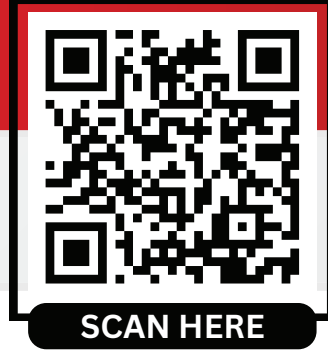
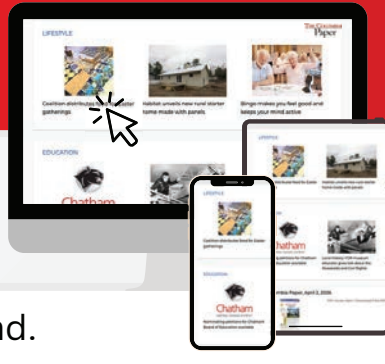


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THE COLUMBIA Paper

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The Columbia Paper launches dedicated website, TheColumbiaPaper.com

COLUMBIA COUNTY — The Columbia Paper is proud to announce the launch of its new, stand-alone website, TheColumbiaPaper.com, marking an important step forward in expanding access to trusted local journalism. Previously hosted as part of NYVmedia.com, The Columbia Paper's con-

Continued on Page A7



David Lee

The Bunny adds some healthy snacks to the egg hunt

The North Chatham United Methodist Church at 4274 Route 203 held an Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 4. Lori Tillman says she has organized the event for about 30 years. Kids rushed from the back parking lot to the lawns in front of the church. 2-1/2 year old Alice Root finds a treat of Gold Fish in the grass. The Easter Bunny left some healthy snacks in addition to the usual chocolates and skittles. For more photos of egg hunts and spring fun, see page A13 of this issue.


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Housing Update, part 2: Habitat is hopping and tax breaks are possible but permitting is slow and projects face opposition

By DEBORAH E. LANS
COLUMBIA COUNTY — From two key data points — pricing and supply — not much is new in the county housing market. During 2025 the median home price rose, yet again, this time by 9.9%, to \$527,450, the steepest rise by percentage of any Hudson Valley county. (Both statistics were charted by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress.)

Continued on Page A7

Planners find tower presents no major adverse impacts

By DIANE VALDEN
ANCRAM — The controversial proposed cell tower in the town's most prized scenic corridor has moved a step closer to reality. The Planning Board has determined that the 100-foot-high monopole wireless telecommunications facility (a/k/a cell tower) proposed by applicants Homeland Towers, LLC, and Verizon Wireless to be installed at 6534 State Route 22 on Willow Brook Farm in the town's Scenic Corridor Overlay Zone (SCOZ), will have no significant adverse environmental impacts. A majority of the Planning Board members present at the April 2 meeting voted in favor of a resolution to that effect, which means that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be required for the project. "A determination of significance is the most critical step in the environmental review process under [the State Environmental Quality Review Act] SEQRA," according to the draft Negative Declaration document prepared by the town's environmental land use attorneys, John Lyons, Esq. and Kimberly Garrison, Esq., of the firm of Grant & Lyons, LLP. The applicants initially submitted an application for a site plan review and special use permit to the Planning Board to install a 150 foot wireless telecommunication tower in February 2025, then submitted a revised application, which reduced the telecommunication tower height to 100 feet in August 2025. The agricultural property where the tower is to be located is a total 153 acres in area. The area of land to be physically disturbed by this project is 0.23 acre. A cell tower up to a maximum of 100-foot high is a permitted use in the SCOZ. Many area residents have voiced opposition to the project over many months citing visual impacts to the landscape, no proof that there is really a lack of cell service in the area and that satellite technology has already replaced the need for cell towers, among other things. The public hearing on the project remained

Continued on Page A7

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GOOD NEWS STORIES

Chatham Central School District earns insurer's top safety award



Emma Johnson.

Photo contributed

Questar III BOCES names Emma Johnson director of health and safety

CASTLETON — Questar III BOCES is pleased to announce the appointment of Emma Johnson as its new director of health and safety.

“Emma Johnson has a background in public health, emergency management, and school safety,” Questar III BOCES Superintendent Gladys I. Cruz said in a press release. “Her experience supporting K-12 schools across the country, combined with her background in state-level health and safety initiatives, will assist us in providing safe, supportive learning environments for students, staff, and component school districts.”

Ms. Johnson holds a master of Public Administration with a dual focus in Emergency Management and Public Health Policy, as well as a post-graduate certificate in Threat Assessment and Management in K-12 Schools. Her career has focused on advancing health and safety across a range of settings, with a strong emphasis on education and public service.

Most recently she served as a health, safety, security, and emergency services provider for K-12 schools nationwide, working primarily with independent and charter schools. In this role, she supported school communities in preparing for and responding to a wide range of safety and public health challenges.

Prior to that, she worked with the New York State Department of Health as a Program Administrator in the Occupational Health and Safety unit, supporting initiatives designed to protect employees and facilities across the state. She began her career with the New York State Division of the Budget, where she focused on public health

programs through grant and fiscal management.

Ms. Johnson stated that her interest in health and safety is rooted in a long-standing drive to work in dynamic environments where preparation and teamwork are critical.

“I’ve always been energized by fast-paced, ever-changing environments where preparation, teamwork, and quick thinking truly make a difference,” she said, also in the release. “That mindset naturally guided me toward public health, safety, and emergency management. I’m drawn to the constant evolution of the field, the opportunity to collaborate with dedicated teams, and the ability to make a real, meaningful impact when it matters most.”

She noted that her connection to education is both professional and personal.

“Education has always been a meaningful part of my life,” Ms. Johnson said, adding that both of her parents are educators and leaders. “After having the opportunity to support schools nationwide, it’s especially exciting and rewarding to bring that experience back home to the Capital Region.”

Throughout her career, Johnson has partnered with a wide range of schools and programs, navigating complex challenges such as crisis response and public health emergencies. She noted that those experiences have strengthened her ability to lead with confidence, remain adaptable, and support teams in high-pressure situations.

Together, her professional expertise and personal connection to education position her to lead Questar III’s health and safety efforts and support schools in maintaining safe, secure, and responsive learning environments.

CHATHAM — The Utica National Insurance Group has given Chatham Central School District its highest award for safety excellence. Utica National, which insures more than 300 school districts in NYS, presented Chatham with the Titanium with Honors School Safety Excellence Award at its annual school safety seminar in Saratoga on March 25. Along with a framed certificate commemorating the District’s ongoing safety efforts, Utica National presented Chatham with a \$500 grant to use in furthering safety at the District.

“Safety and health concerns continue to be a priority in our school districts,” explained Mark Angelucci, senior vice president and head of Utica National’s Specialty Lines, in a press release. “Districts that go ‘above and beyond’ to provide a safe, healthy and focused culture for learning are to be applauded, and we’re pleased to count

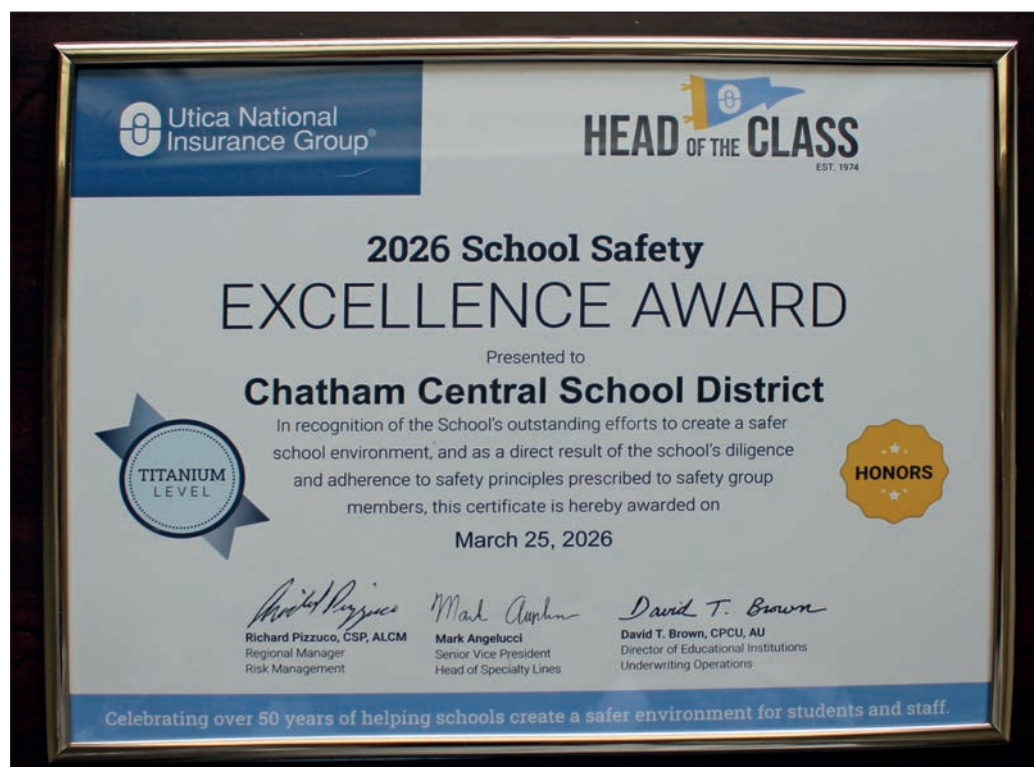


Photo contributed

CCSD’s Utica National Titanium with Honors School Safety Excellence Award.

Chatham Central Schools District among them.”

In Utica National’s Safety Excellence Award program, schools can earn meritorious distinction at three levels — titanium, platinum, or gold,

by meeting specific criteria that enhance overall school safety. Utica National evaluates schools in categories such as bullying prevention programs, playground safety, transportation safety, and

other areas using specific, quantifiable surveys.

Chatham CSD has earned the Titanium-level award each year since 2013, and earned the Platinum-level award in 2012.

DEC announces grants to control invasive species and restore damaged habitats

ALBANY — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Amanda Lefton has announced more than \$5.1 million to reduce the negative impacts of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species on natural resources, infrastructure, agriculture, and local economies. The 51 awarded projects will strengthen prevention, early detection, rapid response, management, and restoration efforts statewide, supporting long-term ecosystem health, economic stability, and community wellbeing.

“Managing invasive species and mitigating their negative impacts to our lands and waters is essential to the environment, public health, and quality of life,” said Commissioner Lefton in a press release. “Investing in science-based management and strong local partnerships

is strengthening New York’s efforts to combat invasive species, protect biodiversity, build more resilient ecosystems, and protect our forests, waters, farms, and communities.”

Projects are spread across four categories:

- \$467,810 for 6 aquatic invasive species (AIS) to spread prevention or boat decontamination projects that will use boat stewards and/or decontamination equipment at boat launches and along travel corridors to educate boaters and intercept AIS before watercraft are launched into new waterbodies
- \$1,664,197 for 18 invasive species early detection/rapid response and control (terrestrial and aquatic) projects to support the removal of invasive species through physical and mechanical removal, chemical treatments, and biocontrol release
- \$699,142 for 8 invasive species research projects to help improve invasive species control methodologies
- \$2,286,727 for 19 invasive species restoration and resiliency projects to facilitate native plant recovery, restore habitat structure, and implement measures to enhance ecosystem resiliency.

Project will restore heavily degraded forest structure in Hudson Highlands State Park which is currently dominated by mugwort.

The grants announced are supported by the State’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Governor Hochul’s 2026–27 Executive Budget proposes a record \$425 million for the EPF, a critical resource for environmental programs such as land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, recreation access, water quality improvement, and environmental justice projects.

The Invasive Species Grant Program is administered by the Bureau of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health in DEC’s Division of Lands and Forests. For more information, visit DEC’s website at <https://dec.ny.gov>.

- Awarded projects by region include:
- Town of Chatham: \$41,250—Project will focus on removing a stand of phragmites that is rapidly encircling a public pond and restoring a once flourishing and diverse native habitat
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: \$86,573—Project will focus on the development of a tool to improve the efficiency of AIS detection at boat wash and inspection stations
- Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc.: \$67,022—

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Warren Dews Jr., *Publisher*
Melanie Lekocevic, *Executive Editor*
Parry Teasdale, *Publishing Consultant*
Emilia Teasdale, *Managing Editor*
Diane Valden, *Associate Editor*
David Lee, *Photographer*

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

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Residents make comments, express concerns to town's comp plan committee

By PETER FLIERL

CANAAN — Mary Keegan, chair of the Canaan Comprehensive Town Plan Committee, led a public hearing regarding the plan on Saturday, March 28 for just over 100 minutes attended by 80 people and several more via Zoom. Comments were limited to two minutes.

The proposed Town of Canaan Comprehensive Town Plan opens on its first page with a picture of Queechy Lake looking west with a rainbow. Comments focused on the impact of the sale of Berkshire Farm and its 1,004 acres by Together for Youth, the largest provider of foster care and other youth services in New York State.

Property on the east side of Route 22 includes a variety of buildings suitable for development as affordable housing for seniors, disabled, and workforce families. Its watershed feeds into Queechy Lake. This explains the many recommendations that the town conduct its own environmental impact study (EIS) of potential development.

Queechy Lake homeowners and residents expressed concern about lake water quality, impact of new housing, loss of shoreline, and crowding safety issues with expanded boating. Some expressed a need to do an EIS before adoption of the plan, while others were ready for plan adoption now followed by a town EIS.

The rainbow at the front of the plan perhaps is a foreshadowing of an anonymous donor making it possible to maintain control of Adams Point beach and the summer swim program. It is also worth noting that when the non-profit Together for Youth sells their property, the land and buildings will be added to tax rolls.

Members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee include: Mary Keegan, Chair, Ashley Garrett, Pierre Gontes, Monashin Paul Naanon, Thomas Platten, and Carrie Whitman.

Information about the plan is on the town's website at <https://canaannewyork.org/comprehensive-plan-meeting-minutes/>

Taking the next steps in space exploration: Artemis II is the first flight to the moon in more than 53 years

By DOUG La ROCQUE
Renss Lens

TROY — The Artemis II space flight is on its way home, after making an orbit around the moon and going deeper into space than any other human ever has.

The mission is commanded by 47-year-old Reid Wiseman, a Baltimore, MD native and a 1997 graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in Troy. Commander Wiseman was selected for the astronaut program in 2009 and spent 165 days aboard the International Space Station in 2014.

He has said of RPI, "It prepared me to be an astronaut" and has often spoken of how the school helped him to develop "failure resistance." As for the Artemis II mission, Mr. Wiseman has noted how proud he is to command the first flight to the moon since December of 1972. He



Photos contributed

Artemis II Commander Reid Wiseman

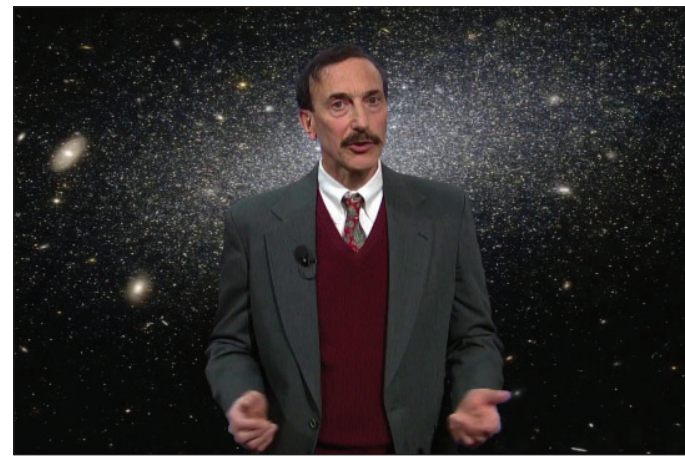
describes their mission as a critical milestone, testing key systems and paving the way for the first Artemis lunar landing, expected to take place in 2028.

Why so long to go back?

That is one of the questions we posed to Hudson Valley Community College Assistant Professor Richard

Monda. He says after the Apollo 17 mission, many thought the cost of space exploration was just too great. Prof. Monda added after the sixth moon landing, the public's interest began to wane and with it, the political will to spend more money.

The professor says the Artemis program has many goals, not only returning to the moon but it is hoped it



Photos contributed

Hudson Valley Community College Assistant Professor Richard Monda

will eventually lead to the first human flight to Mars, sometime in the 2040s. He tells the Renss Lens the plan is to potentially develop a base on the moon that might be a jumping off point to a journey to the red planet. Prof. Monda says the flight of Artemis II is truly just a beginning of the resumption of space exploration.

What will we find out there?

First and foremost, water. Decades of research led to the confirmed evidence of water on the moon in 2020. NASA has also spoken of the presence of small amounts of water vapor on the surface of Mars and that liquid water may be present under the surface. Does that mean organic life as

we know it exists on either celestial body? Prof. Monda says perhaps, but certainly not life in a human form.

The spacecraft that have done fly-bys of Mars and sent back pictures of the surface did not show any little green men waving hello.

But what about further out in space. Prof. Monda says anything is possible. Our current levels of space knowledge do not indicate such but our solar system is such a minuscule part of our galaxy and our space telescopes can only see so far. He was asked if he believes there might be other life forms beyond our current levels of comprehension? He called it the enduring question. One he does not have a definitive answer to but also a possibility he would not rule out.

To follow the Artemis missions, go to <https://www.nasa.gov/humans-in-space/artemis/>

Roots and Horizons: Clayton finds purpose, community at C-GCC

By MARLENE McTIGUE

IN THE LATEST installment of Roots and Horizons, Columbia-Greene Community College (C-GCC) biology professor Margaret Clayton reflects on the winding path that brought her back to the Hudson Valley and the perspective she now brings to her students.

Clayton knows something about not taking the straight path.

