Waste Department where she oversaw local transfer stations and county wide environmental initiatives and served on the Columbia County Climate Smart Committee.



Photo contributed
Jolene Race

In announcing Ms. Race's appointment, Carole Clark, one of the founders of CCRK said, "In just three years, CCRK has grown from a small grass roots organization serving 200 meals a week, to a major force

addressing hunger in the area with over 1500 meals delivered throughout the county. With her extensive knowledge of the county and her managerial and

executive background, Jolene will oversee our continuing growth and expansion."

Ms. Race retired from government in December. She soon realized, as she says, "this isn't going to work" and when she heard about the CCRK position she thought, "Maybe this would be a good fit. I wanted to stay involved in my community and I missed working and collaborating with people."

In addition to her new position in CCRK, Ms. Race continues to work on climate issues and education. This year's projects include a 2024 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds on September 14.

Students graduate from Clarkson University

POTSDAM – Students from Clarkson University were awarded bachelor's, masters and doctoral degrees this winter on December 16.

Local students include:

Cheryl Meenagh, Valatie; Shane Dunn, Elizaville; and Katherine Gardner, Hudson.

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American Legion post passes resolution to include daughters

HUDSON – During their post meeting on February 12, American Legion Post 184 voted unanimously to revise Post Resolution 2024-001 to "Rename Sons of the American Legion to Sons and Daughters of the American Legion." The original resolution, which was passed during the October 9, 2023 post meeting, was reviewed at the Department of New York's 2024 Mid-Winter Conference and returned with suggested revisions. After the revised resolution passed at the post level, it was sent to the Columbia County American Legion Committee. The county voted to forward the resolution to the Department of New York Resolutions Chairman for consideration. If the resolution passes the resolutions committee, it will be put up for a vote at the Department Convention in Niagara Falls this July, and on to National if it passes at the Department Convention.



Photo contributed
Members of the American Legion Post 184 at their February 12 meeting.

Post Commander Eric De Kraai, who authored the resolution, said, in a press release, "I am very proud of our post for passing this resolution. And very proud of the Columbia County committee for voting to send it to the department. The idea of a Sons and Daughters of the American Legion was brought to me by two women veterans who are members of our post. They were both at our February 12th meeting, one of them motioned to pass the resolution, the other seconded it, and it passed unanimously. I am glad they both got

to witness as their idea passed our post unanimously."

The Sons of the American Legion (SAL) was founded in 1932. Currently, only male descendants, adopted, and stepsons of legionnaires or veterans who either died in service during WWI, or who served honorably any time after December 7, 1941, can be members of SAL. If the resolution passes nationally, it would rename Sons of the American Legion to Sons and Daughters of the American Legion, and expand eligibility in the program to include all descendants, adopted, and stepchildren. Right now, there is no program within the American Legion family that stepdaughters and great-granddaughters and beyond can be a part of. However, stepsons and great-grandsons and beyond have been allowed to be part of SAL since its inception. Due to IRS

regulations, the American Legion Auxiliary cannot expand its eligibility to allow stepdaughters or great-granddaughters to join. Furthermore, SAL remains the only gender-segregated entity of the legion family. The

legion itself has been open to women since its founding, and the auxiliary opened to all spouses, regardless of gender, in 2019.

"To those who look at this and say no simply because the

Sons has always been the Sons, I implore you to look past the title and look at what this resolution would do. It would significantly expand the legion family, which would greatly improve membership numbers, and it would also be a significant financial increase for the American Legion," said Mr. De Kraai.

"Before the Sons was called the Sons, it was referred to as a junior organization of the American Legion. And the 1919 American Legion Constitution didn't say only men could join the legion, it said persons, which is men and women. So, to those who say the Sons has always been the Sons, I would say that it was first referred to as a junior organization of the Legion and as such, when it was renamed Sons, it should have been renamed Sons & Daughters," he added.

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- Mark Vinciguerra, Owner, Capital Region Independent Media**
- Warren Dews Jr., Publisher**
- Melanie Lekocevic, Executive Editor**
- Parry Teasdale, Publishing Consultant**
- Emilia Teasdale, Managing Editor and Deputy Publisher**
- Diane Valden, Associate Editor**
- David Lee, Photographer**

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Contributors:

- Peter Flierl, Nancy Jane Kern,
- Deborah E. Lans, David Lee,
- Lorna Cherot Littleway,
- Lance Wheeler, Jeanette Wolfberg

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COUNTY BRIEF

By Jeanette Wolfberg

News from the County Board of Supervisors

THE COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS gave support to several ongoing programs and services at its meeting February 14. Board Chairman Matt Murell (Stockport) read a proclamation recognizing February as Black History month.

The board:

- Ratified terms of a Memorandum of Agreement with employees represented by the Columbia County Deputy Sheriffs Benevolent Association, Inc. and authorized a Collective Bargaining agreement for January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026 (3 years)

- Issued a statement urging state legislators to “support a multi-year strategy to invest in New York’s community colleges...with an additional \$97 million in operating funds.” In January, Columbia-Greene Community College President Carlee Drummer told the supervisors that any help they could give to get \$97 million more to the college “will be appreciated”

- Authorized an agreement with Questar III BOCES to enter its Youth Apprenticeship Program for 2024. Apprenticeships include Automotive, Construction, Heavy Equipment, HVAC, and Welding, Questar Communications Specialist Jillian Shuhart said on February 20

- Authorized a contract with the Columbia County Sanctuary Movement “to stock nutritional food in community refrigerators” throughout the county, using funds supplied through the county Department of Social Services

- Authorized renewal of a contract between a telepsychiatry provider and the Department of Human Services (DHS)

- Authorized the DHS to accept Opioid Settlement funding

- Authorized the City of Hudson to use the parking lot at 6th and Columbia Streets for a Farmer’s Market every Saturday from April 20 through November 23

- Authorized the Office of the Aging to increase its number of per diem as-needed Site Managers from one to three, because “there are times when” the single Site Manager “is not available”

- Authorized extending contracts with public bus service providers, including the extended Shopper Shuttle operator, for another year

- Established a County Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Force and appointing: Donald Meltz Jr., CSC Coordinator; Brenda Adams, supervisor, Town of Canaan; Donal Collins, supervisor, Town of Chatham; Suzan Flamm for Ancram; Lisa Bouchard Hoe for Austerlitz; Will Powers for Canaan; Deborah Conrad for Chatham; John Bradley for Claverack; Jennifer Phillips for Clermont; Cara Boyle for Copake; Matt Stinchcomb for Gallatin; Matthew Mercier for Germantown; David Newman for Ghent; Jolene Race for Greenport; Sean Casey for the Town of Kinderhook; Bill Mancini for the Village of Kinderhook; Laura Cannamella for the Village of Valatie; Stan Yarian for Livingston; Steve Powers for New Lebanon; John Leone for Stockport; and Kathy Schneider for Stuyvesant. Mr. Newman was appointed as chairman for 2024

- Appointed Mrs. Amanda Karch, executive director for Continuing Education, Training, and Workforce Development at Columbia-Greene Community

College as a Higher Education representative to the Columbia-Greene Workforce Development Board

- Authorized applying for and accepting financing for updating the county Airport Master Plan and continuing with capital projects in the meantime. The current Master Plan is 20 years old and needs updating to accommodate increased airport use, says the pertinent resolution. Capital projects specified involve Parallel Taxiway Lighting, Terminal Apron Pavement, the Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS), snow removal equipment, and a new building to house that equipment.

The Supervisors also authorized the following purchases:

- For the MIS Department: new Verkada security cameras with 10 year licenses in seven County buildings and two additional locations, for up to \$350,000

- For the Highway Department: An excavator for up to \$545,000; a dump truck for up to \$345,000; and three dump trucks for up to \$180,000. All new items are to replace older ones

- For the Sheriff: a new forensics scanning system, to be used for “accident reconstruction,” for \$57,174. It is to replace an older system with fewer capabilities

- For Solid Waste: A vehicle for up to \$135,000, to replace an older vehicle to be sold at auction; and 18 containers of various sizes for up to \$60,462

- To replace “deteriorating” buses: a new 24-passenger bus for \$223,997.69.

And they authorized declaring the following items surplus and selling them at auctions: a dump truck in the Highway Department and a vehicle in the Sheriff’s office. All together, the board adopted 67 resolutions.

County renews contracts for local bus service

By JEANETTE WOLFBERG

HUDSON – At its February 14 meeting, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors authorized extending its contracts with bus companies to provide public transportation and purchasing a new bus.

Two companies provide the county’s bus service. One, Johnston Transportation LLC, runs buses to Albany, weekly trips from various parts of the county to Hudson, and some of the Hudson-Greenport Shopper Shuttles. Its contract is extended until April 13, 2025.

The other, ProPark America New York LLC, runs evening and Sunday buses on the Shopper Shuttle. Its contract is extended until March 9, 2025.

Johnston has served the county for several years, but Pro-Park is just completing its first year. To help pay for the extra Shopper service, the board authorized accepting up to \$67,500 from the Eutopia Foundation.

The Shopper Shuttle loops through the Greenport shopping centers and the City of Hudson. For years it ran only weekdays and Saturdays until afternoon. Its evening and weekend service, via Pro-Park, began a year ago as a pilot program. Since then, said Supervisor Michael Chameides (Hudson, 3rd Ward), chairman



Photo contributed

One of the buses used for public transportation in the county.

of the county’s Public Transportation Committee, on February 20, ridership on the Shopper Shuttle has increased 30%. The shuttle has more riders on even its traditional hours. In 2023, Mr. Chameides said, the Shopper Shuttle had the highest ridership ever.

On February 14, the County Board also authorized purchasing a new adult 24-passenger bus for \$223,997.69, to “replace a deteriorating bus fleet.”

On February 12, Mr. Chameides released an announcement that the New York State Department of Transportation had authorized the County Transportation Coordination Plan that the County Board approved in December. This plan, he said, identifies seven categories of

priorities: build internal capacity to operate programs; optimize existing services; increase revenue through grant applications; improve transportation opportunities for residents by adding areas of service and adding new hours of service; maintain a high-functioning fleet of vehicles; publicize services so residents are confident about how to take advantage of existing services; and improve rider experience.

“Public transportation contributes to economic development, public health, and quality of life,” the announcement of the plan quotes Mr. Chameides as saying. “The new Columbia County Transportation Coordination Plan will help us create better opportunities for our residents.”

Summer camp changes coming in New Lebanon

By DOUG LAROCQUE

NEW LEBANON – During the January meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board, summer camp rates were discussed as well as the provision that children and grandchildren of town employees were allowed to attend free of charge. There was not consensus of the board at that time as to what changes they might want to make, but the matter was clearer in February. After some discussion about the rates being too high, the board voted to reduce those charges by 20% at the February 13 meeting. The other change they made impacts the employees. Grandchildren were eliminated from the equation and children of employees will now only get a 10% break, on top of the 20% overall reduction.

The town is also looking for a Summer Camp Health Director, as the previous director is no longer available.

Mt. Lebanon Historical District has been a subject the previous board, the new town board and the public have discussed for several months. The stated goal is to establish a historical zone that protects the character of the area near and around the Darrow school with the concern of current

homeowners taken into consideration. The Shaker Preservation Committee would like to establish a working group in conjunction with the town’s Zoning Re-Write Committee to fine-tune some proposals.

It was generally agreed the current highway garage, located behind town hall, is in poor condition. Supervisor Tistrya Houghtling broached the idea of constructing a new garage on land located on Old Post Road at the meeting. The discussion also included the cost of renovating the current building. These talks are still in the preliminary stage with more information needed on both options.

Also at the meeting:

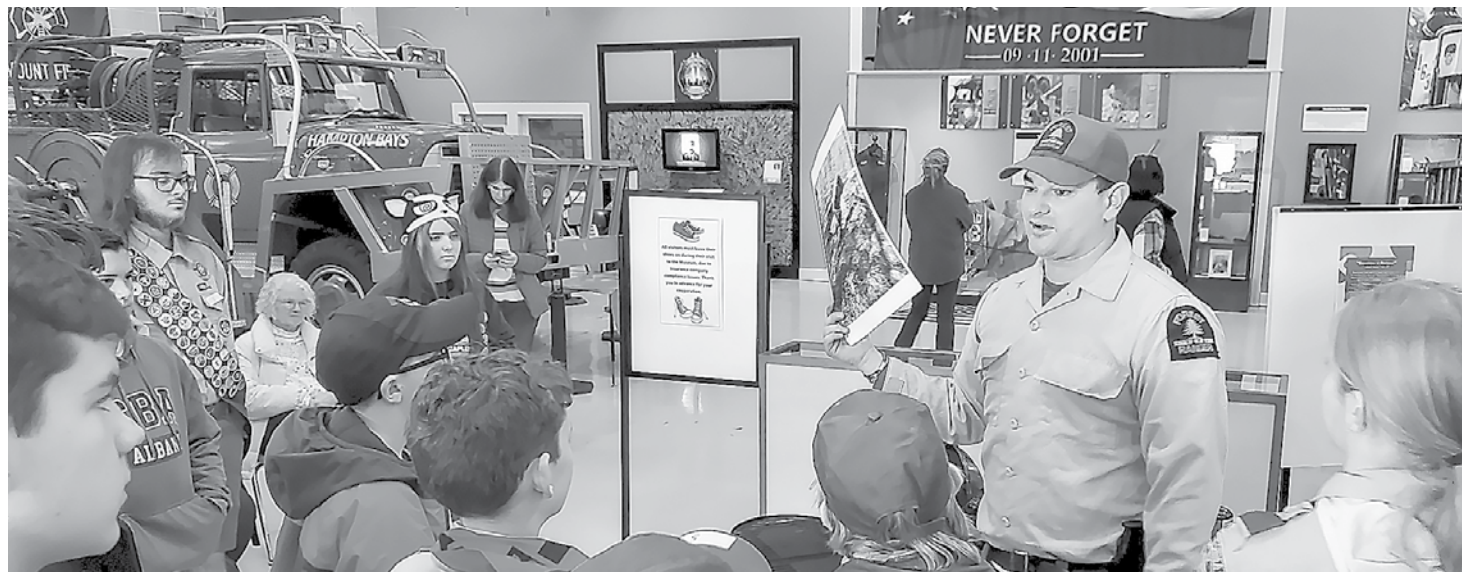
- Bids will go out for renovations to the existing splash pad, to hopefully be completed before summer camp opens in Shatford Park. Plans to build a new splash pad were scuttled by the much higher than anticipated costs

- Bids will also go out for the tennis court bathroom renovations

- The board is requesting letters of interest for membership on the Outreach and Marketing Committee as well as the Recreation Commission.

Forest ranger teaches fire safety lessons

On February 20, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Forest Ranger Steven Jackson talked to Boy Scouts about fire safety at the Firefighters Association of the State of New York (FASNY) Museum of Firefighting in Hudson. Ranger Jackson demonstrated how to start and put out a cooking fire and how to use a camp stove, as well as explained the role humans play in wildfires and wildfire prevention. Thanks to lessons from Ranger Jackson and FASNY staff, 60 Boy Scouts earned their fire safety merit badges.



