



FARMERS TALK CLIMATE CHANGE
Citizens' Climate Lobby hosts event Page A3

GOING SOMEWHERE?
Check our calendar Page B3



THE COLUMBIA Paper

518 392-1122

\$2⁰⁰

Vol 17, No. 02 • 20 Pages

Published Every
Thursday
January 9, 2025

Two board chair appointments put on hold

By DIANE VALDEN

ANCRAM—The Town Board decided not to reappoint the chairmen of town's Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals at its 2025 organizational meeting, January 2.

All other resolutions concerning appointments (with some updates because members have moved away, resigned or their terms have expired), designations, authorizations, policies and procedures with some rewording were approved in routine fashion. The complete list of the organizational resolutions, when updated, will be available on the town's website: www.ancramny.org.

At the start of the January 2 meeting, Councilmember David Boice proposed a change to the chairmanships of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. He did not want to reappoint Planning Board Chair Joe Crocco, whose term expired at the end of 2024, but instead wanted to appoint Steve Olyha, who is chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to chair the Planning Board. He proposed appointing John Ingram, a former chair of the Planning Board as chair of the ZBA to replace Mr. Olyha. Mr. Ingram is willing to take the ZBA chair position if appointed.

Continued on Page A7



Bliss Tower in Hudson pictured here in October of 2023.

David Lee

Hudson Housing Authority scales down construction vision

By JEANETTE WOLFBURG

HUDSON — The Hudson Housing Authority (HHA) and its redevelopment partners are working on a modi-

fied proposal for building new housing, according to a diagram of the latest idea shared on December 16 and emails from Executive Director Jeffrey Dodson in December 18 and 23. The

new proposal envisions lower buildings, and fewer townhouses than the original one. The new proposal results from New York State's looking at the original one and recommending

“value engineering,” which can include cost cutting.

The HHA runs the 135-unit income-restricted Bliss Tower and Columbia

Continued on Page A7

HL Propane Co. Inc.
877-794-9066
ALL PROPANE IS THE SAME
OURS IS CHEAPER!!
100 GALLONS OF PROPANE FREE to new heating customers*
*Using 750 gallons per year. Call for details.
Call Toll Free M-F 8 am to 4 pm • Rte. 20, West Lebanon, NY • www.hlfuel.com

INDEX

- BLOTTER.....A4
- BUSINESS/HEALTH...A5
- CLASSIFIEDS.....B8
- COMMUNITIES.....A9
- ENTERTAINMENT.....A8
- OBITUARIES.....B5
- SCHOOLS.....A6

SUBSCRIBER LABEL HERE

Now in Hudson: Oxford House, a model for recovery

By DEBORAH E. LANS

HUDSON — There are 4,400 Oxford Houses in the U.S. and one opened in November 2024 in Hudson. The houses follow a model that provides safe and supportive housing in a peer-led environment for those in recovery from substance use disorders. Nationally, about one-third of residents suffer from alcohol use, and two-thirds suffer drug use, disorders.

After Columbia County was awarded roughly \$1 million from the funds received by the state through the settlement of the state's lawsuits against opioid manufacturers and others, county Board of Supervisors Chair Matt Murell (Stockport) asked Daniel Almasi, Director of Community Services and Head of the county's Department of Human Services (DHS), to recommend uses for the funds that would address the needs

of those afflicted, among other things, by opioid use.

In early 2024, DHS gathered groups of stakeholders and held listening sessions to assess the needs of and services available to the recovery community. One of the gaps identified was in housing for those leaving residential treatment programs like the Red Door — a 28- to 90-day facility for men in Hudson -- or Riverside -- a similar facility for women located in

Greene County. The need was for a kind of “step down” residential program, offering a less restrictive but still supportive housing environment that was also affordable.

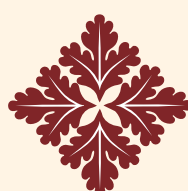
John Cahill, who started working for the county as a case manager and is now the county's Recovery Coordinator, urged Mr. Almasi to look at the Oxford House model as a way to meet the gap. Mr.

Continued on Page A7



We're here to insure your *entire* world – auto, home, health, life and business.

Life can be complicated, but your insurance shouldn't be! Visit us online at www.knellerins.com.



Kneller Insurance Agency

Chatham
518 392 9311
Copake
518 329 3131
Valatie, NY
518 610 8164

Questar III BOCES hires new chief human resource officer

CASTLETON — Faith Colvin, a longtime human resource professional with extensive experience in the field, has joined Questar III BOCES as chief human resource officer. In this executive level position, she is responsible for the development and implementation of talent acquisition, the centralization of talent development, and the supervision of payroll processing and benefits management.



Photo contributed
Faith Colvin

Prior to joining Questar III, Ms. Colvin served as vice president of corporate benefits and compensation at Goldman Sachs, where she partnered with Fortune 100 and 500 companies to design and implement tailored financial planning, benefits, and compensation programs for their workforce. Previously, she worked as human resources director of talent acquisition and employee benefits at Capital District YMCA, and as human resources compensation and benefits analyst at GE.

"We are thrilled to have Faith join our team, bringing her impressive experience and outstanding skills and talent to our BOCES," said Gladys I. Cruz, Questar III district superintendent in a press release. "I'm confident that our HR programs and our entire workforce will benefit from her expertise."

A graduate of SUNY Empire State College, Ms. Colvin holds a bachelor of science in economics and human resource management. She is a resident of Castleton.

CHS gives Excellence in Effort Awards for 2024-25 school year

CHATHAM — Chatham High School released the names of students who received the Excellence in Effort Award for the 1st quarter of the 2024-25 school year.

These students have been nominated by their teachers to receive recognition for their diligence, reliability, and motivation in their class during the semester.

The students named and the classes they received the recognition in are as follows: Sophia Middleton, 10th Grade Academic Initiative; Brendan DeLyser, 12th Grade Academic Initiative; Jaydn Howard, 9th Grade Academic Initiative; Keira Langley, Algebra; Sophia Konow-Meuchner, Algebra 1A; Brianna Johnson, Algebra 1B; Marianna Chudy, Algebra 2; Kody Goodrich, Algebra 2 Prep; Kendall Hayes, American History Through Music and Film; Reed Fisch, AP Biology; Patrick Brown, AP Calculus; Dominic Saucá, AP European History; Ellery Pierce, AP US History; Lucy Tassinari, AP World History I; Cassandra Michalek, AP World History II; Elizabeth Wallin, Applications in Math; Lola Allen, Band - Grade 10; Evie Deane, Band — Grade 12; Sabrina Wiseman, Band — Grade 9; Reed Fisch, Business Law; Elizabeth Wallin, Ceramics; Dayaa Powell, Chemistry; Jamison Edwards, Civil Engineering & Architecture; Landen Frederick, Consumer Math; Dante Potter, Design & Drawing for Production; Logan Feller, Discovering Computer Science; Bryan

Leal, Earth Science; Jenna Davis, English 10; Reese Hubert, English 10 Concepts; Michaela Johnson, English 11; Steven Moore, English 12; Abigail Scheriff, English 9; Jeremias Chavez Baten, ENL; William Rojas Cruz, ENL; Phila Visconti, Environmental Science; Caitrianna Coalter, Financial Literacy; Jamison Edwards, Geometry; Keira Langley, Global History & Geography I; Annika Poland, Global History & Geography II; Jack Bucholsky, Health; Jack Bucholsky, Human Identity; Annika Poland, Introduction to Business; Aiden Dallas, Introduction to Computer Science; Reed Fisch, Introduction to Software Development; Charlei DeGroff, Jazz Band; Taylor Kubisek, Living Environment; Valfrey Howard, Living Environment; Carolyn Hammond, Media Arts; Ellery Pierce, Orchestra — Grade 11; Blake Doyle, Orchestra — Grade 9; Reed Fisch, Physical Education - Boy; Tula Haley, Physics; Reed Fisch, Pre-Calculus; Timothy Ewers, Principles of Engineering; Tyler Bagley, Printmaking; Carter Starks, Project Based Science; Aidan Allen, Spanish I; Sophia Konow-Meuchner, Spanish II; Jackson Carl, Spanish III; Mira Pierce, Spanish IV; Joshua Herbest, Spanish V; Mage Mason, Studio Drawing & Painting; Emily Engel, Studio in Art; Jady Howard, Studio in Art; Shelby Schrader, Studio in Art; Bailey McShane, Transportation.



Mid-Hudson Library System Board of Trustees and staff.

Photo contributed

MHLS board receives award from the NY Library Association

POUGHKEEPSIE — The Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Board has been awarded the 2024 Velma K. Moore Award from the New York Library Association (NYLA). This fifteen-member board, made up of volunteers from around the Hudson Valley, was chosen for the award due to their leadership in supporting MHLS to become the first public library system in the country to be certified under the Sustainable Library Initiative's Sustainable Library Certification Program.

The board's work to achieve this certification included creating new policies, procedures, and facility plans to ensure the organization is making strong decisions for the future that respect not only the finances of the organization but also result in strong environmental stewardship and respect for social equity and public health.

"It is wonderful to see our board, a group of committed, diligent, and good-humored trustees, recognized for setting a won-

derful model for the 6,000+ trustees of the state, and thousands of library trustees across the country," said Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS executive director, in a press release.

Actions taken as part of the certification resulted in the development of The Library of Local program with a new partner, the Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley. This program funded community resilience hubs at fifteen member libraries which feature specialized collections on climate solutions with a special emphasis on food security; seed libraries; tool lending libraries; and targeted programs designed to help bring community members together to solve issues in their communities that are exacerbated by climate change.

The board also engaged in facility operational decisions related to purchasing, hospitality, landscaping, renewable energy, and material management. Each has been optimized to ensure

the organization is prioritizing human health and the responsible use of natural resources in decision making while ensuring funds are spent wisely on behalf of their stakeholders. The most recent example of this effort is the new solar panel system on the MHLS office building which will generate 75% of electrical needs from the sun thanks to a subsidy from Central Hudson leveraged with funds from the State Aid for Library Construction Program.

This award was established to honor the memory of Velma Moore, one of the charter members of The New York State Association of Library Boards (NYSALB), now the Library Trustees Association Section (LTAS) of NYLA. Mrs. Moore worked actively for the improvement of library services in New York State from 1947 until her death in 1961. She served two terms as president and was a member of the NYSALB Board from its establishment and, for 33 years, she was also a

Trustee of the Kenmore Public Library near Buffalo. The award was originally established in 1962 with a gift from the Moore family and carries a \$1,500 prize.

While MHLS was the first public library system certified, they are not the last. Both the Suffolk Cooperative Library System and the Ramapo Catskill Library System have followed suit and become certified, and three others are pursuing certification: Clinton-Essex Franklin Library System, North Country Library System, and the Southern Tier Library System. There are more than 200 public, academic and school libraries across North America now involved in this certification program with 45 having completed the program including the Highland Public Library and Kinderhook Memorial Library in the Hudson Valley.

For more information, visit www.midbudson.org or follow the library system on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Anya Bonanno graduates from University of Georgia

ATHENS, GA — Anya Michelle Bonanno is one of over 3,200 candidates to be recognized in the University of Georgia's Class of 2024 fall commencement ceremonies held this week.

Ms. Bonanno, of Philmont, is a candidate for

PHD Anthropology.

"The Class of 2024 has demonstrated remarkable resilience, dedication, and excellence during their time at the University of Georgia, and we are pleased to be able to celebrate them during fall Commencement ceremonies," said UGA President Jere W. Morehead in a press release.

The fall undergraduate commencement ceremony took place on Friday, December 13.

This year's undergraduate keynote speaker is Lisa

Godbey Wood, U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of Georgia and a 1990 UGA School of Law graduate.

For additional details, visit UGA's Commencement website, commencement.uga.edu.

THE COLUMBIA Paper

The Columbia Paper (USPS#1399) is published weekly by Capital Region Independent Media, 2237 State Route 66, Ghent, NY 12075. Periodical postage paid at Ghent, NY 12075 and additional Post Offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE COLUMBIA PAPER 11 Augusta Ct., Clifton Park, NY 12065

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*

WEBSITE: www.TheUpStater.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The Columbia Paper is published weekly for \$67 per year

Contributors:

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

ALL PROPANE IS THE SAME

OURS IS CHEAPER!!

100 GALLONS OF PROPANE FREE to new heating customers*

* Using 750 gallons per year. Call for details.

Call Toll Free M-F 8 am to 4 pm • Rte. 20, West Lebanon, NY • www.hlfuel.com

877-794-9066

CCL hosts talk on climate change and farmers

By LORNA CHEROT
LITTLEWAY

HUDSON — The NY Greater Capital Region chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby sponsored "How Do Local Farmers Regard Climate Change?" at the Hudson Area Library on Wednesday, December 18.

Eight participants, farmers and climate advocacy activists discussed regenerative farming (low till practices to capture carbon); sustainable farming (a Native American concept of thinking and acting for the next seven generations and beyond); carbon sequestration (taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and storing it in the soil); and agro-ecology (a shift from big-Ag inputs to small-scale, no-chemical, intensive, community-driven agriculture).

The meeting began with a look at how warming trends are making Hudson Valley weather more like New Jersey's climate. The prolonged warm season allows local farmers to grow more melons but a downside is more tomato blight.

In an email exchange Creek Iversen, farmer/executive director of Seed Song, a 215 acre community farm bordered by the Esopus Creek in Kingston, listed other undesirable consequences: new insect pests, i.e. spotted lantern fly and jumping worms, which consume carbon in the soil; new pressures from existing insect pests, i.e. locusts, deer ticks, and gypsy moths caterpillars; periods of excessive droughts (even in spring or fall) and extensive rain (even in summer); excessively warm winters that do not kill off insect pests or winter-kill cover crops; excessively cold winters that kill off perennial plants or trees that usually survive; and tree decline, e.g. sugar maples. The farm taps 70 trees for syrup.

The value of cover crops as a soil-cooling agent was extolled by Mr. Iversen and John Bradley, Climate Smart Coordinator for Claverack. Mr. Bradley offered an analogy likening not planting cover crops to a bank not paying interest to account holders. Said Mr. Bradley, "You would object if your bank did not pay interest for 5 months." Mr. Iversen noted that 23 acres at Seed Song Farm grows cover crops of rye, oats, wheat and buckwheat.

Seed Song Farm also practices the "3 Sisters" technique for planting corn, soybeans and squash seeds in mounds. According to Mr. Iversen corn provides pole structures for the beans and squash maximizing use of vertical space and sunlight. Corn stalks also provide longer lasting slow-release of organic material back into the soil, and provide partial cover of the soil over the winter. Beans add nitrogen to the soil and squash leaves reduce weeds.