Before becoming an assistant professor of biology at C-GCC, Clayton moved through a series of schools, cities and professional roles that, in hindsight, gave her exactly the perspective she now brings to the classroom.

A Rhinebeck native who now lives in Germantown, Clayton grew up in the Hudson Valley, spent much of her adult life away, and returned to the region around the time of the pandemic after years in New York City and California.

"We had forest fires for four years in a row," she said. "After evacuating with pets and a baby, I decided I'll take snow."



Photo contributed

Margaret Clayton, assistant professor of biology at Columbia-Greene Community College, emphasizes real-world science and practical understanding in her lab classes.

That decision brought her back to Columbia County and, eventually, to

Columbia-Greene Community College, where she first began adjuncting before joining the faculty full time in fall 2025.

Now in her first academic year as a full-time faculty member at C-GCC, Clayton has found a place that reflects many of the values she discovered along the way.

Her own path was far from linear. She attended Bard College for a year, then North Carolina State

University, before ultimately finding her academic home at Barnard College, the women's college of Columbia University, where she earned a degree in biological sciences. She later earned a master of science in nutrition education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

Barnard, she said, was "the best place I could have landed."

"It was just a remarkable place to be," Clayton said. "Really nurturing. It gives you the confidence to do anything you want to do."

She said the environment there was both rigorous and deeply supportive, with an expectation that students would succeed and go on to do meaningful work in the world. That combination left a lasting impression.

That sense of belonging and support is something she now sees echoed at C-GCC.

"I love it here," she said. "I think the community is really great."

Clayton teaches chemistry, human biology and an online course titled Chemistry of Food, Drugs and Behavior, which reflects the intersection of her interests in science, nutrition and behavioral health.

It is also where one of her strongest passions comes through.

In a world saturated with misinformation about diet and health, Clayton emphasizes the importance of understanding what we put into our bodies and why it matters. Rather than quick

fixes or trending advice, she returns to fundamentals grounded in science.

"There's so much misinformation," she said. "I think teaching students how to find valid and evidence-based information is really important."

That work is not theoretical for her. In addition to her teaching role, she continues to work for Crestwood Behavioral Health, where she serves as director of nutrition and wellness.

In that role, she developed a heart-healthy menu system for behavioral health facilities designed to meet the needs of multiple therapeutic diets while allowing meals to be prepared from scratch. The program, she said, has helped improve health outcomes, including lowering long-term blood sugar levels.

At its core, she said, the message is simple, even if it is often overlooked.

"Eat food, mostly plants, not too much," she said, referencing author Michael Pollan.

Her approach to teaching is rooted not only in science, but in an awareness of the realities her students face.

At Columbia-Greene, she said, she has found a campus culture that recognizes the complexity of students' lives, whether they are balancing work, raising children or returning to school after years away.

"We have such a diverse student body here," she said. "We have people who

have been in the workforce and are returning to do something else. We have parents. We have people with all different backgrounds."

That perspective became especially clear in one moment that has stayed with her.

After becoming frustrated with a student who had missed several classes, Clayton later learned the student was in the middle of a custody battle and missing school to attend court proceedings.

"All of a sudden, my thoughts about her just flipped," she said. "What's more important than class? Well, your children."

It was a reminder, she said, that students often carry burdens that are not immediately visible.

"We're just seeing the tip of the iceberg," she said.

That awareness shapes the kind of educator Clayton strives to be, one who holds expectations but also understands context.

For someone whose own journey included uncertainty, transfer and rediscovery, that perspective carries weight.

With a 20-minute commute and a campus community she values, Clayton appears to have found a place where her experiences come together with purpose.

"I like places that have that sense of community," she said, "where we're here to support each other and lead by example and do our best."



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Four dead, three injured in Claverack head-on crash

By DIANE VALDEN

CLAVERRACK — Four people were killed and three others hurt, including a one-year-old child, in a devastating crash at 5991 Route 9H/23, just south of Van Wyck Lane, April 6 at 6:58 p.m.

According to a press release from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, deputies were dispatched to the scene by Columbia County 911. They determined that a 2009 Toyota Prius, operated by 29-year-old Nazmul Robel of Loudonville was traveling northbound on State Route 9H/23 when, for unknown reasons, the car crossed over the center line and struck a 2025 Toyota Crown that was headed south.

The Prius driver, Mr. Robel was pronounced dead at the scene. In addition to Mr. Robel, the Toyota Prius was occupied by four additional passengers. 60-year-old Mohammed Heramon of the Bronx and 25-year-old Fahim Halim of the Bronx in the Prius were pronounced dead at the scene. 33-year-old Fatima Akter of the Bronx was taken by ambulance to Albany Medical Center and remains in critical but stable condition. Also, a one-year-old female child passenger was taken by Life Net helicopter to Albany Medical Center where she remains in critical condition.

The Toyota Crown was operated by 24-year-old Luka Palvenian of Brooklyn, who was transported by ambulance to Albany Medical Center and was later released. In addition to Mr. Palvenian, the Toyota Crown was occupied by 62-year-old Julia Ritchie of Stockport, a passenger, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

The accident remains under investigation by Sheriff's deputies, Sheriff's investigators and the Sheriff's Office Accident Investigation Team.

The Sheriff's Office did not release any of the names of those involved in the crash.

Also responding to the crash and assisting with the investigation were: New York State Police, Claverack Fire Company, Livingston Fire Company, Greenport Rescue Squad, Valatie Rescue Squad, Chatham Rescue Squad, Life Net and the Columbia County Coroner's Office.

State Route 9H was closed for about four hours.

Units cleared from the scene at 2:04 a.m. April 7, according to 911. Anyone with information about the accident is asked to contact 518-828-3344.

Ancram

The Ancram Fire Company, with automatic mutual aid from Copake and Taghkanic, was called to a structure fire in a house at 200 Wiltsie Bridge Road, April 6 at 7:34 p.m.

The house is reportedly a family residence at Kinnitty Capall Stables, a private, full-service boarding and training facility on 100 acres, owned and operated by the Moloney family.

Arriving command confirmed the fully-involved structure fire, and requested Craryville with tanker and rescue and Hillsdale with tanker. Millerton stood by in Copake's quarters and Pine Plains stood by at the Ancram station.

Smoke could be seen billowing in the sky from miles away. Units were clear from the scene at 12:53 a.m. April 7. No injuries were reported.



Lance Wheeler

The scene of a deadly two-vehicle crash on Route 9H/23 in Claverack.

Hudson

City Police found a missing two-year-old child safe and sound.

On March 18, the City of Hudson Police Department received a request for assistance in a parental absconding case involving a missing two-year-old child originating in Broward County, Florida, police said in a March 31 press release.

The request came from ChildNet, Inc, a community-based care provider for the Florida Department of Children and Families, which conducted a nationwide investigative search, leading them to believe the child and parent were residing in the City of Hudson. The child was reported missing January 21.

The Hudson Police Department's Patrol and Detective Divisions immediately initiated an investigation and coordinated efforts with the New York State Police and Columbia County Department of Social Services-Child Protective Services Unit. Multiple welfare checks were conducted throughout the City of Hudson.

As a result of the investigation, HPD and the New York State Police identified

the possible location of the child and parent. On March 23 both were safely located and taken into protective custody. The child was subsequently placed with the Columbia County Department of Social Services and custody was later transferred to the State of Florida.

Review of the case by the Columbia County District Attorney's Office and HPD resulted in criminal charges being filed against a family member for obstructing governmental administration. Due to the involvement of a minor and the sensitive nature of the case, police did not release any additional identifying information.

Germantown

A Hudson man was arrested for DWI following a Route 9G crash. March 29 at 8:08 p.m., State Police at Livingston were dispatched by Columbia County 911 to the area of 4721 State Route 9G in Germantown for a reported one-car collision with injuries.

An investigation determined that a 2023 Subaru, operated by Carlos Yonatan Chavaloc, 21, of Hudson was traveling

southbound on State Route 9G when the vehicle exited the roadway, hit a guide rail and continued into a wooded area, where it struck a tree before coming to rest.

A passenger in the vehicle was airlifted to Albany Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries. Mr. Chavaloc was treated at the scene for complaints of pain and released.

During the investigation, police say Mr. Chavaloc displayed signs of intoxication. Standardized Field Sobriety Tests were administered, which he subsequently failed. He was taken into custody and transported to SP Livingston for processing, where he submitted a chemical breath test that yielded a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.13%.

As a result of the investigation, Mr. Chavaloc was charged with: driving while intoxicated, an unclassified misdemeanor and operating a motor vehicle with a BAC of 0.08% or higher, an unclassified misdemeanor or Mr. Chavaloc was issued an appearance ticket returnable in Germantown Court May 13.

Greenport

Members of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office Drug Enforcement Unit, criminal investigative branch, and uniformed deputies executed a search warrant at 141 State Route 23B in Greenport, March 26. The warrant was also executed upon a 2016 black Jeep Compass. During the execution of the warrant, a quantity of crack cocaine was recovered as well as a digital scale and packaging. As a result of the ongoing investigation,

Jermaine D. Washington, 45, was arrested March 30 and charged with one count each of third degree criminal possession of a controlled substance (intent to sell) B felony and fourth degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, C felony. Mr. Washington was arraigned in Claverack Court before Justice Michael Brandon and sent to the Columbia County Jail without bail. A preliminary hearing was scheduled April 3.

The Columbia County District Attorney's Office assisted in this investigation.

Anyone with information regarding criminal activity may contact the Sheriff's Office tip line at 518-822-8477 or access crime tips at www.columbia-county-sheriff.us. Individuals may remain anonymous.

East Chatham

One person was hurt in a one-vehicle crash on Route 295 in the area of Elliott Road, April 4 at 3:49 p.m.

East Chatham Fire, Chatham Rescue and State Police were called to the scene.

State Police report that a 2014 Honda Pilot, operated by Douglas Westmoreland, 68, of Clarence Center (Erie County), was traveling northbound on State Route 295, when the operator lost control of the vehicle, which subsequently left the roadway and entered a ditch. The operator was transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and cited for a moving violation.

To contact Diane Valden email dvalden@columbiapaper.com.

Officers honored for life saving action

DA Liberati-Conant attended a recognition ceremony honoring Sgt. Jonathan Myers and Officer Chris Gardener of the Chatham Police Department for their extraordinary actions taken during a recent emergency call. Their quick response and training led them to perform CPR, ultimately saving the patient's life, said the Facebook post. The men were honored April 2 by the American Heart Association and the Chatham Rescue Squad during a ceremony at the Tracy Village Hall. "These officers' actions serve as a great reminder of the dedication and professionalism that all law enforcement members bring to our communities every day. We salute you!" said the post.



Columbia County District Attorney's Office Facebook post

State Police announce 'Put the Phone Away or Pay' distracted driving enforcement campaign

LIVINGSTON — State Police will participate in a national distracted driving enforcement campaign as part of April's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. The enforcement effort, known as "Put the Phone Away or Pay," runs now through Monday, April 13.

During this campaign, troopers will conduct targeted enforcement details focused on drivers using electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. Troopers will utilize both marked State Police vehicles and Concealed Identity Traffic Enforcement (CITE)

vehicles. These specialized vehicles allow them to better observe violations from an elevated vantage point. While CITE vehicles blend into everyday traffic, they are clearly identifiable as emergency vehicles when emergency lighting is activated.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), over 3,200 people were killed in distraction-affected crashes in the United States in 2024.

During the April 2025 "Put the Phone Away or Pay" campaign, State Troopers issued 22,867 tickets, including 4,607 for distracted driving violations.

To help prevent crashes and save lives, NHTSA recommends the following safety tips for motorists:

- If you must send or receive a text, pull over to a safe location and park your vehicle first

- If you have passengers, appoint a "designated texter" to handle communications

- If you are prone to distraction, keep your phone out of reach

New York State law includes the following penalties for distracted driving:

- First offense: fine ranging from \$50 to \$200

- Second offense within 18 months: fine up to \$250

- Third or subsequent offense within 18 months: fine up to \$450

- Probationary and junior drivers face a 120-day license suspension for a first offense, and a one-year revocation if a second offense is committed within six months

Distracted driving remains a leading cause of preventable crashes on New York's roadways. The State Police urge all motorists to remain focused behind the wheel and make responsible decisions to protect themselves and others.

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Free Hoffman Car Wash with food donation set for April 11–12

HUDSON — Hoffman Car Wash is once again inviting the community to help fight hunger during its annual Spring Food Drive. On Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12, customers who donate a non-perishable food item at any Exterior or Full Service location will receive a free Ultimate Car Wash as a thank you for helping neighbors in need.

For more than a decade, Hoffman Car Wash has partnered with local food pantries to help address food insecurity in the communities it serves. This year, donations collected during the two-day drive will support 20 regional food pantries across Upstate New York and Southern Vermont, providing essential food supplies to families and individuals who rely on these organizations.

Food collected during the two-day drive will be distributed to a pantry near each participating location, including: IPH (Albany); Fulmont Community Action Agency (Amsterdam & Gloversville); Greater Bennington Community Services, Inc. (Bennington); Good Neighbors (Binghamton); Captain Community Human Services (Clifton Park & Halfmoon); Patty's Place (Cohoes); The Food Pantries of the Capital District (Colonie & Loudonville); The Anchor Food Pantry (East Greenbush); Salvation Army (Hudson); People's Place (Kingston); Northeast Regional Food Bank (Latham); Utica Rescue Mission (New Hartford); Salvation Army (Oneonta); South Glens Falls Moreau Community Center

(Glens Falls, Moreau, & Queensbury); Rome Food Pantry (Rome); Franklin Community Center (Saratoga); The Wilton Food Pantry (Saratoga); Hope 7 Food Pantry (Troy); Loaves and Fish Food Pantry (Vestal); and Utica Food Pantry (Yorkville).

Suggested donations include canned meat or fish, canned meals such as stew or ravioli, canned fruit packed in juice, peanut butter and jelly, soup, cereal, 100 percent juice, and spaghetti sauce.

To participate, customers simply bring a non-perishable food item to any participating Hoffman Car Wash location during the event. A full list of locations can be found at HoffmanCarWash.com.

Through the continued generosity of its customers and communities, Hoffman Car Wash hopes to once again collect thousands of food items to help keep local food pantry shelves stocked.

The event is part of Hoffman Car Wash's "Practice Kindness" initiative, which spreads positivity and goodwill in the communities it serves. By practicing kindness, Hoffman Car Wash hopes to make a positive impact and inspire others to do the same. Hoffman Car Wash has a long-standing relationship with Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless (IPH), Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF), the Saratoga Senior Center, Ronald McDonald House, and Kelly's Angels.

Hoffman Car Wash also supports many non-profits and youth organizations through its Helping Hands Fundraising program.

Chatham to celebrate hometown author with book launch event

CHATHAM — Chatham-based Trinity Mouzon Wofford will celebrate the release of her new cookbook, "Eating at Home," with a hometown launch event on Saturday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m., in collaboration with The Chatham Bookstore and Marton & Davis.

The evening will begin at The Chatham Bookstore, 27 Main Street, where Melissa Davis, founder of Ruby Press and co-owner of Marton & Davis, will be in conversation with Ms. Mouzon Wofford about "Eating at Home." Guests will have the opportunity to purchase copies of the book and have them signed by the author.

Following the talk, attendees are invited to continue the celebration just two doors down at Marton & Davis, 33 Main Street, for an after-party featuring small bites inspired by the cookbook and a toast in honor of Ms. Mouzon Wofford's debut release.



Trinity Mouzon Wofford

Photos contributed



"Eating at Home" book cover.

Rooted in the rhythms of everyday cooking, "Eating at Home" reflects Ms. Mouzon Wofford's thoughtful, accessible approach to food and entertaining, making this hometown event a meaningful return to the community where her story took root.

The event is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to register in advance at <https://chathambookstore.indielite.org/upcoming-events>.

Greylock celebrates Financial Literacy Month

PITTSFIELD, MA — April is Financial Literacy Month, and for Greylock Federal Credit Union, this means a special opportunity to share its collection of free financial literacy tools and resources to support individuals of all ages.

"We live and breathe financial literacy every day, but during this month it's deeply personal to us, so we want to bring special attention to the entire package of Greylock's on-demand resources, products and tools," said Roberta McCulloch-Dews, vice president of marketing in a press release. "From our interac-

tive Banzai tools and calculators to our hybrid classes and workshops, and our content, there's something for everyone."

Greylock's Money Mindset blog at greylock.org offers expert advice and helpful tips for numerous financial goals and challenges. Recent blogs include How to Build an Emergency Fund, 5 Tips to Improve Your Credit Score and Don't Let Debt Get You Down.

The credit union's video content offers another pathway for education.

"We have a lot of fun educating people in our community," said Jeff Lowenstein, a

certified credit union financial wellness coach at Greylock's Community Empowerment Center (CEC) located inside the branch at 75 Kellogg Street. "We hope the silliness of our reels helps people feel that Greylock and our coaching team are accessible and approachable. Financial literacy can be simple and even fun."

Greylock's social media channels offer timely, relatable and humorous takes on important topics. Check out Mr. Lowenstein in a recent multi-part reel series on student loans. To stay connected and to check out this month's video content, follow them on

Instagram (@greylockfederal) and YouTube at youtube.com/@GreylockFederal.

Greylock offers free classes and workshops this month:

- First-time homebuyer class, also offered in Spanish, "Clase Para Compradores De Vivienda Por Primera Vez." This in-person workshop will be held at 5:30 p.m. on April 27 at the CEC

- Estate planning at 6 p.m. on April 29 via zoom. The class is designed to help people consider how to best protect loved ones. Learn more and register for workshops at greylock.org/cec.

For more information, visit www.greylock.org/CEC.



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Photo contributed

First place winner Isabella Schmidt stands with prize-winning artwork.