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Barrett supports Rescuing EMS Campaign

ALBANY – Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106th) stood with the New York Association of Counties (NYSAC) and legislative colleagues in support of NYSAC’s Rescuing EMS Campaign. This package of bills would provide much-needed support for first responders including fire-fighters and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) workers across New York State.



Photo contributed

Assemblymember Didi Barrett and Dutchess County Emergency Response Commissioner Dana Smith.

“Fire Departments and EMS providers across the state are facing significant hardship, with recruitment challenges, aging membership and insufficient financial support. In rural districts like mine, most of our heroic first responders are volunteers who serve their communities with pride. NYSAC’s Rescuing EMS campaign will provide direct support to our emergency services personnel. I am proud that my legislation (A.6274) to allow volunteer firefighters and EMS workers to collect both the New York State Volunteer Firefighters’ and Ambulance Workers’ Income Tax Credit

and a local property tax exemption is included in this legislative package. I thank NYSAC and my colleagues in the Legislature for their advocacy and look forward to passing these important bills this session,” Assemblymember Barrett said in a press release.

The Rescuing EMS Campaign includes six bills, including legislation to allow volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to collect the NYS Volunteer Firefighters’

and Ambulance Workers’ Income Tax Credit in addition to a local property tax exemption. Other bills would deem EMS to be an essential service; remove EMS services from the property tax cap; authorize EMS providers to be reimbursed for treating patients without transporting them to a hospital; increase the Volunteer Firefighters’ and Ambulance Workers’ Tax Credit from \$200 to \$800, and increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for EMS providers.

Food delivered to those who need it

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. food donation campaign conducted by New York State Police Troop K went well. Thanks to donors including Ace Endico, Troop K was able to donate over 1,400 pounds of food. The donations were brought to the Veterans Food Pantry in Columbia County, the Salvation Army in Hudson, Rock Solid Church and the Town of Ghent Food Pantry. Troop K thanks everyone who helped them feed those in need.



NYS Police Facebook page

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Red Cross Month honors community heroes

GHENT – The American Red Cross, Eastern New York Region observes national Red Cross Month in March to honor local community heroes who help ensure their neighbors never face crises alone.

Red Cross Month is a national tradition that began in March 1943 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the first Red Cross Month proclamation—and each U.S. president has followed ever since.

“During Red Cross Month, we are proud to honor the people in our community who step up to support one another when help can’t wait during emergencies. This relief and hope wouldn’t be possible without these local heroes. Please consider joining in their commitment by donating, volunteering, giving blood or platelets, or taking a lifesaving skills course,” Chief Executive Officer, Eastern New York Region, Kevin Coffey said in a press release.

Join the Red Cross Month celebration by visiting redcross.org/eny. Those who donate at redcross.org/givingday March 27 will be part of the 10th annual Red Cross Giving Day, which aims to rally 30,000 supporters nationwide to help provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support and other assistance for people affected by disasters big and small.

As we approach the final weeks of winter, the public is urged to book a time to donate blood or platelets now as we continue to strengthen the blood supply heading into spring. Much like pets provide comfort and support, so does the Red Cross in local communities. As a thank-you for pro-

viding comfort during Red Cross Month, all who come to give blood or platelets March 1 to 24 will get a \$10 e-gift card to a pet supply merchant of choice, plus automatically be entered for a chance to win a \$3,000 gift card. There will be five winners. See rcblood.org/Pets for details.

Volunteers comprise 90% of the national Red Cross workforce to power its lifesaving mission, along with generous blood, platelet and financial donors; people trained in skills like first aid and CPR; and other supporters. Locally, nearly 1,800 volunteers serve a population of more than 3.6 million people across 27 counties. The Eastern New York Region is comprised of three chapters: Central and Northern New York, Hudson Valley, and Northeastern New York.

- In 2023, local volunteers:
- Responded to 727 local disasters, providing relief to 1,182 families impacted by home fires, floods, winter storms and other emergencies
 - Installed 3,096 free smoke alarms, making 1,548 local homes safer by presenting fire safety education and other lifesaving resources
 - Trained 7,173 people in free disaster training programs to help adults and children prepare for emergencies
 - Served 2,434 military families and provided 5,034 case services to aid veterans, service members and their families
 - Enrolled 54,531 people in first aid, CPR, water safety, babysitting and other lifesaving skills
 - Collected 104,449 units of blood from volunteer donors to support area hospitals and patients in need.



Photo contributed

Columbia Greene Board of Realtors' 2024 Community Service Award was given to Mark Taylor (l) and the 2024 Business Partner of the Year went to Derek LaTorre (r).

Columbia Greene Board of Realtors holds benefit gala

LEEDS – On January 10, the Columbia Greene Board of Realtors held a benefit gala at Anthony’s Banquet Hall. Almost 90 members and guests attended. In addition to cash donations, there was a silent auction and live auction, plus donations of food and pet supplies. Over \$8,300 was raised; these funds and the donated items will be split among six local charities or nonprofit organizations:

Out of the Pits, Everlasting Hope, Hyer Ground Rescue, High & Mighty Therapeutic Riding and Driving Inc., Columbia County Veterans Service Agency, and Greene County Veterans Service Agency.

In addition to raising money and collecting supplies, four awards were presented. Kelly Harrison (Broker at Country Life Realty) is the Realtor of the Year, Mark Taylor

(Appraiser with Concra Appraisal Associates) received the Community Service Award, Stonehouse Properties was voted the Most Cooperative Brokerage, and the LaTorre Insurance Agency was selected as the Business Partner of the Year.

For more information about the Columbia Greene Board of Realtors, visit columbiagreene-realtors.com or call 518 828-7871.

Questar raises students' awareness about careers in the building trades

CASTLETON – Recently, 4th grade students from Cossackie-Athens Central School District’s Edward J. Arthur Elementary School and Cossackie Elementary School got hands-on experience building toolboxes while learning about careers in the trades as part of Questar III BOCES’ Business and Education Partnership Service.

The event was organized by Questar III BOCES and GNH Lumber, who provided the materials. Both organizations are members of the Northeast Construction Trades WorkForce Coalition, which developed this hands-on activity to raise student awareness about careers in the building trades. Excelsior Wood and Hitchcock Builders developed the kits and along with B&B Forest Products, Hunterfield Ministries, Questar III and GNH Lumber, had staff guide students in building the toolboxes.

“The toolbox build program offered through the Northeast Construction Trades WorkForce Coalition is one of our most popular activities. We offer it to students grades two through five to begin planting the seed about work in the trades,” said Pam Stott, executive director of the coalition, in a press release.



Photo contributed

Students in Cossackie-Athens with their toolboxes.

Northeast Construction Trades WorkForce Coalition took the initiative to educate students directly. Partnering with local builders, they organized programs from 2nd grade through high school.

“Events like this bring invaluable experiences to students,” said Questar III BOCES District Superintendent Gladys Cruz, also in the release. “Not only do they teach practical skills, but they also instill a sense of pride and accomplishment, which can inspire a student’s future career path in the trades.”

“We’re happy to be a part of the toolbox program. GNH Lumber understands

the importance of sharing knowledge with the next generation of craftspeople and helping them understand opportunities in the building trades. It’s our future,” said John Ingalls, president of GNH Lumber.

Questar III’s Business and Education Partnership Service attends the Northeast Construction Trades WorkForce Coalition’s monthly meetings and is involved in similar efforts to develop a wide range of K-12 activities and broaden awareness of careers in the building trades. Questar III BOCES will replicate this activity with several school districts through the end of the school year.

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Chatham High School releases names of honors students

CHATHAM – The Chatham Central School District has released the names of the Chatham High School students on the Honor Roll for the 2nd quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

Students on the Honors list must have an unweighted grade point average (GPA) for the marking period of 85 or above with all passing grades. To be on the High Honors list, students must have an unweighted GPA for the marking period of 90 or above with no grade below 80.

High Honor Roll

Grade 12:

Alex Bevens, Emilee Booy, Robert Brusio Jr., Destiny Dejesus, Cameron Elcox, Ewan Ferrier, Tom Gibson, Alaina Graziano, Kamryn Hanson, Sarah Harrison, Patricia Hoover, Ryley Josefsberg, Rebecca Kelley, Julia Metrand, Mateo Medina, Alexis Meyers, Elizabeth Morse, Maya Narofsky, Boden Paladino, Jenna Palubeckis, Zoey Palubeckis, Alexis Reichardt, Lauren Salvesvold-Uhlar, Anna Sorros, Lily Strattman, Helen Tassinari, Willow Visconti, Nole Zaik and Owen Zaik

Grade 11:

Jennifer Albrecht, Addison Andrews, Jason Baneni, Alexis Berry, Grace Brennan, Patrick Brown, Vytas Budris, Jacob Carroll, Joselin Castellanos, Oliana DeLuca, Brendan DeLyser, Anna Friedman, Maxwell Friedman, Emily

Gaylord, Kendall Hayes, Eion Henchey, Joshua Herbest Jr., Makenna Hubert, Aurora Jones, Hunter Kelly, Thomas Kubisek III, Sasha Langley, Mason Levy, Olivia MacDonald, James Marotta, Vivienne Murphy, Cameron Myers, Addison Perry, Cheyanne Perry, Jordin Radley, Nicholas Reutenauer, Brianna Reyome, Logan Smalley, Luca Spencer, Hudson Trienens, Taylor VanWie, Emmy Velez, and Winni Wilzig

Grade 10:

Rylie Barden, Jaidan Blair, Daimiyn Bonhotel, Eliza Braley, Charlotte Coalter, Lauren Elcox, Josiah Eugenio, Reed Fisch, Tyler Gebel, Tula Haley, Lily Hall, Bronson Haner, Andrew Horton, Amber Laspada, Benjamin Levine, Karina Lezama, Emmy Martino, Meta Mae Mountain, Ellery Pierce, Mira Pierce, Thomas Pierro, Samantha Silver, Norah Sotherden, Brayden Steltz, Cooper Steltz, Phila Visconti, Owen Wilber, and Finn Williams

Grade 9:

Richard Bianchi, Emmett Bishop-Hayes, Wyatt Carr, Marianna Chudy, Pax Cooper, Alexa Craig, Aiden Dallas, Jenna Davis, Jamison Edwards, George Eutzy III, Timothy Ewers, Siena Freiermuth, Skylar Groom, Gabriel Hesse, DianRong Jiang, Taylor Kubisek, Aiden McShane, Bailey McShane, Cassandra Michalek, Dax

Patel, Annika Poland, Dayaa Powell, Adelaide Searl, Evelyn Visonti, Axel Vose, and Aden Wiessner

Honor Roll

Grade 12:

Jahnyah Armstrong, Sascha Backer, Jameson Balich, Isaiah Brown, Givanni Martino, Lane McMann, Nathan Opshanski, Seema Patel, Waylon Sotherden, Jacob Taylor, Katelyn Thomas, Tate Van Alstyne, Morgan Van Wie, and Isabella Wiseman

Grade 11:

Aidan Brennan, Amiah Coons, Jocelyn Dikeman, Jesse Kosnick-Ordway, Austin Laurange, Brooklyn Lynch, Gianni Macagnone, Samantha Rickert, and Akara Townsend

Grade 10:

Paxton Brownell, Madisyn Domkoski, Zachary Ellis, Ava Ford, Wilson Ipinia Morales, Michaela Johnson, Conner Madsen, Larissa McMann, Alexis Nehmens, Hunter Palmer, Tyler Palmer, William Rojas-Cruz, Dominic Sauca, Aubrey Smith, Landen Thompson, Jayden Valdez, and Annabelle Wright

Grade 9:

Annaleigh Butts, Sydney DeLuca, Olivia Feiden, Adam Geel, Bryanna Geerholt, Mason Hutchinson, Camila Jimenez Morales, Brianna Johnson, Alexander Lee, Lylah Rowe, Spencer Peduzzi, Shelby Schrader, Amelia Strattman, Landon Van Alstyne, Chloe Wall, Riley Wilson and Ezra Wood.

Spencer the beaver joins fire company

SPENCERTOWN – The Spencertown Fire Company (SFC) has announced that they have officially adopted Spencer the beaver as their mascot. Spencer was created by Chatham High School (CHS) senior Alexis Meyers and was one of 12 concepts submitted by CHS Media Arts Students. The designs were submitted during a contest developed by the fire company in partnership with the high school. Alexis' winning design was unveiled on SFC's social media platforms on January 22.

SFC then tapped their followers to suggest names for their new mascot. Submissions came from far and wide, and locals had fun suggesting names like Bubba and Al (references to long time SFC firefighters) as well as more role-oriented names like Douser, Soggy and Burnie. In the end the overwhelming favorite was Spencer and the name was officially adopted at Monday night's SFC monthly member meeting.

"We are very excited about the welcome the community has given Spencer! Their support and engagement in the selection and naming processes are indicative of the mascot's power to provide a unifying identity for residents to get behind and take pride in their fire company," said Evan Kerr, Austerlitz Fire District's 2nd chief and SFC firefighter.

Going forward Spencer will assist SFC's Public Relations Committee in their community outreach, communications and recruiting efforts. He will be featured on marketing materials and merchandise, distributed by the fire company and available at their event booth this coming season.

The booth is a cornerstone of Spencertown's outreach effort and is present at both SFC and community events throughout the spring, summer, and fall.

In addition to their regular business of responding to fires and auto accidents and regularly drilling and training with other fire companies in the area, SFC is busy refining their outreach efforts. The road sign in front of the firehouse on Route 203 and their Facebook and Instagram pages remain the linchpins of



Image contributed

Spencer the beaver

their communications strategy, but they have been gradually overhauling their website and developing a newsletter to enhance their ability to keep the public informed. The newsletter is expected to be ready for public distribution this spring.

Also, on their agenda is putting on an outdoor event this summer and examining how they can add value to their scholarship program, beyond the money and recognition it already provides. "The public is largely unaware of all the work that Spencertown and other fire companies around the country do to support their communities. Many people also don't know that there are many ways to support the fire service that do not involve writing checks or becoming interior firefighters. Public relations and communications are critical elements in addressing these issues and staffing a fire company and there are opportunities for the public to volunteer professional services or provide support at events. In addition, with some training it's possible to provide scene support or operate equipment without having to run into a burning building," said Adam Reznikoff, head of SFC's PR committee. He continued to say that, "spreading the word about the types of help we need and the opportunities we provide for the public is a big job and we are excited to have Spencer with us to raise awareness and increase our visibility in the community."

For more information visit <https://spencertownfirecompany.org/> and social media pages or call 518 392-5250.

Private school transportation requests due April 1

KINDERHOOK – Ichabod Crane Central School has the Requests For Transportation to a "Non-Public School" available to residents who are planning to enroll their children in a non-public school for the 2024-25 school year. However, a child must reside within 15 miles of the non-public school in order to qualify for Ichabod Crane bus transportation from

home to school.

Non-Public School Transportation Request forms may be obtained by calling the Transportation Department at 518 758-7575, ext. 3551 or at www.ichabod-crane.org. Requests must be submitted no later than April 1. Should a family move into the district after April 1, their request for transportation must be made within 30 days

of establishing residency.

A transportation request should be submitted for any child who may possibly attend a non-public school in the fall, even if a definite commitment has not yet been made. The request can always be withdrawn; however, NYS Education Law states a request must be submitted no later than April 1 or transportation may be denied.