Half of Seed Song's acreage is farmland, including a 2 1/2 acre orchard of apples and peaches. (Mr. Iversen admits that growing apples without any chemical assistance is very difficult.) Woodlands, wetlands and forest make up the other half. Mr. Iversen touted reforestation as another land cooling strategy though its implementation needs to be balanced with the trees need for water.

"Planting a variety of tree and perennial plants, especially native or naturalizing varieties, is a helpful resilient practice. Our orchards and food forest reforestation includes: pawpaws, persimmons, june-

berry, hazelnuts, blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, hardy kiwi, black locust, black walnut, chestnut, American cranberry, mulberry, oak, maple varieties and evergreens."

He added, "Weather extremes are even more challenging. Unusually timed deep freezes, droughts, heat waves and storms with heavy rain, all make even harder the outdoor work and plant protection required."

The 2019 study, NY's Climate Plan: An Overview and Update for Local Government Officials found that buildings and transportation accounted for greenhouse gas emissions at 32% and 28% respectively compared to agriculture at 6%.

Mr. Bradley, a NYC transplant to Claverack and long interested in community development, persuaded the town supervisor to form an advisory Climate Smart Committee in 2020. "Before then there was no conservation group even. [They] had no idea what they were getting into."

The committee and council focused on three areas to reduce municipal costs and emissions. An energy audit of the town garage found air leaks costing an energy loss of \$10k annually. With \$25k in grants from NYSERDA and Climate Action and \$15k from the town, the garage was sealed. Also streetlights were switched to LED.

Mr. Bradley's goal for Claverack is to accumulate the 120 points needed for Bronze level certification, which would enhance the town's competitiveness in applying for Climate Smart grants. Claverack has accrued 150 points. But Bradley cautioned that "disagreements" occur over how points are evaluated. He noted that 17 out of 23 Columbia County communities have formed Climate Smart committees, which have earned \$2.7 million for green energy projects in the county.

He added that 50% of Columbia County's land is forest and a "large chunk is agriculture." Mr. Bradley said that he attended the meeting to learn "how farmers are experiencing climate change" and that he was "very pleasantly surprised" by the agro-ecology solutions discussed.

Mr. Bradley also expressed a preference for "natural solutions" and scoffed at "techno arrogance" to fix climate warming like injecting sulphur into the atmosphere to reflect

the sun's energy away from Earth.

The event's sponsoring chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) is led by Karen and Bruce Frishkoff of Harlemville and has 1,500 members. The chapter covers all of the 20th and 21st congressional districts and half of the 19th. The organization is bipartisan and focuses on national policies to address climate change.

The Frishkoffs touted recently sponsored legislation, the Foreign Pollution Fee Act, by two Republican senators, William Cassidy of Louisiana and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina. To read more go to <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/blog/policy/republican-senators-introduce-foreign-pollution-fee-bill>. The legislation calls for a tax adjustment on products based on its carbon content. Said Mr. Frishkoff, "American products are cleaner than foreign products." He called it a "no brainer to put a price on the carbon content." Ms. Frishkoff likened the bill to "taxes on cigarettes."

In a post-event Zoom interview, Ms. Frishkoff called the bill a "teeny, tiny step" to get Republicans to put "pollution" into environmental legislation. Mr. Frishkoff added, "Language is important. [They] won't say climate change. Instead [they] say energy production."

But Mr. Frishkoff is encouraged; taking the bill as a sign of an "assumption there is a problem somewhere." He added, "There are energy issues that there isn't a lot of division. The majority of Americans think (climate change) is a major or serious problem." He added that there is a bipartisan Climate Solutions caucus in the House.

Mr. Frishkoff was asked for his opinion about the dynamics of Hecate's plan for a solar farm in Copake. "No question we need every type of green energy." He faulted Hecate for "not doing a good job talking to people. 'Here's how [it is] beneficial' to you. [Hecate] really divided the community." He noted that Assemblymember Didi Barret (D-106th) and State Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41st) opposed the solar farm.

Ms. Barrett and Ms. Hinchey supported Smart Integrated Tools for Development (SITED) Act. Ms. Frishkoff noted that Scenic Hudson has mapping

tools to help project planners identify desirable land and to avoid problematic areas like schools and homes. (To read more go to <https://www.scenic-hudson.org/viewfinder/solar-now-why-new-york-needs-the-new-sited-act/>)

CCL also strongly supports the one-stop mission of the state Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES) to consolidate and expedite the review process for energy projects. According to Mr. Frishkoff the process takes an

average of seven years due to several agencies involved in the process.

At the event Mr. Frishkoff asked about the kinds of effective lobbying CCL could do on behalf of farmers. Mr. Iversen immediately responded "technical support." He noted that Ulster County appointed an Ag Ambassador Deborah DeWan. Through that program Seed Song Farm leases a no-till seed drill and in the future hopes to have access to a larger one. Also on his equipment wish list is a mulch

spreader, crimper-roller and a lime spreader.

Other non-equipment technical support includes: finding and applying for funding of sustainable practices like seed reimbursement for cover-cropping; as well as support for farmers who stock food pantries and other distributions for people without access to healthy chemical-free food.

For more information about Seed Song Farm visit seed-song-farm.org. It includes an extensive calendar of educational and cultural events for 2025.

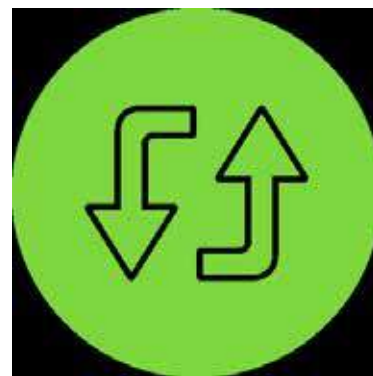


image: Flaticon.com

Explore Energy Efficiency: Opportunities for Homes and Businesses in New York State

Presentation and Discussion by

Fiona Hynes

Dana Grover



Saturday, January 18, 2025
10:00 – 11:00 AM

In-Person at Copake Town Hall
230 Mountain View Rd, Copake, NY 12516
OR

Online: meet.google.com/krv-fqkg-unf?hs=224
Telephone: (443) 626-4395 | PIN: 617556072

For more information, email cac@townofcopake.org

Sponsored by the Town of Copake's Conservation Advisory Committee and Climate Smart Task Force



Pine Haven
Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

WOUND CARE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Now Hiring! Clinical & Non-Clinical Positions

Call 518-672-7408 to schedule an interview



201 MAIN STREET, PHILMONT, NY 12565



DEC lifts drought watch statewide

GHENT—The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) updated drought conditions across the state, returning all 62 New York counties to “Normal” status, January 3.

Back in November Columbia County was under a state Department of Environmental Conservation drought watch and the Hudson Valley was at a “very high” fire danger risk. A statewide burn ban

was in effect until November 30.

In cooperation with the State's Drought Management Task Force, DEC updated drought status from “Drought Watch” to “Normal” statewide, including New York City, after assessing recent precipitation and elevated levels of ground and surface water. While statewide and regional hydrological conditions have notably improved, localized dry

conditions may persist and despite encouraging hydrological conditions, New Yorkers are urged to continue reducing unnecessary water use and waste, fixing leaks, and choosing efficient water fixtures.

“Recent precipitation and the vigilance of New Yorkers who heeded calls to conserve water resources have alleviated dry conditions across the state. DEC experts will continue to monitor conditions and

work with New York City officials and localities across the state to identify any necessary steps and actions needed to help prevent additional shortages while New York State moves from a Drought Watch to Normal conditions,” DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said in a press release.

New York State encourages ongoing water conservation to ensure adequate supply for all emergency

uses. To protect water resources, homeowners are encouraged to voluntarily reduce water use and follow these tips:

- Reuse water collected in rain barrels, dehumidifiers or air conditioners to water plants.

- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.

- Fix leaking pipes, fixtures, toilets, hoses and faucets.

- Wash only full loads of

dishes and laundry.

- Take shorter showers or fill the bathtub partly.

- Install water saving plumbing fixtures.

- Don't run the tap to make water hot or cold.

- Wash cars less frequently.

Visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense for more tips on saving water indoors and outdoors. DEC has been a WaterSense partner since 2014.

Nielson takes command of Troop K

LIVINGSTON—New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James has appointed Major Mark A. Nielson, 51, of Gardiner, as the 38th Troop Commander of Troop K, according to a press release.

Major Nielson's assignment as the Troop K commander was effective January 2. He replaces Major Kathryn M. Rohde, who was appointed to staff inspector-Professional Standards Bureau in Albany Headquarters.

Major Nielson, a 22-year veteran of the New York State Police, also worked for the Ulster County Sheriff's Office as a deputy sheriff and the Town of Ulster Police Department as a police officer before joining the State Police in January 2002.

His first patrol assignment was Troop F, Zone 3, Ulster County.

In October 2007, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned to Troop K (SP Cortlandt), until his transfer to Troop F in 2012. In 2013, he was appointed to station commander and assigned to SP Ellenville.

Major Nielson was promoted to lieutenant in February 2015 and assigned to various positions, including assistant zone commander at Troop F (SP Monroe) and SP Kingston, Zone 1 commander of the Special Investigation Unit.

In September 2019,



Photo contributed
Major Mark A. Nielson

Major Nielson was appointed to the rank of captain and assigned to the Professional Standards Bureau-Southern Region. In 2020, he was transferred to Troop F, where he served as the administrative captain and later the Zone 3 commander at SP Kingston. In October 2023, he was appointed major and assigned to Division Headquarters-Administration.

He grew up in New Paltz and graduated from the State University of New York at Ulster in 1994. He is married and has two grown children.

Major Nielson's Troop K command covers four counties in the Hudson Valley, including Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam and Westchester. Operating from 17 facilities, the men and women of Troop K provide service to 62 towns, 39 villages, and 9 cities.

Firefighters pull deer from icy water

Copake firefighters were dispatched January 6 at 12:12 p.m. for the cold water rescue of a young deer trapped in the ice at 159 Empire Road. After an initial safety and risk assessment, cold water rescue crews entered the water to move and guide the tired and frightened animal to the shoreline, according to the Copake Fire Company Facebook post. Air temperatures were in the 20s. “There is always a balance between the risk and reward when doing animal rescues but we know many in the community would appreciate our efforts to assist this animal with a positive outcome.”



Copake Fire Company #1 Facebook Post

Courthouse staff collects donations

Columbia County Courthouse staff collected non-perishables, hygiene items and monetary contributions as donations to the Hudson Salvation Army, 40 South Third Street, Hudson. Pictured (l-r) are Darcy Connor and Kimberly Jorgensen. Free lunch is provided by the Salvation Army Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They also provide a Senior Mobile service on Wednesdays. The food pantry is open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations of non-perishables and hygiene items can be dropped off during those hours. For questions or to make a monetary donation payable to the Hudson Salvation Army, contact Darcy Connor at 518-822-1602.



Photo contributed

Many Christmas tree home fires occur in January

GHENT—More than one-third (36%) of U.S. home fires involving Christmas trees occur in January. With this post-holiday fire hazard in mind, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) strongly encourages everyone to dispose of Christmas trees promptly after the holiday season.

“As much as we all enjoy the look and feel of Christmas trees in our homes, they're large combustible items that have the potential to result in serious fires,” Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA said in a press release.

According to NFPA data, Christmas tree fires don't happen often, but when they do occur, they're more likely to be serious. That's in part because fresh Christmas trees dry out over time, making them more flammable the longer

they're in the home. A dried-out Christmas tree will burn much more quickly than a well-watered one.

Between 2018 and 2022, there was an estimated annual average of 155 home structure fires that began with Christmas trees, resulting in four civilian deaths, seven civilian injuries, and \$15 million in direct property damage.

To safely dispose of a Christmas tree, NFPA recommends using the local community's recycling program, if possible; trees should not be put in the garage or left outside. NFPA also offers these tips for safely removing lighting and decorations to ensure that they remain in good condition:

- Use the gripping area on the plug when unplugging electrical decorations. Never pull the cord to

unplug any device from an electrical outlet, as this can harm the wire and insulation of the cord, increasing the risk for shock or electrical fire

- As you pack up light strings, inspect each line for damage, throwing out any sets that have loose connections, broken sockets or cracked or bare wires

- Wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags or wrap them around a piece of cardboard

- Store electrical decorations in a dry place away from children and pets where they will not be damaged by water or dampness.

For more information visit www.nfpa.org.

PLEASE RECYCLE

ROE JAN AUTO CENTER
WE'RE HIRING
TECHNICIANS - ASE CERTIFIED
COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE

OPEN: Monday-Thursday 7:00am-5:30pm
RoeJanAuto@gmail.com • (518) 325-5302

NEW
Advertising
Opportunities

Boost your business by advertising with us! Unlock your potential and reach thousands of local readers daily.

THE COLUMBIA
Paper

Call Today! 518.545.8441
marlene.mctigue@nyvtmedia.com
theupstater.com

Preserve Important
Family Memories

Transfer your home video to digital

Tapes degrade & breakdown in 20 yrs

wheelerlance@gmail.com
518-851-7398

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Neverstill Wines
 739 Warren St, Hudson, NY
 Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12-7pm
 Phone: 518 828-0715
 Email: info@neverstillwines.com
 Website: neverstillwines.com

Neverstill Wines is a New York-based winery dedicated to showcasing the highest quality producers from the state's renowned wine regions. Our vineyard, Hidden View Vineyard, is located in the Finger Lakes, while our tasting room opened in September 2024 on Warren Street in Hudson. We offer tasting flights, wines by the glass, and bottles for purchase, complemented by locally sourced charcuterie boards.

Our team includes Christy Counts, Owner/President; Bryce Lianna, Assistant Winemaker; and Grace Bartlett, Hospitality Manager. Together, we are committed to crafting exceptional wines and creating an inviting space to celebrate New York's unique terroir.

Visit us to discover the remarkable flavors of New York wines and support local producers.



Pictured (from l to r) Christy Counts, Grace Bartlett and Bryce Lianna.

Photo contributed

Prevent blood shortages by giving blood or platelets now

HUDSON — The American Red Cross urges donors to make an appointment to give lifesaving blood or platelets in the new year to help keep the blood supply strong this winter. Type O negative blood donors and those giving platelets are especially urged to give now to keep critical blood products on the shelves for patients in need.

The start of the new year is one of the most challenging times to collect blood products as the threat of severe winter weather builds and can often lead to widespread blood drive cancellations. Additionally, an active cold and flu season may prevent people from keeping donation appointments as they rest and recover from illness. During National Blood Donor Month, the Red Cross celebrates those who generously roll up a sleeve to help save lives and urges those who are feeling well to make and keep donation appointments to help the blood supply stay on track throughout the winter.