Questar III announces winner of the 37th Annual Juried High School Art Exhibit

CASTLETON — On March 25, Questar III BOCES hosted the 37th Annual Juried High School Art Exhibit at its main office. The exhibit features 27 pieces of art submitted by 25 students from seven districts and two Questar III BOCES programs. This year's art show juror was Daria Askari, Questar III BOCES talent acquisition specialist, who is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and is active in the arts community.

• First Place: Isabella Schmidt, "View of Troy" — Hoosic Valley CSD / New Visions: Visual and Performing Arts

• Second Place: Gabrielle Williams, "Quiet Bloom" — Ichabod Crane CSD

• Third Place: Brody Messer, "Aegis" — East Greenbush CSD

• Honorable Mention: Hannah Gauthier, "The Witch of Twitch" — Questar III Virtual Academy

• Honorable Mention: Aliha Shahzad, "The Great Starry Night" — Rensselaer CSD

The following schools participated in this year's show: Averill Park CSD, Catskill CSD, East Greenbush CSD, Hoosic Valley CSD, Ichabod Crane CSD, Questar III Exceptional Learning, Questar III Virtual Academy, Troy CSD, and Rensselaer CSD.

The digital exhibit is now on display.

Chancellor King celebrates the expansion of paid internship opportunities

ALBANY — State University of New York Chancellor John B. King Jr. highlighted SUNY's commitment to paid internships that prepare students for their future during the 2026 SUNY Internship Summit. The inaugural internship summit brought together SUNY System Administration staff and representatives from SUNY campuses to showcase internship initiatives across the state and continue to develop campus plans to ensure every SUNY student has access to a high-quality internship or other experiential learning opportunity before graduation.

"Internships advance SUNY's dual commitment to student success and upward mobility. Internships play an important role in preparing our students for the workforce while also offering real-world experience in careers that interest them," said Chancellor King in a press release. "SUNY's robust internship programs and partnerships help empower our students to pursue high-quality, hands-on learning opportunities, so they can continue on the path to a successful future. I thank all of the dedicated staff and partner organizations who support our students as they move throughout their internship experiences."

In the 2024-25 academic year, 62 percent of undergraduate students receiving a degree had taken part in a high-impact practice, including an internship, clinical placement or practicum, capstone course project, service learning and community-based learning, undergraduate research, including field study, or study abroad.

Through strong investment from Governor Hochul and the State Legislature, the SUNY Board of Trustees provides \$14.5 million in annual state funding to support paid internships for students at state-operated campuses. In addition, SUNY awarded funding to 23 community colleges to expand access to stipends and wrap-around services, including transportation and child care expenses, so students could complete internships. Governor Hochul's Executive Budget includes an additional \$7.4 million to expand career-connected internships across the SUNY System.

To support paid internship opportunities for students, SUNY has launched internship partnerships with organizations including the New York State Association of Counties, the New York State Insurance Fund, as well as an internship exchange program with the University of Puerto Rico and the conservation organization Para La Naturaleza. SUNY has also launched programs including the SUNY Educational Opportunity Career Development Internship Program, Chancellor's Summer Research Excellence Fund, the SUNY Institute for Local News, the Veterans Enrollment and Support Internship Program, and the SUNY Climate Corps.

As part of Chancellor King's 2025 State of the University agenda, SUNY also designated regional workforce coordinators across the state to assist campuses in identifying internship opportunities.

To learn more about how SUNY creates opportunities, visit suny.edu.

2026 CMS Science & Technology Fair winners announced

CHATHAM — Chatham Middle School hosted its 2026 CMS Science & Technology Fair on March 25. This year's winning projects are:

1st: Kaylie Williams (6th Grade): Which household light bulb lasts the longest in a vibrating situation?

2nd: Emerson Sublet (7th Grade): How do artists scientifically change the looks of colors?

3rd: Isabella Karon (7th Grade): Which magnet is the strongest?



Photo contributed

Pictured (l to r) are Emerson Sublet, Kaylie Williams and Isabella Karon.

Students in grades 5 through 8 developed a hypothesis or technical problem and then used either the Scientific Method or Problem Solving Method, respectively, to prove or disprove their theory or find a solution to their problem.

During the school day on March 25, Chatham's science and technology faculty judged the entries, and classes dropped in to check out the projects. The fair was open to the public that evening and the winners were announced at the close of the fair.

Library offers teacher workshop on Patriots of Hudson in the Revolutionary War

HUDSON — In conjunction with their current exhibit, Patriots of Hudson in the Revolutionary War, the Hudson Area Library History Room staff are offering a teacher workshop on Tuesday, April 28, from 4 to 7 p.m. cosponsored by the Greater Capital Region Teacher Center — with 3 credits of Continuing Teacher & Leader Education (CTLE). This workshop will be held at the library, 51 North 5th Street. It explores the participation of the founders of Hudson in the Revolutionary War effort, their lives after the Revolution and, in some cases, the accomplishments of their descendants. They will discuss the application of this fascinating history to Social Studies, Language Arts, and Art curriculum.

The workshop will be facilitated by co-curators and educators Elaine Eichelberger and Brenda Shufelt. The exhibit material covered in this workshop

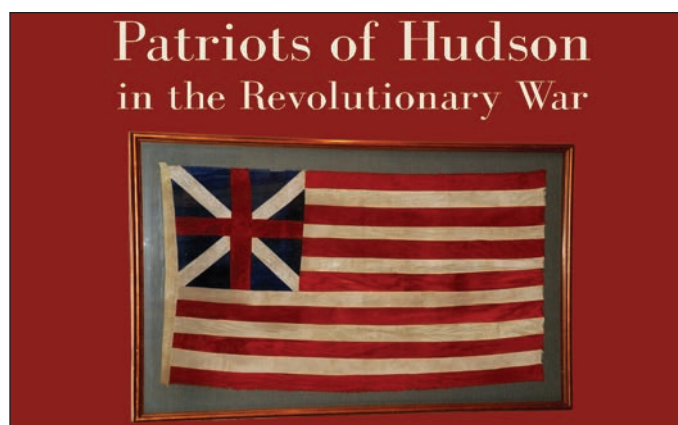


Photo contributed

Patriots of Hudson in the Revolutionary War exhibit logo with Continental Army flag.

will be online in 2026 and accessible to teachers and their classes on the Hudson River Valley Heritage website (hrvh.org).

The exhibit celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States. Registration is required. Register at <https://www.mylearningplan.com/WebReg/ActivityProfile.asp?I=5359491&D=13206>

The workshop will include digital and physical resource

materials on the topic for all participants and light dinner.

The Hudson Area Library exhibit Patriots of Hudson in the Revolutionary War profiles local residents who fought in the Revolutionary War or who contributed to the fight for independence. Several went on to help found the City of Hudson. The exhibit is on view March 5 to June 30 (during library hours, when the room is not in use). The library's exhibit was made possible by the

Rheinstrom Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

The Hudson Area Library History Room houses a collection that pertains to the history of the City of Hudson, the towns of Greenport and Stockport, as well as Columbia County and New York State. The History Room also hosts the Local History Speaker Series at the library, offering free monthly talks on diverse topics related to local history.

The History Room is open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesdays 6 to 8 p.m. and by appointment. Online research requests for information on local history are available at historyroom.hudsonarealibrary.org/. This is a free service to the public. To inquire about an appointment email brenda.shufelt@hudsonarealibrary.org or call 518-828-1792 x106.

New Lebanon Alum earns top collegiate swimming honors

WEBSTER — SUNY Geneseo junior Alex Sotek earned Empire 8 Championship individual honors, as the 2026 Empire 8 Swimming and Diving Championships were held at the Webster Aquatic Center in Western New York recently. She is a graduate of New Lebanon High School.

She was named the Empire 8 Swimmer of the Championship Meet. She won individual titles in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle

and 100-yard butterfly and was also part of the winning 200- and 400-yard medley relay teams and 200- and 400-yard freestyle relay teams. She recorded times of 23.21 seconds in the 50-free, 51.93 seconds in the 100-free and 56.28 seconds (55.52 in the prelims) in the 100-fly finals. Sotek was part of the 400-yard medley relay team that shattered an Empire 8 Championship and overall record with a time of 1:42.82, which was also an NCAA "B" cut time.



Photo provided

New Lebanon grad Alex Sotek

Georgia Tech fall 2025 graduates announced

ATLANTA, GA — The Georgia Institute of Technology presented degrees to approximately 7,200 undergraduate and graduate students during the Institute's 269th Commencement exercises December 11-13, 2025,

at McCamish Pavilion (Ph.D. and bachelor's) and Bobby Dodd Stadium (master's).

Among the graduates were:

Kristen Bertrand, Valatie, and Meghan Neff-Flynn, Schodack Landing.

Academic Honors

Dean's List:

University of Alaska FAIRBANKS, AK — Jason Borrelli, Chatham, has been named to the fall 2025 deans' list at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Students receiving a 3.9 grade point average or

higher are placed on the chancellor's list, while those receiving a grade point average of between 3.5 and 3.89 are named to the deans' list. The lists recognize students' outstanding academic achievements.

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HOUSING UPDATE

Continued from Page 1

In the fourth quarter of the year, prices jumped even higher (to a median of \$555,000), while new listings declined by 16.4% (the steepest drop in the area, where all but two other counties actually saw an increase in new listings). We know that these trends are driving young people out of the county. For those who stay, housing costs are one reason that family size is shrinking.

The housing update part 1 article (“A workforce housing update”) discussed a number of efforts by the county’s newly-formed land bank and community land trust to address the issues. Happily, there are other programs afoot that hold promise. For example, Columbia-Greene Habitat for Humanity has completed its move to Route 9 in Hudson, and the construction of its manufacturing facility to produce panelized housing for its Rural Starter Home models is expected to be completed before summer. The first home built using the model, located in the Niverville area of Valatie, is complete. It is a handsome, efficient, sustainable home. (See the models and a description in “Habitat’s Rural Starter Home Initiative” in the paper’s July 17, 2025 issue and the photograph and story “Habitat unveils new rural starter home made with panels” in the paper’s March 26 issue.)

In conversation with The Columbia Paper, Habitat CEO Al Bellenchia disclosed that the group is working toward a contract (it has a verbal agreement) to buy two vacant parcels of land from the county land bank. The parcels total seven acres and lie close to the

hamlet in Germantown. (The parcels were foreclosed on by the county for non-payment of taxes and then sold to the land bank.) Habitat hopes to build a small neighborhood consisting of a cluster of its starter homes on the site, and it is targeting a \$250,000 or less per home sales price — a price that would make the housing affordable to median wage workers/families, such as nurses, teachers and retail employees.

Habitat has also added a fourth design to the starter home line, this one a four-bedroom home. Its rehab of a home on New Street in Valatie is virtually complete. Habitat is also in contract to buy an abandoned farm home in Hillsdale, with the aid of generous local donors, that it will then rehabilitate.

All of this activity is in furtherance of Habitat’s 2026–2028 Strategic Plan which seeks to transform Habitat into a “small development company” with scaled-up operations and the partnerships and financial capacity necessary to build small clusters instead of one-off homes.

Two pieces of state tax-related legislation will support affordable housing efforts like those discussed in this series. The first, sponsored by Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106th) and effective January 1, is intended to lessen the tax burden on the ownership of certain homes by addressing an unfairness that has existed in the property tax laws.

Property taxes are assessed based on the value of a home. But, to ensure that a home stays affordable from owner-to-owner, many



Photo contributed

A two-story design draft from Habitat.

affordability programs either (a) provide for a non-profit entity to continue to hold the land on which a home is built so that the owner, on sale, realizes only appreciation to the home itself and/or (b) restrict the gain the owner realizes on a sale of the home, with the balance going back to the nonprofit for reinvestment. But, even though the homeowner in those scenarios does not actually own and cannot ever realize the full assessed value of the home, he or she is nevertheless taxed on the full value — which is both unfair and creates an undue tax burden on a lower-income family.

The new law applies to homes occupied as a primary residence by households that have an annual income of lower than 80% of area median income (AMI) that have been acquired through one of these routes. In Columbia County, 80% of AMI is \$66,826. The law allows a county, town or school district to elect to provide a partial tax exemption of between 25% and 75% of the assessed value of the home. (If the home is no longer so occupied or

is sold, the exemption ceases.)

A second law applies to the rehabilitation of residential properties that have been neglected or abandoned or whose redevelopment is inhibited by other conditions. Eligible properties include ones that have been vacant for three years, of which a county, town or village has acquired title via tax foreclosure, or which have outstanding zoning, housing or code violations and the cost of remedying them exceeds the property’s value.

Under the law a town, village, county and school district can pass a law to exempt from taxation the increased value of the property that results from redevelopment if the property is then occupied as a primary residence. The law applies to one-to-four unit properties used for affordable housing and is intended to help localities deal with dilapidated housing, such as the home in Mellenville discussed in part 1 or the Hillsdale property discussed above.

The success of the kinds of smaller projects dis-

cussed here and in part 1 stands in marked contrast to the travails faced by larger scale projects. In the profile “Trying to provide food and homes in New Lebanon,” March 19, the story mentioned the twisting progress of a 41-unit affordable housing project along Route 20 in New Lebanon. Both affordable and market-rate projects have similarly faced challenges elsewhere. In Hudson, a project called The Boulevards to construct 28 residential and two commercial units on properties running west from Fairview Avenue near the electric substation, took some 2 1/2 years to make it through the Planning Board. Along the way, the applicant complained that the board was unlawfully pressuring it to add affordable units and to downsize, among many other things.

Meanwhile, a project called the Mill Street Lofts that would bring 70 affordable apartments to dead-end Mill Street in Hudson is tied up in litigation brought by neighbors over whether the Planning Board “rushed” its approval and overlooked flooding risks and traffic

and other considerations and whether the city contracted to sell the site, which they allege is parkland, to the developers illegally. As can only happen when lawyers are involved, the neighborhood group argues that the Mill Street project should have been subjected to a multi-year process such as the Boulevard developers repeatedly complained about, while the city and Planning Board are arguing that the Mill Street lawsuit was filed both too late under the laws that concern review of permitting decisions and too early under the laws that concern the sale of parklands. Paperwork is still being exchanged and filed by the parties on an initial foray (a motion to dismiss the lawsuit on procedural grounds), which will not be heard by the court until at least April, or, some two years after the project application was first filed. Regardless of the outcome of the initial motions, more litigation is destined to follow, with resolution unlikely this year.

Reporter Deborah Lans can be contacted at deborablans@icloud.com.

PLANNERS FIND TOWER

Continued from Page 1

adjourned at the meeting, but Ancram Fire Chief and Ancram Town Board member David Boice was allowed to speak at the request of attorney David Kenny, who represents Homeland Towers.

Mr. Boice read a statement encouraging the Planning Board to approve the cell tower application because cell phone service coverage is needed in the area. He referred to an app he uses called “Iam Responding,” which provides valuable information to him as an incident commander. The app is a tool that has a mapping program so he can know where hydrants and water supplies are in relation to the scene of a fire.

The website (iamresponding.com) says the app provides “time-saving alerts and critical data,” so first responders “can make confident deci-

sions with unprecedented situational awareness.” But the app requires cell service, said Mr. Boice.

He also noted instances of not being able to communicate with other firefighters due to the lack of cell service along the Route 22 corridor near Catalano Road. He said that the fire company has a firefighter who lives in the area who cannot respond to many fire calls simply because he doesn’t receive notifications sent via cell phone.

Mr. Boice said the fire company is “stressed for membership” and needs all the help it can get.

Planning Board Chairman Joe Crocco agreed that there is “a big gap” in the area.

It was announced by Chairman Crocco at the beginning of the meeting that two Planning Board members had resigned in

Board hears opposition to approved cell tower

By EMILIA TEASDALE

VALATIE — At the March 10 Village Board meeting, the board heard from two residents and read a letter from another household near the Martin H. Glynn Municipal Building about their concerns with a new Verizon cell tower which was approved for a site behind the building. Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons went over the steps the village took to approve the site with the residents at the meeting, and said

that Verizon now has a lease on the site.

The 110’ tower was approved by the village’s Planning Board in late March of 2025. The plan is for several pine trees to be planted around a fenced 40’ by 61’ “compound” for the tower and equipment behind the municipal building which houses the village hall, as well as the Town of Kinderhook’s offices and court, a sheriff substation, storage and classrooms for the Valatie Rescue Squad and sev-

eral community groups. There are also a playground and pickleball ball and basketball courts next to the tower.

The board had heard from residents and emergency services about not having Verizon cell service in the village. Residents sent a petition to the village board asking for improved service on Main Street.

Information about the tower and the process for its approval is at the village clerk’s office, at 3211 Church Street.

recent weeks: Erin Robertson and Sara Porter. Members present at the meeting in addition to Mr. Crocco were: Palmer Irving, Donald Tasch, Jessica Lovelace and alternate Christine Brown, who Mr. Crocco said would now become a regular voting board member. Tom Brondolo and Phil Hack were not present.

On another controversial matter, RIC Energy Director

of Development Rob Queirolo appeared on behalf of solar project applicant Ancram PV, LLC. He was not on the agenda that evening, but said he had recently made a project resubmission to the board and requested a special meeting so the board could review the updated materials.

Mr. Crocco asked him if the poles were still part of the new submission and

Mr. Queirolo said the project had been updated to pad-mounted equipment.

The utility poles were a point of contention at the February meeting. The solar project applicant seeks a special use permit and site plan review for a 957 kW solar installation on about nine acres of a 95 acre parcel at 3333 State Route 82.

Mr. Queirolo said he had been coming before

the board for a year and a half and was seeking a SEQRA determination.

After consulting with Attorney Lyons, it was determined that the Planning Board would not be ready for a special meeting prior to the next regular meeting which is May 7.