Academic Honors

Dean's List:

RIT

ROCHESTER – The following students were named to the dean's list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the fall semester of the 2023-24 academic year. Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for dean's list if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of "Incomplete," "D" or "F"; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Local students include:

Valen Hay, Chatham, who is in the web and mobile computing program; Jonathon Sabrowski, Ghent, who is in the physics program; Lachlan Bartle, Hudson, who is in the computer science program; Haylee Southcott, Hudson, who is in the engineering exploration program; Nathan Brown, Old Chatham, who is in the electrical engineering program; Bailee Drummond, Valatie, who is in the biomedical engineering program; Ryan McGuirk, Valatie, who is in the computing exploration program; and Quentin Barton, Valatie, who is in the cybersecurity program.

Tufts University

MEDFORD, MA – Libby Scruton, Elizaville, Class of 2025, was named to the dean's list at Tufts University for the fall 2023 semester. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Buffalo State University

BUFFALO – Quinn Murray, Stuyvesant, majoring in Childhood Education, has been named to the fall 2023 dean's list at Buffalo State University.

In general, students who have completed at least 12 credit hours and who have attained a term GPA of 3.5 or higher qualify for the Buffalo State dean's list. Full criteria and grade-type exceptions can be found in the undergraduate catalog.

Clark University

WORCESTER, MA – Nora J. Leifer, Hudson, was named to first honors on the Clark University dean's list. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the fall 2023 semester. Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.



David Lee

Clara Van Tassel is pictured at home with her certificate of appreciation from the town.

Ancram wins \$12K+ to combat invasive impacts

By DIANE VALDEN

ANCRAM—Ancram is the only town in Columbia County to be awarded a piece of the \$3 million pie earmarked to address the negative effects of invasive species.

Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced the 43 projects that will receive grants to reduce the negative impacts of invasive species on New York State’s natural resources, economy and communities. These grants are part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) Invasive Species Grant Program, which provides funding for prevention of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species spread, early detection and rapid response, lake management planning, research, education and outreach.

The person responsible for writing Ancram’s successful grant application is town councilperson and Ancram Conservation Council Advisory member Colleen Lutz.

The \$12,646 grant coming Ancram’s way will help the town’s Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) work with the Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) to install boot brush stations at the trailheads of CLC properties in Ancram: the Drowned Lands Swamp at 654 County Route 3, Ancramdale and the Overmountain Road Conservation Area, Round Ball Trailhead at 503 Carson Road, Ancram and Kite Hill Trailhead at 138 Catalano Road, Ancram, Ms. Lutz told The Columbia Paper this week by email.

A kiosk will be installed at each station bearing information about how invasive plants are dispersed and how brushing one’s boots can reduce their spread. Additional pamphlets will have a list of species to look out for as people enjoy the trails, according to Ms. Lutz.

Ancram’s CAC “views this as good opportunity to provide outreach to the community and stop the spread of invasives into these recreational areas,” wrote Ms. Lutz, who is an assistant biologist with New York Natural Heritage Program.

“We are committed to protecting New York’s waterways, forest lands, and agricultural crops from dangerous invasive species. This funding supports projects across the state that will help prevent the spread of invasive species in New York, protecting our natural resources, economy and public health from the negative impacts of this threat,” Governor Hochul said in a press release.

Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos said in the release, “DEC is pleased to offer this comprehensive grant program to address the negative impacts of invasive species. There is no single action that can address the threats invasive pests pose to New York’s environment. Simultaneous

Continued on Page 20

TOWN BOARD

Continued from Page 1

She cataloged the town’s collection of artifacts, documents and photographs—all of which are stored in the historian’s office at Town Hall. She said Ancram may be the only town in the county to have a Town Hall historian’s office. Most town historians keep historical records in their homes, she said.

At the meeting, Town Clerk Monica Cleveland read “A Resolution of Heartfelt Appreciation Honoring” Mrs. Van Tassel. A plaque with a certificate of appreciation, a copy of the official resolution and a fragrant flower arrangement were bestowed, photos were snapped. There were hugs, kisses and applause.

Mrs. Van Tassel, seated in the front row, told those present, “Some things stay the same...and some things are different.”

She cited the infamous hamlet intersection of State Route 82

and County Route 7 as something town officials have worked for many dozens of years to improve, and still are. “It’s never going to happen, I’m sorry,” she said.

Among the things that have changed, she cited the farms. “We don’t have the farms we used to have, so that’s a big difference.”

She then recounted that about 70 years ago, she was a babysitter for some local boys, one of whom happened to be Jim MacArthur. At the time, she never imagined “he was going to be supervisor.” She also mentioned that she didn’t know exactly why, perhaps it was because he was so badly behaved, but his mother always had him already “put to bed” whenever she arrived.

“73-years-old and she’s still picking on me,” Supervisor MacArthur lamented with a grin.

Councilmember David Boice, who Mrs. Van Tassel (his aunt)

also babysat for, motioned that the board adopt the resolution honoring Mrs. Van Tassel.

The unanimously approved resolution described Mrs. Van Tassel as “an energetic steward of the town’s rich history and artifacts” who “fostered positive relationships with Towns throughout the county...”

She “worked with the Columbia County Historical Society to continue to shine a light on the extensive history of this beautiful segment of New York.”

The resolution concludes that the Ancram Board and residents “express their appreciation to Clara Van Tassel for her hard work, dedication and enthusiasm, and wishes Clara all the best in her well-deserved retirement from the position of Town of Ancram Historian.”

Mrs. Van Tassel and her husband of nearly 65 years, Ronald, are the parents of five grown children and grandparents of five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

To contact Diane Valden email dvalden@columbiapaper.com

BLACK HISTORY

Continued from Page 1

29, 1627, twenty-two African men purchased by the Dutch West India Company, arrived in New Netherland and were enslaved. Previous research thought that shipment was half as large. The trafficking process was that the Dutch procured Africans from the continent and resold them to sugar plantation owners in the Caribbean, especially Jamaica. Not only did the Dutch supply African laborers, Dutch New York farmers, also, provided the wheat to feed them as plantation owners were loathe to devote any land to crops other than sugar cane.

Nahon asked, “Who is profiting?” She identified esteemed families “the Rensselaers, Livingstons and Philipses.”

Nahon explained that they were “individual investors.” It was once thought that the Livingstons had one sugar plantation but recently discovered records kept by a Black family descendant, who oversaw the Caribbean properties, reveal that the family had five sugar plantations. Nahon attributes the “wealth and money [that] flowed to New York” from African human and wheat exportation to the Caribbean, made the colony “a slave society.”

According to Nahon the Dutch were “learning how to be enslavers.” The mortality rate among their captives was “high.” When the Revolutionary War disrupted the wheat harvest and exportation, Caribbean Africans enslaved on sugar

plantations starved to death. It was an “evolving process to dehumanize Africans and see them as property.”

Not only were members of the prominent New York families merchants, they, also, were politicians, who fought hard to maintain slavery in New York in the face of pressure from Abolitionists to end the practice. In 1779 the state legislature passed a Gradual Emancipation law that did not actually free anyone but provided future emancipation to the children of enslaved women when they reached the ages of 25 for females or 28 for males. Not until 28 years later was slavery outlawed in New York State without exception.

Before legal emancipation individual enslavers could manumit persons if they put up a bond or would attest that the soon-to-be manumitted could provide for themselves and

would not become reliant on the state. Enslavers would relieve themselves of responsibility for the elderly, whose labor was no longer profitable. Also, manumission documents often included caveats requiring annual payments in crops or continued domestic labor to enslavers. Nahon derided the practice as “half enslavement” because the caveats insured that the manumitted person “had to stay close” to their enslaver.

She faulted American education for promoting a skewed view of the institution of slavery by focusing on practices in southern colonies and states only. “For every one book about northern practices there are five to six books on the southern system.” Nahon said that there are “street names and school names” and we don’t know who those people are.

Nahon credited the 1790 census as a source for new

information about the pervasiveness of slavery in New York. It was once thought that Brooklyn had the largest number of enslaved but the 1790 census reports that Albany had the greatest population of enslaved.

Individuals wanting to be apprised of new research about enslavement in New York would have to sign-up on blogs, websites, newsletters, etc. as there is not “a single clearing house” for this information according to Nahon. She added, “We have thousands of documents that have not been read. We have thousands of documents that have not been translated.” A factor delaying this work is an inability to read cursive handwriting. “We need people who can read cursive,” she said.

A full transcript of Nahon’s talk is available at the irvingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Shakespeare & Co's Actor Training announces spring programming

LENOX, MA – Shakespeare & Company's Center for Actor Training has announced its spring 2024 schedule of workshops and weekend intensives, including both in-person and online offerings.

Workshops will be held at various locations across the country including Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Shakespeare & Company's 33-acre campus.

The season kicks off March 8 with a weekend intensive in Philadelphia, and an online movement workshop taught by Shakespeare & Company's Director of Training Sheila Bandyopadhyay. An audition workshop with Artistic Director Allyn Burrows is also slated for March 23 in New York.

Shakespeare & Company's Weekend Intensives integrate voice, movement, and monologue work, and will take place from March through April: Philadelphia, March 8 to 10; Washington, D.C., March 29 to 31; Lenox, April 19 to 21, (dormitory housing available on campus for \$50 per night); and Los Angeles, April 26 to 28.

The online workshop "Presence, Power, and Freedom



Photo contributed
Miles Harrison and Renata Wimer at a month-long intensive workshop at Shakespeare & Company in 2019.

in Movement" will be held on Tuesdays: March 12, 19, 26, and April 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. EST. This workshop is an opportunity to dive deeply into the experience of authentic, embodied presence for both work as an actor and as a technique for living. All levels are welcome, and previous movement experience is not required. Led by Bandyopadhyay.

In-person workshops include "The Art of the Audition" with Allyn Burrows on March 23, in midtown Manhattan. Shakespeare & Company Artistic Director

Burrows will spend a day with a group of fellow actors to craft two audition pieces.

On April 18 and April 19 there will be "Tuning Your Instrument," a two-day, special workshop focused on voice and movement, to help strengthen the connection to the instrument and to develop an open channel for breath, sound, and physical expression.

For more information about Shakespeare & Company's Center for Actor Training and its upcoming sessions, visit shakespeare.org, or call 413 637-1199, ext. 114.



Image contributed

"Spring Gems"

NCFL hosts "Exploring Home" sketching class

NORTH CHATHAM – North Chatham Free Library (NCFL), 4287 Route 203, announces "Exploring Home – Sketching Nature Through the Seasons" on Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m.

Enjoy the often overlooked beauty and wonder of nature, as captured by artist and educator Jean Mackay, as she presents the diversity of the four seasons through sketches and watercolors. Mackay will share her creative process and artistic journey while inviting participants to enjoy the ordinary, yet extraordinary, marvels she has encountered close to home.

For more than 25 years, Mackay has been exploring and

sketching nature – working in all kinds of settings ranging from tide pools to farm fields to her own back yard. She is the author/illustrator of "The Nature Explorer's Sketchbook" (2020). She teaches online and in-person classes and offers immersive workshops nationally.

This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant Program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered in Columbia County by CREATE Council on the Arts.

Mac-Haydn offers Musician's Apprenticeship Program

The Mac-Haydn Theatre, 1925 Route 203, Chatham, has announced the 2nd year of their Musician's Apprenticeship Program for the 2024 season. A key part of the Mac-Haydn Theatre's mission is to support and educate young artists in the community. The apprenticeship offers students the opportunity to engage with the theater's professional musical staff and musicians, including Music Supervisor Eric Shorey, gaining hands-on experience within the music department of a professional theater company. There are various opportunities from May 31 to September 15. The submission deadline is April 1. For more information go to www.machaydntheatre.org



Photo contributed

TSL presents performance of "Blocks of Sensation"

HUDSON – Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, presents a special event performance of "Blocks of Sensation," a one-woman performance, written and performed by Kim Barke.

Under the scalpel gaze of Barke, poet and former scientist who studied addiction, "Blocks of Sensation" bushwacks into the tragic irony of queer mothering an adult addict 27 years after leaving the lab. This raw elegy, directed by Linda Mussmann, is an unflinching journey into the heart of human behavior and the meaning of truth.

Tickets are \$12.50 for TSL members and \$15 general admission.

Barke is a poet, playwright and former scientist who lives

near Hudson. This is her first produced show as a playwright and as a performer. In the 1990s, Barke's research on opioid addiction was funded by two grants from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). More recently, she has received nine Cannes Lions (including a Glass Lion for change), and awards from The Clios, The One Show, and D&AD among others for her projects "The Call" and "Skindeep," public health campaigns created to create awareness on issues of racial bias in health care and race-based traumatic stress. She is dedicated to raising awareness and affecting change at the intersection of health and social justice.

To get tickets call 518 822-8100 or go to timeandspace.org

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Origin PG-13
3/2 7:00PM | 3/7 7:00PM

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<p>Movies</p> <p>DUNE: PART 2</p> <p>DRIVE AWAY DOLLS</p> <p>BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE</p> <p>THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE</p> <p>ROBOT DREAMS</p> <p><small>Special Advance Screening, Wed. Mar. 6 @ 7 PM</small></p>	<p>Events</p> <p>Friday, March 1 @ 12 PM FIRST FRIDAY FILM CLUB: THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE + Talkback with NEIL LA BUTE</p> <p>Saturday, March 2 @ 6:30 PM RADICAL WOLFE + Q&A with BRIAN GERSTEN & RICH REMSBERG</p> <p>Sun. March 3 @ 1:30 PM & Thu. March 7 @ 6:30 PM FOUR DAUGHTERS</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Tickets ↑</p>
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48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival returns for its 92nd season

BECKET, MA – This summer, Jacob's Pillow will produce the 92nd season of its premier international dance festival, in a nine week celebration of artists and dance companies performing locally, nationally, and around the world.

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 2024 will run June 26 through August 25, and will feature indoor performances in the Ted Shawn Theatre and outdoor performances on the Henry J. Leir Stage.

Companies featured in this summer's lineup are an eclectic mix of Jacob's Pillow debuts and longtime audience favorites who have appeared across more than 50 years of the festival's history. Onstage performances will span genres and styles from ballet and modern

to hip hop, tap, flamenco, circus, Indigenous dance, and more. In addition to U.S.-based companies, the festival will also present companies based in Canada, England, Switzerland, Italy, Argentina, Spain, and beyond. Many events will feature live music, and all are family-friendly. The festival will also include special events, parties, classes and workshops, exhibitions and talks, digital premieres, livestreams, and pop-up performances in Berkshire County. Many of these offerings will be free of charge.

The nine companies to perform for one week each in the theater are: Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, The Royal Ballet of the United Kingdom, Ballet du Grand

Théâtre de Genève, Social Tango Project, MOMIX, Camille A. Brown & Dancers, Parsons Dance, Soledad Barrio & Noche Flamenca, and Dance Theatre of Harlem. Companies with multi-night runs on the outdoor stage will include M.A.D.D. Rhythms, Pathways to Performance (a project of Theresa Ruth Howard's MoBBallet), Dancers of Damelahamid, David Dorfman Dance, and Gibney Company. Descriptions may be found below.