Don't sit on the sidelines—kick off 2025 with a blood or platelets donation. To book a time to give, visit RedCrossBlood.org, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

For the sixth year, the Red Cross and the National Football League (NFL) are partnering in January for National Blood Donor Month to invite football fans and blood donors to join our lifesaving team and score big for patients in need. As a special thank-you to donors for helping address the need for blood during the critical post-holiday time, those who come to give through January 26, will be automatically entered for a chance to win an exciting Super Bowl LIX giveaway. The trip includes access to day-of in-stadium pre-game activities, tickets to the official Super Bowl Experience, round-trip airfare, three-night hotel accommodations (February 7 to 10), plus a \$1,000 gift card for expenses. For full details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities:

- January 9, Hudson Elks Lodge No. 787, 201 Harry Howard Avenue, 1 to 6 p.m.
- January 11, Germantown Schools, Main Street and Route 9G, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- January 18, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 Route 20, 8 a.m. to noon.



Little Cat Lodge General Manager Michael Brenes and family along with chamber members cut the ribbon.

Photo contributed

Little Cat Lodge under new management

HILLSDALE — The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce celebrated the new management of the Little Cat Lodge at 37 Catamount Road with a ribbon cutting.

Reopened last April,

Little Cat Lodge is a boutique hotel nestled in the Berkshire-Taconic region. The mountain retreat is the perfect destination for travelers seeking a peaceful escape, whether for a weekend getaway, outdoor

adventure, or simply to relax in the serene surroundings.

The on-site restaurant includes a 45-seat bar and 70-seat dining room offering high-quality alpine-inspired cuisine.

For more information about The Little Cat Lodge, visit www.littlecatlodge.com

For more information about the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, visit www.columbiachamber-ny.com.

Beach & Bartolo Realtors awarded Most Cooperative Brokerage

CHATHAM — Beach & Bartolo Realtors has announced that they were awarded the prestigious Most Cooperative Brokerage award at the Columbia Greene Board of Realtors Annual Holiday Gala. This recognition highlights the firm's dedication to fostering a collaborative and supportive environment within the local real estate community.

"We are honored to receive this award," said Chuck Bartolo, principal broker at Beach & Bartolo Realtors, in a press release. "It reflects our commitment to seamless transactions and positive working relationships with other brokerages. This benefits not only our



Photo contributed

Beach & Bartolo agents with the award. Principal Broker Chuck Bartolo is center.

agents but, most importantly, our clients."

The award acknowledges Beach & Bartolo Realtors'

reputation for facilitating smooth and efficient transactions, ensuring a positive experience for buyers and

sellers alike. The firm's dedication to cooperation and open communication has earned them the respect and trust of their peers in the industry.

"This award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire team," added Mr. Bartolo. "Their commitment to collaboration and professionalism has made this achievement possible."

Beach & Bartolo Realtors is a leading real estate firm in Columbia County, known for its service, local expertise, and commitment to client satisfaction. This award further solidifies their position as a trusted and respected partner in the real estate community.



CARLO A.C. DE OLIVEIRA DEDICATED. TRUSTED. EXPERIENCED.

An experienced litigator that has obtained successful rulings for clients in these areas of law...

- CIVIL RIGHTS
- EMPLOYMENT & LABOR LAW
- PUBLIC SECTOR LAW
- MUNICIPAL LAW
- AUTISM ADVOCACY
- EDUCATION LAW
- DISABILITY RIGHTS

200 YEAR HISTORY OF LEGAL SUCCESS

COOPER & ERVING

20 CORPORATE WOODS BLVD | SUITE 501 | ALBANY, NY 12211

TOLL FREE 888-254-8448

WWW.COOPERERVING.COM

ARMOR STEEL BUILDINGS
KLINE'S ENTERPRISES
 Serving Columbia County For Over 30 Years

- Carpentry
- Roofing
- Windows & Doors
- Blown Cellulose Insulation
- Electric
- Siding

John F Kline
 Owner

851-2063

Authorized Builder/Dealer www.klinesenterprisesny.com

SHANNON LOVERIDGE
EXPERIENCED MASTER ELECTRICIAN
 FULLY INSURED • HOME ADVISOR

518-248-4460

SHANNONLOVERIDGE01@GMAIL.COM
UPSTATE FINEST ELECTRIC
 SERVICING: WASHINGTON COUNTY COLUMBIA COUNTY, ALBANY, TROY, SCHENECTADY, AND SOUTH GLENS FALLS

Chatham High School releases names of honors students

CHATHAM — Chatham High School announces its honor roll for the 1st quarter of the 2024-25 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 9:

Shane Bagley, Caitrianna Coalter, Liam Cowhig, Anya DeGroff, Blake Doyle, Maya Doyle, Natalie Dunbar, Emily Engel, Narayan Flores, Miles Frederick, Madison Fugman, Ava Goodrich, Nathan Hatcher, Jadyn Howard, Valfreyja Howard, Nyrie Jeanty, Keira Langley, Jonathan Levine, Lola Lezama, Tulsu Macchiaroli, Madalynn Madsen, Hazel Michalek, Charles Rose, Abigail Scheriff, Jemma St Aubin, Isla Stack, Lucy Tassinari, Logan Van Wie, Hunter Wilson, Sabrina Wiseman

Grade 10:

Richard Bianchi, Emmett Bishop-Hayes, Annaleigh Butts, Wyatt Carr, Marianna Chudy, Aiden Dallas, Jenna Davis, Sydney DeLuca, Jamison Edwards, George Eutzy III, Olivia Feiden, Bryanna Geerholt, Skyler Groom, Gabriel Hesse, Nixie Jeanty, DianRong Jiang, Taylor Kubisek, Aiden McShane, Bailey McShane, Cassandra Michalek, Day Patel, Spencer Peduzzi, Daxa Powell, Lylah Rowe, Adelaide Searl, Landon Van Alstyne, Evelyn Visconti, Axel Vose,

Cloe Wall, Aden Wiessner, Riley Wilson, Ezra Wood

Grade 11:

Eliza Braley, Brody Casivant, Charlotte Coalter, Zachary Distin, Madisyn Domkoski, Josiah Eugenio, Reed Fisch, Ava Rae Ford, Tyler Gebel, Lily Hall, Carolyn Hammond, Sean Harrington, Andrew Horton, Michaela Johnson, Karina Lezama, Jose Linares Galicia, Meta Mae Mountain, Alexis Nehmens, Hunter Palmer, Tyler Palmer, Ellery Pierce, Thomas Pierro, Samantha Silver, Aubrey Smith, Norah Sotherden, Brayden Steltz, Cooper Steltz, Phila Visconti, Finn Williams, Annabelle Wright

Grade 12:

Jennifer Albrecht, Addison Andrews, Jason Baneni, Alexis Berry, Patrick Brown, Joselin Castellanos, Oliana DeLuca, Jocelyn Dikeman, Peyton Frick, Anna Friedman, Emily Gaylord, Kendall Hayes, Eion Henchey, Joshua Herbst Jr., Hunter Kelly, Sasha Langley, Mason Levy, Vivienne Murphy, Cameron Myers, Addison Perry, Cheyanne Perry, Jordin Radley, Nicholas Reutenauer, Brianna Reyome, Luca Spencer, Taylor Van Wie, Emmy Velez, Winni Wilzig

Honors

Grade 9:

Hayden Ball, Jeremias Chavez Baten, Katya Chiles Perez, Destini Drumm, Logan Feller, Aaron Fontanez, Hayleigh Fox, Maddox Gaylord, Philip Genovese, Sophia Konow-Meuchner, Makenzie Laurange, Eric Nelson III, Kellen Pell, Luis Perez Rosa, Brady Traulsen

Grade 10:

Pax Cooper, Kaylee Couitt, Charlei DeGroff, Timothy Ewers, Siena Freiermuth, Adam Geel, Mason Hutchinson, Camila Jimenez-Morales, Brianna Johnson, Alexander Lee, Aidan Madsen, Sophia Middleton, Emily Moschini, Maycee Oakes, Annika Poland, Luis Sanchez Avila, Agustin Sanchez Jr., Shelby Shrader, Amelia Stratman, Elizabeth Wallin

Grade 11:

Rylie Barden, Gabriel Bervy-Morse, Suzy Bonesteel, Daimiyn Bonhotel, Jack Bucholsky, Oliver Carroll, Breannah Clark, Kyle Clough, Ariana Costa, Alexis Davis, Frank Davis III, NaTasha Drumm, Lauren Elcox, Kody Goodrich, V Gould, Tula Haley, Bronson Haner, Charlie Howard, Wilson Ipin Morales, Elexis Keller, Sebastian Kramlich, Johann Kristen, Benjamin Levine, Conner Madsen, Mira Pierce, Hunter Pulcher, Jose Rascon Abarca, Griffin Reardon, Logan Rockefeller, William Rojas-Cruz, Dominic Sauca, Carter Starks, Nathaniel Tibbitts, Hunter Welch, Owen Wilber

Grade 12:

Aidan Brennan, Vytas Budris, Jacob Carroll, Amiah Coons, Brendan DeLyster, Landen Frederick, Makenna Hubert, Samantha Jimenez-Morales, Aurora Jones, Jayden Jones, Jesse Kosnick-Ordway, Amber Laspada, Austin Laurange, Brooklyn Lynch, Olivia MacDonald, Brandon Myers, Steven Moore, Logan Smalley, Sophia Swinehart, Hudson Triens.

Questar students work with C-GCC for hands-on health skills

Questar III BOCES students in Ms. Loomis' New Visions: Medical class worked with Columbia-Greene Community College's Medical Assisting Coordinator Jess Curley, to learn about vital signs. Students first received a lesson on measuring temperature, blood pressure, oxygen levels, height, weight, and pulse, and then got hands-on to practice these skills. Students were excited and engaged in the lesson as they began their journey to become skilled, compassionate medical professionals. Medical student Olivia Hlavac (r) from Ichabod Crane Central School Districts learns how to take blood pressure with assistance from Ms. Curley.



Photo contributed

UAlbany College student recognizes Best-in-Class at showcase

ALBANY — Ellise Dugan, Valatie, majoring in Cybersecurity (BS) received Best-in-Class recognition for her poster entitled "STUXNET: When Cyberspace Alters the Real World" at the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security & Cybersecurity (CEHC)'s Fall 2024 Showcase.

The Best-In-Class Award is a special distinction from the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for a top research poster that exemplifies a student's accomplishments in the field of Cybersecurity.

The biannual CEHC Showcase offered the public and university community an array of interactive displays,

innovative research, and poster presentations created by hundreds of undergraduate and graduate CEHC students, each highlighting the breadth of the college's disciplines in cybersecurity, emergency preparedness, homeland security, informatics, intelligence analysis, school library and software development.

New trustees and momentum at Berkshire Country Day School

LENEX — Berkshire Country Day (BCD) School has announced the appointment of new trustee Emma Lezberg, following the appointment last year of Robert Mulhall, CEO of Kripalu, and Heather Ryan Gallerstein, a director of PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

BCD has seen enrollment growth in the last couple of years, rolled out the successful rebranding of the Brook Farm Preschool, and, with the support of donors, has opened a STEAM lab, a Sport Court, and initiated a successful Merit Scholarship program, among other things.

Ms. Lezberg is a 2013 graduate of BCD, and subsequently a graduate of Pittsfield High School and Williams College. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Harvard Graduate

School of Education, where she researches how schools can best support their undocumented and liminal-status students and prepare them for life after graduation. She served previously as a Case Worker at the Berkshire Immigrant Center.

Mr. Mulhall has spent two decades developing an expertise in the non-profit and for-profit sectors. He spent his early career in accounting and finance with PricewaterhouseCoopers before shifting to focus on human leadership and development. He received numerous awards as a social entrepreneur prior to moving to India to lead innovative global health programming in partnership with UNICEF, the Gates Foundation and the Governments of India, Malawi, Kenya, Ghana and

Sierra Leone.

Ms. Gallerstein has spent her entire professional career with PricewaterhouseCoopers where she currently is a director. She is an auditor and CPA by background and has spent the past several years in the firm's Learning & Education department.

All three new trustees serve on BCD's Finance Committee.

"We're thrilled to welcome these talented people onto our Board," said Scott Sylvester, president of the Board of Trustees, in a press release. "With their appreciation for the Berkshires and for independent school education, we can continue to build on the incredible growth of the past few years."

This fall, BCD opened the doors on the refurbished

Kevin Hirt Library with the addition of almost 2,000 new books with more scheduled to arrive this fall. In addition to an upgraded computer lab and updated classrooms, the Cole Field Sport Court completed construction last month offering basketball, volleyball, badminton, and more.

In September, the Middle School welcomed two Merit Scholars in addition to many other new middle school students.

"We are so grateful to our far reaching BCD community for helping to sustain and grow our school," added Mary Warner, Head of School, also in the release. "We are excited for the future and look forward to the vision of the Board of Trustees." For more information go to www.berkshirecountryday.org

Box receives SUNY Incremental Funding for internship

ONEONTA — Marie Box, Hudson, was one of 67 SUNY Oneonta students to receive money for an unpaid internship through the campus Career Planning and Networking Center. She is majoring in Biochemistry and is part of the class of 2025.

During the fall 2024 semester, the SUNY Oneonta Career Planning and Networking Center awarded a total of \$97,500 to 67 students from Incremental Funds issued to the university by the State University of New York system. Students received fund-

ing for credit-bearing, unpaid internships to help offset the costs associated with completing unpaid internships on and off campus.

The Career Planning and Networking Center on campus helps provide career counseling and helps students

find and secure internships in their fields of study. To help with the application and registration process, the Career Planning and Networking Center hired Internship Facilitators to assist students, faculty and staff.

Learn more at <https://suny.oneonta.edu>

THE COLUMBIA
Paper
www.columbiapaper.com

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE?
NOW YOU CAN!

Go to www.theupstater.com

\$SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

The Alice and Murray Giddings Foundation is looking for qualified high school seniors graduating from public school in Columbia County for the award of up to \$6,000 merit based scholarships.

Eligible applicants must have a GPA of 85% and enroll in the fall, 2025, in a two or four year academic or vocational program.

Applications are available from and all inquiries should be directed to the high school guidance departments.

CHECK WITH YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR FOR THE APPLICATION DUE DATE.

Recipients will be notified in May 2025.

More information at www.giddingsfoundation.org

ANCRAM BOARD

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Boice said he had heard “complaints from people who feel we are not paying attention to our laws” and “from workers, surveyors and engineers who don’t feel like they are getting a fair shake from our Planning Board and building department.”

He said it is “incumbent upon the Town Board to make changes to maybe help ourselves out in those areas.”

He said the two chairmen he proposed “would follow

the direction of what our regulations are rather than going off on their own.”

Councilmember Bonnie Hundt asked if Mr. Crocco had been spoken to about the matter. Councilmember Colleen Lutz said Mr. Crocco wants to remain in his position as Planning Board chair.