To contact Diane Valden email dvalden@columbiapaper.com

DEDICATED WEBSITE

Continued from Page 1

tent will now live on its own platform, giving readers a more streamlined, user-friendly experience and making it easier than ever to stay informed about news in Columbia County.

The new website features improved navigation, faster access to breaking news, and enhanced visibility for community stories, public notices, and local events.

“This transition reflects our commitment to serving

our readers with timely, reliable news in a format that meets today’s expectations,” said Mark Vinciguerra, President & Publisher. “Having our own dedicated site allows us to better highlight the stories that matter most to Columbia County residents.”

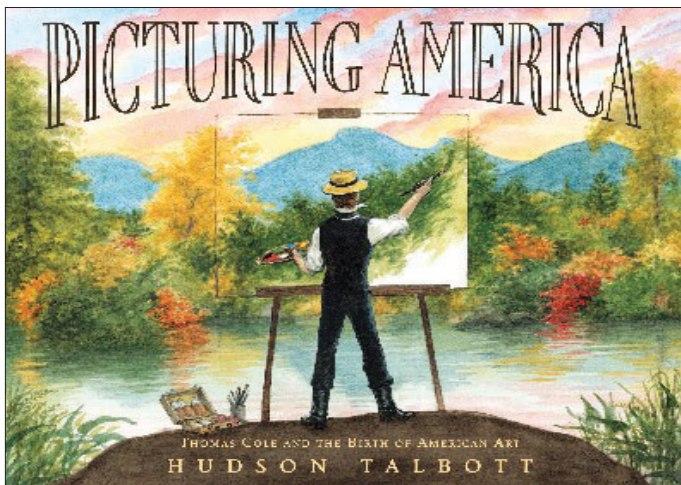
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The cover of "Picturing America."

Image contributed

The Cole Site announces 'Hudson Talbott: Shining Objects'

CATSKILL — The Thomas Cole National Historic Site has announced "Hudson Talbott: Shining Objects" — a retrospective of the acclaimed artist's career. The exhibition will celebrate the work of the late, award-winning artist Hudson Talbott, whose talents have inspired audiences for decades through his children's picture books.

Talbott's artistry was interwoven with that of legendary fellow artists. His book "We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story" was adapted into an animated film by Steven Spielberg. Talbott illustrated the Newbury Honor Book "Show Way" by Jacqueline Woodson, and he adapted Stephen Sondheim's musical "Into the Woods" into a book for young readers. James Lapine, the musical's Tony Award-winning librettist, told The New York Times, "Both Steve and I loved what he did, and the book remains my favorite gift to anyone who has a child."

Talbott, who died on January 22, was at the time the longest-serving member of the Board of Directors of the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, having served on the board for more than 20 years. One of his books, "Picturing America: Thomas Cole and the Birth of American Art," introduces new generations to Cole and the legacy of the artist. Another, "River of Dreams," tells the story of the Hudson River.

The exhibition will open on April 11 and run through May 24 in the New Studio, the reconstructed 1846 building designed by Thomas Cole as his own studio. The exhibition will present more than 75 of Talbott's works, including a selection of his original paintings and sketches, his painting table, examples of his more than 30 books for young readers, and a selection of his early commercial work. Exhibition access is included with General Admission tick-

ets. Visit thomascole.org/tickets for hours.

Talbott won the American Library Association's Schneider Family Book Award for "A Walk in the Words," "Leonardo's Horse," which he illustrated, was an ALA Notable Book.

"Picturing America" takes readers on a unique journey through the life of Thomas Cole (1801–1848), founder of the influential American art movement known as the Hudson River School of landscape painting. In doing so, it highlights his pioneering passion for the environment and celebrates a love of painting that will inspire readers to draw and paint the landscape around them. "Picturing America" was published in hardback in 2018 by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House. The paperback version is the first children's book published by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. His final book, "The Next Shiny Object," will be published this summer.

"Hudson Talbott was a renowned artist with an extraordinary gift for engaging young readers," said Maura O'Shea, executive director of the Cole Site, in a press release. "We at the Thomas Cole Site were very fortunate to call him our beloved and longstanding friend and were fortunate, too, that he applied his enormous talents to introducing Thomas Cole and the role of the artist to young readers. His lasting legacy will include all of his works and those inspired by him. What a superb way to help new generations, in their own way, picture America."

"This retrospective reveals the extraordinary range and breadth of Hudson Talbott's artistry," said Amanda Malmstrom, associate curator at the site, also in the release. "It's stunning to see it in one setting, especially a setting designed by Thomas Cole, who deeply inspired Hudson's work and continues to galvanize new generations of artists."

Ghent Playhouse hosts magician Jeffrey Jene for family friendly event

GHENT — The Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, invites you to an evening of incredible magic. "Grand Illusions: The Magic of Jeffrey Jene" will be one performance only, Saturday, April 18 at 4 p.m.

With a unique blend of mystery and entertainment, Jeffrey Jene has been captivating audiences for over three decades. His charismatic stage presence and unparalleled showmanship have made him a sought-after performer for parties, fairs, festivals, theaters, and corporate

functions. Come for an afternoon of magic and wonder.

Patrons of the playhouse may recognize this multi-talented performer from his performances on stage in "Fun Home" and "The Bridges of Madison County." This promises to be a special event and one you will not want to miss.

General Admissions tickets are \$25 and can be purchased via the website at ghentplayhouse.org or at the door (if available).

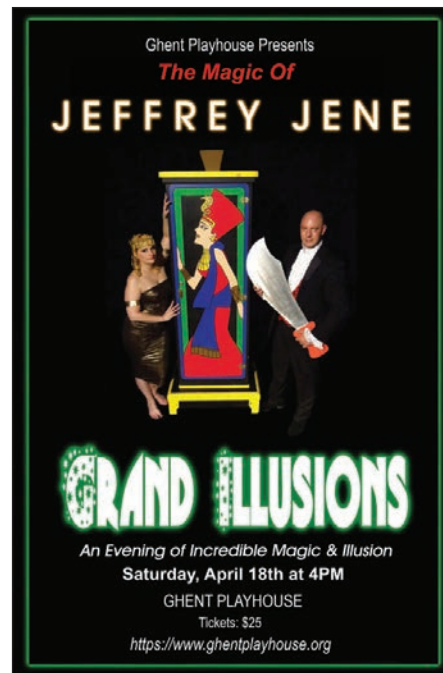


Photo contributed

The poster for Jeffrey Jene at the Ghent Playhouse.

Shakespeare & Co announces open-captioned and sensory-friendly performances

LENOX, MA — To celebrate Shakespeare's birthday and school vacation week, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble Street, presents a series of accessible performances and accompanying events April 23 through 25.

Performed by the Northeast Regional Tour of Shakespeare, "Hamlet," directed by Kevin G. Coleman and Victoria Rhoades, will be staged at the Tina Packer Playhouse, during Massachusetts public school vacation. Three open-captioned performances featuring "super-titles," which display the actors' spoken text in real time to create a more accessible experience for deaf and hard-of-hearing audience members, will be held on Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m., Friday, April 24 at 2 p.m., and Saturday, April 25 at 6 p.m.

In addition, a sensory-friendly performance will be held on Saturday, April 25, at 2 p.m. These performances are adapted to reduce sensory stimuli and create a relaxed, welcoming environment for individuals who may benefit from a more flexible theater experience, including people who are neurodivergent, those with cognitive or physical challenges, and others with sensory sensitivities. An optional theater walk-through will be held on Friday, April 24, at 1 p.m.

Two youth workshops will be led by Shakespeare & Company's Education Artists, featuring members of the tour cast, from



Abigail St. John as Gertrude and Jonathan Perkins as Claudius in the Northeast Regional Tour of Shakespeare's "Hamlet," staged at the Tina Packer Playhouse on April 23 through 25.

2 p.m.—3:30 p.m. on April 23 and 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m. on April 24, and Shakespeare scholar Ann Berman will host two free Behind the Curtain talks exploring various themes in "Hamlet" at 4 p.m. on April 23 and 25. These free talks feature members of the tour production's creative team, which is currently traveling throughout New England, New York, and Pennsylvania to bring professional Shakespeare productions directly to communities across the region.

April 23 also marks Shakespeare & Company's Annual Giving Day, coinciding

with Shakespeare's birthday; to celebrate, a reception and cake-cutting will be held at 5 p.m., prior to the 6 p.m. show. This year, Annual Giving Day benefits the Tina Packer Legacy Fund in honor of Founding Artistic Director Tina Packer, who passed away on January 9.

Giving Day aims to collect 38 individual donations, representing each of Shakespeare's plays — all of which Tina Packer directed. Each donation, in the order they are received, will be matched with a play. The goal is about individual engagement, as opposed to meeting a specific monetary goal.

Throughout the day, match challenges will be announced that could double any gift made.

Patrons, friends, and supporters are also invited to share stories, photos, or videos of how Tina Packer and Shakespeare & Company have affected their lives by emailing rememberingtina@shakespeare.org, or tagging @shakeandco on Instagram or Facebook.

Tickets and additional information, including accessibility details and performance schedules, are available at shakespeare.org, by calling the Box Office at 413-637-3353, or emailing box-office@shakespeare.org.

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Photo contributed

A Wood Frog observed in early spring at one of the breeding pools that participants will visit on the walk.

Farmscape Ecology leads amphibians walk

KINDERHOOK — The Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program (FEP) leads an “Amphibians at Lindenwald” guided walk hosted by the Martin Van Buren National Historic Site/Lindenwald, 1013 Old Post Road off Route 9H, Saturday, April 11 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The walk gives participants an opportunity to visit several amphibian breeding pools and ponds within the historical boundary of Lindenwald and learn about the frogs and salamanders that use them in early spring. If the timing is right, participants may have the chance to observe the egg masses of vernal pool amphibians like Wood Frogs and Spotted Salamanders.

FEP staff has conducted annual vernal pool amphibian surveys as well as frog call surveys at

Lindenwald for many years, and will share their experiences and observations.

They will share observations of when early spring frog calls were first heard in Kinderhook during the 1830s and 1840s (including the time period when President Van Buren lived there), and how those observations compare to observations in recent years at the historic site.

The walk, including stops along the way, is expected to take 1½ hours and will largely be on gentle paths and dirt roads, though participants should be prepared to visit the grassy and forested edges of ponds and pools.

The walk is free, but space is limited. Interested participants should register by emailing Anna Duhon: anna@hawthornevalley-farm.org.



Photo contributed

Lake Taghkanic.

Take in the calmness of nature during poetry walk

GALLATIN — Lake Taghkanic State Park (West Beach), 1528 State Route 82, is the site of a Poetry Walk, Saturday, April 11 at 1 p.m.

Mackenzie Kell, a writer and poet from Ulster County,

will guide the poetry walk along the Lakeview Trail.

This two-mile walk will include stops along the lake to rest, hear readings, and take in the calmness of nature. For more information call 518-851-3631.

Time to start walking on Wednesdays

HILLSDALE — The Town of Hillsdale’s Safe at Home Committee announces that its Wednesday Weekly Walking group will begin April 15. Safe at Home is committed to aging in place and wants to affirm the importance of some physical activity. Many health professionals consider walking as one of the best exercises to maintain one’s health.

Safe at Home recognizes that everyone has a different walking style and pace. There is absolutely no race on our Weekly Wednesday Walks. Folks with canes and walkers have been with the Wednesday Walkers group and have always felt comfortable and welcomed. The goal is to enjoy walk-

ing with friends and neighbors as well as making new friends in an effort to remain healthy. Walking can be both physical and social.

The group meets at 9:30 a.m. at the Harlem Valley Rail Trail parking kiosk which is across from Herrington’s on White Hill Lane in front of Twisted Sisters and the Roe Jan Brewery. The group walks on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, which is a paved walkway that is flat and shady with benches along the trail. Everyone is welcome to join in.

For questions about the walk and other activities of the Safe at Home Committee call Natalie at 518-265-2113.

Repair Cafe returns with a special focus on textile repair

SPENCERTOWN — April is Earth Month, and the Columbia NE Repair Café can think of no better way to show gratitude to the planet than by keeping perfectly good things out of the trash. Saturday, April 11, the Repair Café holds its next free event at Austerlitz Town Hall, 816 NY-203, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Residents are invited to bring broken, worn, or beloved-but-damaged items to be repaired at no charge by a talented team of volunteer fixers — because one of the most sustainable things you can do is keep using what you already own.

This month’s event puts a special spotlight on textile repair. Textiles are among the most commonly discarded items in America. The Repair Café will be joined by skilled machine and hand sewers, darners, knitters and experienced textile workers ready to breathe new life into garments and fabric items that might otherwise end up in a landfill.



Photo contributed

Looks like someone got their bike fixed.

Whether it’s a torn seam, a favorite sweater with a hole, a skirt with a lost button, or a worn hem, April 11 is the day to bring it in.

“Every item we fix is a small act of gratitude to the Earth. And our textile volun-

teers are genuinely talented — if you’ve been holding onto something you love because you know it’s fixable, this is your moment,” Cara Humphrey, one of the event’s organizers, said in a press release.

In addition to the textile repair focus, volunteers will work on bicycles, clocks, lamps, small wood furniture, electrical and mechanical repairs, small jewelry repair, lawn mowers and more — including 3D printing for select repairs. The two-item-per-person limit helps ensure everyone gets attention from a fixer.

All clothing and fabric items must be clean before arrival.

The Columbia NE Repair Café is a free community repair service operating across five towns and villages in Columbia County: New Lebanon, Canaan, Chatham, Austerlitz, and the Village of East Nassau. Events are organized by the Climate Smart Community Committees of each municipality and are supported by NYSERDA and the New York State Climate Smart Communities program. Learn more at Facebook: Columbia NE Repair Café or email: columbianerepaircafe@gmail.com

Donate pet food during food drive April 11

GREENPORT — Help feed hungry pets at a pet food drive for the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Pet Food Bank at ShopRite, 351 Fairview Avenue, with Guest Celebrity Mid-Day Radio Host Bill Williams from WBPM 92.9, Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CGHS/SPCA gives away 50,000 pounds of free food every year, and needs your help because the Food Bank supplies are very low.

The Food Bank is available to any family having trouble feeding their pets because of financial hardship. The Food Bank is a free service of CGHS/SPCA and is open every day from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Photos contributed

Hungry dogs and cats are depending on you.

‘Burying the Hatchet’ tells story of possibility



Photo contributed

A scene from the documentary.

COPAKE — Copake Grange and the Town of Copake Conservation Advisory Committee/Mohican Allyship Committee announce the screening of “Burying the Hatchet: The Tom Quick Story,” followed by a panel discussion led by Bradley Pitts, chair of the Mohican Allyship Committee, and including producers of the film, Sean Strub and Daniel Strongwalker Thomas, as well as a member of the Stockbridge Munsee Community. The event takes place at the Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Saturday, April 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. Admission is free, donations are accepted.

For more than 250 years, the Borough of Milford, a small county seat in Northeast Pennsylvania, honored and venerated Tom Quick, Jr., who became infamous in the late 18th century for having murdered Lenni Lenape Indians, the original inhabitants of the Upper Delaware River Valley.

The legend of Tom Quick became the subject of hundreds of articles and books. In 1889, as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, the town erected a monument — a zinc obelisk — in Quick’s honor, displaying it prominently in the center of the village for more than a century.

The documentary tells the fascinating story of how a nearly all-white community and disenfranchised tribal leaders reconciled with the past and forged a shared path forward based on trust, friendship and a healing vision of the future.

Milford’s mayor, the Pike County Historical Society and descendants of the Quick family worked together to create an historically accurate exhibit; civic leaders held a ceremonial

reconciliation ceremony with representatives of Delaware Nation by literally “burying a hatchet” at the site where the monument once stood; and local land owners began the process of a land giveback to the Lenape tribes, enabling them to reestablish a presence in Lenapehoking, their original homeland.

In a time when many communities are dealing with controversy about the past, “Burying the Hatchet: The Tom Quick Story” is an inspiring example of possibility.

To learn more contact Rita Jakubowski at 914-582-8251 or rlj304@gmail.com.

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SchoharieHeritage.org



Photo contributed

Improve your balance, flexibility, strength, inner calm

NEW LEBANON — The New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US Route 20, presents Tai Chi, a free 10-week class for beginners, Mondays, 11 a.m. to noon, April 13 through June 22. The class is led by Kris Cottom of Hudson Valley Tai Chi who will provide in-

struction in postures and techniques to increase balance, flexibility and strength as well as relaxation and inner calm.

Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

For more information contact Kris Cottom at 518-708-5351 or kris.cottom@gmail.com.



Image contributed

Start some seeds, get a jump on your garden

NEW LEBANON — A Seed Starting Workshop takes place at the New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US Route 20, Sunday, April 19 from 10 a.m. to noon, presented by the center and MRB Darcy Dirtwork.

Learn to start vegetable and flower seeds. All materials are provided. Take your starters home and get a jump on your summer garden. Talk gardening tips and tricks. Open to all ages. RSVP to Blaine 518-242-6778 by April 12.

Donate new or gently-used items to Spring Cleanout Sale

NORTH CHATHAM — Neighbors of Northern Columbia County are conducting the annual Spring Cleanout Sale at the North Chatham United Methodist Church, 4274 Route 203, April 23, 2 to 7 p.m.; April 24, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and April 25, 9 a.m. to noon.

The sale features toys, books, jewelry, appliances, household items and more, including a plant wagon from Behns, a bake sale and food.

Neighbors are accepting gently-used or new items for this fundraiser. Items can be dropped off at the North Chatham United Methodist Church, April 11 and 18 from

9 a.m. to noon. Large items may be delivered to the United Methodist Church April 22 and 23 by appointment only.