The outdoor Leir Stage will also feature numerous one-day-only events, including performance ensembles from The School at Jacob's Pillow summer programs in Contemporary Ballet, Contemporary, and Musical Theatre. Additional

performances on the outdoor stage will be announced and the complete program for festival 2024 beyond onstage performances will be announced in April.

Jacob's Pillow will hold its largest fundraising event of the year—the Season Opening Gala—on June 22, featuring a livestream of live performances and a presentation of the 2024 Jacob's Pillow Dance Award to this year's recipient, to be announced this spring. Community Day will also return this year, providing free, all-ages daytime performances by regional dance artists, as well as activities around the campus on August 16.

Festival 2024 will host the return of two annual gather-

ings: Pillow Pride and the All Styles Dance Battle. Pillow Pride—a celebration of LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities—will be held on the weekend of July 13-14, including a performance by the MasterZ at Work Dance Family with Courtney Topanga Washington. The All Styles Dance Battle will be held on the evening of August 2. Tickets to parties will be available beginning in March, in time for member pre-sale.

Member pre-sale begins March 4, with tiered access available to Jacob's Pillow members based on membership level. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on April 11. To learn more visit jacobsillow.org/membership.

EVENTS *Calendar*

To have an event listed here, send the information (including date, time, street address and cost if any) via email to news@columbiapaper.com or mail to The Columbia Paper, PO Box 482, 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, free-will donations or where all proceeds support a nonprofit community organization.

EASTER

March 24
EASTER EGG HUNT, Kinderhook Reformed Church, 21 Broad St., 3:30 pm. Crafts, snacks, cookie decorating, storytelling, egg hunt. Free, open to ages through Grade 5. For information call 518-758-6401 or kinderhookreformed-church.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

Ongoing
FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCT DRIVE organized by Zonta Club of Upper Hudson Valley. Bring donations of feminine hygiene products to libraries of Kinderhook, Chatham, Valatie, Claverack & Hudson or send monetary donations to Zonta Club of UHV, 2354 Rt 66, PO Box 34, Ghent, NY 12075.

Through March 20
SOCK DRIVE, Hudson collection boxes at Bank of Greene County, 160 Fairview Ave; Greylock Federal Credit Union, 464 Fairview Ave; Operation Unite Education & Cultural Arts Center, 360 Columbia St & Trustco Bank, 507 Warren St. Hudson Rotary Club collects new packaged socks of all sizes for schools, food pantries, Columbia County NY Veterans Service Agency.

Through April 1
BARE ROOT TREE SALE now open for orders. Details, forms: ccswcd.org. Pick up Apr 26-27 at Columbia Co Soil & Water Conservation District, 1024 Rt 66, Ghent. Supplies limited, order early for best selection.

March 2
OAKDALE POLAR PLUNGE, Oakdale Lake, 132 North 6th St, Hudson, noon. Plungers jump into Oakdale Lake's frigid water to support two important Hudson institutions. Email oakdale-plunge@gmail.com

March 2, 16
FOREST BATHING WALK, Schor Public Conservation Area, 58 Shore View Drive, Red Rock/Canaan, 8-10 am. Forest therapy guide leads immersive experiences that invite participants to connect with nature, find rejuvenation through mindfulness. By donation. Visit ColumbiaLand.org/Events to register.

March 2, 23
VACCINATION CLINICS, Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA, 111 Humane Society Rd, Claverack, 8-10 am, no appointment needed. Bordetella (kennel cough), feline leukemia, canine & feline distemper combination, and/or canine Lyme disease \$25/ vaccine. Canine influenza vaccines \$39. 518-828-6044 or email info@cghs.org.

March 3
MAPLE FEST—Celebrating the Wonderful World of Maple, Agroforestry Resource Center, 6055 Route 23, Acra, 10 am-3:30 pm. Free. Pancake breakfast \$10, \$5. Maple demos, tastings, crafts, walk, classes (\$20 by Mar 1). CceColumbiaGreene.org/maple-fest.

March 5, 19
CHATHAM WRITING GROUP, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave., 10:30 am. Group meets in the library again. They are an informal group that explores the craft of writing. New members welcome. Email ajourney@fairpoint.net to join.

OPENING RECEPTION & PANEL DISCUSSION, Hudson Area Library, 51 N. 5th St., 6 to 7:30 pm. Discussion for the exhibition "A Dialogue Across Generations: Making Connections through the BLACC Collection." hudsonarealibrary.org

March 9, 23
FOREST BATHING WALK, Siegel-Kline Kill, 1452 County Route 21 (a/k/a Church Street), Ghent, 8-10 am. Forest therapy guide leads immersive experiences that invite participants to connect with nature, find rejuvenation through mindfulness. By donation. Visit ColumbiaLand.org/Events to register.

WHAT'S COOKING

First Tuesdays
COMMUNITY DINNER, Solaris, 360 Warren St, Hudson, 5:30 pm, free. Details: camphillhudson.org.

Second & Fourth Wednesdays
SOUP SALE, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 3:30-5:30 pm. Premade soups available for pick up. Soups announced a week in advance. Orders 518 672-5010. Philmontlibrary.com.

Second Fridays
VERNON HIGGINS SUB NIGHT, Philmont Fire Company, 1 Maple Ave, 4-6:30 pm, \$10. Serving pepperoni, meatball, sausage & peppers, chicken Parm subs, chicken fingers & fries, fish fry sub, fish fry dinner with fries & coleslaw. Eat in, take out. Delivery available. Pre-orders: 518 610-1766, 821-0170 through Apr 12.

Second Saturdays
SOUP & SANDWICH SATURDAYS, First Presbyterian Church of Valatie, 3212 Church St, 11:30 am-1 pm, free. March 9 consists of tomato soup & grilled cheese sandwiches. Meet & visit others from community. All welcome.

FOR KIDS

Through June 1
REGISTRATION OPEN for Panorama Summer Art & Nature Program at Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rt 9G, Greenport. Sessions run from July-August for ages 6-11. Early bird discount before Feb 29. Registration: olana.org.

Through July 1
REGISTRATION OPEN FOR MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP with Columbia County Youth Theatre. Sessions in July for ages 3-18 with public performance at end of each session. Registration: ccyt.org/programs.

March 9
WORKSHOP, Hudson Area Library, 51 N. 5th St., noon to 2 pm, age 7 and up. Facilitated by curator Tanya Jackson, Nkoula Badila and Zien-Celeste on the The Black Legacy Association of Columbia County (BLACC) Oral History Project collection. To register email brenda.shufelt@hudsonarealibrary.org with the subject line: "youth workshop."

AT THE MOVIES

February 29
HARRIET, Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 Route 22, 3 to 5 pm, free. The film is based on the story of abolitionist and social reformer Harriet Tubman. Call 518 325-4101 or go to <http://www.roejanlibrary.org>

ALL OF US STRANGERS, Crandell Theatre, 48 Main St, Chatham, times vary, \$11. Tickets: crandelltheatre.org.

March 1-3
THE TASTE OF THINGS, Crandell Theatre, 48 Main St, Chatham, times vary, \$11. Tickets: crandelltheatre.org.

March 2-3
THE BOYS IN THE BOAT, Crandell Theatre, 48 Main St, Chatham, times vary, \$11. Tickets: crandelltheatre.org.

March 2, 7
ORIGIN, Crandell Theatre, 48 Main St, Chatham, times vary, \$11. Tickets: crandelltheatre.org.

March 7
THE NEVERENDING STORY, Clark Art Institute, 225 South St, Williamstown, 6 pm, free. Part of the Williamstown Public Library 150th Anniversary Film Series. Call 413 549-0524 or go to clarkart.edu/events.

MAKING MUSIC

Thursdays
JUPITER NIGHTS, Basilica Hudson, 110 S Front St, 7 pm, \$12 advanced, \$15 at door, \$10 advanced for Hudson residents with discount code. Regional musicians and creatives present concerts, poetry readings, conversational gatherings, art exhibits, DJ nights, more. basilicahudson.org/programs/jupiter-nights.

EVENTS Calendar

Continued from Page 9

First Friday

LINDA WORSTER, New Lebanon Library, 6:30 pm, free. Singer/songwriter gives virtual concert. Visit newlebanonlibrary.org day of concert for login details.
OPEN MIC NIGHT, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Rd, 7-9 pm, free, all ages. All welcome to perform music, stories, skits, readings, poetry, dance, songs or come to be entertained. Donations accepted. Copakegrange.org.

Friday

OPEN MIC WITH LOKI, Lightforms Art Center, 743 Columbia St, Hudson, 8-10 pm. Refreshments provided, donations appreciated. lightformsart-center.com.

Saturdays

MELTING POT SING-A-LONG, First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, 369 Warren St, noon-3 pm, \$20 donation. Musical journey of shanties, spirituals, hymns, folk tunes led by musician & songwriter Phil Roebuck. Homemade soup available. firstpresHUDSON.org.

Third Sunday

JAMMIN' AT THE GRANGE, Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, 4-5:30 pm. Join with other musicians for music playtime. Bring instrument, voice, song, join jam. All welcome. Free. Donations welcomed. lennybarham@gmail.com or visit www.copakegrange.org/events.

March 2

SEAN JONES QUARTET, Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St, 7 pm, \$23 & up. Tickets: HUDSON-hall.org.

March 4

OPTIME PASTOR: SHEPHERD, MAKER OF GOOD VIRTUE, St James Place, 342 Main St, Great Barrington, 4 pm, \$40-\$75, \$10 student. Early Polyphony for low voices from Ockeghem to Palestrina. Tickets: crescendomusic.org.

LISTEN & LEARN Ongoing

DIGITAL NAVIGATOR COMPUTER & Internet Help, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave. Help find low-cost options for broadband internet & devices; find resources to learn computer skills and internet basics. In-person or virtual appointments, 518 392-3666, chathampubliclibrary.org

DRIVE THROUGH HISTORY Road Trips, Columbia County Historical Society, free. Explore Columbia County with themed self-guided road trips. Itineraries: cchsny.org/drive-through-history.html.

ONE-ON-ONE JOB SEARCH HELP, Hudson Area Library, virtual event. Beth Gordon helps with resume, brushing up interview skills. Appointments programs@HUDSONarealibrary.org, 518 828-1792 X 101.

February 29

LECTURE SERIES ON GAMES, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 4:30 pm, free. How History Shaped Design: Early American Board Games. Presented by the Columbia County Historical Society and the Kinderhook Memorial Library. cchsny.org

March 2

BIRD WALK, Martin Van Buren Historic Site, 1013 Old Post, Kinderhook, 9 am, free. Meet in parking lot for search for Northern Shrike with Alan Devoe Bird Club. 518 653-4387.

VOTES FOR WOMEN: Columbia County & Beyond, Van Buren Hall, 2nd Floor, 6 Chatham Street, Kinderhook, 3 pm. \$20 non-members. Learn about fight for women's rights in NY. Tickets at door or register at www.eventbrite.com

INTRODUCTION TO INVASIVE SPECIES: Identification & Management, Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, 3:30-5 pm. Free, donations accepted. sky2mcb@yahoo.com, 518-325-5204 or copakegrange@gmail.com

March 3

DOLLEY MADISON: Queen of Washington City, Stephentown Heritage Center, 4 Staples Rd, 2 pm. Phyllis Chapman brings history to life. Free, open to public. 518-339-6485.

March 6

BOOK CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 5:30 pm, free. Discussion led by Amy Zimmerman of the Chatham Bookstore. Theme: books by emerging authors from BIPOC community. Email if interested in joining: merka@chatham.k12.ny.us.

TECH LAB: Language & Translation Software/Apps, Columbia County Libraries Association, virtual event, 6:45 pm, free. Part of 6-webinar series. Registration: columbiacountylibraries@gmail.com.

March 9

MASTODONS, MOHICANS, AND MORE! Ghent 12000 BC - 1790 AD with Gregg Berninger, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 1:30 pm, free. In this one-hour illustrated talk. chathampubliclibrary.org

DANCE

First Sundays

DANCES OF UNIVERSAL PEACE, 25 Main St., Chatham, 2-4 pm, at Roots Holistic Wellness. Circle dances and songs from diverse spiritual traditions. Each dance taught, no experience needed, all ages and abilities welcome. By donation for space rental. malikaliz13@gmail.com, 802-999-8142; or farid@taconic.net; 518-860-3108.

March 7

VIRTUAL SALON PERFORMANCE SERIES FOR SOCIAL CHANGE, live on Zoom, 7 pm. Mark DeGarmo Dance's 14th annual interactive salon. General admission: \$20; students/seniors: \$10. info@markdegarmodance.org. Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/3uwjAfy>

ON STAGE

Thursdays

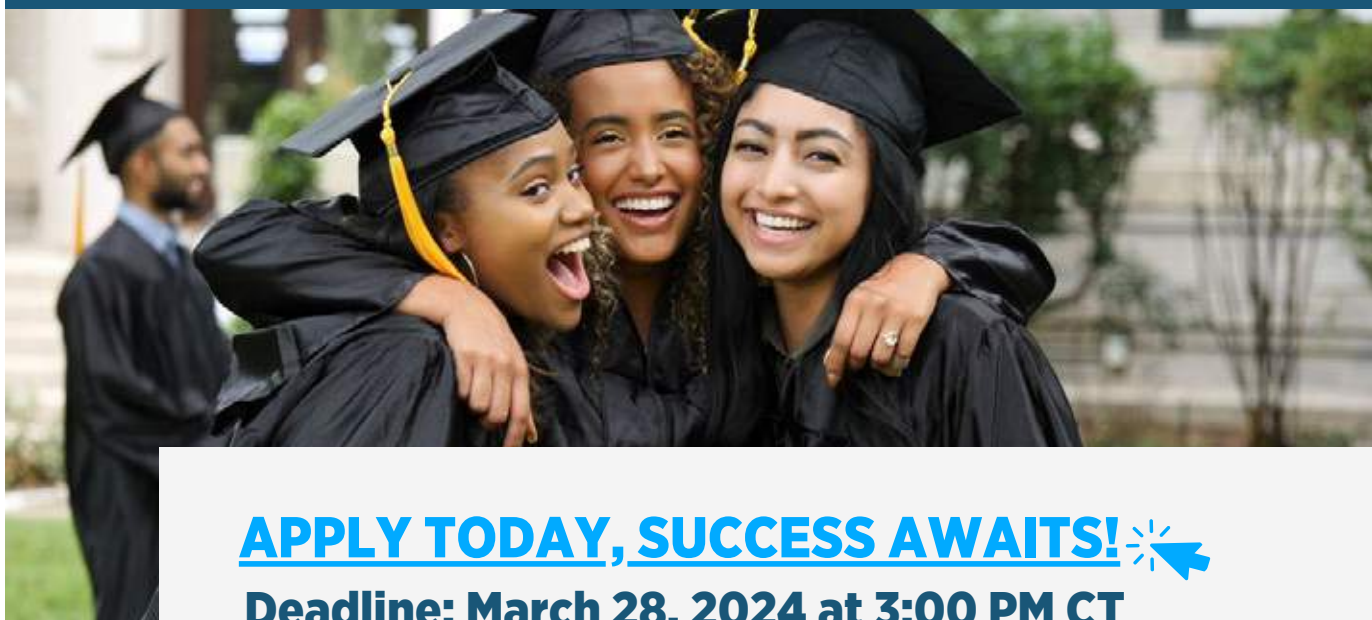
WEEKLY IMPROV, Lightforms Art Center, 743 Columbia St, Hudson, 7-9 pm, free. Safe, non-competitive space to explore art of theatre improvisation together. lightformsartcenter.com.