Town Supervisor Jim MacArthur said he had also heard complaints but received “nothing in writ-

ing.” He said the gist of the complaints are that Mr. Crocco “goes above and beyond his position by asking questions that don’t really pertain to the Planning Board.”

Councilmember Colleen Lutz said, “Either one of the individuals is capable” but that traditionally “each board is asked who they want for a chair—give them a chance to weigh in. That’s the way things functioned in the past.” She said it is good to allow the people “who are going to work directly with that person to weigh in on if they want that person to be the chair.”

Councilmember Bonnie Hundt said, “We need to go through the proper process” suggesting that if there is a vacancy on a board it should be advertised. She called the proposed replacement of Mr. Crocco “without him even knowing it—a strong arm kind of a move.”

Mr. Boice said the move “is protecting the interests of the town.”

Ms. Hundt agreed that the Town Board picks the chairs of other boards “after the proper process” is followed.

According to Town Law, the Town Board votes on the appointment of chairs

of the Planning Board and ZBA, not the boards themselves, though they can give a recommendation, Supervisor MacArthur said. When asked for his input, Mr. Olyha, who was present at the meeting, said he is favor of the change and would bring “a discipline” to the position and a belief that boards should “stay in their lanes.”

Mr. Crocco was not present at the meeting. The Planning Board’s January meeting was to take place at 7 p.m. following the organization meeting, which started at 6 p.m. and ended at 6:30 p.m. In the absence of

the appointment of a Planning Board chair, it was noted that Deputy Chair Erin Robertson could run the meeting.

Supervisor MacArthur told The Columbia Paper in a phone call after the meeting that he stayed at Town Hall after the organizational meeting and advised Mr. Crocco of the board’s decision not to reappoint him and that the board would take up the matter again at its January 16 meeting.

Mr. Crocco did not return a call for comment by press deadline.

To contact Diane Valden email dvalden@columbiapaper.com

OXFORD HOUSE

Continued from Page 1

Cahill had lived in an Oxford House in New Jersey during his own recovery some years before and had seen the successes of the program.

Presentations to legislators in each of Columbia and Greene counties followed, and each county committed \$90,000 from the opioid settlement funds toward the creation of an Oxford House -- one for men in Columbia County and one for women in Greene County. The facility in Columbia County opened in a formerly two-family home on Parkwood Boulevard near Fairview Avenue in Hudson on November 1, 2024. A facility is expected to open in 2025 in Greene County.

Of the \$90,000 committed, \$70,000 is allocated to Oxford House Inc. and staffing and \$20,000 to setting up each house with beds, dressers, kitchen and laundry equipment and the like. The set-up cost is sufficiently low that when demand exceeds the capacity of the current house, opening an additional house will be relatively inexpensive (roughly

\$20,000), as there is already an Oxford House presence in the community.

The population of a typical house is 8-10 people -- either all men or all women, though a parent may have his/her children in the home. The rooms are either single or double occupancy, and every house also has one or more kitchens and common spaces for eating and gathering.

Jamonte Johnson is the Oxford House Outreach Worker for the house in Hudson. Mr. Johnson is himself in long-term recovery. Sober since February 7, 2018, Mr. Johnson lived in an Oxford House in Tennessee beginning in early 2019. In time, he joined Oxford House, Inc. and trained as a Certified Recovery Peer Advocate.

To qualify to live in an Oxford House, a prospective resident must be and remain sober, be self-supporting and pay his share of household expenses, which are divided equally among the residents and include rent, food and utilities. The members vote on admitting a new member, and the members act as a

house, not as individuals, in reviewing the books of the house and setting and enforcing rules. Everyone has a role in shopping, cooking, cleaning and management of the house. The members meet weekly to discuss whatever issues may need to be addressed, and every member is accountable to the others.

As Mr. Johnson puts it, for most substance abusers one of the things “lost in

chance of remaining substance-free for the long-term, a success rate that far exceeds other programs.

That rate is attributed to the commonality and connection achieved in the co-housing context -- because “the opposite of addiction is connection,” according to Mr. Johnson. The peer support of those who have experienced similar traumas and are on similar paths to recovery is

‘The opposite of addiction is connection.’
— Jamonte Johnson
Oxford House Outreach Worker

the sauce is life skills,” and one of the benefits of living in an Oxford House is acquiring those skills. In addition, gaining and maintaining employment is a goal, though not requirement, of the program.

Members can stay in an Oxford House as long as they want, pay their share and stay “clean.” If a member relapses, he may reapply 30 days after returning to sobriety. The typical stay is 8-10 months. Research conducted by DePaul University has found that when an individual stays that length of time in the program, he has an 87%

instrumental. So too are the learnings about accountability and responsibility.

Oxford House deliberately seeks out houses in desirable areas that are also proximal to shopping, therapeutic and other services, as many residents do not have cars. In Hudson, Mr. Johnson located the residence and has made it a point to connect with others in the neighborhood to explain the program. He has found a warm reception.

Rent for the Hudson house is \$5,200/month which means each resident

pays \$250/week, an amount that covers rent and utilities but not the cost of food, toiletries or personal expenses. DHS’s Mr. Almasi observes that -- as Oxford House is without expense to the county except for the set up and staff -- it is a cost-effective solution to both a treatment and a housing issue. Without options like the Oxford House, those in recovery have difficulty finding housing. Many have spotty employment or criminal histories and, accordingly, are disfavored by landlords. Affordability is, of course, also an issue.

As a result, many in recovery find themselves unhoused or returning to already-fraught family situations. If the former, the costs to the county of housing in motels which are distant from, and lacking in any on-site, supportive services, far outweighs the Oxford house investment.

More importantly, studies of the 50-year-old Oxford House model have found it to be a “research-proven best practice” and evidence-based program that significantly improves addiction treatment outcomes. It has been repeatedly cited by the federal government for enhancing the quality of recovery support services.

By substantially improving the odds of long-term sobriety, the program not only improves the emotional and financial lives of its residents and their families but avoids the many costs associated with relapse -- be it involvement in the justice system, imprisonment, disruption of a family or loss of employment. One DePaul University study found that after two years the Oxford House residents had one-half the relapse rate, more than double the monthly income and one-third the incarceration rate of those in other programs or in no structured post-care setting.

Surveys also have found that the Oxford members had higher scores in areas of social adjustment, such as practical orientation, involvement with others, autonomy, organization and clarity. For women in the program, the odds of regaining custody of their children that was lost due to their addiction lifestyle more than doubled.

Given the successes and cost benefits of the model, Mr. Almasi, Mr. Cahill and Mr. Johnson hope that more Oxford Houses will be opened in the county to meet the needs of those in recovery.

To contact reporter Deborah Lans, email deborablans@icloud.com.

HHA

Continued from Page 1

Apartments in Hudson. It also owns land with a basketball court and other outdoor recreation facilities across State Street from those buildings. Redevelopment diagrams call the land with the buildings Site A and the land with the basketball court Site B. Proposals for putting housing on Site B have arisen over the years, but they have stayed proposals. Meanwhile the existing buildings are a half century old and, according to several sources, getting difficult and expensive to repair and maintain. In 2021, HHA’s Board of Commissioners decided both to erect new housing on Site B and to demolish the existing buildings on Site A and replace them with new housing. Before the HHA can

demolish its existing buildings, the law requires it to rehouse the people who live in them.

For the project, HHA sought development partners and from the respondents picked Mountco Construction and Development Corporation of Scarsdale, along with Alexander Gorlin Architects. The partnership drew up an ambitious maximum-build plan with 138 new apartments in 2 buildings on site B, both surface and underground parking, 13 townhouses on land the HHA can buy from the City of Hudson at a discount, and a hypothetical Phase 2 with a 162 apartments in three buildings on Site A. The buildings would come in a variety of heights, from four to seven stories. The

townhouses would be three stories tall.

The latest proposal would result in a 151 new apartments in two buildings--one on each site, surface parking only, the purchase of enough city land for only four townhouses, and a hypothetical Phase 2 with 105 additional apartments in two buildings on Site A. All buildings would be four or five stories tall.

The existing buildings can stay up through Phase 1, even though its new construction includes Site A. The new Phase 1, like the original Phase 1, would result in more than enough new apartments for all HHA’s existing residents to move into. After the state approves Phase 1, it could take three years to construct its buildings and get them ready for occupancy, Mountco’s Development Director Eu Ting-Zambuto estimated earlier in 2024. The new Phase 2, like the original Phase 2, would

require demolishing the existing buildings first.

HHA and Mountco have said the reason for reducing building heights is that buildings above five stories high must have steel frames, while those five stories and lower can have wood frames, which are cheaper. In addition, the latest sketch diagram shows a “steep slope” in a corner of Site B, and that influences decisions about buildings and parking on that site.

As for townhouses, the HHA Board voted to proceed with the purchase of two of the city parcels it had been considering buying, at its December 16 meeting, according to Mr. Dodson. The other land the HHA was considering has “sloped” ground, which can make construction more difficult, he added. “We do not believe it is cost effective for the HHA/Mountco to build town houses at that location.” The two parcels the HHA is buying can together

hold four three-story townhouses.

The new proposal still calls for extending First Street from Columbia Street to State Street, separating HHA’s land from Schuyler Court’s. However, the originally-proposed re-laying of Lombard Street between State and Dock streets related to the land the HHA decided not to buy. Nevertheless, the latest diagram still shows eventually pedestrianizing State Street between Second Street and the new extension of First Street.

The new apartments in Site A and Site B buildings would have 1, 2, and 3-story apartments. Though 10% smaller than in the original proposal, they would still be larger than current Bliss apartments. Currently in Bliss, studios have 330 square feet, 1-bedroom units have 500 square feet, 2-bedroom units have 650, and 3-bedroom units have 843, according to Mr. Dodson. In

the latest proposal, 1-bedroom units would have 670 square feet, 2-bedroom units would have 875, and 3-bedroom would have 1,055, according to the latest sketch diagram.

The townhouses would have 4 and 5 bedroom units, according to the original sketch diagram.

HHA resident reactions to the latest proposal were not available by press time.

Much community reaction to the proposals stems from the goals of Phase 1 plus Phase 2. Excluding the townhouses, the new proposal envisions more new apartments than the original proposal from Phase 1. But from Phase 1 plus the hypothetical Phase 2, the original proposal envisioned more apartments (300) than the new proposal (256). In any case, all approvals that HHA is seeking are for Phase 1 only. Phase 2 would require its own applications, approvals, and construction schedule.

Suspense Theater thrills and chills with The Two Of Us Productions

COPAKE — The Two Of Us Productions presents their Virtual Live-Staged Reading for 2025. The first installment is two exciting Suspense theater radio dramas: “The Moment Of Darkness” and “Riabouchinska.” This performance is being presented on Saturday evening January 18 at 7 p.m. in collaboration with Roving Actors’ Repertory Ensemble (RARE) Inc.

In “The Moment Of Darkness,” Marjorie Grey is convinced that her Aunt Hester’s interest in contacting her recently deceased husband is being used by the renowned medium Georges Ravel to get her money. Marjorie enlists the aid of diplomat Mr. Blake and family lawyer Mr. Stevens to thwart Ravel’s plan. Meeting together at Hester’s cliff-top beach house they attend Ravel’s

séance, but in that locked room a blackmailer is murdered, but not by Ravel.

In “Riabouchinska,” we meet a certain John Fabian, a talented ventriloquist. Krovich regarding how a dead body came to be found in the theater cellar. In the midst of this tense conversation we hear a small sweet voice coming from the exquisite varnished box containing Fabian’s ventriloquist dummy. To the exasperation of the police the lovely female doll, named Ria, persists in interrupting and correcting Fabian’s answers to Lt. Krovitch’s questions. As the story unfolds before us, we find out that Fabian has created Riabouchinska and used his talent to imbue her with a life of her own.

To learn the rest of these thrilling stories you’ll have to R.S.V.P to www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org and then see these thrilling dramas in the comfort of your own home. This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

TheTwoOfUsProductions.org and then see these thrilling dramas in the comfort of your own home. This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted.

The Two Of Us Productions is well known throughout the Hudson Valley for presenting quality theater, both musicals and dramas. Their recent productions of “Sweeney Todd,” “Cabaret,” “Young Frankenstein,” “Deathtrap,” “Chicago,” “Les Miserables,” “next to normal,” “Mamma Mia!” and “Jesus Christ Superstar” were all recognized by the Theatre Association of NYS with multiple awards, including outstanding work by the company and outstanding performance by the orchestra. Reviews of their recent virtual live-staged readings

of three Arthur Miller scripts: “All My Sons,” “Broken Glass,” and an adaptation of “An Enemy Of The People” will appear in upcoming editions of The Arthur Miller Journal.

These performances are supported with funds from Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation, Stewart’s Shops, Bank of Greene County, Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, Greylock Federal Credit Union, The Ackerman Foundation, and Key Bank Foundation. This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grants 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 by CREATE Council on the Arts.

Spencertown Academy presents Classical Sunday with pianist Polk

SPENCERTOWN — Spencertown Academy Arts Center presents Classical Sunday with pianist Joanne Polk on Sunday, January 19 at 3 p.m. at the academy’s Blanche Grubin Auditorium. The program will include Johann Sebastian Bach, Amy Beach, Cécile Chaminade, Alberto Ginastera, David Shenton, and Cole Porter. General admission tickets (\$25 public, \$20 academy members, \$10 students) are available via www.spencertownacademy.org.

“Joanne Polk’s Spencertown recital offers a unique opportunity to hear a major artist in an intimate setting,” said Jan Douglas, member of the Academy Music Committee and head of Classical Sunday programming, in a press release. “She is known for playing with graceful, elegant conviction and brilliant technique and for her award-winning and critically acclaimed recordings of works by women composers.”

Polk’s albums have been deemed “best of the year” by the New York Times and

Seattle Times, been nominated for a Grammy, and debuted at #1 on the Classical Billboard Chart. Among her many illustrious credits are performances with the English Chamber Orchestra at the Barbican Center in London under the baton of Paul Goodwin, the Women’s Philharmonic in San Francisco with conductor Apo Hsu, and with Lark Quartet at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City. She received her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Degrees from The Juilliard School, and her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Manhattan School of Music, where she serves as a member of the piano faculty.

This program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Housed in a landmark 1847 Greek Revival schoolhouse, the academy is located at 790 State Route 203. For more information, contact info@spencertownacademy.org.



Barbara Slate

Let's Be Creative!

Have you ever heard a joke begin, “There were four men walking down the street?” Probably not, and that’s because four is too many, one is not enough, two is getting there and three is perfect! It takes three words to describe a character to get a pretty good idea of who the character is:

Joe is SEVENTEEN, FORGETFUL, and a LONER.



Describe your protagonist in three words.