For more information call 518-929-8526, visit nnccl.org or email nncclinfo@gmail.com.

Neighbors of Northern Columbia County is a grassroots, non-profit organization that helps people in rural communities who are aging and living alone.

Neighbors of Northern Columbia County is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Singletary leads worship service

HUDSON — The Rev. Kim Singletary leads worship at the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, 369 Warren Street, Sunday, April 12 at 10

a.m. Coffee, refreshments and fellowship follow the worship service. Learn more at firstpresHUDSON.org or call 518-828-4275.

Underlying ecological stressors drive many plant invasions

UDSON — Partners for Climate Action presents a free virtual Morning Coffee Series: Invasive Plants as Agents of Change or Symptoms of Other Stressors? with invasive plant expert Bernd Blossey, April 14, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Invasive plants are often a major concern for land stewards across the Hudson Valley — but is our approach to invasive plant management missing the bigger picture? In this session, Dr. Bernd Blossey, director of Cornell University's Ecology and Management of Invasive Plants Program, presents groundbreaking research on ecosystem impacts of many of our most feared invasives, the unintended consequences of our most common management protocols, and the research avenues that remain underexplored. He'll cover the underlying and often



Photo contributed

Invasive plant.

unseen ecological stressors driving many plant invasions, including white-tailed deer overabundance; and discuss practical tools for land management at a variety of scales.

PCA's Avalon Bunge moderates, followed by a Q&A.

Professor Blossey was born and raised in northern

Germany. In 1992, he moved to Cornell University, where he is a professor directing the Ecology and Management of Invasive Plants Program in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment. He develops and implements biological weed control programs;

among his target plants are purple loosestrife, water chestnut, Japanese knotweeds and invasive Phragmites. An ever-increasing focus of his team is investigations into impacts of multiple "stressors" including invasive and native plants, earthworms, slugs and deer on a wide range of native organisms. He is intimately involved in different approaches to deer management at Cornell and in the surrounding municipalities, he has developed a network of deer exclosures to study impact of deer on many species and processes and is developing bioindicators to assess effects of different stressors, including deer. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_lpwXsd_JRrmbaxmNh7rHMA#/registration

Gardeners hear from food historian on 'Eating History'

GERMANTOWN — Food Historian Sara Everson speaks about "Growing (and Eating) History" at the next meeting of the Germantown Garden Club in the Hover Room at the Germantown Library, 31 Palatine Park Road, Tuesday, April 14 at noon.

Ms. Everson has studied kitchen labor and food production in New York's 18th century.

She talks about how produce varieties have changed over time for many reasons, including gustatory taste, commercial interests, and natural accidents. Her talk

explores how produce common in the kitchens and gardens of New York's 18th century differs from what is common today. Get ready to follow produce from the kitchen garden to the kitchen table, and to dig into how historians research and interpret historical produce.

The club will also discuss plans for their May 16 Spring Plant Sale. It is a big fundraiser and a popular community event.

The meeting is open to the public. New members are always welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information call Irene Clum at 518-537-4793.

Library screens and hosts Q&A on 'Borderland' film

NORTH CHATHAM — North Chatham Free Library (NCFL) announces a free screening of "Borderland: The Line Within" followed by a Q&A with filmmakers Pamela Yates and Paco de Onis on April 19 at 3 p.m. This event is located at the Trolley Station, 103 Depot Street.

"Borderland" explores the human impact of our immigration enforcement system. The border lies within every undocumented immigrant family with the threat that at any moment they can be captured, incarcerated, and deported. The film exposes the profitable business of immigration and its human cost, but it also reveals resilient immigrant heroines and heroes who are resisting. In the shadow of this "border industrial-complex," immigrants are building a movement rooted



Photo contributed

'Borderland' Producer Paco de Onis and Director Pamela Yates.

in human connection and the sanctity of life.

The filmmakers will discuss why they chose to make the film, the five-year research process behind it, and their collaboration with digital experts who are exposing the economic forces behind immigration enforcement. The Q&A session will offer attendees an opportunity to reflect on the

film's themes: How does this film relate to what is going on in our own region and nationally today? What can we, as citizens, do about it?

Director Yates is widely recognized for her work documenting human rights struggles in the United States and Latin America. A Guggenheim Fellow and co-founder of the human rights media organization

Skylight, she has directed or produced several acclaimed films, including the Sundance Award-winning "When the Mountains Tremble," the Emmy Award-winning "Loss of Innocence," and the Academy Award-winning "Witness to War."

"Borderland" connects to her long-term Resistance Saga trilogy about Guatemala but marks a shift in focus to the United States. Ms. Yates and Mr. de Onis live in Saugerties.

This program is made possible with support 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.

Housing Advisory Board hosts forum on landlord/tenant rights

HUDSON — The Columbia County Housing Advisory Board is sponsoring a landlord/tenant rights forum to be held on Wednesday, April 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Central Fire House on North 7th Street. Speakers will address important housing issues and answer questions pertaining to Fair

Housing, legal services, evictions, fire safety, property and renters insurance, landlord/tenant relationships etc.

For more information call William Fisher, Fair Housing officer, at 518-828-0342. To pre-register, call the Independent Living Center at 518-828-4886. Walk-ins are welcome.

NCFL hosts AI for Seniors workshop

NORTH CHATHAM — North Chatham Free Library (NCFL) announces a free program presented by Library Director Shea Wert, "AI for Seniors," on April 25 at 10 a.m. at the Trolley Station, 103 Depot Street.

Join the library for an introduction to artificial intelligence (AI) designed especially for seniors. This program will explore popular AI tools like chatbots and show how they can be used in everyday life — for answering questions, helping with writing, planning trips, and more.

Additionally, Director Wert will cover important tips for using these tools safely, including how to spot misinformation and protect your privacy. And finally, the program will take a step back to look at the bigger picture: why AI is generating so much excitement, what benefits it may offer, and what concerns people have about its impact on jobs, creativity, and society.

No prior experience is needed — just curiosity.

This event is presented in partnership with the Neighbors of Northern Columbia County and funded by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

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Letters

Candidate makes statement on Supreme Court overturning conversion therapy ban

To the Editor:

The Supreme Court decision striking down Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors is not just wrong. It is dangerous.

Let's be honest about what conversion therapy is. It is not therapy. It is not medicine. It is not care. It is abuse. It is psychological violence. It is torture dressed up as treatment.

I am a gay man. I grew up hearing the same things conversion therapists still tell children today: that who you are is wrong, that you need to be fixed, that if you just try hard enough, you can become someone else. I have known people who were sent to conversion therapy. I have seen the damage it does. The shame. The trauma. The years it takes to

undo what was done to them in the name of "therapy."

Before running for office, I prosecuted child abuse cases. I have seen what happens when adults in positions of authority harm children and call it discipline, treatment, or care. Conversion therapy is the same lie in a different form. When an adult uses their authority to tell a child that who they are is broken

and needs to be fixed, that is harm. And when that harm leads to depression, self-hatred, and suicide, we cannot pretend this is a debate about speech. This is a child protection issue.

New York banned conversion therapy for minors in 2019, and we must continue to protect that law and strengthen protections for LGBTQ youth. If federal

courts will not protect children, then states must. States license therapists. States regulate medical and mental health practices. And states have a responsibility to protect minors from fraud, abuse, and dangerous practices.

As a gay man, and as someone who prosecuted child abuse cases, I will never stop fighting for these kids. In the Assembly, I will stand

up for LGBTQ youth and make sure New York remains a place where no child is told they are broken, and no child is subjected to abuse disguised as therapy.

Conversion therapy is not treatment. It is abuse. And we must never allow it to be inflicted on children again.

Sam Hodge
Claverack

Writer warns about the hidden dangers of single-use plastics

To the Editor:

Bob Seger's lyrics "I wish I didn't know now what I didn't know then" resonate with me when I reflect on the countless hours & years spent sorting, rinsing, and carefully disposing of plastic bottles and containers. Last year I learned from Beyond Plastics.org that those marked with triangu-

lar arrows #1-2 are rarely recycled, #3-7 almost never. This fact is often overshadowed by the term "greenwashing," which misleads consumers into believing they are contributing to environmental preservation.

I wish I had known then about the health risks associated with microplastics and the toxins found in

children's products, as these materials pose serious threats to our children. Recent studies have highlighted the dangers of toxins emanating from (soft) plastic toys, revealing significant health risks. An international investigation (www.sciencedirect.com) identified 126 "chemicals of concern," raising alarms about

the potential long-term effects on our children's health.

The 400 physicians at American Academy of Pediatrics are acting on their concerns by endorsing the New York State Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act. PRRIA (S1464/A1749) aims to eliminate 17 harm-

ful chemicals in plastic packaging over the next 12 years. That's the time it takes to go from grade one through twelve, the years children spend growing up — allowing us to spare the next generation from needless illness.

As we approach June 2026, there is a critical momentum for plastic

reduction. I urge everyone to act by digitally signing: bit.ly/heastie-prria2026, telling our elected representatives to vote in support of the Packaging Reduction Recycling Infrastructure Act. Let's work together to protect our children's health.

Janet Ivory
East Nassau

Didi Barrett files more than 2,700 petition signatures for re-election

 ELECTION 2026

ALBANY — Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106th) announced that she filed more than 2,700 petition signatures with the New York State Board of Elections to get on the June Primary ballot. These signatures were collected by campaign volunteers and Democratic Committee members from across the 106th Assembly District.

"After nearly six weeks of knocking on doors, talking to voters, and collecting signatures, we submitted more than 2,700 signatures to get on the ballot. We could not have done this without the incredible support of so many volunteers, supporters, and committee members from the Town of New Lebanon to the Town of Poughkeepsie," said Assemblymember Barrett in a press release. "With our peti-



Assemblymember Didi Barrett

Photo contributed

tions now filed, I am ready to focus full time on our communities and on passing a

state budget that provides real relief for Hudson Valley families."

Big Table Productions hosts a reading of 'It Can't Happen Here'

LENOX, MA — Big Table Productions will host a Fundraiser For Good: A Reading of "It Can't Happen Here" by Sinclair Lewis on Friday April 17 at 8 p.m., at the Tina Packer Playhouse at Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble Street.

As a novel written in 1936, the 2016 theatrical adaptation by Tony Taccone and Bennett S. Cohen tells the story of a Vermont newspaper editor caught in the whirlwind election of a larger-than-life presidential candidate Buzz Windrip. Brash, bold, charming, and funny, Buzz takes the White House and then the country by storm. Minute Men are deployed throughout the nation to enforce order. Lockdowns commence. Martial law is declared. And then, the citizens begin to respond.

The original play premiered in 1936, presented by the Federal Theatre Project; it opened simultaneously in 18 cities across the country. In response to the play's anti-fascist message and nationwide impact, The

Dies Senate Committee was created. It shut down the Federal Theatre Project and then went on to serve as the model for Joseph McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee hearings.

Acclaimed director Judy Braha (co-artistic director at Great Barrington Public Theater and former head of the MFA Directing Program at Boston University) is on board to direct.

"As historian Heather Cox Richardson constantly points out history continues to repeat itself," she said in a press release. "In this incredibly fraught moment for our country, we can find power, resilience and inspiration from revisiting relevant stories of the past. This passionate response to the political climate of that time now reverberates against our 2026 reality.

"A group of Berkshire-based theater artists gathered together at the Tina Packer Playhouse to read 'It Can't Happen Here' on April 17; to gather with community, to shed some

light, to raise funds for essential non-profits."

This reading is presented as part of a nationwide series Fundraisers For Good: A Reading of "It Can't Happen Here" (ICHH2026.org) set to take place throughout 2026.

Taccone, adapter of the play and long-time artistic director at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, expressed his deepest thanks to all those working on producing "It Can't Happen Here."

"As current events come to resemble the terrifying fiction of the play, it is important that we use the material as a call to action. Just as Sinclair Lewis raised the alarm in 1933 against populist tyranny, we do the same. Nothing less than the future is at stake."

Tickets are affordably priced at \$10. All funds raised will be donated to Volunteers In Medicine and The Giving Garden.

For tickets visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/it-cant-happen-here-a-fundraiser-for-good>

Art School welcomes Living Resources Artists for joyful creative collaboration

GHENT — The Art School of Columbia County (ASCC) is celebrating a vibrant new creative partnership with Living Resources, a nonprofit organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Over the past several weeks, a group of Living Resources artists has been visiting the school to create expressive, deeply personal artwork — filling ASCC's studio walls with color, energy, and unmistakable joy.

During a recent session, one artist, Patty, paused mid-brushstroke, looked around the room, and declared, "This is so much better than bowling. Can we do this again?" The group's manager Amanda smiled and replied, "It's up to Karen."

"That moment captured everything," said Karen Martin, director of the Art School of Columbia County in a press release. "What we're seeing in the studio is pure creative freedom — bold marks, unexpected color, and a sense of discovery that feels incredibly alive."



Photo contributed

Living Resources artists working at the Art School of Columbia County.

The collaboration reflects ASCC's core belief that art belongs to everyone, and that creative expression can foster connection, confidence, and community. The school is honored to provide a welcoming space where artists of all ages, abilities, and life circumstances can explore their own creative voice.

Director Martin also noted that Amanda is an accomplished artist in her own right. Her recent skeleton drawing — created alongside her

students — has already become a staff favorite.

"These moments happen because of the community that stands behind us," Ms. Martin added. "Every class taken, every membership, every donation helps us say yes to opportunities like this — and expand access to the arts across the region."

The Art School of Columbia County is at 1198 Route 21C. For more information go to <https://www.art-schoolofcolumbiacounty.org/>

Hinchey's office announces April mobile office hours

KINGSTON — Senator Michelle Hinchey's (D-41st) Constituent Services Team will hold mobile office hours in April for constituents in Dutchess, Columbia, Greene, and Ulster counties. The senator's team will provide one-on-one assistance to help residents navigate state programs and access support.

Select mobile office hours will include assistance from the offices of Congressman Josh Riley (D-19th), Assemblyman Scott Bendett (R-107th), the New York State Comptroller, and Village of Kinderhook Mayor Dorene Weir — offering help with

federal tax returns, Social Security, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, state retirement services, and more.

The April Mobile Office Hours schedule is as follows:

- Friday, April 10, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson Street. In partnership with the Offices of Assemblyman Bendett and Kinderhook Mayor Weir
- Tuesday, April 14, noon to 3 p.m. at the Pine Plains Free Library, 7775 South Main Street, Pine Plains
- Wednesday, April 22, noon to 3 p.m. at the Catskill Public Library, 1 Franklin

Street. In partnership with the NYS Comptroller's Office

- Thursday, April 30, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Phoenicia Library Association, 48 Main Street. In partnership with the Offices of Congressman Josh Riley and NYS Comptroller.

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THE TOP 5IVE[®] Changemakers AWARDS CEREMONY

Join us for an inspiring evening as we honor the remarkable individuals and businesses making a meaningful difference across our communities. The Top 5ive Awards Ceremony, hosted by Capital Region Independent Media, brings together leaders, changemakers, and neighbors to celebrate those whose dedication and impact help our region thrive.

On April 17, 2026, honorees from five distinct categories—Top 5 Women, Top 5 Men, Top 5 BIPOC, Top 5 Youth, and Top 5 Businesses & Organizations—will be recognized for their outstanding contributions. Each recipient represents the spirit of service, innovation, and community pride that defines our region.



Guests will enjoy an evening of connection, recognition, and celebration at a special dinner event, where winners selected by an independent panel of business leaders will be formally honored. From grassroots efforts to established organizations, these awardees exemplify what it means to create positive change. For those traveling or wishing to stay nearby, the James Newbury Hotel—conveniently located adjacent to The Wire Event Center—offers a special group rate for attendees; please note that accommodations are not included with event tickets.

Tickets are now available. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the people and businesses shaping a brighter future for the Capital Region. See details below.



DETAILS

DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY FRIDAY • APRIL 17 • 6-9 P.M.

 **THE WIRE EVENT CENTER**
60 SOUTH RIVER ST, COXSACKIE, NY

 **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**
LIVE PERFORMANCES BY BRONTÉ ROMAN BAND WITH DANCING

 **DINNER PREPARED ON-SITE**
BY FIREHOUSE CAFE & BISTRO

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North Chatham and Copake Falls Egg Hunts 2026

Photos by David Lee



At the North Chatham United Methodist Church kids posed for pictures on the front steps of the church with their baskets of finds on Saturday, April 4. This year's hunters found more than just eggs and chocolate in the church's yard.



2-1/2 year old David Benedict holds up an egg he found.



Easton Sheldon, 5, with a juice box.



The St. John in the Wilderness Church in Copake Falls held an Easter Egg hunt, also on Saturday. Eggs scattered about in the burial ground just behind the church were quickly gathered. The children then returned to the basement of the parsonage to count their eggs and take out the candies, and special Easter basket prizes were raffled. Luca Omuta-Bosben holds a golden egg, although it had no special value in this hunt.



Sharky Geminder, 5, found an egg with the face of a cow.