Through April 1

MUSICIAN'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, The Mac-Haydn Theatre, 1925 Route 203, Chatham, May 31 to September 15. Offers students the opportunity to engage with the theater's professional musical staff and musicians, including our Music Supervisor Eric Shorey. Submission deadline is April 1. www.machaydntheatre.org

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March 1
BLOCKS OF SENSATION, TSL, 424 Columbia St, Hudson, 7 pm, A one-woman performance, written and performed by Kim Barke, directed by Linda Mussmann. Tickets: TSL members \$12.50, \$15 general admission. timeand-space.org

March 8-10
ROALD DAHL'S MATILDA THE MUSICAL, Stissing Theatre Guild, Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, 2829 W Church St, Pine Plains, times vary, \$13 adults, \$11 students/seniors. Tickets online: stissingtheatre-guild.org or www.seatyourself.biz/stgboxoffice or call 518 398-1272.

March 8-April 28
SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY'S CENTER FOR ACTOR TRAINING, spring 2024 workshops and weekend intensives, in-person and online offerings. Workshops in Philadelphia, PA, Washington, D.C., Lenox, MA and Los Angeles, CA. shakespeare.org, 413 637-1199, ext. 114.

March 9
THE NINTH HOUR: A BEOWULF FOR THE MODERN AGE, Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Rte 203, 2 pm, \$15-\$10. Rock-noir musical. Tickets: spencertownacademy.org.

ON VIEW
ART OMI, 1405 CR 22, Ghent. "Oleakan Jeyifous: Even in Arcadia.", March 16-June 2. Benenson Center open daily 9 am-4 pm. artomi.org, 518 392-4747.

ART SCHOOL of Columbia County, 1198 Rt 21C, Childhood Revisited: by Sabina Curti. Opening reception and artist talk March 3, 4-6 p.m. Mon, Tue, Thurs, Sun noon-3 pm. 518 672-7140. Artschoolofcolumbiacounty.org.

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

CALDWELL GALLERY Hudson, 355 Warren St. A Gallery Collects: Where Quality Meets Value, through April 7. Fri-Sun 11 am-5 pm. 518 828-7087, jay@caldwelgalleryhudson.com.

CARRIE HADDAD Gallery, 622 Warren St, Hudson. Tangled Up in Blue thru April 21. Artists' reception: March 2, 5-7 p.m. Daily 11 am-5 pm, Tue by appt only. 518 828-1915. Carriehaddadgallery.com.

CCS BARD Galleries, Hessel Museum of Art, 33 Garden Rd, Annandale. Tickets ccs.bard.edu/visit/reservations. Sun noon-5 pm.

CIRCLE 46 GALLERY, 46 Green St, Hudson. Silver & Gold: Winter Group Show. Sat 1-5 pm, Sun 1:30-4 pm & by appt. 518 303-6446. gallery.at46@gmail.com.

CLARK ART INSTITUTE, 225 South St, Williamstown. David-Jeremiah: I Drive Thee. Tue-Sun, 10 am-4 pm. clarkart.edu.

CLAVERACK LIBRARY, 9 Rt 9H. Panel to Panel: A Group Graphic Artist Exhibition Open library hours. claveracklibrary.org.

CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE, 1 Clermont Ave. Visitor's Center: Spero Meliora: Life In The Land Of Livingston. Fri-Sun 10:30 am-4 pm. friendsofclermont.org.

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

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.

510 WARREN STREET Gallery, 510 Warren St, Hudson. Nina Lipkowitz: "Other Worlds," March 1-31. Fri & Sat, noon-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 518 822-0510. 510warrenstreetgallery.com.

FLOW CHART SPACE, 348 Warren St, Hudson. Of the Sign: Art of Marjorie Welish. Second & fourths Sats, 11 am-5 pm. flow-chartfoundation.org/exhibitions.

FOUNDATION Gallery, Arts Ctr, C-GCC, 4400 Rt. 23, Greenport. Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm. 518 828-4181 x 3241.

FRG OBJECTS & Design / Art, 217 Warren St, Hudson. Spectrum Observed, work by John Donovan. Thurs-Mon, 12-6 pm or by appt. 646 483-9109. frgdesignart.com.

FRONT ROOM GALLERY, 727 Warren St, Hudson. 718 782-2556, frontroomles.com. GALLERY@CREATE, 398 Main St, Catskill. Fri 4-7 pm, Sat & Sun 11 am-6 pm. createcouncil.org.

HENRY, 348 Warren St, Hudson. Fri-Sat noon-6 pm, Sun 11 am-4 pm. 518 828-2354.

HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, 51 N 5th St. Open library hours. "A Dialogue Across Generations: Making Connections through the BLACC Collection" until April. hudsonarealibrary.org.

HUDSON HALL, 327 Warren St. Tue-Fri, 9 am-5 pm, Sat & Sun, noon-5 pm. 518 822-1438. hudsonhall.org.

IZZY'S ROOM, 80 Green St, Hudson. arniezimmerman.com/izzys-room.

J. DAMIANI Gallery, 8 Anthony St, Hillsdale. Every painting is a journey. By appt, jdamianigallery@gmail.com. Sat 11 am-4 pm.

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

KAATERSKILL Gallery, C-GCC, 4400 Rt 23, Greenport. Mon-Thurs 8 am-9 pm, Fri 8 am-4:30 pm, Sat noon-4 pm. 518 828-4181.

KINDERHOOK KNITTING MILL, 8 Hudson St. Fri & Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-4 pm. Palm to Poplar: Devotional Labor, through April 29. shakermuseum.us, kinderhookknittingmill.com.

LABspace, 2642 Rt 23, Hillsdale. One Day All Of This Will Be Yours, thru March 31. Opening reception March 2, 1-5 pm. Sat & Sun 1-5 pm, no appt necessary. julielabspace@gmail.com. 917 749-2857.

LIGHTFORMS Art Center, 743 Columbia St, Hudson. Stars & Objects: Group Exhibit & Small Works Show. Fri 3-7, Sat-Sun 12-6 pm. By appointment 917 330-6262. lightformsartcenter.com

LIMNER Gallery, 123 Warren St, Hudson. Small Works: Holiday Show & Sale. By appt. 518 828-2343.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS & Creative Arts Gallery, 717 Columbia St, Hudson. Art/recovery books display. For information on artists & associated activities, stigmafree.art Donations for operating costs accepted: facebook.com/Mental-Health-Awareness-and-Creative-Arts-Gallery-280179699521974.

NORMAN ROCKWELL Museum, 9 Glendale Rd / Rt 183, Stockbridge, MA. Between Worlds: The Art & Design of Leo Lionni, up through May 27, 2024. Mon-Tues/Thurs-Fri 10 am-4 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm. Private tours available Wed. Admission. nrm.org.

OLANA State Historic Site, 5720 Rt 9G, Greenport. Frederic Church: Spectacle & the Business of Art, up through Mar 31, 2024. 518 828-0135. Olana.org.

PAMELA SALISBURY Gallery, 362½ Warren St, Hudson. Thurs-Mon 11 am-6 pm, or by appt. 518 828-5907. Pamelasalisburygallery.com. PHILMONT LIBRARY, 101 Main St. philmontlibrary.com.

PRIVATE PUBLIC GALLERY, 530 Warren St, Hudson. 212 286-0075, privatepublicgallery@gmail.com.

PS21, 2980 Rt 66, Chatham. James Casebere: Solo Pavilion for Two or Three. 518 392-6121. PS21chatham.org.

ROE JAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY, 9091 Rt 22, Copake. Open library hours. roejanlibrary.org.

ROSE Gallery, 238 Warren St, Hudson. 518 828-5825. Rosegalleryfineart.com.

SEPTEMBER Gallery, 4 Hudson St #3, Kinderhook. Humans of course are animals, and In the pale moonlight, Feb 10 - April 7. Fri-Sat 11am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. Kristen@september-gallery.com.

SHAKESPEARE'S FULCRUM, 612 Warren St, Hudson. Terry Fulgate-Wilcox. shakespearefulcrum.com

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

SUSAN ELEY FINE ART, 433 Warren St, Hudson. Land of Transcendence Part II - Scenes of Ethereality, up Feb 1-Mar 24; artists reception Feb 3, 5-7 pm. Thurs-Mon, 11 am-5 pm. susaneleyfineart.com.

TANJA GRUNERT SALON, Princess Beatrix House, 21 Prospect Ave, Hudson. Fri-Mon noon-6 pm, or by appointment. 646 944-6197, tanjagrunert.com.

THE FIRST GALLERY, 369 Warren St, Hudson. firstpresheadson.org.

THE SCHOOL: Jack Shainman Gallery, 25 Broad St (Rt 9), Kinderhook. Sat, 11 am-6 pm. Jackshainman.com.

THOMAS COLE NAT'L HISTORIC SITE, 218 Spring St, Catskill. Virtual gallery, explorethomascole.org/gallery. Grounds open daily. thomascole.org.

TSL Gallery, 434 Columbia St, Hudson. Fri-Sun, tours by advanced registration. Self-Storage (2023) by Beverly Peterson, through March 4. Opening reception with the artist on February 18 from 2 to 5 pm. 518 822-8448. Timeandspace.org.

TURLEY GALLERY, 98 Green St, Ste 2, Hudson. Care & indignity. Fri-Sun noon-5 pm, by appointment. turley.gallery.

WINDOW ON HUDSON, 43 S 3rd St, Hudson. Bibiana Huang Matheis: "The Tao of Florence / The Tao of Mary." windowonhudson.org.

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Frigid water beckons hardy souls

HUDSON – Courageous plungers jump into Oakdale Lake's frigid water to support two Hudson institutions during the Oakdale Polar Plunge, Oakdale Lake, 132 North Sixth Street, Saturday March 2 at noon. Plunger check-in starts at 11 a.m.

Proceeds are split between the Hudson Youth Department Waterfront Program and the Hudson Fire Department's Water Rescue and Dive Team both of which promote safe recreation in and around the water. The Dive Team uses its share to upgrade aging equipment, and continually train their all-volunteer team, keeping the community safer. The Youth Department's share goes towards lifeguard training and expanded hours for free summer fun on the beach. Learn more about your local organizations at <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/oakdaleplunge24/page/1520718/>.

Outrageous costumes are strongly encouraged for all

intrepid plungers and once again there will be a costume contest and prizes for the lucky winners. Winners will be announced at the end of the event.

Big Towel Spa treats the first 12 individuals who raise \$1,000 to VIP treatment with free access for 1 hour and 45 minutes to the onsite saunas after the plunge.

Spectators are welcome and encouraged at the beach this year, but only plungers may use the beach house to ensure everyone's safety. Those who can't make it in person will be able to see a video of the event soon afterwards.

See more details about the event on the FAQ page: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/oakdaleplunge24/page/1513102>.

Last year, plungers raised over \$56,000. More than a dozen teams jumped in the freezing cold lake.

Questions? Contact oakdaleplunge@gmail.com

Drop new socks in collection boxes

HUDSON – The Hudson Rotary Club has organized a Sock Drive to benefit Columbia County neighbors in need, now through March 20.

Drop socks in collection boxes at Bank of Greene County, 160 Fairview Avenue; Greylock Federal Credit Union, 464 Fairview Avenue; Operation Unite Education and Cultural Arts Center, 360 Columbia Street and Trustco Bank, 507 Warren Street. Hudson Rotary Club

joins other Rotary District 7210 Clubs, including the Northern Columbia County Rotary and the Kinderhook Tri-Village Rotary Club in a drive to collect new, packaged socks of all sizes for schools, food pantries, and the Columbia County NY Veterans Service Agency.

Columbia county veterans who want to find out how to connect to available resources should visit <https://veterans.columbiacountyny.com>.



Photo contributed

NY Women were leaders in the national push for women's rights.

Suffragists marched into Columbia County

KINDERHOOK – Columbia County Historical Society (CCHS) presents Votes for Women: Columbia County and Beyond at Van Buren Hall, second floor, 6 Chatham Street, Saturday, March 2 at 3 p.m.

Women in New York State won the right to vote in 1917 after many years of advocating, organizing, petitioning, and marching. Not only was success in New York key to passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 at the Federal level, but New York women were leaders in the national push for women's rights. Learn about the fight for women's rights in New York, and the times that suffragists marched

(literally) into Columbia County. Lecturer Ashley Hopkins-Benton is a senior historian and curator of Social History at the New York State Museum in Albany. Her research and collections focuses include women's history, LGBTQ+ history, immigration, sculpture and toys. She was co-curator/author of Votes for Women: Celebrating New York's Suffrage Centennial (2017) and Enterprising Waters: The History and Art of New York's Erie Canal (2020), and author of Breathing Life Into Stone: The Sculpture of Henry DiSpirito (2013). Prior to her work in Albany, she served as educator at CCHS, where she

loved helping kids (of all ages) connect with history and art. She holds an MA in history museum studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program, and a BA in art studio/art education from SUNY Potsdam.

Admission is \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members.

An elevator is available. Get tickets at the door or register in advance on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/votes-for-women-columbia-county-and-beyond-tickets-839500617947?aff=ebdsbdestsearch>.

Visit the CCHS website at cchsny.org

Humane Society offers vaccine clinic

CLAVERACK – The Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA offers vaccination clinics Saturday, March 2 and Saturday, March 23. The clinics will run from 8 to 10 a.m., and no appointment is necessary.

Vaccines the clinics will offer for dogs, cats, puppies and kittens include rabies, bordetella (kennel cough), feline leukemia, canine and feline distemper combination, and/or canine Lyme disease for \$25 per vaccine. Canine influenza vaccines can be purchased for \$39.

The shelter is located at 111 Humane Society Road. For more information call 518-828-6044 or email info@cghs.org.



Dolley Madison was an inspiring woman

STEPHENTOWN – The Stephentown Historical Society gets a visit from Dolley Madison, Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m.

Phyllis Chapman appears for an afternoon visit as "Dolley Madison: Queen of Washington City." The program will be at the Stephentown Heritage Center, 4 Staples Road. It is free and

open to the public. For information or directions, call 518-339-6485.

The charming wife of President James Madison shares her tales of the early days of the nation's capital. Her social and political "style" fostered a sense of national unity between the rowdy factions of early Washington and during the War of 1812.

Forced to evacuate Washington when the British burned the city, her courage under fire inspired Americans to continue the fight, and never surrender.

Ms. Chapman has been bringing history to life for many years with her recreations of notable women in her Vintage Visitors Presentations.

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Photo contributed

Library hours at the Stuyvesant Town Hall are on Wednesdays.

Kinderhook Library explores operations in Stuyvesant

STUYVESANT — The Kinderhook Memorial Library is exploring adding operational hours in the Town of Stuyvesant. Library Director Matt Pavloff will be holding open library hours in Stuyvesant Town Hall on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. until April 10.