©2024 Barbara Slate

BE A HERO GIVE BLOOD

Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1 800 733-2767

The Moviehouse themoviehouse.net
 FRI 01/10 > THURS 01/16 518.789.0022

OH, CANADA Saturday, Jan 11 @ 7PM Showtimes & Tickets

NOSFERATU

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN

MUFASA OH, CANADA +Q&A with Zach Shaffer

* GIFT CARDS * MEMBERSHIPS * DONATE TODAY *

48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

... There’s always something happening at the Grange! ...



A GRANGE MONTHLY FAVORITE!
FRIDAY JAN 3 & FEB 7 at 7PM



WINTER DJ DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY JAN 18 at 7PM



MOVIE & SOUP NIGHT
SUNDAY JAN 19 at 3:30PM



CHILI COOK-OFF NIGHT
SATURDAY JAN 25 at 5PM



628 Empire Road
 Copake, NY 12516
 (In the center of Copake behind clocktower pub & grill)

Everyone’s welcome to join the jam!



MUSIC JAM SESSION PLAY ALONG
SUNDAY JAN 26 at 4PM

Check out the details at our website: www.copakegrange.org/events

Seniors install officers Jan. 10

CLAVERRACK—The Claverack Seniors' installation of officers meeting takes place at the Reformed Dutch Church of Claverack, 88 State Route 9H, Friday, January 10 at 1 p.m.

Welcome in New Years of all kinds

CLERMONT—Celebrate the New Year and the Lunar New Year at Clermont State Historic Site, 1 Clermont Avenue, with a Story and Craft Hour for Kids, Saturday, January 11, 1 p.m. in the Visitor Center.

Celebrate 2025 with a special free story and craft hour. Join staff for an afternoon of stories, snacks and

crafts focusing on celebrations surrounding both Western New Year and Lunar New Year.

This is a children's program. All children must be accompanied by adults. This event is free of charge, but visitors must register in advance at www-1575b.bookeo.com/

Clam chowder and grilled cheese served

VALATIE—The First Presbyterian Church of Valatie, 3212 Church Street, hosts Free Soup and Sandwich Saturdays the second Saturday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The next meal takes place

January 11. The menu will consist of Manhattan clam chowder and grilled Swiss cheese sandwiches. It's an opportunity to meet and visit with others in the community. All are encouraged to attend.

Catalina to be sworn-in as secretary

VALATIE—Tri-Village Seniors will swear in their new secretary, Pat Catalina at the group's Tuesday, January 14 meeting, noon, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Route 9. Other current officers will begin the second year of their two-year terms.

Beginning in January one lucky ticket will be drawn from 50/50 tickets. The lucky ticket owner will

receive a Stewart's gift card. In January, February and March meetings will all start at noon.

Dues are now \$10 a year and will be collected at the January meeting. Members should bring their Tri-Village Senior membership card to the meeting so that it can be initialed to indicate that 2025 dues are paid.

Who needs leaves to identify trees?

PHILMONT—Take a Winter Tree ID Trek at High Falls, 540 Roxbury Road, January 11, 10 a.m. to noon.

Ever wondered about the trees alongside the trail? Looking to expand your tree identification skills? This trek is for you. Without leaves to rely upon, Tom O'Dowd will teach participants to identify trees during winter by their twigs, buds, bark and even smell.

Walk one mile along the Waterfall Way trail, which features a mixed terrain of packed earth, bog bridges and exposed



Photo contributed

Snow covered trees under a white/gray sky.

roots. Bench seating is available at various points along the trail. Learn more details about the trail at columbialand.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/high-falls.

Bring water and wear weather-appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring a smartphone, camera or notebook to take notes. Social, leashed dogs are welcome, but bring a bag for waste.

Choose the sliding scale registration option that works best for you. Register at columbialand.org/event/winter-tree-id

Early bird registration for Panorama now open

GREENPORT—Dive into Frederic Church's Olana this summer during Panorama Summer Art and Nature Program. Back for its 16th annual season, this year The Olana Partnership will offer five weeks of hands-on exploration for children ages 6 to 11 from July to August at Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G. Discounted early bird registration is now open through February 1.

"Panorama is one of our most exciting and fun programs of the year. The Olana Partnership's education team looks forward to welcoming new and familiar faces each summer for weeks of engaging play, exploration and discovery," Carolyn Keogh, director of Education at The Olana Partnership said in a press release.

Experience art, science and nature through sketching, lake exploration, hiking, painting, play, and more, all while meeting new friends and learning from the experts. The whole summer focuses on art and nature with special guest visits and activities each week.

Highlights for each of the four weeks include exploring habitats, animals and ecosystems that are within Olana's 250-acre artist-designed landscape,



Photo contributed

Panorama program offers kids hands-on exploration.

unleashing your own inner sculptor by experimenting with clay, wire and paper mâché, learning about architecture and building your own creations, and experimenting with professional materials like paint, charcoal and collage.

The program runs Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Secure a space. Early bird registration is available from January 1

through February 1 and offers a \$50 discount. Registration will close June 1. The cost to attend is \$350 a week for members (dual level and above) of The Olana Partnership or \$450 a week for non-members. To become a member, visit olana.org/membership. Early bird pricing is available until February 1 and is \$300 a week for members and \$400 a week for non-mem-

bers. Full scholarships and financial support for transportation are available for students who attend Title 1 schools and/or receive SNAP and EBT benefits. To apply for funding or to learn more email education@olana.org.

To learn more about each week and register, visit olana.org/Panorama.

MHLS and member libraries awarded \$1M in NYS library construction aid

POUGHKEEPSIE — The FY 2023-2024 State Aid for Public Library Construction Grant Program Awards totaling \$1,407,025 have been announced and ten Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) Member Libraries and MHLS have been awarded funds.

2024 awards in the Mid-Hudson Library System include:

- New Lebanon Library: \$22,695. Installations of energy-efficient lighting fixtures and new exterior doors at the front entrance to the library
- Roeliff Jansen Community Library: \$17,750. Replacement of a broken accordion partition between its program space and main library with a manually operated folding partition
- Mid-Hudson Library System: \$103,404. Roof system replacement (including the gutters and downspouts) and installation of solar energy electrical generation system on the MHLS office building.



Photo contributed

NYS Senator Rob Rolison, MHLS Executive Director Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, MHLS Facilities Manager & Assistant Delivery Operations Manager Chris Herron, and Library Sustainability Coordinator Laura Crisci.

State Senator Rob Rolison (R-39th) announced the news of MHLS' project funding in October. "I was thrilled to present them with a check facsimile today in Poughkeepsie, visit with staff, and learn more about the approximately 600,000 Hudson Valley residents this indispensable system serves across 66 member libraries."

The funds for all listed projects are from \$34 million in capital funds for public library construction and

broadband infrastructure projects provided in the FY2023-2024 State Budget.

To view other projects that were funded and to learn more about the urgent need New York's public libraries have for renovations and upgrades, visit <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/info/plcovrvw.htm>

Mid-Hudson Library System (MHLS) is a cooperative public library system chartered by the New York

State Board of Regents and overseen by the New York State Education Department via the Division of Library Development (DLD). MHLS is dedicated to working together with 66 member libraries in the Mid-Hudson region to strengthen local library services while saving local tax dollars.

For more information, visit www.midhudson.org or follow the library system on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

NEW

Advertising Opportunities

Boost your business by advertising with us! Unlock your potential and reach thousands of local readers daily.

THE COLUMBIA Paper

Call Today! 518.545.8441
marlene.mctigue@nyvtmedia.com
theupstater.com

BE A HERO GIVE BLOOD

Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1 800 733-2767



2024- 2025 Propane Price Protection Program*




518-756-2555

Flexible Options - Automatic Delivery

Capped Budget Plan

Capped Prepay Plan

Discount Prepay Plan

Discount Budget Plan

We also provide:

- Plumbing Services
- Generators
- HVAC
- Service Contracts
- Financing

WHERE "SERVICE" COUNTS - GIVE US A CHANCE TO EARN YOUR BUSINESS

Letters

Gillibrand calls on Biden to direct archivist to certify Equal Rights Amendment

U.S. SENATOR KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND (D) stood with elected officials and advocates to call on President Biden to enshrine reproductive rights for millions of women into law by directing the archivist of the United States to certify the Equal Rights Amendment before the end of his presidency. After the Supreme Court issued the Dobbs decision in 2022, it has become increasingly important to publish the ERA as part of the U.S. Constitution. The amendment would instantly provide the most effective safeguards to post-Dobbs attacks on women's health and would also serve as a bulwark against a national

ban on abortion that President-elect Trump and congressional Republican leaders have threatened to enact.

The ERA has already fulfilled the criteria for certification: it was approved by two-thirds of Congress in 1972 and ratified by three-quarters of the states by 2020. The ERA is the only constitutional amendment ever proposed that has met the strict requirements, as spelled out in Article V, to be uniquely discriminated against and not certified and published by the archivist.

"President Biden has always been an advocate for women, and there is no better way to cement his legacy as president than to certify

the Equal Rights Amendment," said Senator Gillibrand. "During a time when women's rights are under systematic attack, we need the Equal Rights Amendment now more than ever. Today, more than half of all Americans do not have equal protection under the law and do not have access to the full range of reproductive care. Certifying the Equal Rights Amendment will be our best chance to ensure our hard-won civil liberties — same-sex marriage, the right to reproductive health care, access to birth control, fertility treatments, contraception — cannot be eroded. I strongly urge President Biden to stand with the women of this country and

do what is right."

"With decades of progress on women's rights standing on the precipice, I join Senator Gillibrand in appealing to President Biden for this urgent certification," said New York State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, lead sponsor of the ERA to the NYS Constitution, which voters overwhelmingly enacted in the 2024 general election. "President Biden must seize this opportunity to repel looming efforts at upending our civil rights and shield the gains he has long championed."

"The ERA was drafted by NYU law grad Crystal Eastman over 100 years ago and unveiled in Seneca Falls, New York in 1923.

So, the women of New York and this country have been fighting for over a century to get ourselves into our own constitution. It is now or never. President Biden is the only one who has the power—right now—to put us in the constitution where we belong. It cannot ever truly be the 'people's constitution' until it reflects all of us," said Kate Kelly, Center for American Progress.

The ERA was first proposed by Congress in 1923 as a constitutional amendment to guarantee equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex. A federal ERA would establish the premise that sex-based distinctions in access to reproductive care

would be unconstitutional. As such, abortion bans would violate a constitutional right to sex equality since such restrictions would single out women for unfair denial of medical treatment based on sex. State-level Equal Rights Amendments have already been successful in providing the constitutional basis for reproductive equality and have been historically successful in defending against legislative infringements on women's reproductive freedom.

In August 2024, the American Bar Association expressed its support for implementing the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution in accordance with Article V.

Hinchey bill launching first statewide review of TBI Care in the state

ALBANY — Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41st) announced that her bill to improve access to services for New Yorkers with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) has been signed into law. The bill, S.1478/A.7215, inspired by the challenges faced by former Ulster County resident Hannah Berryan and her mother, Katherine, will be the first statewide review of TBI care in New York.

At 16, Hannah Berryan was severely injured in a car accident, resulting in a life-changing TBI that now

requires 24-hour care. In 2021, Hinchey's office worked closely with the Berrys to find care for Hannah in the Hudson Valley; however, due to a lack of local options, Hannah has had to move out of state. Her mother Katherine remains in Ulster County, where she continues to advocate for her daughter and TBI survivors across New York.

To support families like the Berrys, Hinchey's legislation directs the New York State TBI Services Coordinating Council to

develop recommendations related to TBI care, including reviewing the availability and accessibility of services, regional disparities, emerging trends in TBI, differences in services and outcomes for New Yorkers served by various TBI programs, and efficiency of service administration. The recommendations are required to be completed within a year and posted on the New York State Department of Health's website.

"After nearly a decade of searching for TBI care, Hannah and Katherine

Berryan came to my office for help when leaving the Hudson Valley became their only option in order to get Hannah the specialized care she needed—a path no family in our community should ever have to take. Hannah and Katherine's fight to access local TBI services became a fight that my office took on alongside them through new legislation aimed at creating change. I'm proud that our bill, which authorizes the first statewide review of TBI care in New York, has been signed into law because

we know it will shine a light on how we need to help people with this complex disability live the best quality of life possible. I'm honored to work with Katherine and Hannah to move this important issue forward and help families like them facing roadblocks to TBI care get the services they deserve," Senator Hinchey said in a press release.

Katherine Beryan, TBI Advocate and Regional Lead Transition and Peer Specialist for the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley said, also in the release, "I

want to thank Senator Hinchey for her steadfast dedication and compassion in the passing of Hannah's bill. This bill will now bring optics, clarity, and substantiation to the underserved brain injury population in New York State. This bill is the first step in righting what is happening to all people in New York State with brain injuries. Hannah and I are honored to represent this population, and we have dedicated our lives to serve as a beacon of hope for all TBI survivors and their families."

OPRHP awards \$28 million through the Environmental Protection Fund

ALBANY — The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has announced awards of more than \$28 million through the state-funded Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) to support 65 projects through Round XIV of the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiative.

"The fourteenth round of REDC grants will fund transformative recreation and historic preservation projects in 38 counties, strengthening the fabric of daily life for New Yorkers and driving investment and growth," said OPRHP Commissioner Pro Tempore Randy Simons, in a press release. "Our agency concludes its Centennial year by working with the Regional Economic Development Councils to help communities achieve their goals and realize a brighter future for New York State."

The Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Heritage and Preservation supports matching grants for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, historic properties, and heritage areas located within New York. Funds are awarded to municipalities or not-for-profits with an ownership interest. The program is administered

by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Funding for this program was included in Round XIV of the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative. The REDC process continues to support and empower regional stakeholders in developing strategic plans and funding priorities that meet local economic needs. Regional Councils reviewed projects from this program and provided scores that reflect how well a project aligns with a region's goals and strategies. Applicants utilized the New York's Consolidated Funding Application, the state's single application for state resources, which includes programs for numerous agencies. It is designed to provide expedited and streamlined access to a combined pool of grant funds and tax credits from dozens of existing programs.

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, also in the release, "Investing in regional projects that offer innovative, long-term solutions is vital to addressing statewide challenges and creating opportunities that benefit all New Yorkers. The Regional Economic Development Councils know

their communities' needs best, and their track record of fostering collaboration and forward-thinking ideas at the local level are essential towards strengthening our state's future."

The Consolidated Funding Application was created to streamline and expedite the grant application process. The CFA process marks a fundamental shift in the way state resources are allocated, ensuring less bureaucracy and greater efficiency to fulfill local economic development needs. The CFA serves as the single-entry point for access to economic development funding, ensuring applicants no longer have to slowly navigate multiple agencies and sources without any mechanism for coordination. Now, economic development projects use the CFA as a support mechanism to access multiple state funding sources through one application, making the process quicker, easier, and more productive.