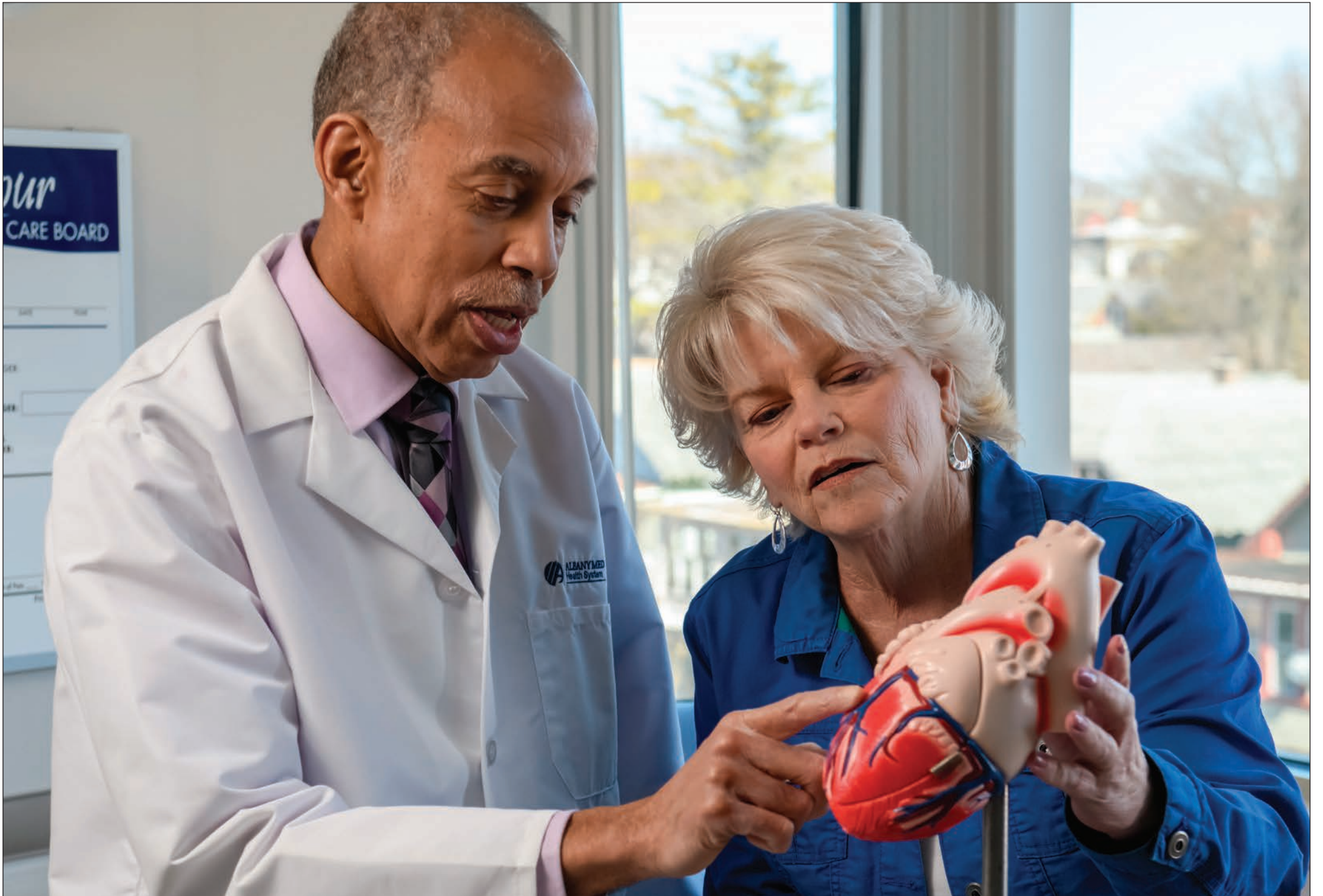


Unpacking the eggs in the basement of the rectory are Debbie MacDonald, Tyree MacDonald, Duane McCaul, Duane's dad also Duane (not Sr.), Summer McCaul and Nellie McCaul.

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EVENTS Calendar

To have an event listed here, send the information (including date, time, street address and cost if any) via email to news@columbiapaper.com at least two weeks before the event.

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

CONTINUING EVENTS

Mondays

HATHA YOGA, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 8:30–10 am. Roberta Roll leads all levels. Proceeds benefit library. Info: 518 329-0684. roejanlibrary.org/adult-programs.

MALDEN BRIDGE COMMUNITY CENTER, 1087 Albany Turnpike, 9 am-4 pm, free. Relax, socialize, play games. Coffee & snacks available. Open to the public, ADA compliant. Special programs offered on a weekly basis. Mindful stretching led by Hatha Yoga instructor Minerva Campbell. Board games, puzzles, books available for community use also ping pong table and co-worker space. Free Wifi. More info follow @MaldenBridgeCommunityCenter on Facebook and @MaldenBridgecc on Instagram.

GENTLE STRETCHING, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 5:30 pm. Limber up with some gentle stretching with Joe Ogilvie. All levels are welcome. <https://newlebanonlibrary.org/>

First Mondays

EXERCISE FOR SENIORS: Live a physically safe, vibrant and functional life, Malden Bridge Community Center, 1087 Albany Turnpike, 10–11 am with Ihor Evanick. Get more info at nncc1info@gmail.com.

WRITERS WORKSHOP, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 6 pm. A monthly workshop open to writers of all forms. Join them to meet other writers, share your work, and offer thoughtful feedback on theirs. Contact the library for details: 518-672-5010, philmontlibrary@gmail.com

Second Mondays

BOOK CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 6 pm. All adult readers are welcome to join the book club. 518 758-9321, valatielibrary.net

HUDSON AMERICAN LEGION POST #184, 104 Cty Rte 25, Stockport, monthly meetings, 7 pm. To become a member, bring DD214 to a meeting. 518-828-4707.

Fourth Mondays

NONFICTION BOOK GROUP, Hudson Area Library, virtual via Zoom, 6–7 pm. Email info@HUDSONAREALIBRARY.ORG for the Zoom link.

WRITERS WORKSHOP, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 6:30 pm. Join us to share your works in progress and offer thoughtful feedback on your fellow writers' work. Open to writers of all forms. <https://philmontlibrary.com>

Mondays, Tuesdays

OPEN ACCESS HOURS, Columbia County Mental Health Center, 325 Columbia St, Hudson, 8:30–10:30 am. columbiacountymhc.com.

MAH JONGG, The Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook Street, 12:30 pm. Open to all adults, no registration required. 518 758-9321, <https://valatielibrary.net>

Mondays, Wednesdays

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY, 431 E Allen St, Hudson, open to those in need, Mon 9 am-noon, Wed noon-5 pm. Drop off monetary donations, non-perishable food, hygiene products at agency. 518 828-8660 X 125. Catholiccharitiescg.org.

MAH-JONG CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, Chatham, 10:30 am Mon, 2 pm Wed. For experienced players. Chathampubliclibrary.org, 518 392-3666.

FIBER ARTS CIRCLE, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 1 pm, free. All levels, experiences welcome. claveracklibrary.org, 518 851-7120.

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays

VALATIE SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER, 3302 Williams St. Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30 am-1:30 pm, Fridays 10 am-3 pm. Lunch provided with reservation on Mondays & Wednesdays; Fridays, no reservation needed, lunch \$5/person. Seniors invited to catch up with friends, enjoy nutritious lunch, hear guest speakers, participate in fun activities, discover local programs & services available to older adults in Columbia County. Call 518-672-5323 to reserve a meal at least 24-hours ahead. Learn more at ofa@columbiacountyny.com.

Mondays, Thursdays

EXERCISE: BALANCE, CARDIO AND SOCIAL TIME, 9–10 am, Hall of Church of Immaculate Conception, 732 Rt 20, New Lebanon. Silver Seniors Program. Free, all are welcome. 518-794-7617.

Mondays-Saturdays

FOOD PANTRY DRIVE COLLECTION, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St. Library partners with Mellenville Philmont Food Pantry to provide nonperishable foods for the community. Donations of unopened items with unexpired dates are needed, and can be dropped off inside the library during open hours. See philmontlibrary.com. Volunteers to check expiration dates are always appreciated.

FREE FRIDGE, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St. Pick up fresh veggies, fruits, and dairy whenever the library is open. See <https://philmontlibrary.com/> or call 518-672-5010 for hours. Enjoy all the rest the library offers while you're there.

Tuesdays

TAI CHI, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 11:30 am, free. David Haines leads. claveracklibrary.org, 518 851-7120.

QIGONG TAICHI CLASSES, Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51N5th St, 10–11 am, (no class November 11). Qigong sets and traditional Tai Chi Form with instructor Curt Anthon. <https://HUDSONAREALIBRARY.ORG/>

SOCIAL HOUR, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, Chatham, 10:30 am. Share coffee, tea, pastries, and conversation with new friends at the library. Here's a chance to find others in your community who share your interests or discover a new interest for yourself. Refreshments provided. Chathampubliclibrary.org, 518 392-3666.

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC, Col. Cty Dept of Health, 325 Columbia St, Hudson, 1–4 pm, free. Third Tuesday of month 4–6 pm. Many types of vaccines offered. By appointment only, 518 828-3358 (option #4). sites.google.com/a/columbiacountyny.com/health/health-clinics.

BRIDGE CLUB MEETUP, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 2 pm. Whether you're a seasoned player or just getting started, come connect with others who share your interest in the game. All are welcome — this is a great opportunity to start a regular Bridge club.

COMMUNITY OUTPOST, Our Community Cares, 25 Hudson Ave, Chatham, 2–4 pm, free. Walk-ins encouraged, learn more about services offered, receive training on Narcan, be given Narcan kit. Twincountyrecoveryervices.org.

COMMUNITY STILL LIFE, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 2–4 pm. A relaxed, welcoming atmosphere where people come together to draw and observe. All levels welcome — just come to draw or paint. Some supplies are available or bring your own. <https://www.roejanlibrary.org/>

CHAIR YOGA, Chatham Public Library, on Zoom, 4 pm. Chair yoga creates a safe space for movement and balance. Kathy Schneider-Doyle, MS, RN, AEA, RYT 200, has been a community health nurse for 43 years and an instructor in aquatics and yoga for over ten years. Email chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us to register.

First Tuesdays

BOOTS ON THE GROUND, High-N-Mighty, 71 CR21C, Ghent, 6–7:30 pm. Veterans welcome for evening of equine activities full of hands-on experiences with the herd. Registration recommended, walk-ins welcome. Rachel@high-n-mighty.org, 518 965-3027, danaerin1222@gmail.com.

Second Tuesdays

AS THE PAGES TURN BOOK CLUB, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 12:30 pm. Contact the library for this month's title. 518-672-5010; philmontlibrary@gmail.com

TRI-VILLAGE SENIORS, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 1010 Kinderhook St/ Rte 9, Valatie, 1 pm. \$10 dues. New members welcome. Info, trip reservations Joyce Meservey 518-610-9095

QUEER & TRANS CONNECTION NETWORK: Craft Night, ARTLife717 Gallery, 717 Columbia Street, Hudson, 6–8 pm. Snacks, community and crafts. Bring your own craft or bring an open heart and craft supplies will be provided. Follow us on instagram @[qtconnectioncg](https://qtconnectioncg.org). DM or email toby@c-gac.org for more info or the link to join virtually. Brought to you by The Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition: www.c-gac.org

First & Third Tuesdays

CHATHAM WRITING GROUP, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am. The Chatham Writing Group is an informal group that explores the craft of writing. New members welcome. Email ajourney@fairpoint.net to join.

Second & Fourth Tuesdays

NAMI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 6–7:30 pm. Peer-led support group for family members, caregivers, and loved ones of individuals living with mental health challenges. Hybrid meeting supporting in-person and online participation. To join virtually, register to receive login credentials at <https://namiccny.org/> For more information call 518 336-0246 or write to info@namiccny.org

Third Tuesdays

BOARD MEETING, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 6 pm. Public welcome. For more information, email director@roejanlibrary.org.

Last Tuesdays

SENIOR COFFEE HOUR, Hillsdale House, 2634 State Route 23, 10–11:30 am. Coffee, doughnuts, conversation. Presented by Hillsdale Safe at Home Committee. Hillsdalesafeathome@gmail.com

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

COLUMBIA COUNTY DWYER PROGRAM FOOD PANTRY, 389 Fairview Ave, Greenport, 9 am-noon. Supports local veterans. Hours flexible if needed. 518 828-3610.

Tuesdays, Thursdays

OPEN SWIM, Shatford Pool, New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School, 14665 Rte 22, 5:30–7 pm, one time annual fee \$10, discounts for large families. Brought to you by Community Ed. Contact Britt Buckenroth at bbuckenroth@newlebanoncsd.org if you have any questions.

Tuesdays-Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays

NEW LEBANON FREE STORE, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 Rt 20, Tues-Thurs 2–5:30 pm, Sat 5–8 pm, Sun 11 am- 2 pm. Clothing, footwear, children's items, more to help reduce, reuse, recycle. Donations go directly to the Free Store during open hours. For more information contact newlebanoncommunitycenter.com or supervisor@townofnewlebanon.com. 518-794-8889

Wednesdays

COFFEE & CONNECTION, Chamber of Commerce, 1 N Front St, Hudson, 8:30–9:30 am. Bring beverage for informal conversation, networking. columbiachamber-ny.com.

STD CLINIC, Columbia County Dept of Health, 1st Floor, 325 Columbia St, Hudson, 9–10 am, free, no appointment needed. STD testing, treatment, counseling; HIV testing, counseling; all services private, confidential. 518 828-3358. sites.google.com/a/columbiacountyny.com/health/health-clinics.

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY WALKING GROUP, Harlem Valley Rail Trail parking kiosk across from Herrington's, White Hill Lane, 9:30 am. Hillsdale's Safe at Home Committee. Walks are weather dependent. Walk April 15 until the end of October. 518-265-2113

SENIORS ROCK, Canaan Town Hall, 1647 Rt 5, 10:30 am-1:30 pm, \$3 donation. Lunch, speakers, entertainment, games. Information, volunteer to help 518 781-0028, sguelpa@gmail.com.

CLAVERACK BRIDGE CLUB, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, noon. claveracklibrary.org.

COMMUNITY OUTPOST, Our Community Cares, New Lebanon Town Hall, 14755 Rt 22, noon-3 pm, free. Walk-ins encouraged, learn more about services offered, receive training on Narcan, be given Narcan kit. twincountyrecoveryervices.org.

GENTLE YOGA WITH CURT ANTHON, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, noon. Slow-moving class targeting all areas of the body to create flexibility, strength and balance all from reclined, seated or kneeling positions. Occasional standing postures are optional for those who want to work on balance. Chathampubliclibrary.org, 518 392-3666.

DIGITAL NAVIGATOR OFFICE HOURS, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 1–4 pm. Digital Navigators can help you get online at the library or help you use your personal device to get things done. Walk-ins are welcome, appointments are appreciated. Email communications@roejanlibrary.org or call 518-325-4101.

GENTLE CHAIR YOGA, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 1:15 pm. <https://philmontlibrary.com/>

DANCE EXERCISE, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US Route 20, Wednesdays, 3:30–4:15 pm. For ages 16 & up. Gentle joyful movement class for everyone based on modern & jazz dance basics. Trina Porte leads stretching, balance, light aerobic exercises to songs from the 1940s-1990s. Wear comfortable clothes. Register by email or text t4peace@juno.com or 612-790-9914

BEAUTIFUL RACKET, First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, 369 Warren St, 5–6:30 pm, free. Beginner master class series of sound healing in collaboration with master sound medicine practitioner Sister Redhawk. beautifulrackethudson@gmail.com.

ENGLISH CLASS, Hudson Area Library, 51 N5th St, 6–8 pm, free. For adults who want to improve reading, writing, English speaking skills. Free childcare available. Registration 518 828-1792, colgreene@literacyconnections.org.

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS, Apogee Center, Fairview Avenue, Hudson, 6 pm. Call Sue at 518-965-7410.

ROE JAN FOOD PANTRY, Hillsdale/Copake. Submit orders by Wednesday for Friday pickup. Call Betty White 518 441-2789 or Jackie Dextraze 518 965-5770. Questions to roejanfoodpantry@gmail.com.

First Wednesdays

CHATHAM/GHENT SENIORS, Ghent Reformed Church, 1039 County Route 22, West Ghent, 1 pm. Refreshments. guest speaker.

READ BIPOC BOOK CLUB, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 5:30 pm. Collaboration between the Chatham Bookstore and the library, discusses books that celebrate diversity. Discussions are led by Amy Zimmerman of the Chatham Bookstore. Books are available from the bookstore (at a discount) and to borrow from the library. chathampubliclibrary.org

BOARD MEETING, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 6 pm. Public welcome. For more information, email director.philmontlibrary@gmail.com

First & Third Wednesdays TACONIC TOASTMASTERS, CC Chamber of Commerce, 1 N Front St, Hudson, 5:30–6:30 pm, free. Participants improve speaking & leadership skills. Guests welcome. 518 929-5866, taconic.toastmastersclubs.org.

MOVING WITH MUSIC, Kinderhook Memorial Library, 18 Hudson St, 6–7 pm, free. Led by Sandra Tolosa; for those who like upbeat tunes with their workouts. kinderhooklibrary.org.

COMMUNITY SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP, Kinderhook Tri-Village Rotary, virtual event, 6:30 pm, free. Zoom link, KTVRotary@gmail.com.

RAINBOW LOUNGE-LGBTQ Aging Well Peer Support Group, Spark of Hudson Building, 502 Union St, Hudson, 6:30–8 pm. Group helps LGBTQ+ people 40+ share food & provide peer support for negotiating changes/challenges associated with aging well. Co-hosted by Q-MoB & Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center. 1-503-734-6508, queermenoftheberkshires@gmail.com

Third Wednesdays

READ ON! BOOK CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 6 pm. The book is available to borrow through the Mid-Hudson Library System and Libby. All are welcome. For more information, email communications@roejanlibrary.org.

HISTORY BOOK CLUB, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, Philmont, 6–7 pm. Enjoy history? Join us! Contact the library for information 518-672-5010; director.philmontlibrary@gmail.com

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Livingston Free Library, 90 County Rte 19, 7 pm. Board meetings are open to the public. livingstonfreelibrary.org

Fourth Wednesdays

HAL BOOK GROUP, Hudson Area Library, 2nd fl, 51N5th St, 5–6 pm. All are welcome. December Book Group will be held December 3.