“We love that our Stuyvesant patrons enjoy visiting our library in Kinderhook,” said Mr. Pavloff, in a press release, “but we are curious to see if there is interest in building services a little closer to home.”

The library’s service area covers both the Village of Kinderhook and the Town of Stuyvesant. The library fre-

quently holds events and activities, such as Cookbook Club and Yoga Storytime, at the Stuyvesant Town Hall. “We just want to make sure that everyone is well represented and that we’re reaching as many of our residents as possible,” said Mr. Pavloff.

These limited hours will help the library develop their long-range plan regarding outreach and service based on the level of interest and engagement from the community. Residents can stop in to get a new library card, check out a book or place a hold, learn about upcoming events, pick up some free eclipse glasses, and get technical support.

Library presents “Pruning Basics for the Home Gardener”

NORTH CHATHAM — Educate yourself on the basics of garden pruning just in time for spring, with Devon Russ, master gardener volunteer of the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia/Greene Counties, at the North Chatham Free Library’s (NCFL) “Pruning Basics for the Home Gardener” on Tuesday, March 12 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. This free event is located at 4287 Route 203.

Learn why pruning can enhance plants and shrubs, for example, it: helps to maintain plant vigor; preserves good

structure and increases fruit and flower production; and tailors the plant’s natural growth rate, height, and spread.

Weather permitting, Mr. Russ will demonstrate hands on cutting of some of the small shrubs in the library garden.

Registration is required. Email your interest to Registernorthchathamlibrary.com.

This event is made possible by Live & Learn Committee with thanks to the Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation and Stewart’s Shops for funding.



Photo contributed

Get ready for spring pruning.

THROUGH THE WOODS

By Nancy Jane Kern

Short-eared owls

IT IS A THRILL watching the nimble aerial acrobatics of several football-sized owls. Short-eared owls migrate down from the north for the winter. We think of owls as night birds, however, these owls hunt both day and night and are usually visible to us at dawn and dusk, which is called crepuscular activity. Large farm fields producing grain and hay during the summer host untold numbers of small mammals such as mice and voles. A vole looks like a mouse but prefers to eat vegetation such as roots and seeds, is usually larger than mice (4-6” long), and has a stubbier face and tail. They are also related to lemmings, which live in the far north and are loved by owls. Birds and mammals like weasels and muskrats are also eaten.

What we find exciting as observers is deadly serious for the owls. The owls become alert to northern harriers (also called marsh hawks), which compete for the owl’s food. Short-eared owls circle and chase the hawks and an owl’s long wings are raised then slapped beneath it, chasing the hawks out to other fields. Male harriers are called “grey ghosts” for their white body and black-tipped gray wings (females are brown). The owls fly low to the snow or ground with a gliding, rocking motion and then abruptly circling back for another look or listen. Sometimes they give short squawks/barks with an occasional sound like a cat’s mew. Might this cause prey to move?



Photo contributed

A good place to see the short-eared owls is the Washington County Fort Edward Grasslands: <https://dec.ny.gov/places/washington-county-grasslands-wildlife-management-area>

An owl will hover and dive down to grab its prey. Then fly off to perch on a fence post or power pole. Feeding time is short while standing on prey and looking in all directions for an attempted steal. A large vole’s head is pulled up, snipped off, and swallowed. Next long strands of guts are pulled out and eaten and the body is chugged down last. After eating 1-2 small mammals an owl may stash more prey to carry it through bad weather. Owls do not have a crop like other birds. They digest the food directly for 8-10 hours. After squeezing

out the nutrients a pellet of bones, hair, or feathers is coughed up. These owls have little fear of people, perch at the tops of yard trees, and often pass by buildings. Eventually, the owls find a good place to shelter and rest. They love thick cedars with room for several owls. It is difficult to count them because they dart all over. Sometimes a family unit winters together. Next month they will begin courting and move back up north to nest. New York is fortunate to host them during winter and we will miss their fascinating flights.

Cole connects seniors to available programs

CLAVERACK — Rachel Cole from NY Connects speaks at the next meeting of the Claverack Seniors at the Reformed Dutch Church, 88 State Route 9H, Friday, March 8 at 1 p.m.

Ms. Cole will speak about programs available to seniors.

Vanessa Matteis and Debbie Grau are on the refreshment committee.

All are welcome to attend the following scheduled trips:

- April 16, Saratoga casino,

no comp \$15, leave Claverack at 7 a.m.

- May 29, Circle Line Tours, Manhattan, \$50, leave Claverack at 8 a.m., buy your own dinner on way back

- June 12, to be announced

- July 10, Mac-Haydn Theatre, Chatham, \$50, “Sister Act” show starts at 2 p.m., buy your own lunch with the group prior to show, car pool to show from lunch

- August 13, Aqua Turf, CT, \$65 includes lunch, “The Legends

Live – The Songs Your Love”, leave Claverack at 8:30 a.m.

- September 18, Big E, Springfield, MA, \$25, leave Claverack at 8 a.m.

- October 28 to 29, overnight in Atlantic City, \$75/person, no comp, leave Claverack at 7 a.m.

Sign up one month prior to trip. Call Debbie Grau to sign up at 518-610-1766. Make checks payable to and send to Claverack Seniors, P.O. Box 614, Philmont 12565.



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Meet some invaders, then show them the door

COPAKE – The Copake Conservation Advisory Committee and the Copake Grange present “An Introduction to Invasive Species: Identification and Management” at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Saturday, March 2, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Colleen Lutz, assistant biologist with NY Natural Heritage Program and Samantha Schultz, Terrestrial Invasive Species coordinator with the Department of Environmental Conservation’s Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management are the presenters.

Learn about the emerald ash borer, the hemlock woolly adelgid, Japanese barberry, bittersweet and many other invasive species and what to do about them.

This free talk is open to everyone. It is intended for older children who are interested in biology and adults especially gardeners, and land-

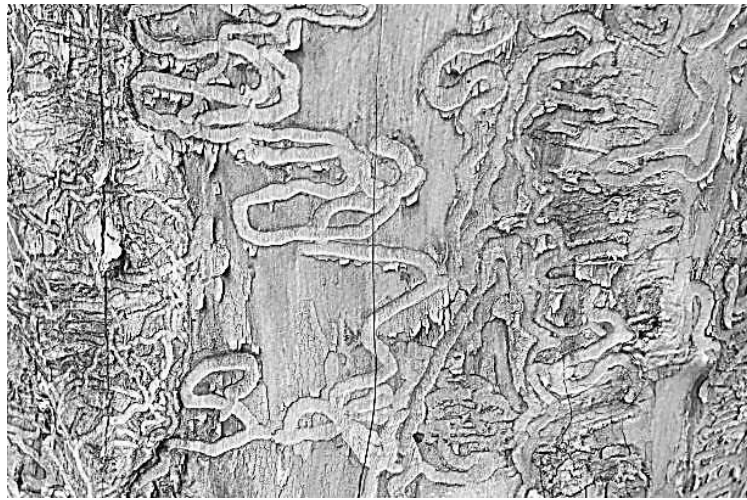


Photo contributed

Emerald Ash Borer.



Photo contributed

Spotted Lantern fly.

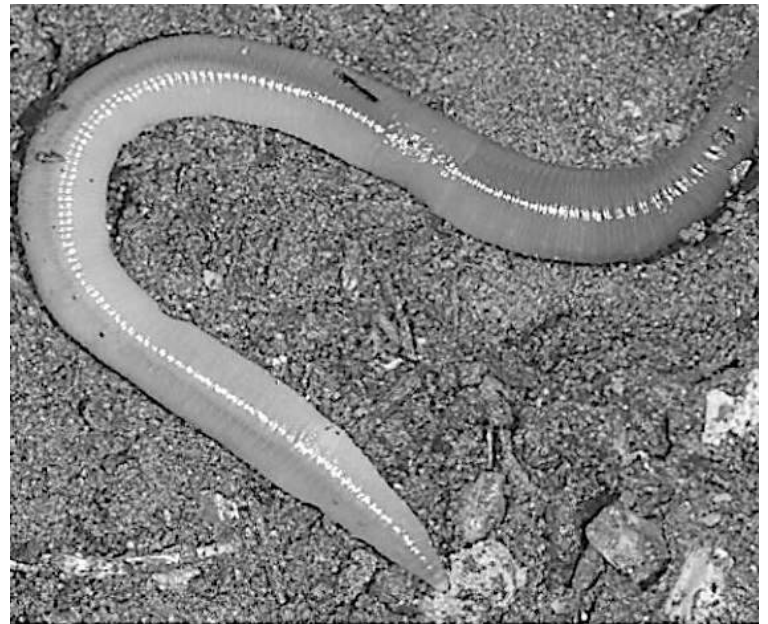


Photo contributed

Jumping worm.

scaping professionals. There will be a Q & A and refreshments afterward.

The purpose is to provide information about invasive species and guidance for management.

There is no admission charge. Donations are gratefully accepted. Advance reservations are not required. To get more information email sky2mcb@yahoo.com, call 518-325-5204 or visit copakegrange@gmail.com

Slow down, tune in, soak up the forest

RED ROCK – Soak up the sun or the sights, sounds, and smells of local forests. The Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) announces the return of the popular Forest Bathing Walk series for spring 2024. Led by certified Forest Therapy Guide Jill Jakimetz, these immersive experiences invite participants to connect with nature and find rejuvenation through mindfulness practices.



Photo contributed

Schor Public Conservation Area in Red Rock.

The events take place Saturdays, 8 to 10 a.m. as follows:

- March 2 and March 16 at the Schor Public Conservation Area, 58 Shore View Drive, Red Rock/Canaan
- March 9 and March 23 at Siegel-Kline Kill, 1452 County Route 21 (a/k/a Church Street), Ghent

“Forest bathing is such a great way to connect to nature,” “I love the slow pace and focus on mindfulness,” Jenifer Rosete, conservation education coordinator, said in a press release.

Participants can tune into their senses, encouraging connection and self-discovery. At the end of the program, participants can enjoy foraged tea and snacks and share about their experiences. This hike will include walking less than a mile over uneven terrain, which features roots and footbridge crossings. The pace will be leisurely, and include plenty of stopping and listening. Attendees should bring water and wear weather appropriate clothing: extra layers, hat, gloves, and warm shoes. No dogs allowed at this event.

Participation is by suggested donation, and all are welcome to attend. Visit ColumbiaLand.org/Events to register.

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RECYCLE**

Obituaries

Kenneth S. Phesay (1942 - 2024)

ALBANY – Reverend Kenneth S. Phesay, 81, of Copake passed away Sunday, February 25, 2024 at the Samuel Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany. He was born September 19, 1942 in Oceanside, the son of Charles and Mildred (Seaman) Phesay.



Ken Phesay

A complete obituary is forthcoming and will be posted at www.peckandpeck.net.

A time for sharing memories

and offering condolences will take place Friday, March 1, 2024 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Peck & Peck

Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake. A funeral service will be celebrated at 11 am from Trinity United Methodist Church, 1158 Route 7A, Ashley Falls, MA. Interment will take place at a future date in Saratoga National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations in his memory are requested to be made to Trinity UMC, 1158 Route 7A, Ashley Falls, MA 01222.

Katie M. Gallo (1992 - 2024)

COLUMBIAVILLE – Katie Marie Gallo of Columbiaville passed away February 25, 2024. Born April 17, 1992 in Hudson, she was 31 years of age.



Katie Gallo

She is survived by: her mother, Mary (Glenn) Martino of Columbiaville; her father, Peter L. Kisselback of Valatie; her brothers and sisters, Bryan (Kristin) Brazie of Copake Lake, Amanda (Charles) Torre of Fort Myers, FL, James (Melody) Konderwich of Valatie, Gary Kisselback of Chicago, IL, Emma Kisselback of Stuyvesant, Emily (Alex) Martino of Fort Myers, FL, Jacob (Whitney) Martino of Philmont and Bradley Martino of Copake. She is also survived by several aunts, uncles,

nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Jacob Kisselback.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, February 29, 2024, noon at the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie. Calling hours will be from 10 a.m. to noon prior to the funeral. Donations may be made to the animal rescue/shelter of one's choice.

Darlene P. Cornacchia (1956 - 2024)

ELIZAVILLE – Darlene P. Cornacchia, 67, of Elizaville passed away Friday, February 23, 2024. Born August 12, 1956 in Hudson, she was the daughter of Minnie (Cook) Nichols.



Darlene Cornacchia

She most recently worked as a clerk at Williams Lumber in Greenport. She enjoyed gardening, bird watching and creating crafts. Her greatest joy was being with her children and grandchildren. She loved to smile, and put smiles on

everyone's faces.

Left to remember and love her are: her husband, Leonard Cornacchia, Jr.; children, Daniel Marasco, Vincent

(Cherie) Marasco, Jr., Jennifer Cornacchia (fiancé Juan), and Leonard (Tammy) Cornacchia, III; six grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brothers, Herbert and Ronald Nichols, and Billy and Jackie Milligan. Visitation at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Dawn M. Sorokey (1957 - 2024)

CRARYVILLE – Dawn Marie Sorokey, 66, of Craryville died peacefully in her home Monday, February 26, 2024. She was born in Hudson, August 25, 1957. She was the daughter of the late George and Ethel (Sweet) Purdell. After graduating in the Taconic Hills Class of '75 she moved to Simi Valley, California with her son, Josh. There she met and married her first husband, Richard Racine. They later divorced. She moved back to New York in 1985. Soon afterward, she met Alain and together began their lifelong dance. She worked at Gunnings Collections in Hudson, then worked for the



Dawn Sorokey

Catskill Women's Health Center for many years until it was acquired by Columbia Memorial Hospital, where she worked until her retirement. She was a past member of ABATE of Hudson. She enjoyed rides with her husband, Alain, on his many Harleys, partaking of fine food while traveling the world. She

will be missed by her son, Josh Racine; brother, James and wife Susan Shook of Claverack; grandson, Joshua Jacob "JJ" Racine; cats, Ozzie and Ziggy as well as her many lifelong friends made over a lifetime. She was predeceased by her sister, Darlene "Reenie" Schrader. She is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, Alain. They were wed July 31, 1993.

Calling hours will be Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Sacco Funeral Home, 700 Town Hall Drive, Greenport. Funeral services will begin at 6 p.m. with Pastor Robert Preusser officiating.

Clara P. Spoleti (1953 - 2024)

VALATIE – Clara Paula Spoleti, aged 70, of Valatie passed away peacefully at Barnwell Nursing Home, Thursday, February 22, 2024.

Born August 14, 1953 in Brooklyn, she later moved to Queens, where she spent most of her life.

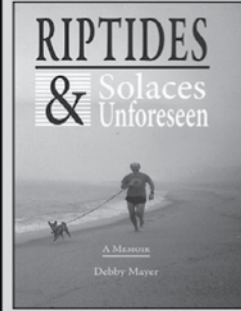
She was the daughter of the late Guistino and June Spoleti. Her brother, Paul also predeceased her.

A fun-loving person with a quick wit and sharp mind, she was a hippie girl with a distinctive sense of style. She will be remembered fondly by her nephews, Paul and

Joseph, along with their families, and her sister-in-law, Mary. She will be greatly missed.