The Regional Economic Development Council initiative is a key component of the state's approach to state investment and economic development. In 2011, 10 Regional Councils were established to develop long-term strategic plans for economic growth for their regions. The councils are

public-private partnerships made up of local experts and stakeholders from business, academia, local government, and non-governmental organizations. The Regional Councils have redefined the way New York invests in jobs and economic growth by putting in place a community-based, bottom-up approach and establishing a competitive process for State resources. Learn more at regionalcouncils.ny.gov.

The New York State OPRHP oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more, which saw a record 84 million visits in 2023. For more information on any of these recreation areas, visit parks.ny.gov, download the free NY State Parks Explorer app or call 518 474-0456.

Local Round XIV awards include:

- County of Columbia, Government Operations and Community GHGs and Government Operations and Community Climate Action Plans, \$60,000. Columbia County will complete local government operations and community GHG inventories to establish a baseline of current emissions in the county and prepare local government operations and community-wide climate action plans that

will recommend policies and other actions to reduce these emissions

- Town of Taghkanic, Taghkanic-Churchtown Road Culvert Replacement, \$136,435. The town will replace an undersized, failing culvert along Taghkanic/Churchtown Road. Due to its poor condition, structural failure of the culvert during a future storm is likely. The site was identified as a priority in the town's road stream crossing vulnerability assessment

- City of Hudson, Combined Sewer Overflow Mitigation Project 1. \$10,000,00. The city will separate the combined stormwater/sewer collection system by constructing new sanitary sewer piping and/or restore existing piping. The project is the first phase of a three-phase project and will improve the water quality of the Hudson River

- Town of Copake, Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan. \$81,000. The town will develop a new comprehensive plan guided by Smart Growth principles to establish a framework for future development actions and policy making. The comprehensive plan will address community and economic development, housing, parks and recreation, alterna-

tive transportation and placemaking. The comprehensive plan will serve as a roadmap and decision-making framework and tool to accelerate the community's progress toward a shared vision of the future

- Hawthorne Valley Association, Carbon Neutral Hawthorne Valley 2024, \$1,283,80. Hawthorne Valley's carbon neutral renovation project comprises four education buildings that will employ a heat pump dairy pasteurization system, ground source heat pumps, and a ventilation system to improve indoor air quality, while reusing the existing hydrothermal infrastructure and adding an 85kW solar array to offset electrical demand

- Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association, Inc., Village of Chatham to the Town of Ghent, \$675,000. The Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association will begin the construction of the Rail Trail and rehabilitation of two bridges for the first phase of the northern section of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail along Route 66 between the Town of Ghent and the Village of Chatham. This section will be the northern terminus of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, terminating at the Shaker Museum in the Village of Chatham.



NOW OPEN in Copake



ALBANY MED Health System

COLUMBIA MEMORIAL HEALTH
Rapid Care

Providing walk-in care for urgent and non-urgent illnesses and injuries.

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday & Saturday
9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
518-329-3902

283 Mountain View Rd., Copake



albanymed.org/urgentcare



STORY HOUR, Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Rd, 10-11 am, free. germantownlibrary.org.

PRE-SCHOOL STORY HOUR, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. Ms. Becky leads stories, songs, take-home craft. For ages 3-5. chathampubliclibrary.org

PLAY GROUP, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, free. For ages 0-5. Unstructured play time, craft, socializing. kinderhooklibrary.org.

BILINGUAL STORYTIME IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH, Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51 N 5th St, 3:30-4:30 pm, through November 22. Children's stories and crafts presented in español and English. hudsonarealibrary.org

Saturdays
ART WORKSHOPS, Art Omi, 1405 CR 22, Ghent, 10 am-noon, \$20/child or \$36/two siblings. For ages 5-11.

Developmentally-appropriate projects encouraging curiosity, experimentation, creative thinking. Registration: artomi.org/education/saturday-childrens-workshops.

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

Fourth Saturdays
ANIME CLUB, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, noon, free. Teens, tweens welcome for anime film screening. Details: claveracklibrary.org.

First & Third Sundays
MAKERS SPACE OPEN HOUSE, Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Rd, 2-4 pm, free. Follow theme for day or do your own thing. germantownlibrary.org, 518 537-5800.

Through February 1
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FOR PANORAMA Summer Art & Nature Program, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G, Greenport. Five weeks of hands-on exploration for children ages 6 to 11 from July to August. Early bird pricing is available until February 1 and is \$300 a week for members and \$400 a week for non-members.

Through June 1
REGISTRATION FOR PANORAMA Summer Art & Nature Program, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G, Greenport. Five weeks of hands-on exploration for children ages 6 to 11 from July to August. The cost to attend is \$350/week for members (dual level and above) of The Olana Partnership or \$450/week for non-members.

January 11
HAPPY NEW YEAR STORY & CRAFT HOUR FOR KIDS, Clermont State Historic Site Visitor Center, 1 Clermont Ave, 1 pm. Free. Celebrate 2025 with an afternoon of stories, snacks & crafts focusing on celebrations surrounding both Western New Year & Lunar New Year. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Register in advance at www-1575b.bookeo.com/

January 13-25
TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave. Take home activities. chathampubliclibrary.org

January 18
A CLOSER LOOK FAMILY TOURS, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Rte 9G, Greenport, 1-2 pm. The Olana Partnership educators will lead an exploration of two to three works of art on the second floor galleries through family-friendly dialogue and other hands-on activities. Register: tickets.olana.org

January 23
ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3 pm. Get creative with Miss Becky. Come to the library to see what crafty projects she has planned for this month. This club is designed for school-aged crafters, able to follow directions and use scissors and other crafting supplies independently. chathampubliclibrary.org

January 25
SAFETY SALLY'S FIRETRUCK PINWOOD DERBY, FASNY Museum of Firefighting, 117 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson, 10:30 am. Free. Fun, interactive show. Help Safety Sally play silly safety games, learn important safety tips. Kids can decorate their own pinewood derby firetruck, race it and win a medal. First-come, first-served. No reservations needed. fasnyfiremuseum.com

AT THE MOVIES
January 10-13
THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. Tickets at timeandspace.org/movies/

ART SPIEGELMAN: DISASTER IS MY MUSE, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. Tickets at timeandspace.org/movies/

A TRAVELER'S NEED, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. Tickets at timeandspace.org/movies/

January 10-12
QUEER, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. Tickets at timeandspace.org/movies/

January 11-12
THEATER OF THOUGHT, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, times vary. Tickets at timeandspace.org/movies/

January 12
PADDINGTON 2, Story Screen Cinema, 160 Fairview Avenue, Hudson, noon. Free small popcorn and small drink for all youth ages 18 and under. Doors will open 30 min prior to screening time, for seating. Tickets required at hudsonarealibrary.org

January 19
OMAHA TO OGDEN, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2 pm. Archive project screening and Q&A with Linda Mussmann. timeandspace.org

MISSISSIPPI BURNING, Copake Grange Classic Film Series / Movie and Soup Night, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, 3:30-5:30 pm. Based on true events, film is fictionalized version of the FBI's search for killers of three civil rights workers in the South in 1964. Rated R. After movie, stay for a dinner of soups, salad, bread, dessert. Vegetarian options. Admission to movie is by donation. Dinner is \$10. Advance reservations are not required. More info lennybarham@gmail.com or call 518-325-5216.

January 25, February 2
AIDA, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 12:30 pm, \$35 general, \$32.50 TSL members, \$25 students. Met Opera Live in HD. Tickets at timeandspace.org/movies/

January 26
MAO WOW, Time & Space Limited, 434 Columbia St, Hudson, 2 pm. Archive project screening and Q&A with Linda Mussmann. timeandspace.org

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.

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.

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.

January 11
SONGS FROM THE CINEMA, Winter Concert Series for 2025, The Marilyn and Bob Laurie Gallery, Claverack Free Library, 629 Route 23B, 2 pm, suggested donation \$15. Vocalist Ilana Meredith & piano/accordion accompanist Joseph Rutkowski will be pairing with local historian Jim Mackin, for a concert that covers songs that won Academy Awards from the past 100 years of Cinema. info@claveracklibrary.org or call 518 851-7120.

GARY LUCAS: SOLO ELECTRIC AND ACOUSTIC, Spencertown Academy Roots & Shoots Concerts Series, 790 State Rte 203, 7:30 pm, \$30 public, \$25 academy members. Songwriter and guitarist will perform a tour de force program of original songs, blues, tributes to Captain Beefheart and Jeff Buckley, covers of 1930's Chinese pop, Wagner, Stones, electronic soundscapes and more. www.spencertownacademy.org.

January 19
GAMELAN YOWANA SARI AND I/O ENSEMBLE, Clark Art Institute, 225 South St, Williamstown, MA, 3 pm, \$10, \$8 members, free for students and children. The Williams College Department of Music and I/O Fest 2025 bring an afternoon of new music for Balinese gamelan. Visit clarkart.edu/events. For accessibility questions, call 413 458 0524.

CLASSICAL SUNDAY WITH PIANIST JOANNE POLK, Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Rte 203, 3 pm, \$25 public, \$20 academy members, \$10 students. The program will include Johann Sebastian Bach, Amy Beach, Cécile Chaminade, Alberto Ginastera, David Shenton, and Cole Porter. www.spencertownacademy.org

January 26
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.

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.

January 10
JOURNALING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 5-7 pm. Starter journal and pen provided. Registration required, email valatiefreelibrary@gmail.com or call 518 758-9321

January 14
BUDGET BASICS FOR PROJECTS + GRANTS, Claverack Library, 629 NY-23B, noon. Join Grants Coordinator Richard Royer for a row-by-row and column-by-column tutorial on using the SCR Grant Application Budget Form. www.createcouncil.org

January 15
GET YOUR GRANT DONE, CREATE Council on the Arts, 398 Main Street, Catskill, 6 pm. An in-person workshop where you write your SCR grant with Andrea Kleine. www.createcouncil.org

January 18
ARTMAKING IN THE AFTERNOON, Olana State Historic Site, Wagon House Education Center, 5720 State Rte 9G, Greenport, 1-4 pm, free. Join The Olana Partnership educators for hands-on artmaking using professional materials and a series of prompts to get your creativity flowing. Drop in program open to all ages. All materials provided. olana.org

January 21
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS: Affordable farmland and conservation, Zoom, 6:30-7:30 pm. Free. Columbia Land Conservancy welcomes Blake Hill of HUSSMAN Hollow Flower Farm and CLC Conservation Projects Manager Sam Calhoun, to focus on affordable farmland. Register at columbialand.org/event/

January 22
CIVIL SERVICE 101, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 5:30 pm, free. Join this informal conversation with staff members of Columbia County Civil Service. Come explore employment and career opportunities, see current vacancies, sign up for an exam, complete an application, ask questions and learn what civil service is all about. chathampubliclibrary.org

Continued on Page B4

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.

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

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.



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*

EVENTS Calendar

Continued from Page B3

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.

January 18

LOVE TO DANCE NIGHT, Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, 7-9:30 pm. Get in free or make a \$5 suggested donation. Refreshments served or BYOB. All songs contain words "Love" or "Dance." Create playlist by submitting one dance tune that includes "Love" or "Dance" at <https://tinyurl.com/JanuaryDance>. Guests encouraged to bring non-perishable food item or hygiene product for donation to Roe Jan Food Pantry & Taconic Hills Schools' Care Closet. www.copakegrange.org

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.

January 11

WHAT WILL HAVE BEEN, PS21's Black Box Theater, 2980 Route 66, Chatham, 2 pm, \$50 priority seating, \$40 general admission, \$15 students, youth and educators. Contemporary circus. For tickets and information go to ps21chatham.org

January 10-12

GODSPELL, Columbia County Youth Theatre, St James Church, 117 Hudson Ave, Chatham, Friday and Saturday 7 pm, Sunday 2 pm, \$12. Tickets available at ccyt.org or at the door.

January 18

VIRTUAL STAGED READING, "The Moment Of Darkness" and "Riabouchinska," on Zoom, 7 pm. Suspense Theater presented by The Two Of Us in collaboration with Roving Actors' Repertory Ensemble (RARE) Inc. This performance is free to the public, donations are gratefully accepted. R.S.V.P at www.TheTwoOfUsProductions.org

January 18, 19

XINGU, The Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, Saturdays 7:30 pm, Sundays 2 pm, \$23 for members, \$28 for nonmembers, \$12 for students. Individual tickets and memberships at GhentPlayhouse.org.

ON VIEW

ART OMI, 1405 CR 22, Ghent. Newmark Gallery open daily 9 am-4 pm. Shaboom: Presumed Ignorant, October 5-January 26. Benenson Visitors Center, Riley Hooker: Body Language, through January 31. 518 392-4747, artomi.org

ART ON MAIN GALLERY, 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA. Thursday-Sunday 11-4 pm; www.berkshireartists.org/art-on-main-gallery

ART SCHOOL of Columbia County, 1198 Rt 21C. Invitational Abstract Landscapes through the Seasons: with Tim Ebneht. Mon, Tue, Thurs, Sun noon-3 pm. 518 672-7140. Artschoolofcolumbiacounty.org, 518 672 7140

ARTLife717 Gallery, 717 Columbia St, Hudson. Self-Love Affirmations – (Exhibit #1 of 6), January 4-March 1. Opening reception: Friday January 10, 5-7 pm. <https://stigmafree.art/>

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

CALDWELL GALLERY Hudson, 355 Warren St. Fri-Sun 11 am-5 pm. 518 828-7087, jay@caldwelldwellgalleryhudson.com.

CARRIE HADDAD Gallery, 622 Warren St, Hudson. Unexpected Light, featuring four artists: Jane Bloodgood-Abrams, Harry Orlyk, Leigh Palmer and Regina Quinn, December 6-January 26. Gallery closed for Winter Break, January 27-February 9. 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. 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. Tue-Sun, 10 am-4 pm. clarkart.edu.

CLAVERACK LIBRARY, 9 Rt 9H. Columbia County Plain Air Artists. 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.

CREATE GALLERY, 398 Main St, Catskill. What We Hold: Stories and Objects, January 17-March 9. Opening reception January 17. Fridays 4-7 pm; Saturdays and Sundays 11 am-6pm. www.createcouncil.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. 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. flowchartfoundation.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.

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. hudsonarealibrary.org.

HUDSON HALL, 327 Warren St. Michel Goldberg, solo exhibition, February 1-March 23. Opening reception: February 1. 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, 119 Rodman Road, Hillsdale. By appt. jdamiangallery@gmail.com. **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. shakermuseum.us/kinderhook-knittingmill.com.

LABspace, 2642 Rt 23, Hillsdale. Sat & Sun 1-5 pm, no appt necessary. julielabspace@gmail.com. 917 749-2857.