Wednesdays, Saturdays

BARGAIN SHOP, Copake United Methodist Church, 1668 CR7A, 10 am-2 pm. Clothes, household goods. Shop accepts donations of clothes, serviceable household goods, drop items off in outer vestibule any time.

Thursdays

BETTER TOGETHER, in-person Al-Anon meeting, Colbert house (of St. James Church), 129 Hudson Ave, Chatham, 9–10 am. 12-step program of recovery & support for family & friends of people with alcohol or substance abuse problems. All welcome. Enter through back door. More info call or text Steve M. at 310-433-5192.

HATHA YOGA, Roe Jan Community Library, virtual event, 9–10:30 am, donation. Gentle yoga with Roberta Roll. Info: 518 329-0384.

YOGA, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 10 am, free. Brooke Murray leads combination chair & mat yoga. claveracklibrary.org, 518 851-7120.

QIGONG & TAI CHI, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 10:30–11:30 am, free. Drop in class, open to all. Wear comfortable clothing. Will be outside weather permitting or in library. Roejanlibrary.org, 518 325-4101.

QIGONG, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, noon, free. Led by Curt Anthon. Suitable for all ages, abilities. chathampubliclibrary@chatham.k12.ny.us

BRIDGE CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 12:45 pm. For adults, no registration required. 518 758-9321, valatielibrary.net, valatiefreelibrary@gmail.com

KNIT CLUB OF THE HUDSON VALLEY, Copake Memorial Park Building, 305 Mountain View Rd, 1–3 pm, \$2 donation. For all generations & crafters; bring current project to work on in company. Questions: 518 929-7682.

COMMUNITY OUTPOST, Our Community Cares, Philmont Community Center, 14 Lake Dr, 2–4 pm, free. Walk-ins encouraged, learn more about services offered, receive training on Narcan, be given Narcan kit. twincountyrecoveryervices.org.

Continued on Page B2

EVENTS Calendar

Continued from Page B1

RECOVERY CAFE, The Mental Health Awareness and Creative Arts Gallery, 717 Columbia St, Hudson, 3-4 pm, free. Weekly art/recovery classes based on the eight dimensions of wellness. Art supplies & coffee provided. stigmafreesart.com

QUEER & TRANS CONNECTION NETWORK: Community Night, 1 Taconic Place, Chatham, 5-7 pm. Snacks, connection, support. Follow us on Instagram @qtconnectioncg; DM or email toby@c-gac.org for more info or the link to join virtually. Brought to you by The Columbia-Greene Addiction Coalition: www.c-gac.org

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUTORING, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 6-7:30 pm, by appointment. One-on-one or group sessions for adults. Childcare provided for ages 3 & up. Appointments: director@roejanlibrary.org, 518325-4101.

PAGE TURNERS YA BOOK CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, 6 pm. For teens and adults, led by Xondra O'Connell. Email Xondra at youth@roejanlibrary.org if you are interested in joining. Books are available through the Mid-Hudson Library System and Libby.

First Thursdays CHATHAM ROOTS GENEALOGY, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 2 pm, free. Michelle LeClair leads beginners & experts in search for family. Space limited, registration michelle@leclairdesign.com.

MEMOIR WRITING GROUP, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 5-7 pm. Share stories in supportive environment. 518325-4101, roejanlibrary.org.

Second Thursdays BOARD MEETING, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 6 pm. Public welcome. Agenda & materials on website week ahead of time. No February and August meetings. 518794-8844. Newlebanonlibrary.org.

Third Thursdays HEALTHCARE CONSORTIUM REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 1 pm. Meet with a Healthcare Navigator for help signing up for affordable health coverage, including Medicaid and Child Health Plus. Newlebanonlibrary.org.

BOOK MARKS CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 1-2 pm, free. Nonfiction book group. Led by Robin Gottlieb. circulation@roejanlibrary.org, 518325-4101.

WARM UP AMERICA, Valatie Presbyterian Church, 3212 Church Street, 2-4 pm. Group makes warm things for others in need. Create afghans out of knitted squares or use yarn provided to make mittens, hats, scarves, neck warmers. Work at home or at the meeting. Many charities benefit.

HUDSON AREA LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51 N5th St, 8 pm. The general public is welcome to attend. For more information, contact info@hudsonarealibrary.org.

MAKE IT & TAKE IT: CRAFTS MEETUP FOR ADULTS, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 6:30 pm. All materials provided. Registration is appreciated, call 518-794-8844 or email info@newlebanonlibrary.org.

BOARD MEETING, Claverack Library, 9 Rt 9H, 6 pm. Public welcome. Claveracklibrary.org.

Fourth Thursdays GREENPORT SENIORS, Greenport Community Center, 500 Town Hall Drive, 1 pm. Any senior who resides in Columbia County is welcome to attend meeting.

TEA TIME AT THE LIBRARY, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 2:30 pm, free. Tea, coffee, socialize. Roejanlibrary.org, 518325-4101.

PAINT AND SIP, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 5-7 pm. For adults. Go to https://valatielibrary.net/

Fridays ROE JAN FOOD PANTRY, 2684 Rt 23 (basement of the Sheriff's Substation), Hillsdale, Pick up orders 10 am-noon. Appointments as needed. Call ahead if possible: Betty White 518441-2789 or Jackie Dextraze 518965-5770. Questions roejanfoodpantry@gmail.com.

FUTURE FRIDAYS CLIMATE VIGIL, Chatham Village Green, 3-4 pm. All invited to raise awareness of current climate emergency. Information climatebart@gmail.com.

TECH HELP, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, by appt. Use library laptop or bring your own. Appointments: 518794-8844.

First Fridays BOOK CLUB, Livingston Free Library, 90 CR19, 11:30 am, free. New members welcome. 518851-2270, livingstonlibrary105@gmail.com.

First & Third Fridays LEBANON VALLEY SENIORS, Community Center, 523 Rt 20, New Lebanon, 1 pm. New members welcome. Ages 55+ \$15/year; free for 80 years+. Contact lebanonseniorcitizens@gmail.com or call William Shannon at 518-938-1039. Senior page with full calendar, trip information at TownofNewLebanon.com

Second Fridays CLAVERACK SENIORS, Reformed Dutch Church, 88 Rt 9H, Claverack, 1 pm. 518610-1766.

STAR PARTY, Lake Taghkanic State Park, West Beach Parking Lot, 1528 Rt 82, Gallatin, time changes, free. Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association. Bring telescopes, binoculars, use those provided. RSVP required one day before, meetup.com/mhastro/events/275468188.

Third Fridays RECHARGE & RENEW RESPITE: A community Program Supporting Caregivers and their Loved Ones, Canaan Congregational Church, County Rte 5, Canaan, 10 am-2 pm. Free. Coffee and conversation, chair exercises and Zumba, crafts, games and puzzles, music and floral arranging, companionship with volunteers. Includes nutritional lunch. Registration required. To sign up contact: Columbia County Office for the Aging at 518-828-4258 (ask for intake)

Saturdays BASIC BREATH & BODY MOVEMENT with Regina, Germantown Library Hover Room, 31 Palatine Park Rd, 9-10:15 am, \$10 a class (or donation). All levels welcome. In addition to gentle movement, the instructor will also emphasize breath and body movement. Some mats are available and bringing a cushion to sit up on is encouraged, participants are welcome to bring their own yoga mat, towel. https://germantownlibrary.org

ROE JAN FRIENDS BOOKSHOP, basement of Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 10 am-2 pm. Used books, CDs and DVDs at low prices. @roejanfriendsbookshop.

UKULELE JAMS, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10:30 am, free. Carmen Borgia leads all ages. Ukuleles available from library. chathampubliclibrary.org

First Saturdays PROSE WRITERS GROUP, Roe Jan Community Library, virtual event. Safe environment offers support, feedback to writers of all levels working on fiction, non-fiction, memoir, essay, Haiku. To join: 914954-3494.

COMMUNITY GIVING, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Rd, 10 am-noon. Healthy nonperishable foods; personal hygiene products; nutritional snacks (individual packets); winter hats, gloves, socks, boots. copakegrange.org

FIRST WEEKEND WANDERINGS, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 Rt 9G, Greenport, noon-1 pm, free. Guided walking tour covering 1 mile of artist-designed landscape; wear weather-appropriate clothes, footwear. Tickets olana.org/programs-events.

Third Saturdays THE STITCHERS, First Presbyterian Church of Valatie, 3212 Church Street, 10 am-noon. Group repairs clothing for donations. Repairs only, no alterations. Sew on buttons, turn collars, put on patches, sew up torn seams, replace zippers, shorten hems, etc. They finish what they can in 2 hours, take home items that could not be completed. Donations go to Presbyterian Church of Valatie for disaster relief.

COOKBOOK CLUB, Roe Jan Community Library, 9091 Rt 22, Copake, 1 pm. Cooks of all levels are welcome to join a fun and yummy afternoon. https://www.roejanlibrary.org/

Fourth Saturdays MOUNT LEBANON WORK CREW, Historic Mount Lebanon Site, 202 Shaker Rd, New Lebanon, 9:30 am-noon, April thru October. Maintain seasonal growth, contain spread of invasive species around Great Stone Barn & North Family Site. No minimum commitment needed. Registration shakermuseum.us/events.

A NOVEL IDEA BOOK CLUB, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 10 am-noon. Registration is not required. New members are welcome! https://valatielibrary.net/

First Sundays BOOK GROUP, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 11 am. Copies of the book are available by request at local libraries. Newlebanonlibrary.org.

FARMERS MARKETS

HUDSON FARMERS MARKET, Elks Lodge #787, 201 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson, Saturdays, 10 am-1 pm. Indoor Winter Market each Saturday, November 29- April 11. hudsonfarmersmarketny.org/

SPECIAL EVENTS

Through April 30 INDOOR WALKING, Walter B. Howard Elementary School, 1478 Route 20, New Lebanon, Monday through Thursday 6:30-8 pm, enter building only between 6:30-6:45 pm. Bring indoor walking shoes, sign in & out, respect laborers as they continue their duties in the building. Free after a one time annual facilities fee of \$5. Questions: contact Britt Buckenroth: bbuckenroth@newlebanoncsd.org

Until May 1 HIGH FALLS PHOTO EXHIBIT, Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St. Submit your photos with "A Walk at High Falls" theme for consideration, no later than May 1. Send up to seven jpegs, max 5mb each, along with intended final print sizes of each to curator.philmontlibrary@gmail.com. The exhibit will run from mid-June through mid-August at the library. Contact the library for details: 518-672-5010 or philmontlibrary@gmail.com

Until June 1 GALLATIN TRANSFER STATION & NEW LEBANON RECYCLING CENTER CLOSED, Gallatin, 2180 Route 82; New Lebanon, 22 Cty Rte 5A (West Street). Direct questions or concerns regarding the stations' closure to the Columbia County Solid Waste Department at 518-828-2737.



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DETAILS

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Mondays April 13-June 22
TAI CHI FOR BEGINNERS, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US Route 20, 11 am-noon. Free 10 week class. Led by Kris Cottom /Hudson Valley Tai Chi. Instruction in postures and techniques to increase balance, flexibility and strength as well as relaxation and inner calm. Class size limited, pre-registration required. Contact Kris Cottom at 518-708-5351 kris.cottom@gmail.com

April 9
KINDERHOOK PUTT THROUGH THE PAST, Van Buren Hall, 6 Chatham St, Kinderhook, 1-3 pm. Discover rich history of Village of Kinderhook in a fun family-friendly way. Putt your way through historical landmarks & learn fascinating facts about the village. Bring the whole family for mini-golf history and fun. Ages 8 and up. More info at villageofkinderhook.org

BLOOD DRIVE, Hudson Elks Lodge No. 787, 201 Harry Howard Ave, 1-6 pm. Grab a spot to donate blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

April 10
BLOOD DRIVE, Livingston Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 2781 US-9, 1-5 pm. Grab a spot to donate blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

TEACUP HERB GARDEN, Valatie Free Library, 1036 Kinderhook St, 5-7 pm. Join the library as we paint ceramic Teacup planters and plant an array of kitchen herbs. One Planter Teacup is provide but you are welcome to bring your own. Registration required. Stop by the library or email valatiefreelibrary@gmail.com

HOOPS4 INCLUSION, Saugerties High School Gymnasium, 310 Washington Avenue, 5:30 pm. In Flight, Inc. basketball fundraiser. Local residents, supporters, members of In Flight's community for a basketball matchup between a Community Team & Team In Flight, which features members of the Special Olympics basketball team. \$10 adults, \$5 children or \$25 family pass. Tickets available www.inflightinc.org.

April 11
COLUMBIA NE REPAIR CAFE, Austerlitz Town Hall, 816 NY-203, Spencertown, 10 am-2 pm. Bring broken, worn, or beloved-but-damaged items to be repaired at no charge by a talented team of volunteer fixers. Textiles, bicycles, clocks, lamps, small wood furniture, electrical and mechanical repairs, small jewelry repair, lawn mowers, 3D printing for select repairs. Two-item-per-person limit. Email: columbianerepaircafe@gmail.com

FEED HUNGRY PETS FOOD DRIVE, ShopRite, 351 Fairview Avenue, Greenport, 10 am-3 pm. With Guest Celebrity Mid-Day Host Bill Williams from WBPM 92.9. To benefit the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Pet Food Bank.

POETRY WALK, Lake Taghkanic State Park (West Beach), 1528 State Route 82, Gallatin, 1 pm. Writer & Poet Mackenzie Kell guides poetry walk along Lakeview Trail. 2-mile walk includes stops to rest, hear readings, take in calmness of nature. For more info call 518-851-3631.

AMPHIBIANS AT LINDENWALD WALK, Martin Van Buren National Historic Site, 1013 Old Post Rd off Rte 9H, Kinderhook, 1-2:30 pm. Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program leads free guided walk to visit amphibian breeding pools & ponds. Learn about frogs & salamanders that use them in early spring. Walk includes stops, will take 1½ hours. Space limited, register by emailing anna@hawthornevalleyfarm.org.

April 11,18
DROP OFF ITEMS FOR SPRING CLEANOUT SALE, North Chatham United Methodist Church, 4274 Route 203, 9 am-noon. Neighbors of Northern Columbia accepting gently-used or new items for their fundraiser. Large items can be delivered to the United Methodist Church April 22 and 23 by appointment only. For more info call 518-929-8526, visit nnc1.org or email nnc1info@gmail.com.

April 11,25
MAHJONG, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 10:30 am, free. Beginners and experienced players are welcome. www.newlebanonlibrary.org, 518-794-8844

April 12
BOOK GROUP, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 11 am. Discuss "What We Can Know" by Ian McEwan. Newcomers welcome. No fragrance policy for the safety of some of the members. Copies of the book are available to borrow from local libraries.

April 16
AFTERNOON OF POETRY, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 1:30 pm. Poetry is meant to be shared. Join the Poetry Caravan of Columbia County and your friends and neighbors for an open-mic style poetry event. Bring your favorite poems (yours or someone else's) to share with the group or just come to listen and enjoy. No registration required.

April 17
LIBRARY WALKING CLUB WITH THE CLC, Schor, 58 Shore View Road, East Chatham, 10 am. The Columbia Land Conservancy and the Chatham Public Library take a monthly walk on public lands. Enjoy fresh air, friends, and fun as you explore the local trails at Schor. This event will still occur in light rain, but registrants will be contacted in extreme weather. Sign up for emails at https://columbialand.org/event/library-walking-club-9/

MONTHLY STAR PARTY, Lake Taghkanic State Park, West Beach parking lot, 1528 State Route 82, Gallatin, 7:30 pm. Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association hosts. Bring your own telescopes and binoculars or use those provided. Provide license plate number and make/model car, so park management and police has a record of who will be in park after hours. RSVP is required at least one day beforehand. More info at https://www.spy-hill.net/myers/astro/ltsp/

April 18
INDOOR YARD SALE, Ghent Reformed Church, 1039 County Route 22, West Ghent, 9 am-2 pm. Book, puzzle and bake sale, kitchen open. Any questions call the church at 518-828-5946.

DASH FOR TRASH, Kinderhook Village Green, Hudson & Broad streets, 10 am. Community clean-up event presented by Village of Kinderhook Climate Smart Task Force & Kinderhook Runners Club. Prizes awarded for most trash collected. Take one hour to collect as much litter as possible. At 11 am trash weighed, prizes awarded. Free & family-friendly. Gloves & trash bags provided. New category: composting.

TOWN OF AUSTERLITZ 2026 EARTH DAY FESTIVAL, Spencertown Park, 786 NY-203, and Spencertown Academy, 790 State Route 203, 11 am-3 pm, free. Kicks off at 11 am at the park with a tree planting ceremony. Meet and learn from representatives from 18 Columbia County conservation and nature non-profits, as well as sign up for volunteer opportunities. From noon-3 pm, Spencertown Academy hosts creative environmental activities for children. If weather is inclement, the park activities will move inside Town Hall, 816 NY-203. Community partners include the Climate Smart Committees of Austerlitz, Canaan, Chatham, Ghent, and Philmont.

STORY WALK WITH CAROL LINDSTROM, High Falls Public Conservation Area, 540 Roxbury Road, Philmont, 11 am-1 pm. Take a stroll along the Agawamuck Creek to look for animals that call this creek home as Author Lindstrom reads her Caldecott Medal-winning We Are Water Protectors. Visit ColumbiaLand.org/Events to register and learn more about each program, including accessibility information and what to bring.