Despite life's challenges, she always managed to stay positive and strong. Her deep love for animals was evident during her time in Queens, when she cared for many stray cats. She diligently fed them twice a day and helped catch them for spaying. Her dedication to these animals persisted through all kinds of weather. "Rest easy, Clara."

There will be no calling hours. Arrangements are with the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie.



RIPTIDES & Solaces Unforeseen
A Memoir
by Debby Mayer

"No one who reads it will ever forget this book."
Molly Laird, RN, emergency room psychiatric nurse

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THE COLUMBIA PAPER JOURNALISM FUND

Local reporting is important to a healthy community. It is at the core of an informed citizenry—yet it can be an expensive undertaking. To continue fulfilling our role as a local news outlet, The Columbia Paper, together with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, created the Columbia Paper Journalism Fund to expand our comprehensive and in-depth local reporting.

This is a dedicated charitable fund whose purpose is to support our reporting of education, economic development, arts and culture, health care and the environment.

You can support the civic, cultural, and economic vibrancy of Columbia County through a tax-deductible donation to the Columbia Paper Journalism Fund.

DONATE

ONLINE: berkshiretaconic.org/ColumbiaPaper or scan the QR code.

BY MAIL: Please make checks payable to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation with the fund name, "The Columbia Paper Journalism Fund," in the memo line and mail to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 800 North Main St., Sheffield, MA 01257-9503.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Kelly Sweet, Senior Philanthropy Officer at Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, ksweet@berkshiretaconic.org



Scan this QR code to visit The Columbia Paper Journalism Fund. Thank you for your continued support.

The Columbia Paper Journalism Fund is a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

"THANK YOU to all who have donated! You are helping to keep independent journalism alive in the county." – Parry Teasdale, publishing consultant

Public Notices

COLUMBIA COUNTY BID NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of New Lebanon, NY is seeking bids for the EXISTING SPLASH PAD RENOVATION PROJECT at Shattford Park, the Town's Municipal Public Park. The Town of New Lebanon invites sealed proposals for the repair and safety improvements for the existing splash pad. The construction will consist of crack repair, the construction of a new accessible ramp into the existing splash pad, new stairs into the existing splash pad, new fencing, installation of fall protection materials with the existing splash pad, sidewalk construction, an accessible stone dust path to the splash pad along with a new accessible parking space nearby. The bids are to be submitted and shall cover the costs directly and indirectly associated with furnishing all materials, labor and related equipment necessary for the installation and completion of the work.

As a Municipal Project, New York State Department of Labor Prevailing Wage Rates apply. This project is exempt from Wicks Law. This contract has been designated Contract 2024-01 as set forth in the contract documents, including drawings and specifications.

Bids will be received by the Town Clerk of the Town of New Lebanon, NY, Town Hall, 14755 Route 22 North, New Lebanon, NY 12125, until 4:00 PM on or before Friday, April 5, 2024, at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read aloud, with the contract being awarded, if acceptable, on April 9, 2024, 6:00 PM, at the regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Town Board at 14755 Route 22, New Lebanon, NY 12125.

All bid and contract documents, including specifications governing the contract, may be examined free of charge at the Town Clerk's office during the Clerk's business hours of Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained at the Town of New Lebanon Town Hall on or after February 23, 2024.

No bid will be accepted unless a signed Certificate of Non-Collusion is submitted with the bid.

The Town of New Lebanon Town Board expressly reserves the right to waive any irregularities in, or to accept any bid, or to reject any and all bids, or to award on any or all items.

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within twenty-five (25) days after the actual date of the bid opening.

Project timeliness is important. The entire project must be completed by June 18, 2024.

By order of the Town Board, Town of New Lebanon, New York.

By: Marcie Robertson, Town Clerk
Town of New Lebanon, NY
2/15/2024

WANT TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL NOTICE?
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COLUMBIA COUNTY BID NOTICE

Notice to Bidders
The Board of Education of the Hudson City School District is accepting the submission of sealed bids for the following 23-24 School Year Transportation Routes:

Donald R Kline School To School

Bids must be received by Friday, March 8th, 2024 at 9 a.m. at which time all bids will be publicly opened in the district conference room of the Hudson City School District. Please reply by mail to Hudson City School District, Transportation Bids, 215 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, New York 12534.

Please call (518) 828-4360 ext. 2100 for specifications and bid forms. The District/Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof.

Tabatha Biggane-Transportation Coordinator/CFO

L & D'S PLACE LLC.
Filed 10/26/23. Office: Columbia Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: Donald Larosa, 211-25 34th Rd, Bayside, NY 11361. Purpose: General. NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD TOWN OF NEW LEBANON COUNTY OF COLUMBIA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Special Meeting of the Town Board will be held at the Town Hall at 14755 Route 22 in New Lebanon on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024, at 9:00am to complete the SEQR review for the Shattford Park Project funded by a grant from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Marcie Robertson
Town Clerk
2/16/2024

CICHLID AQUATICS LLC.
Filed 9/18/23. Office: Columbia Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: Diego Diaz Angeriz, 102 Oak Leaf Dr, Stuyvesant, NY 12173. Purpose: General. NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Overstory LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/16/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Ryan Surran: 104 S Gold Road, Elizaville, NY. 12523. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of HERMAN AND MICELI, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/22/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to THE LLC: 160 State Route 217, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Chapocyk LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/23/2024. Office location: Columbia. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Kristal Heinz, Esq.: 551 Warren St., Suite 3F, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Emergent Phenomenon LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/05/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Austin Channell: 231 Robinson Street Apt 2, Hudson NY 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Stone Arch Veterinary, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/19/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to the PLLC: 405 Old Gale Hill Rd., East Chatham, NY 12060. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Comfort of Home Consulting LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-12-03. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Anne Marie Mink: PO Box 317 Niverville NY 12130. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Here's The Thing Productions LLC. Filed 12/4/23. Office: Columbia Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 830 Union St, Hudson, NY 12534. Registered Agent: United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Ste 202, Bklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: General. NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

SHIBUSA LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 2/8/24. Office in Columbia Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 273 Rigor Hill Rd., Chatham, NY 12037, which is also the principal business location. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of FS Smith LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/05/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Frank Smith: 78 Laurel Mtn Rd., Spencertown, NY 12165. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Bill Podell Team Sales LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/12/2024. Office location: Columbia County/1/12. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to William Podell: PO Box 108 Stuyvesant Falls, NY 12174. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of 172 West End Road LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/19/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Downey, Haab & Murphy PLLC: 87 Main Street Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of A & D Keute, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/23/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Andrew Keute: 228 Schneider Road, Hudson, NY 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of TYSO VENTURES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/01/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to TYSO VENTURES LLC: 106 Charles Street, Apt. 1D, New York, NY 10014. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Athens Crate Building Company LLC. Filed 11/9/23. Office: Columbia Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: 2361 Us Rte 9, Ste 2, Hudson, NY 12534. Purpose: General. NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Black Birch Holdings, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2024-01-15. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Black Birch Holdings, LLC: 290 County Route 14 Hudson NY 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Walhalla Solar LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/20/2023. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to the LLC: 160 Nevis Rd., Tivoli, NY 12583. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of 172 West End Road LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/19/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Downey, Haab & Murphy PLLC: 87 Main Street Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the LLC is Casa San Angelo, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 16, 2024. New York office location: 14 Old Route 22, Town of Copake, County of Columbia and the State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: Casa San Angelo, LLC; P.O. Box 912, Hudson, New York 12534. Purpose/Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law. This notification is made pursuant to Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Lovers Lane LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/18/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Alan Kirschenbaum: 3211 Rowland Pl, NW Washington DC 20008. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

S & J LAND AND LOTS, LLC App. for Auth. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 1/16/24. LLC was organized in FL on 10/17/22. Office in Columbia Co. SSNY desig. as agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to 85 Middle Rd., #1026, Hudson, NY 12534. Required office: 4149 King Richard Dr., Sarasota, NY 34232. Cert of Org filed with: SS FL, The Centre of Tallahassee, 2415 N. Monroe St., FL 32303. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The name of the LLC is 1677 Church Street LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 2, 2024. New York office location: 1677 Route 7A, Town of Copake, County of Columbia and the State of New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 1677 Church Street LLC; P.O. Box 516, Copake, New York 12516. Purpose/Character of business: Any lawful business purpose permitted under the New York Limited Liability Company Law. This notification is made pursuant to Section 206 of the Limited Liability Company Law.

Public Notices

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY DOUBLEGOOD FARM LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/20/24. Office: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 343 Stevers Crossing Road, Hudson, NY 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE, VILLAGE OF CHATHAM, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK. NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED LOCAL LAW ENTITLED "A LOCAL LAW REQUIRING REMOTE-READ WATER METERS." PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Chatham shall hold a public hearing on Monday, March 11, 2024 beginning at 6:50pm at Tracy Memorial Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Chatham, NY 12037 for the purpose of taking public comment on a proposed local law entitled "A Local Law Requiring Remote-Read Water Meters." This law would facilitate water meter readings, and to overcome access issues at private properties, would require that all newly installed or replaced water meters shall be readable by DPW personnel by remote device and without requiring direct access to the premises interior. At such public hearing, all interested persons shall have the opportunity to be heard. Copies of the proposed "A Local Law Requiring Remote-Read Water Meters," is available in the Village Clerk's Office, 77 Main Street, Chatham, NY 12037. Desiree Kelleher Chatham Village Clerk

WANT TO PLACE YOUR LEGAL NOTICE? Visit quickadcreator.com

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF TOWN BOARD MEETING TOWN OF GREENPORT The Town of Greenport will hold a Town Board meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at the Greenport Town Hall, 600 Town Hall Drive, Hudson, New York 12534 at 6:00 p.m.. The meeting will be preceded by a workshop meeting at 5:00p.m. The Town is allowing people to join in person at the Greenport Town Hall. You may also join us virtually at meet.google.com/xxq-vbvt-jen or join us by phone at (US) + 1 402-646-0219, PIN:325562023 or submit written comments to the Town Board, Attn. Sharon Zempko Town Clerk at the address above or via email to townclerk@townofgreenport and must be received no later than Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. By order of the Greenport Town Board Sharon Zempko, Town Clerk

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE VILLAGE OF VALATIE Notice is hereby given that the Annual Election of and for the Village of Valatie will be held at the Village Hall, 3211 Church Street (Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building), in the Village of Valatie, NY on Tuesday the 19th day of March 2024. The polls will be open between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 pm. The following candidates have filed for election to the offices listed below: Trustee- Two Years (Vote for any two) Amy Freinberg-Trufas - 3218 Church Street, Valatie, NY 12184 Patrick Rodgers - 3113 Luther Street, Valatie, NY 12184 Barbara A. Fischer Village Clerk

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE West Ghent Cemetery Association will hold its Annual Directors Meeting Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the Ghent Reformed Church on County Rte. 22, Ghent, N.Y. Meeting open to all lot owners. Lot owners advised to remove any arrangements or decorations from plots they want to save before March 23rd for spring cleanup. Plots For Sale to anyone - for information call (518) 751-0428.

COLUMBIA COUNTY BID NOTICE NOTICE TO BIDDERS SURPLUS ITEMS TOWN OF NEW LEBANON HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF COLUMBIA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the NEW LEBANON TOWN BOARD is seeking bids for the sale of the following surplus items: -One used 2011 Ford F550 VIN# 1FDUF5HTXBEA25937, with a stainless steel dump body -One used stainless steel Fisher X-Blade snow plow -One used hot water pressure washer -One like new 2017 FERI mower model# LE18UOD, serial# 85925 -One new 10ft. wing plow

These surplus items are available for viewing at the New Lebanon Highway Department, please contact Highway Superintendent, Peter McCagg at 518-794-8580 to schedule a viewing. Sealed bids must be in a PLAIN WHITE ENVELOPE with the item written on the front and must include a "non-collusive bidding certificate". Bids must be received in the office of the Town Clerk at the New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 Route 22, P.O. Box 328, New Lebanon, NY, 12125 no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, March 8th, 2024. Bids will be opened at the Office of the Town Clerk at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8th, 2024 and will be considered by the New Lebanon Town Board at the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 12th, 2024 to be held at the New Lebanon Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. The Town Board and the Highway Superintendent reserve the right to reject or accept all bids. Marcie Robertson New Lebanon Town Clerk 2/16/2024

COLUMBIA COUNTY RFP Public Notice Town of Copake Request for Proposal

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MAINTENANCE OF TOWN OF COPAKE PROPERTIES 2024

The Town of Copake seeks a proposal by an individual or company to maintain certain Copake properties as follows:

Outside mowing and trimming of Williams Cemetery, Roe Jan Historical Society, the Flag Green in Copake Falls and the cul-de-sac green on View Mont Road

Check all properties frequently to insure proper maintenance April 20, 2024 through November 9, 2024

The individual or company awarded this work will answer to and be supervised by Town of Copake Park Superintendent William Gregory

Proposals for consideration must be submitted to the following address and be in the possession of the Town of Copake Town Clerk, 230 Mountain View Road Copake NY 12516, no later than 11:00 AM, Tuesday March 12, 2024. At which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. Proposals may be mailed or delivered by hand. Lynn M. Connolly Town Clerk February 21, 2024

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON OUTREACH AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the New Lebanon Town Board is seeking persons interested in serving on the following committee:

Outreach & Marketing Committee: The Outreach & Marketing committee, which helps disseminate information about businesses and residential needs in such forms as the Town tourism brochure, the business directory, the food access brochure, and welcome packets to both new residents and new businesses, is seeking more members. This committee also helped create the town logo, Town slogan and the community bulletin board. The committee works on outreach to potential new businesses, potential new residents, and potential visitors to our town and helps to Market our community as a great place to visit, live and/or open a business in. The committee meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:00am at the New Lebanon Town Hall.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN Persons interested in serving in this position are to submit a letter of interest to the New Lebanon Town Clerk. Letters may be submitted via mail to P.O. Box 328, New Lebanon, NY 12125; delivered to the Town Hall at 14755 Route 22; or emailed to townclerk@townofnewlebanon

Letters must be received in the Office of the Town Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8th, 2024.

Marcie Robertson Town Clerk 2/16/2024

Marcie Robertson Town Clerk 2/16/2024

Marcie Robertson Town Clerk 2/16/2024

Marcie Robertson Town Clerk 2/16/2024

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COPAKE PLANNING BOARD TOWN OF COPAKE

The Planning Board of the Town of Copake, New York, will hold a public hearing pursuant to Subdivision Regulations adopted by the Town Board on May 12, 1971 and pursuant to Section 276 of the Town Law on the application for a Minor Subdivision of the property of Tom Hill located at 7890 Route 22 in the Town of Copake.

Said land is bordered now or was formerly bordered by the following Lands of: Shag Bark Farm Inc., Edgar M. Masters, John N. Warfield, Evan Jon Peteroy.