LIGHTFORMS Art Center, 743 Columbia St, Hudson. 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.

NORMAN ROCKWELL Museum, 9 Glendale Rd / Rt 183, Stockbridge, MA. 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. A Closer Look, November 24-March 30. 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. Open Mondays and Wednesdays 1-7 pm, Tuesdays and Fridays 1-5 pm, Thursdays and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm and is closed Sundays. 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, Hillsdale. Clair de Lune, traditional ink on paper drawings by Edwing Gomez Flores. Open library hours. roejanlibrary.org.

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

SEPTEMBER Gallery, 4 Hudson St #3, Kinderhook. Fri-Sat 11am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. Kristen@septembergallery.com.

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

THE SPARK OF HUDSON, 502 Union St, Hudson. www.sparkof-hudson.org

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. Janus: Between Two Worlds, curated by Katharine Dufault, January 9-March 2. Opening reception Saturday, January 11, 4-6 pm. Thurs-Mon, 11 am-5 pm. susan-eleyfineart.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. firstpreshudson.org.



Pickleball 518

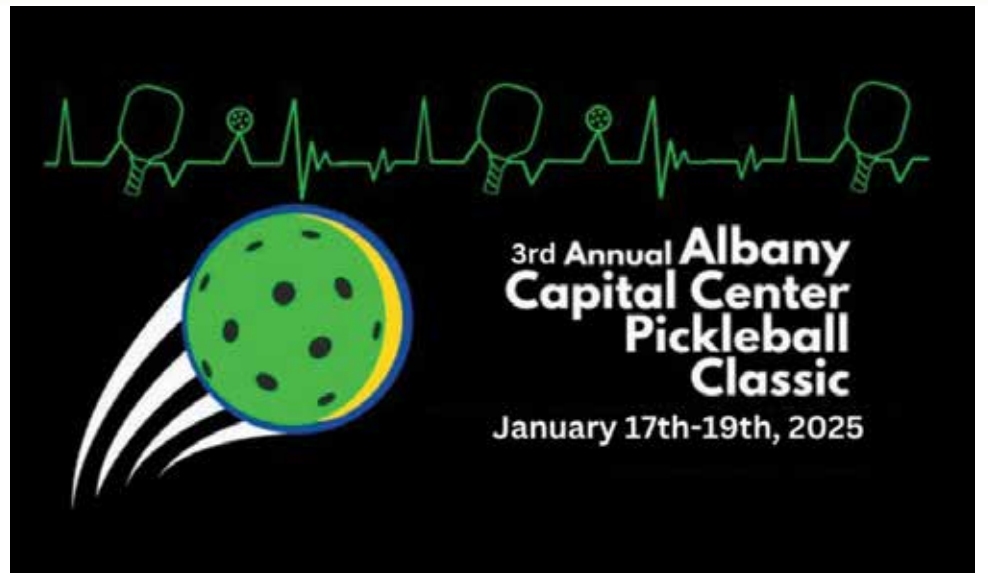
READ FULL STORIES AT
WWW.PICKLEBALL518.COM



MLP TOURNAMENT AT SPORTIME SCHENECTADY

January 11, 2025 • \$180/Team
Intermediate, Advanced divisions.
4 players per team with a team
registration fee.

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE



3RD ANNUAL CAPITAL CENTER PICKLEBALL CLASSIC

January 17-19, 2025 • \$50
Age brackets: 14-49 and 50+.
Registration skill level: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5.
Round Robin with 4 categories

REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE

Follow on Facebook @Pickleball518 • Follow on Instagram @Pickleballmaven

SPONSORED BY



Sponsorship Space Available

CONTACT: MARK P. VINCIGUERRA

518-859-6353 • MARK.VINCIGUERRA@NYVTMEDIA.COM



Obituaries

Beatrice A. Croteau (1934 - 2024)

CLAVERRACK—It is with great sadness that her family announces the passing of Beatrice A. “Babs” Croteau, December 30, 2024, at the age of 90. She was born October 8, 1934 in the Bronx, to Henry and Beatrice (Kasbar) Baxter.



Babs Croteau

After graduating from James Madison High School, the Bronx in 1952, she worked as an executive secretary for the Retail Credit Corporation. The Baxter family spent summers at their home in Copake, where she met her future husband, Henry W. (Hank) Croteau, Jr. She married her soulmate and best friend Hank, April 4, 1959. They settled in Claverack, where they spent the next 65 years in the home they designed and built together.

She was known for her compassion, generosity, love and support for her family and community. She was a member of the Churchtown Fire Auxiliary, Hudson VFW Post 1314 Auxiliary, Hudson American Legion Post 184 Auxiliary, Copake

Grange, Young-at-Hearters Senior Group, Hudson Masonic Lodge #7 Blood Bank, the Church of St. John in the Wilderness Birthday Candle Fund and Christmas Friends. She was instrumental in coordinating numerous fundraising events for the Hudson Masonic Lodge #7.

In addition to her community work, she had a great passion for genealogy and was a member of the Hendrick Hudson Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution for more than 40 years and was especially proud to be a member of the Descendants of George Washington Association.

She was a devoted and loving wife, daughter, sister, aunt cousin, and friend. She

was a beautiful soul who would help anyone in need and will be sincerely missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by: her husband; sister-in-law, Dorothy Avery of Claverack; niece, Sarah Baxter of Norwich, CT; nephew, Richard Baxter and wife Ruth Baxter of Lyme, CT, and Copake; niece, Judy Snow of Claverack; niece, Nancy O'Day of Cohoes; nephew, Keith Avery of Claverack; several great-nieces and -nephews and beloved cousins.

She was predeceased by: her parents; her brother, Henri Baxter; sister-in-law, Jennie Baxter (Davi) and brother-in-law, Ralph Avery.

Visitation was held Sunday, January 5, 2025 at Peck and Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22 Copake. Funeral services were held Monday, January 6, 2025 at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Episcopal, in Copake Falls. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

Helen R. Tomlin (1918 - 2024)

HUDSON—Helen Ruth (Cuthbert) Tomlin of the Firefighter's Home in Hudson died Sunday, December 22, 2024 at the age of 106. She was the daughter of Emma S. (Mauger) Cuthbert and Harry L. Cuthbert, born in Altoona, PA. She worked as a licensed practical nurse, both in New York and Florida until her retirement. She was a lifelong member of East Taghkanic Evangelical Lutheran Church and attended Lutheran churches in both Churchtown and Castleton.



Helen Tomlin

She is survived by: her son, Hugh Kromer of Craryville; daughter, Priscilla Tomlin of Las Vegas, NV; her grandchildren, Hugh Kromer (Liz), Lee Ann Kromer Alessi (Joe), Joseph Kromer (Jean), Caroline Kromer, Robin Kromer Harpiss (Paul), James

Kromer, James Tomlin (Molly), William Tomlin (Antoinette), Amy Tomlin Zatlukal (Michael), Sally Tomlin Stevenson; 23 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; nieces; Lois Tyler, Deb Mull, Amy Cozzolino and Sheila Stella.

She was predeceased by: her first husband, Charles Kromer; her second husband, John Tomlin; her son, Kenneth Charles Kromer and daughter-in-law, Frances G. Kromer; her son, Lawrence P. Tomlin; her daughter-in-law, JoAnn Kromer; grandson, Kenneth

Kromer, Jr.; her sister, Mildred Tyler; and niece, Wilma Griffin.

She was a resident of the Firefighters Home in Hudson for the past 16 years, where she enjoyed doing all the activities, having parties and her visitors. Her family thanks the staff at the Firefighter's Home for the care and kindness they showed her.

Memorial services were held January 4 at the Firefighter's Home, Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her name may be made to the Firefighters Home, Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson. Arrangements were with the Thomas P. Mooney Funeral Home, 11 Elm Street, Nassau, mooneyfuneral-home.com

Daphne R. Small (1927 - 2025)

HUDSON—Daphne Rebecca Small, 97, of Hudson passed away peacefully Thursday, January 2, 2025. She was born June 1, 1927 in Manchester, Jamaica West Indies to Haratio and Rebecca Powell. She was the last of seven siblings who have passed away. In 1967, she came to the United States of America doing domestic work at Phylis Archer. She went on to work at Sterling Winthrop until it closed and then she went to work at Eden Park Nursing Home in Hudson. She later worked at Hudson Correctional Facility and then Hudson City Hall, until she retired.



Daphne Small

She had: five children, Stephanie Virgo of Hudson, Thyrone (deceased), Jeffrey Small “Jafari,” Gary Small (deceased), Charm Watson of Albany; four grandchildren, Gary, Omid, Kayland and Tamia and three great-grandchildren, Gary, Gianna and Milan and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be

held at St. Mary's Church, 429 East Allen Street, Hudson, 10 a.m. Monday, January 13, 2025 followed by burial at Cedar Park Cemetery. A repast will be held at State Street AME Zion Church, 201 State Street, Hudson. Leave condolences at www.batesanderson.com.

Neil J. Beynart (1961 - 2024)



Neil Beynart

HUDSON—Neil Justin Beynart died December 16, 2024. He was born February 11, 1961 in Taunton, MA. He was diagnosed with Down Syndrome immediately. His parents, John Beynart and Arline Beynart (born Kittle) were advised by the doctors and health care workers at the hospital to put him into a home immediately. They had three young children at home and the feeling was that this was the best step for the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Beynart sought counseling with their parish priest in North Dighton, MA. The priest informed them of the perspective of the Catholic Church which is that these children are a gift. The priest counseled them to keep him at home, which they did.

When he was four-years-

old, his family moved back to Columbia County which is where his parents were born and raised. His parents started talking with other families in the county who had disabled children. Their experience was that education and other services were lacking in the county for disabled kids and their families. Mr. and Mrs. Beynart became active members of the Association for Retarded Children and through their efforts and the efforts of many other families in the county, Coarc was born.

He was a happy kid. His

nickname at home was “Neil-O.”

He was educated in the BOCES program in Columbia County. He started attending programs provided by Coarc after he graduated from BOCES. He worked in the sheltered workshop run by Coarc and at the age of 27, he moved into a Coarc group home in Chatham.

He lived in Chatham until his health and mood started to decline, then he was moved to the Lake Street facility in Valatie.

He will always be remembered by his family and friends as a charming, happy man. There was a service for him at the Bates and Anderson Funeral Home, Green Street, Hudson, January 6 followed by interment in Cedar Park Cemetery.

Ellen M. Borrelle (1936 - 2025)



Ellen Borrelle

HUDSON—Ellen Marie Borrelle, 88, (nee Decker) of Hudson passed away peacefully Friday, January 3, 2025.

She lived a life of faith, family and fun. She will be deeply missed by her family, her friends and the Hudson community.

She was a devoted member of the St. Mary's/Holy Trinity community and served through her active participation in the Catholic Daughters of America with a term as its first vice regent. She was also an adorer of the Our Lady of Victory Chapel.

She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hudson Elks Lodge No. 787 and served as its president for a term.

She enjoyed traveling across the United States and Europe and occasional trips to the casino with Donna June, her best friend.

“Now, as we bid farewell

to our beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, we take comfort in knowing that she is reunited with her beloved Bobby and her other loved ones who have gone before. And we pray, in the words of the Irish Blessing, that, until we meet her again, God will hold Ellen Borrelle in the palm of His hand. May she rest in peace.”

She was predeceased by: her dear parents, Gertrude and Gilbert Decker; her beloved husband, Robert J. Borrelle, and his parents, Frank and Ana Borrelle. She is survived by: her daughters, Susan M. Waddell of Coral Springs,

FL, and Sandra J. Borrelle of New York City; her son, Michael R. Borrelle (Kelly) of Red Hook; her grandchildren, Anthony R. Waddell (Katlyn) of Fort Stewart, GA, Ava Y. and Kate N. Borrelle of Red Hook; her brother, Gilbert Decker of Miami, FL; her sister, Maureen Perkins of East Greenbush and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Trinity Church, 429 East Allen Street, Hudson, January 7, 2025, followed by interment at Cedar Park Cemetery, Hudson.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society. <https://donate.cancer.org/?campaign=honormemorialbutton&lang=en>

Arrangements were with the Bates & Anderson Funeral Home, 110 Green Street, Hudson.



SUBSCRIBE ONLINE? NOW YOU CAN!

Go to www.theupstater.com

BE A HERO GIVE BLOOD

Visit redcrossblood.org or call **1 800 733-2767**

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

EPIGRAPH BOOKS
Paperback: \$14.95 Kindle: \$9.99

FOR EVERY PATIENT AND EVERY FAMILY MEMBER WE'RE THERE FOR YOU.

Call Today: 724-0242
communityhospice.org

Find us on Facebook
facebook.com/TheCommunityHospice

THE COMMUNITY HOSPICE

Obituaries

Helen T. Lynch (1942 - 2024)

VALATIE—Helen T. Lynch, 82, of Valatie, formerly of Troy, departed this life peacefully December 31, 2024.

She was born in Troy, April 12, 1942. She was the daughter of the late Francis “Frank” and Mary Frances (Gainey) Ryan.

She was raised in Troy where she received her education and graduated high school. She has since resided in Latham, Florida, and lastly, Valatie. She was formerly employed by the State of New York in the Taxation and Finance Department.

She was the devoted and beloved wife of 54 years to the late William F. Lynch. Their union began



Helen Lynch

November 10, 1962 at St. Joseph's Church in Troy and sadly ended with Mr. Lynch's death June 11, 2016.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her two daughters and their spouses, Kimberly Brant (John), Kellie Lynch (Jeff Sausville); her four grandchildren, Amanda, Ashley, Jason and Andrew and one great-grandchild, Finnley. Surviving siblings include: Joan Zampino and

Frank Ryan.

In addition to her parents, and husband, she was predeceased by two sisters, Mary Frances Schofield and Catherine Elizabeth “Kay” Curran.

In accordance with her wishes there will be no calling hours or funeral service. Private interment will take place in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Waterford. Cremation arrangements have been entrusted to: Simple Choices, Inc., 218 2nd Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared with the Lynch Family, online at SimpleChoicesCremation.com.

Marian E. Lawrence (1940 - 2025)

VALATIE—It is with great sadness that her children announce the passing of their beloved mother, Marian E. Lawrence, January 3, 2025 at the age of 84 after a courageous battle with a long illness. Born in Albany March 29, 1940, she was daughter of the late Charles and Mary (Swint) Humler. She was also predeceased by her husband of 36 years, Perry Lawrence and her eldest daughter, Mary Smith.