Said hearing will be held on the 7th day of March, 2024 at the Copake Town Hall at 230 Mountain View Road, at 6:30 p.m. at which time all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. By order of the Chair, Julie Cohen

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Cascades Cafe LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/15/2024. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to the LLC: 924 Stony Point Rd, Castleton, NY 12033. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF NEW LEBANON SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM HEALTH DIRECTOR

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the New Lebanon Town Board is seeking persons interested in serving in the following position for the term as noted:

Summer Youth Program Health Director (1 year term - expires 12/31/2024): Minimum qualifications include: a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, emergency medical technician or other person acceptable to the permit-issuing official. The SYP Health Director oversees the development, evaluation and implementation of the medical plan for the Summer Youth Program.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that unless otherwise specified, all applicants must be residents of the Town of New Lebanon. Persons interested in serving in this position are to submit a letter of interest to the New Lebanon Town Clerk. Letters may be submitted via mail to P.O. Box 328, New Lebanon, NY 12125; delivered to the Town Hall at 14755 Route 22; or emailed to townclerk@townofnewlebanon

Letters must be received in the Office of the Town Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8th, 2024.

Marcie Robertson Town Clerk 2/16/2024

Marcie Robertson Town Clerk 2/16/2024

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Water: What can you do?

By DEBORAH E. LANS

Last in a series

GHENT – As Bard’s M. Elias Dueker points out, the best thing we can do about the safety of our drinking water is to “prevent pollution in the first place. Currently, we treat the symptoms, not the causes. We need to think differently about our patterns of consumption.”

What does this mean? Many things.

For example, our land use decisions need to consider the impacts of construction on the water ecosystem. What will development affect? What kinds of roads will be built? Where and how will water run off them? Are we disturbing a wetland? Wetlands get little respect but serve vital functions in filtering water and absorbing run off.

To prevent the pollution of our soils, groundwater and air – each of which of course in turn can pollute the others – hold industry accountable for the products they produce and the pollutants they emit, says Robert Hayes of Environmental Advocates of New York (EANY). To do so, advocate for governmental action regulating toxic chemicals.

For example, currently, although PFAS discharges into the environment can be the subject of state-issued permits, there are no related requirements to test the discharge for PFAS or limit the amounts. A bill has been introduced at the state Legislature (the PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act) that will bring transparency to the practice. Advocating for legislation can lead to information that in turn can lead to regulation where appropriate.

At home, handle hazardous waste responsibly. This means

not dumping oil, paint or other harmful substances on the ground, not flushing pharmaceuticals down the drain, and maintaining vehicles and septic systems so that leaks and run-off are prevented.

Ask how our utilities are handling water? EANY’s Robert Hayes points out that aging and failing infrastructure leads to substantial water loss. Funding infrastructure upgrades is, accordingly, good for water management and a conservation measure. Yet, the governor’s 2024 proposed budget cuts funding for clean water initiatives by 50%. Letting lawmakers know of the importance of this funding will accordingly promote water quality.

There are innumerable other ways to think about consumption patterns. Last week’s article addressed the hazards of road salt. Aside from pressing local highway departments to minimize its use or substitute alternatives, there are actions that can be taken at home. The home use of de-icers can be minimized. The Cary Institute advises that a handful of rock salt suffices to clear a square yard. A handful of calcium chloride clears three square yards.

Earlier articles considered the hazards and ubiquity of plastics. Reducing the use of plastics would have enormous impact. This refers not only to bottled water but also shampoos and soaps that come in plastic bottles and often have microplastic ingredients.

Numerous sources exist for home cleaning and personal care products that avoid single use plastic packaging and ingredients, such as Beyond Plastics, Blueland, Seventh Generation, Sustainabar, Freetheocean and Zero Waste Store, in favor of such things as bamboo toothbrushes and shampoo bars. The Environmental Working

Group (EWG) website includes “Consumer Guides” to personal use, cosmetic and sunscreen products.

The Global Development Research Center website has a worldwide database of databases – listing and linking to governmental and non-profit groups from Thailand to New Zealand and Germany to the U.S. that certify environmentally sound products.

Since education often precedes action and advocacy, there are many ways an individual can learn about the quality of his/her own water supply and that of the area. For those whose water is supplied by a public water system, reviewing the system’s Annual Water Quality Report (AWQR) (searchable as such on line) is informative. Every such system in New York is required to prepare and publish a AWQR that discloses changes to the system over the past year as well as the results of testing. The report shows, among other things, whether a regulated substance has been detected in excess of permitted levels and in what amounts.

The EWG website has a Tap Water Database that allows the user to input their zip code and see the results for the public water utilities serving the area. Because EWG reports not only when legal limits on regulated substances are exceeded but also on contaminant levels detected (because “legal does not necessarily equal safe” as the website explains) the site often provides greater detail than a utility’s AWQR. EWR also indicates what it considers a “safe” level of the contaminants detected.

As private wells – the source of much of the drinking water in the county – are not regulated, homeowners need to consider what, if any, testing their situation may warrant.

Well water contamination can occur for a variety of reasons.

Germes and chemicals can enter the system from flooding, extreme weather, runoff and even natural changes in water. An older well may have cracks that allow contaminants to enter. If a well was drilled on former farmland that may have been treated with pesticides, the ground water may still contain nitrites, arsenic or other chemicals. If the land was over-spread with manure, E. coli may be there. Older homes may use pipes that are made of or were soldered with lead, that may leach into water.

The state’s Department of Health (DOH) recommends that private wells be tested annually for bacteria and every 3-5 years for other contaminants. Brian Collins, Technical Director for the state certified lab, Capital Region Environmental, Inc., concurs in that recommendation and adds that testing should also be done if a homeowner sees a change in the water, such as discoloration, or detects an odor.

Mr. Collins’ lab tests on behalf of numerous local counties, including Columbia County, and cautions that homeowners should use a state-certified lab to perform tests. Those facilities must use specific, approved methods and are audited for quality. Most testing is inexpensive. A test for bacteria runs \$45. A test for lead and copper is \$50. Tests for pesticide remnants, nitrite, arsenic and the like, run \$35.

In some cases, tests may also be paid for by a town or the county, such as when issues are known to exist in an area.

Major creeks in the area have attracted their own clean water advocates. The Roe Jan Watershed Community is a not-for-profit that monitors the Roeliff Jansen Kill, which,

en route to the Hudson River, flows through Hillsdale, Copake, Ancram, Gallatin, Clermont, Livingston and Germantown. It works with Bard’s Community Services Lab which assists local communities in monitoring air, water and soil quality.

The Agawamuck Creek will be protected under a plan that is a collaboration among the towns it runs through -- Philmont, Claverack, Ghent, Austerlitz and Hillsdale.

New York State through its Drinking Water Source Protection Program provides funding to assist towns to develop plans to protect their public water sources. New Lebanon was awarded assistance and worked with the New York Rural Water Association in Hudson to create a plan that was delivered in January 2023. The plan, replete with maps and data and available on the town website, will be used to guide future planning.

Water conservation is also a consideration. Only about 1% of the earth’s water is drinkable, and, as with so many things, Americans consume far more of it than others. The average American uses 90 gallons/day, Europeans about 53 gallons, and Sub-Saharanans 3-5. More than 50% of what Americans use goes to gardening and watering.

Professor Dueker explains why water-smart practices are important. “There is no new water. We are using the same water the dinosaurs used millions of years ago.” Thus, shrinking lawns and planting rain gardens are conservation measures worth considering.

All of these suggestions are, of course, just a drop in the bucket. The EPA, state DOH, Riverkeeper, Bard, EWG and many other websites all contain additional guidance.

Letter

Reader urges Rep. Molinaro (R-19th) to show courage

To the Editor:

In 2022, then candidate Marcus Molinaro convinced voters that he was a moderate Republican, who would seek bipartisan pragmatic solutions when elected to Congress. Molinaro is a deft politician, quick on his feet, serving as an elected official for his entire adult life, who loves campaigning and being in front of a camera. Two years later, his

polished persona is in tatters, subsumed by GOP subservience to Donald Trump.

After the ouster of Republican Speaker Kevin McCarthy, followed by 3 weeks of internecine battles, NY-19 Congressman Molinaro twice voted for the most extreme candidate Jim Jordan. Molinaro then played a pivotal role in ushering in the little known, far right Christian nationalist,

Louisiana Republican Mike Johnson as Speaker. Johnson is paralyzed by his fractious caucus, with a razor-thin majority, unable to get major legislation passed without the help of Democrats.

After Donald Trump said passage of the bipartisan, negotiated Senate national security bill, that included Republican priorities for border security, and funding for

Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan would help Joe Biden’s re-election, Speaker Johnson summarily sent his caucus home for a two-week vacation, while Democrats are staying in Washington to do the work of the people.

Democrats and Republicans agree that the border is in crisis. A failure to pass Ukraine aid at this pivotal moment would green light Russia to continue

their war of aggression against Ukraine, threaten our European NATO allies, and diminish the United States standing as a leader of the world’s democratic nations.

I urge Congressman Molinaro to show courage and stand up for democracy or risk losing the respect gained over a lifetime of service.

*Stephanie Sussman
Claverack*

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Barbara Slate

Let's Be Creative!

Are you becoming one with your bed, couch, the big old comfy chair? Has somebody recently called you a couch potato? If sleep has become your major activity, chances are good Sabateur Zzzzz has invaded you.

Relax. Take a load off. Tired? Wanna nap? You deserve a break today.



TRY THIS: It may be difficult but force yourself to get up. Take a walk, run, smell the roses. Bring your sketch book, paint a picture, do a character bible on a minor character. Once you get going, Zzzzz will retreat quietly.

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Hudson solicits for projects eligible for Restore program

HUDSON – The City of Hudson seeks proposals for eligible development projects to apply for Round 8 of the Restore New York grant program administered by Empire State Development. The program supports municipalities' efforts to demolish, rehabilitate, and restore blighted structures and transform them into vibrant residential, commercial, and mixed-use developments.

Governor Hochul announced on February 21 that applications for this \$60 million round of the Restore New York grant program are available.

The City of Hudson has successfully obtained three Restore New York grants for

projects in previous rounds of the program. Hudson was a recipient in Round 4 for the Dunn Warehouse (\$500,000), then in Round 6 for the Crescent Building (\$1.3 million), and again in Round 7 for the Kaz Redevelopment Project (\$1.5 million).

Interested parties with qualifying projects must submit their contact and project information to a web form on the City of Hudson website by March 15 at 5 p.m. in order to be considered a candidate project for a grant application submission. Project proposals are subject to review by the mayor's office and Common Council president prior to submis-

sion of Intent to Apply forms for up to two projects by Monday, March 25 to Empire State Development. If two projects are approved for an application, both projects must be presented before the Common Council for a vote to proceed with a single application, followed by a public hearing.

Questions regarding this solicitation may be directed to Mayoral Aide & ADA Coordinator Michael Hofmann at 51 -828-7217 or mayoralaide@cityofhudson.org. Information about qualifications for the Restore New York program is available on the Empire State Development website at esd.ny.gov

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Photo contributed

Volunteers with green thumbs sought

CLERMONT – Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Avenue, is looking for volunteers who love to plant, grow and harvest food to help in the Harvesting History Teaching Garden: starting seeds and planting indoors; planting vegetables, herbs and flowers outdoors; mulching; weeding; harvesting and packaging food donations for the community.

Volunteer activities are flexible and vary from twice per month to more than once per week, depending on one's schedule.

Clermont is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteer shifts of one to three hours are preferred. This

is a seasonal volunteer position from March to early November. Gardening experience is welcome, but not necessary.

Volunteers who work at least 40 hours in a given year receive a complimentary one-year family membership, two free tickets to the annual benefit, and more. For additional details, visit <https://www.friendsofclermont.org/volunteer>

Clermont is expanding its board. Do you have a passion for history, conservation, preservation and volunteerism and love Clermont State Historic Site? Consider joining the Friends of Clermont Board of Trustees. Learn more at www.friendsofclermont.org.

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KISS Program returns March 11

HUDSON – The County Clerk's office has announced that they will be continuing with the Columbia County K I S S Program. For the past 11 years the clerk has been offering seniors the opportunity to shred their sensitive documents free of charge. They can drop by their local town halls and securely place their documents in locked bins that will remain so until they are picked up and shredded.

"I am happy to provide this service so that our seniors can rest easy knowing that nobody will have access to or be able to retrieve any information from their personal documents," said County Clerk Holly Tanner, in a press release.

This quarter the K I S S Program will become available to seniors in all the participating towns, villages and the City of Hudson from March 11 to March 22.

KISS is an abbreviation for Keeping the Identities of Seniors Safe. It was designed to protect the identities of seniors whilst assisting them in shredding their private paperwork. Rather than throwing your sensitive documents in the trash, this allows you to feel comfortable in the knowledge that nobody else will see your personal documents except you.

This program is completely free, it is also has zero costs to the taxpayers.

The KISS Program is provid-

ed quarterly. The last quarter was at the end of November through the first week of December in 2023 where they saw over 10,000 gallons of paper shredded.

From its inception the K I S S Program has grown from two towns participating to 21 towns, including the City of Hudson.

Seniors are encouraged to contact their local town halls for hours of operation and more information on the program. There will be information on the next shredding quarter of 2024 as soon as the clerk's office has the dates.

Columbia County Clerks Record Service Manager Denise Keegan is overseeing this program. Contact her at 518 822-0143 with any questions.

ANCRAM WINS

Continued from Page 7

investments in researching control methods, actively managing invasive populations, addressing pathways for spread, and educating the public about invasive species, are essential for mitigation efforts. In Governor Hochul's proposed 2024-2025 Executive Budget, the State's Environmental Protection Fund would designate \$17 million for projects and programs to help address invasive species across the state."

Awarded projects total \$2,992,793 spread across six categories:

- \$263,390 to fund two aquatic invasive species watercraft spread prevention projects through boat steward outreach/voluntary inspection to help educate recreational boaters.

- \$340,437 to fund five projects related to aquatic invasive species watercraft spread prevention stewards and boat decontamination by deploying and utilizing high-pressure hot water decontamination equipment and delivering boat steward programs and site decontamination stations at boat ramps or road travel corridors.

- \$1,762,442 for 23 invasive species early detection/rapid response and control (terrestrial and aquatic) projects to promote the removal of invasive species through physical and mechanical removal, chemical treatments, and biocontrol release.

- \$269,682 for four invasive species research projects to help improve invasive species control methodologies.

- \$159,598 for five lake management planning and implementation projects to help address the underlying causes of aquatic invasive species infestations and provide context for their control and management.

- \$197,243 for four invasive species education and outreach projects to increase public knowledge of invasive species and motivate the public to engage in invasive species management and community science.

Chosen in the Capital Region area of New York, Ancram won a \$12,646 grant to pursue Invasive Species Education and Outreach.

To contact Diane Valden email dvalden@columbiapaper.com

Museum hosts Super Saturday Pinewood Derby

The FASNY Museum of Firefighting held a Pinewood Derby on February 24 as part of its monthly Super Saturdays series of events for children and families. Each child received a fire truck racer to decorate, put on the race track and win a medal. Event moderator Safety Sally, also known as Kathy Slade (r), attended wearing a yellow hard hat and safety vest. Starting the race with a checkered flag is Bryce Courbois. The event was free and open to all. The next Super Saturday on March 23 will be a Princess and Protectors Tea Party featuring Queen Phoenix and local women in the fire service. This is a popular event and reservations are required. And stay tuned for Mini Horse Mania on April 20.



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