After her time at Albany High School she became a longtime resident of Castleton-on-Hudson with her husband. She spent several years working as a bookbinder while raising three daughters. She retired as a retail store manager in 2001 to care for her terminally-ill husband. She enjoyed several hobbies throughout her life—gar-



Marian Lawrence

dening, cooking, reading and playing Bingo with friends. She was known as a social butterfly who made friends wherever she went with her kindness and down-to-earth nature. Her greatest joy came from spending time with loved ones. She was an amazing mother, “Nana,” and friend who was always there to offer endless love and support. She will be remembered for her generosity, kindness, perseverance and in her final years, immense bravery.

She is survived by: her

daughters, Melissa (Pauly) Hurd, Carlie (Jason) Tompkins; her grandchildren, Danielle Rathbun, Justine Rathbun, Austin Smith and Jaxon Tompkins; several nieces and nephews, friends and her precious cat, Velvet.

Her family expresses their sincere thanks to the staff of 5 Spring at The Wesley Community and Community Hospice for their kindness and compassionate care provided in her final days.

Funeral services will be private for the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations be made in her name to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Arrangements are with the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, 1015 Kinderhook Street (Route 9), Valatie. Send condolences at raymondbondfh.com

Helen M. Baker (1955 - 2025)

ALBANY—Helen Marie Baker, 69, of Valatie passed away Saturday, January 4, 2025 at Albany Medical Center.

She was born October 10, 1955 in Wayne, New Jersey, to Charles and Helen Dougherty. She lived a life marked by love, dedication and service to her family.

Throughout her life, she found joy and fulfillment as a homemaker and farm hand. She had a deep love for horses. She devotedly cared for her loved ones. Her nurturing spirit and tireless work ethic left an indelible mark on all who knew her.

She is lovingly remembered by: her children, William (Tasha) Baker III of Ancramdale, Alice Baker of



Helen Baker

Ancramdale and Mary (David) Gearing of East Chatham; and her cherished grandchildren, William Baker IV, Christina Baker, Mary Elizabeth Baker, Christianna Gearing and Brandon Gearing. Her family was the centerpiece of her life, and she took immense pride and joy in each of their accomplishments and milestones. She also leaves behind: her brothers, David (Janet) Dougherty of Ancramdale,

Richard (Marie) Dougherty of Seldon; a life companion, Giles Shipley of Theresa and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her husband, William Baker, Jr., in 2006; brother, Charles “Chucky” Daugherty; sister, Joan Foley and brother, Thomas Daugherty.

Her warmth, kindness and unwavering dedication to her family will be dearly missed.

Services will be held at the convenience of the family, a celebration of her life will be planned for the spring. Arrangements are with the Peck & Peck Funeral Home. Send condolences at www.peckandpeck.net

PLEASE RECYCLE

THROUGH THE WOODS

By NANCY JANE KERN

Eastern screech-owl

OUR EASTERN SCREECH-OWL is an adorable little bird, about 7-10” long, and easy to overlook. I was driving past a frozen marsh a few years ago and saw a wood duck nest box on a post with what looked like a piece of rag stuffed in the opening. After turning around and taking a better look, it turned out to be a gray phase screech-owl asleep in the sun. It looked so happy and content and possibly digesting a night's catch of mice. The yellow beak is just left of center in the photo and the eyes are dark slits. They have almost perfect camouflage to imitate weathered wood and tree bark and are a common bird, although rarely seen. They are our area's only small owl with ear tufts and have beautiful yellow eyes.

They seek out cavities and holes to nest in and for shelter and are not bothered by human activity. Shelter is necessary, and so is a source of food such as small rodents and birds, amphibians, and insects. The two color phases of the eastern screech-owl, are a rusty “red” phase, or a more common “gray” phase. They sleep during the day and wake up at dusk to feed through the night and then go back to bed at dawn. Like other owls they swallow, then squeeze to digest their prey and later cough up a pellet of indigestible material such as bones, fur, and feathers. They also produce repugnant liquid feces and will defecate as a defense behavior making them difficult to handle. When tamed they can overcome this habit, and rehabilitated screech-owls that can't be released back into the wild are often used for demonstrations and school pro-



Nancy Jane Kern

Screech owl, rough-legged

grams.

Screech-owls have very distinctive calls that are easy to imitate with some practice and are easy to recognize. The first is a descending “whinny” and the other is a quieter, breathy, rapid call on one note. This is so soft it can be difficult to hear. During one memorable outing, several birders went to the Alan Devoe Bird Club's Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary in Old Chatham to call in an evening screech-owl. We stood by the edge of Reilly Pond and watched several likely owl perches as the late Kate Dunham attempted to use her new tape recorder to play the call of the eastern screech-owl. Somehow the recorder was turned to high volume and

let out the mother of all gigantic screech-owl calls. Kate fell back as she tossed the recorder into the air which narrowly missed the pond, and we all went into shock. Upon recovery, we sat on the ground and laughed so hard we cried. I will never forget that night. As for the poor owls, they were not seen or heard for the rest of the summer. They are likely passing that story down to generations of offspring. Birding can be educational and fun for us in many unexpected ways.

For more information and to listen to the screech-owls, go to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology website allaboutbirds.org

THE COLUMBIA
Paper
www.columbiapaper.com

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE?
NOW YOU CAN!

Go to www.theupstater.com

WMHT celebrates milestone with premiere of documentary

ALBANY—WMHT Public Media, a multichannel public communications organization serving Eastern New York and Western New England, has announced plans to celebrate a half-century of reporting from the New York State Capital with the premiere of an original documentary “New York NOW & Then: 50 Years of Service.” The program will debut during a special event, which is free and open to the public, to be held on January 9 at 6:30 p.m. in

WMHT's Studio A in Troy.

The 30-minute documentary traces the history of WMHT's state capital coverage, highlighting the defining individuals, groundbreaking issues, and landmark policies that have shaped New York. It spans the period from the introduction of “Inside Albany” on January 9, 1975 to today's “New York NOW,” the Emmy-winning production that is the only locally owned, independent, non-profit public affairs

program covering New York state government.

The debut event – being held on the 50th anniversary of “Inside Albany's” premiere – includes a preview screening of the documentary, followed by a conversation with the founding host of “Inside Albany” Dave Hepp, and “New York NOW” Managing Editor and Host Shantel Destra.

“For 50 years and counting, WMHT's commitment to providing fair, accurate and comprehensive cover-

age of New York state government has been a cornerstone of this organization,” said Anthony V. Hayes, president and CEO of WMHT Public Media and board chair of the Association for Public Broadcasting Stations (APBS), which represents public broadcasters statewide, in a press release. “We take seriously our responsibility to educate and inform our audience, elevate the public discourse, and ensure that decisions made in Albany represent the best

interests of New Yorkers. We're proud of the legacy we've built, from Inside Albany to New York NOW, and determined to enhance it in the years to come.”

The broadcast debut of “New York NOW & Then: 50 Years of Service” will occur on Friday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. on WMHT in the Capital Region during “New York NOW's” regularly scheduled time slot, and then air throughout the weekend on PBS affiliates across New York. The full

schedule can be viewed at nynow.wmht.org/schedule/. “New York NOW” is also freely available to stream online and via the PBS video app.

Support for “New York NOW” is provided by New York State AFL-CIO and WNET.

For additional details on visit nynow.org. To register for the free screening at WMHT, 4 Global View, Troy, NY, 12180, visit bit.ly/NYN50.

County celebrates Hanukkah with public menorah lighting

HUDSON—Columbia County's public menorah lighting Sunday, December 29 was a vibrant and memorable celebration, marking the community's enduring Jewish pride and the spirit of Hanukkah, according to a press release. The event, hosted by Chabad of Columbia County, took place in Hudson Public Square (Seventh Street Park) with a ceremony and the lighting of a 12-foot menorah.

The celebration was attended by notable dignitaries, including Columbia County Sheriff Donald Krapf, Columbia County Judge Brian Herman, and Hudson Police Chief Mishanda Franklin.

The highlight of the celebration was the lighting of the grand menorah, which was illuminated from the top of an extended fire ladder. In a fun and festive moment for the children, a "Gelt Drop" followed, where traditional Hanukkah chocolate coins were released from the firetruck ladder for eager hands to catch.

The evening concluded with a Holographic Hanukkah Light Show, a



Photo contributed
Rabbi Mendel Kremer addressed those gathered while (l-r) Columbia County Sheriff Donald Krapf, Hudson Police Chief Mishanda Franklin and Columbia County Judge Brian Herman looked on.

dazzling display of lights that symbolized the miracle

of Hanukkah in the most modern and innovative way.

Rabbi Mendel Kremer, director of Chabad of



Photo contributed

The grand menorah was lit from the top of an extended fire ladder.

Columbia County, reflected on the significance of the event in a press release, saying, "This Hanukkah, we gathered to celebrate not only the holiday's miracles but also the strength and resilience of our community."

The celebration was part of Chabad's global Hanukkah campaign, which

this year marks the 50th anniversary of the first public menorah lighting in 1974. Columbia County's menorah joined over 15,000 public menorahs placed around the world, continuing the legacy of promoting Jewish pride and celebrating the victory of light over darkness.

Hinchey delivers short-term rental law for state

ALBANY — New York has taken a historic step in addressing housing challenges and short-term rental transparency with the signing of its first statewide Short-Term Rental Registry into law. Sponsored by Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41st) and Assemblymember Patricia Fahy (D-109th), the legislation (S.885C / A.4130C) is the first-of-its-kind nationwide and a turning point in holding billion-dollar booking platforms, like Airbnb and Vrbo, accountable to the communities where they conduct business. The law offers a new county-by-county look into the explosive growth of the short-term rental industry and is aimed at helping communities across the state manage housing availability and affordability while bringing in owed revenue

from sales taxes and hotel and motel occupancy taxes.

Short-term rentals (STRs) are essential to New York's tourism economy but have also intensified housing challenges by increasing rents, inflating home prices, and depleting available housing stock. Under the new law, booking platforms will report quarterly to the New York State Department of State (DOS) on the number of bookings it facilitates in each county. Counties that choose to create local registries will receive detailed quarterly reports from booking platforms, including rental locations, occupancy nights, guest counts, and taxes collected. This will help ensure local governments have the information they need to effectively balance the needs of the housing mar-

ket and the tourism economy. It will also give local leaders more resources to address their community's most pressing needs: over the last five years, communities in the state have lost up to \$550 million in uncollected sales and occupancy tax revenue, according to All The Rooms.

"The Hudson Valley and communities across New York have been counting on us to get this bill across the finish line, and I'm incredibly proud to say that we've done it," said Senator Hinchey in a press release. "For the first time, communities will have the tools to grasp the true scope of short-term rentals, empowering them to develop strategies to expand stable housing options, increase affordability, and unlock untapped revenue.

Getting this done took serious teamwork with leaders from every level of local government, the tourism and hospitality industry, and housing advocates who worked with us to make sure this bill would strike the right balance between supporting a local economic driver and working toward a future where housing is more accessible and affordable in New York. I'm deeply proud to have led this effort alongside Assemblymember and Senator-Elect Patricia Fahy, and I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for signing our bill into law and championing short-term rental accountability as a key piece of our housing strategy."

"This legislation will finally place short-term rentals on a level playing field alongside hotels and motels and generate

local revenue from visitors that supports county tourism and essential services such as public safety, social services, and infrastructure improvements," said New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) President Benjamin Boylin II, also in the release. "We commend Governor Hochul, Senator Hinchey, and Assemblymember Fahy for their leadership on this issue and for working with counties to reach a compromise that will keep the short-term rental industry strong while also providing local governments with the resources and data they need to address our state's housing crisis and fund essential local services."

Barbara Van Epps, board president of the NYS Conference of Mayors (NYCOM), said, "NYCOM

sincerely thanks Senator Hinchey and Assemblywoman Fahy for their leadership on this critically important issue. This new law will not only level the playing field by ensuring that short-term rentals are subject to the same taxes as other key players in the hospitality industry, but it will also provide our members with the data they need to understand the scope of short-term rentals in their cities and villages. Armed with this information, local leaders will be better equipped to address housing and other economic challenges in their communities."

Executive Director of the Association of Towns Christopher A. Koetzle said, "We are pleased that the governor signed the state's Short Term Rental legislation into law. NYAOT has worked hard in conjunction with bill sponsors and with the governor's office to protect towns' interests and this bill helps protect our communities and helps give our local government the tools they need to enforce local zoning and further protect their residential areas."

Luke Forbes, campaign manager for the Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition, said, "As someone who knows the struggles families face firsthand, I can't stress enough how important it is to protect renters—especially now with rising costs and job shortages. The Short-Term Rental Registry is a crucial step toward making sure families aren't pushed out of their homes. By bringing more transparency and fairness to the hospitality industry, this registry helps ensure communities get the resources they deserve. It's about keeping families in their homes and stopping the kind of displacement that tears communities apart. We need this to make sure our neighborhoods stay strong and stable for the long run."

IMMEDIATE OPENING HVAC TECHNICIAN FULL TIME

QUALIFICATIONS

- EPA Certification
- Minimum 3 years HVAC Experience
- Clean Driver's License

BENEFITS

- Retirement Plan with Matching
- Health Insurance
- Dental
- Generous PTO
- Holiday Uniforms
- Cell Phone
- Training Bonus
- Incentives
- SPIFF Rewards

COMPENSATION

Pay scale \$23-\$35 hourly. Ninety days raise review. Factors such as candidate's demonstration of hard and soft skills, level of education and certifications, as well as history in the industry and relevant work experience will all be evaluated.

Qualified candidates can email their resume with references to Randy@Ca-Albright.com or drop it off in person at our office in Hannacroix NY during our normal business hours:

Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm



13640 RT. 9W, HANNACROIX, NY • 518-756-3127

This is when you need to advertise.



IN PRINT & ONLINE
518.545.8441
marlene.mctigue@nyvtmedia.com

WWW.COLUMBIAPAPER.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Items wanted
COLUMBIA COUNTY HABITAT ReStore is looking for donations. Are you doing home improvements? Do you have appliances, building materials, bathroom fixtures or kitchen cabinets that you are pulling out of your home or building site? Please email donations@hudsonrestore.org with pictures of items to be donated.



FINANCING AVAILABLE
HUBERENTERPRISESINC.COM



CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING
DUCTLESS AIR CONDITIONING AND HEAT PUMPS
HEATING SYSTEMS - NATURAL GAS, PROPANE AND OIL
HOT WATER HEATERS
WELL PUMPS
WATER TREATMENT



Contact Us:

NEWS:
Press Releases & News Tips
news@columbiapaper.com

LETTERS to the Editor:
letters@columbiapaper.com

ADVERTISING:
Contact **Marlene McTigue**
Marlene.McTigue@nyvtmedia.com
518 545-8441

SUBSCRIPTIONS:
Contact **Kathy Vinciguerra**
Kathy.Vinciguerra@nyvtmedia.com
or go to theupstater.com

OBITUARIES:
Obits Desk
obits@columbiapaper.com