April 18-26
EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES, Taconic State Park, 253 State Route 344, Copake Falls, during park open hours. Free. Stop at Copake Falls Park Office to see the Earth Day Activity sheet which challenges you to do things in celebration of becoming earth conscious. Prompts include: use a reusable water bottle, unplug and disconnect from electronics, reduce your single-use plastics, and take a walk. How deep you dive in is up to you. 518-329-3993

RELIGIOUS EVENTS

April 12
REV. KIM SINGLETERY leads worship at the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, 369 Warren Street, 10 am. Coffee, refreshments and fellowship follow the service. Learn more at firstpreshudson.org or call 518-828-4275.

April 14
HUDSON VALLEY INTERFAITH CIRCLE, First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, 369 Warren St., 7-8:30 pm. Hear award winning Quaker speaker, author, leader in spiritually-based activism, Eileen Flanagan, discuss her new book "Common Ground: How the Crisis of Earth is Saving Us From Our Illusion of Separation." All welcome. Event is free. No RSVP required. For more info about the book & author go to: https://eileenflanagan.com/common-ground/

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

April 10
FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION, Our Lady of Hope Parish, 8074 State Route 22, Copake Falls, noon-3 pm. Free food distribution through a mobile food pantry. Pre-registration is available, will guarantee food for everyone who comes. Visit www.ourladyofhopecopakefalls.org, or call 518-755-9763 for sign up forms.

HOT SUB SALE, Ghent Firehouse, 2230 Route 66, 11 am-7 pm or until sold out. Ladies Auxiliary hosts. Menu includes pepperoni; meatball; and sausage, pepper and onion subs for \$8 each. Homemade baked goods available for purchase. Bake sale proceeds benefit the Doris and Jim Moore Memorial Scholarship Fund.

April 19
SPRING CHICKEN BBQ, Mellenville Volunteer Fire Company 33 County Route 9, noon-2:30 pm. \$18/meal. Half a chicken, baked potato, cole slaw, roll/butter, dessert. Take-out only, usually sells out. To reserve call Tim Teaney at 518-929-7006.

FOR KIDS

Through May 9 (Saturdays)
SWIMMING LESSONS, New Lebanon Junior/Senior High School pool, 14665 State Route 22. New Lebanon Community Education program offers eight 45-minute Saturday morning classes. \$100/student plus \$10 one-time yearly pool use fee. Three or more household member discount available. 9 a.m. levels 1, 2 and P/C; 10 a.m. levels 1, 2 and 3; 11 a.m. levels 1, 2 & 4. Make checks payable to NL Communiy Ed, mail or drop off to New Lebanon Junior/Senior High School, ATTN: Michelle Bienes, 14665 Route 22, New Lebanon 12125. Contact Britt Buckenroth for more info at bbuckenroth@newlebanoncsd.org

Through April 25 (Saturdays)
FAMILY DANCE, Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St, 10-10:45 am, free, registration required. Ages: Walking to 5. Led by Judith Nelson. An imaginative movement class for young children and caregivers to dance, play, and explore together. Includes BrainDance exercises (a series of whole-brain warm-ups based on infant movement patterns), musical games, props, and guided creative movement appropriate for a variety of ages and abilities. Registration is open at https://hudsonhall.org/event/family-dance/

BABY MOVES!, Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St, 11-11:45 am, free, registration required. Ages: 2 months to pre-walking. Led by Judith Nelson. Bring your best bub and join teaching artist Judith Nelson for Saturday morning dance and playtime fun. With simple songs, sensory props, and guided movement especially for the developing bodies and brains of infants and pre-walkers, this class supports early physical development and emotional and social connection. Registration at https://hudsonhall.org

Through April 27
WET FELTING FOR KIDS, the Philmont Public Library, 101 Main St, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Learn to transform wool into felt, aged 7-12, Contact the library for details: 518-672-5010 philmontlibrary@gmail.com

Through April 28
SHAKESPEARE IMPROV, Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St, Tuesdays, 5-6:30 pm, free, registration required, For grades 3 to 5. Performance rehearsal on Saturday, April 25. Shipwrecks and spells come alive in this lively workshop led by teaching artist Cindy Kubik, where young performers explore Shakespeare's The Tempest through games, improv, and hands-on script work, culminating in a fun end-of-season performance for friends and family. Registration at https://hudsonhall.org

SHAKESPEARE IMPROV II, Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St, Thursdays 5-6:30 p.m., free, registration required. For grades 6 to 9. Performance rehearsal on Saturday, April 25. Using "The Tempest" as their vessel, young performers explore Shakespeare's world with teaching artist Cindy Kubik through improv and ensemble work, building skills in language and character and charting a course toward a final performance for friends and family. https://hudsonhall.org

Through May 18
ARTMAKING WITH NTANGO, Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St, Fridays 3:15-4:45 pm, free, registration required unless already enrolled in the Hudson Youth Center Afterschool Program. For grades 3 to 7. In partnership with the Hudson Youth Center. Led by visual artist Ntangou Badila, participants work with a range of materials and techniques while building confidence in their own ideas. https://hudsonhall.org

April 10, 17, 24
FULL STEAM AHEAD, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 2:30-4:30 pm. For all ages. April 10 & 24 Legomania — the library will have its big bins of Legos out all afternoon. April 17 — Catapult, make a miniature catapult using popsicle sticks.

April 11
TEEN CRAFTERNOON WITH COCO, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 1 pm. Teens are invited to hang out and discover new skills. This month, upcycle your clothes with applique techniques. Bring an old t-shirt, sweatshirt or pair of pants you want to bring new life to. No experience needed. Participants are welcome to bring snacks! For ages 13+

April 13, 20, 27
DIY ART, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 2:30-4:30 pm. Join the library for a DIY art project in the teen room every Monday afternoon. They provide the supplies, you bring the creativity. For all ages. April 6 — Fingerprint Bookmarks, April 13 — Polymer Clay, April 20 — Decorate/Paint Flower Pots; April 27 — Make Tissue Paper Flowers.

April 13-27 (Mondays)
QUEER TEEN MEET UP, Hudson Area Library Teen Room, 51 N5th St, 3:30-5 pm. Eat snacks, share ideas, make new friends, and work together to plan a spring event. Ages 12-18.

April 14, 21, 28
KIDS CAN KNIT, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 3 pm. The Kids Can Knit program with retired handwork teacher Candace Bachrach is currently full. Email Miss Becky (kleinr@chatham.k12.ny.us) to join the waitlist. (Ages 8+)

CRAFTERNOON KIDS — DUCT TAPE SUCCULENTS, New Lebanon Library, 550 State Rte 20, 4:30 pm. Make a succulent plant from duct tape and "plant" it in a tiny pot! For ages 5 years and up, all materials provided. Younger children may need an adult helper. https://newlebanonlibrary.org/

April 15
ANIME CLUB: DRAWING MANGA-STYLE CHARACTERS, Hudson Area Library Teen Room, 51 N5th St, 4-6 pm. Learn to draw Manga with Emily Ree. Email youth@hudsonarealibrary.org or call 518-828-1792 to register.

April 15, 22, 29
FUN AND GAMES IN THE TEEN ROOM, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 2:30-4:30 pm. For all ages. Bring a friend to the library and meet up in the teen room to play board games. Choose from a collection of games or bring your own.

April 17
MUSIC & MOVEMENT, New Lebanon Library, 550 Rt 20, 10 am. Babies, toddlers, and preschoolers can get their wiggles out at the library. Join Ms. Rebekkah for songs, games, and dancing. Families are encouraged to stay after the program to play and socialize in the Children's Room. www.newlebanonlibrary.org, 518-794-8844

April 18
GET CREATIVE IN KITCHEN & ART STUDIO, Wagon House Education Center, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 State Route 9G, 11 am-1 pm. Join Sylvia Center Chefs & The Olana Partnership educators for a fun, family-friendly program focused on cooking food and making art inspired by Olana's landscape and history. Try new foods and test new art materials together during this free family program. Learn more: https://olana.org/programs-events/

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EVENTS

Calendar

Continued from Page B3

FREE FAMILY TOUR SATURDAY, Wagon House Education Center, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 NY-9G, Hudson, 1–2 pm.

Experience learning, looking closely, and conversation as a family during this series of special museum gallery program at Olana State Historic Site. Designed for families with children ages 3 and up. Advanced registration required. Learn more: <https://olana.org/programs-events/>

AT THE MOVIES

April 9
NATCHEZ, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, 4 pm. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

WUTHERING HEIGHTS, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, 7 pm. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

April 10
PILLION, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, times vary. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

April 10–12, 15–16
GHOST ELEPHANTS, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, times vary. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

BILLY PRESTON, THAT'S THE WAY GOD PLANNED IT, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, times vary. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

April 10–13
TWO PROSECUTORS, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, times vary. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

BURDEN OF DREAMS, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, times vary. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

GREY GARDENS, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, times vary. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

April 11
BURYING THE HATCHET: The Tom Quick Story, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Rd, 2–4 pm. Film about how a nearly all-white community and disenfranchised tribal leaders reconciled with the past and forged a shared path forward based on trust, friendship and a healing vision of the future. Followed by panel discussion led by Bradley Pitts, chair of the Mohican Allyship Committee, with

film producers Sean Strub and Daniel Strongwalker Thomas, as well as a member of the Stockbridge Munsee Community. Free, donations accepted. More info email: rj304@gmail.com

PEARL JAM VS. A WOMAN OF THE WORLD, The Moviehouse, 48 Main Street, Millerton, 7 pm. For tickets go to www.themoviehouse.net

April 11–12
GEORGIA O'KEEFFE: THE BRIGHTNESS OF LIGHT, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, times vary. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

April 11, 13
POMPEI: BELOW THE CLOUDS, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, times vary. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

April 12
BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI, The Crandell Theatre, 48 Main Street, Chatham, noon. For tickets go to <https://crandelltheatre.org>

THE AUDIENCE, The Moviehouse, 48 Main Street, Millerton, 1 pm, \$25 / Superstar Members \$20. NT Live. For tickets go to www.themoviehouse.net

LATE SHIFT, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, 8:45 pm. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

April 17–20
FANTASY LIFE, Time and Space Limited, 434 Columbia Street, Hudson, 8:45 pm. For tickets go to timeandspace.org

April 18
EARTH DAY FILM, New Lebanon Library, 550 State Rte 20, 10 am. A free screening of the award-winning film "Microplastic Madness" which explains the extent and hazards of plastic in our world through the eyes of children. Following the film we will have a Q&A and share ways to reduce the impact of plastics for all in our families. This program is sponsored by New Lebanon Climate Smart Committee, and is open to all ages. www.newlebanonlibrary.org

THE LITTLE THINGS THAT RUN THE WORLD, Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, 7 pm. Film introduces viewers to a diverse group of scientists, nature lovers, gardeners, farmers, and general bug enthusiasts in exploring the importance of flying insects amid rapid declines in their numbers. Hosted by Copake's Conservation Advisory Committee. Free. General audience, 105 minutes, Light refreshments & opportunity to mingle after the film ends, 8:45–9:15 pm. To get more info email cac@townofcopakeny.gov or call 518–329–2929 or visit [tps://townofcopakeny.gov/conservation-advisory-committee](https://townofcopakeny.gov/conservation-advisory-committee)

April 19
THE EXTRAORDINARY CATERPILLAR, The Moviehouse, 48 Main Street, Millerton, 11 am, free community event. Presented in partnership with Climate Smart Millerton in celebration of Earth Day. For more information go to www.themoviehouse.net

BORDERLAND | THE LINE WITHIN, The North Chatham Free Library Trolley Station, 103 Depot St, 3 p.m. This free event will feature award-winning documentary filmmakers Pamela Yates and Paco de Onis, who will introduce the film and lead a community discussion afterward.

MAKING MUSIC

Fridays
THE GRACE NOTE, Stissing Center for Arts & Culture, 2950 Church St, Pine Plains, 7:30 pm, \$20. Leslie Mendelsohn on April 10; Tom Duffy Band on April 17; Jody Redhage Ferber Trio on May 1; Rachael Kilgour on May 8; Amanda Forsyth on May 15; High Horse on May 29; Willy Porter on June 5; Gail Ann Dorsey on June 19; Susan Werner on June 26; Garrison Starr on July 10; Kazemde George Jazz Trio on July 31; Will Lawrence on August 8; Spencer LaJoye on August 14. Box Office: tickets@thestissingcenter.org, 518–771–3339

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

FIRST & THIRD SUNDAYS
ROE JAN BLUEGRASS BAND, Roe Jan Brewing Co, 32 Anthony St, Hillsdale, 5 pm, free, tips for musicians encouraged.

April 11
MICHAEL BENEDICT JAZZ VIBES, Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51 N5th St, noon, free. Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month with a free live performance by Michael Benedict Jazz Vibes, featuring special guest vocalist Shiri Zorn. All are welcome. <https://hudsonarealibrary.org/>

BEER CONCERT, Claverack Free Library, 9 Route 9H, 4 pm, \$25 donation. Hosted by the Friends of the library, the Amy Ryan Band will perform in the library community room. Attendees will receive a free flight of five local beers, including but not limited to: Hudson Brewing Co., Old Klaverack Brewery and Hop Farm, Roe Jan Brewing Co., Suarez Family Brewery and Upper Depot Brewing Co. There will be non-alcoholic "Athletic Beer" and seltzer. info@claveracklibrary.org, 518–851–7120, <https://claveracklibrary.org/friends/book-offerings/>.

LET'S DO IT...IN NEW CONCORD! The Society of New Concord Meeting House, 2689 County Rte 9, East Chatham, 6 pm drinks and appetizers, 7 pm performance, \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door. An evening of American standards performed by local celebrity Kevin Weldon. Proceeds of the event will help the Society of New Concord continue the restoration work on the Meeting House and Community Room. Purchase tickets at <https://www.thesocietyofnewconcord.org/events>.

April 12
CONCERTS IN THE VILLAGE, Van Buren Hall, 6 Chatham St, 3 pm, \$25, students and children free. Broad Street Chamber Players presents chamber music from the late-18th, mid-19th, and early-20th centuries: Beethoven's "Quintet for Piano and Winds," Gabriel Fauré's "String Quartet," and Louise Farrenc's "Nonet for Strings and Winds." For reservations and further information: www.concertsinthevillage.org

April 13
KARAOKE SATURDAY NIGHTS, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US20, 5:30–7:30 pm.

MELTING POT: Soup and Song presents Ross Patterson, Hudson First Presbyterian Church, 369 Warren Street, 6 pm. Pianist and arranger, Broadway Musical Director Patterson performs in his eclectic taste and style. Pay what you want. Suggested \$25 donation. Get tickets at: https://www.viewcy.com/event/the_melting_pot_pres/promote/fpchudson1

April 19
JAMMIN' AT THE GRANGE, Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, 3:30–5 pm. Everyone's welcome to join in an afternoon of creative music making — just for fun, join the jam! Bring an instrument, bring a song, bring your singing voice, and join with others in our music jam. For more info, contact Lenny Barham at lennybarham@gmail.com. This event is free; donations are welcome.

THE DAYS PASS QUICKLY IMMERSSED IN THE SHADOW OF ETERNITY with Lea Bertucci, Basilica Hudson, 110 S Front St, \$22.66, \$25 at the door. A sunset performance of ancient flutes in surround sound to welcome the longer spring days. <https://basilicahudson.org/>

LISTEN & LEARN

April 9
HEALTHCARE NAVIGATOR, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 1–4 pm. Navigators assist individuals, families, small businesses and small business employees in Columbia and Greene counties with shopping for, comparing, and enrolling in quality affordable health insurance, including Medicaid and Child Health Plus, through New York State of Health: the Official Health Plan Marketplace. Navigators can also assist with applying for financial assistance to help pay for coverage. Navigator services are free of charge. For more information or to make an appointment, call 518–822–9600.

April 10
CREATIVE CORNER — MAKING POETIC ZINES, Wagon House Education Center, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 NY-9G, Hudson, 4–5 pm, free. Learn more about making zines and handmade prints. Light refreshments included and art materials provided. Ages 16 and up; bring your own in-progress projects to work on or create something new. No registration required; Learn more: <https://olana.org/programs-events/>

April 11
NYS FIRE TOWERS: THE PAST, THE PRESENT, AND THE FUTURE, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 1 pm. Climb the stairs with the NYS Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association and learn how the fire tower system was developed in the state, had great success, then adjusted to societal changes. This presentation will include the development of the fire tower system across the state. You will then hear why the towers ceased to be used for fire spotting purposes and their current role, with a focus on nearby Beebe Hill Fire Tower.

BRINGING NATURE HOME BOOK GROUP, New Lebanon Library, 550 State Rte 20, 1:30 pm. Discussion of chapters 1–5 of "Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas Tallamy. Copies of the book are available at the library. Light refreshments will be served. www.newlebanonlibrary.org, 518–794–8844

COMPOSING OLANA: A WALK AND DISCUSSION WITH ANNICK LAFARGE, Frederic Church Center, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 NY-9G, Hudson, 4–5 pm. Learn more about "Composing Olana," a new book devoted to illustrating why Frederic Church's designed masterwork matters in the history of American art and public parks. During an outdoor walk and conversation, explore LaFarge's process of revealing the history of what we can and cannot see throughout Olana's historic carriage roads. Learn more: <https://olana.org/programs-events/>

ART OMI: WRITERS READING, The Benenson Visitors Center, 1405 County Rte 22, 5–6:30 pm. Writers Reading featuring the April 2026 Writers-in-Residence. This international group of authors will read a selection of new and in-progress works spanning various genres and, often, other languages. RSVP at <https://artomi.org>

April 12
RENSSELAER COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR, Stephentown Heritage Center, 4 Staples Road, 2 pm. Historian Michael Marchand speaks to the Stephentown Historical Society. He has studied the rich history of the area and has been collecting artifacts with a focus on the Civil War era. Attendees invited to bring pictures and letters from their soldier ancestors. Free, open to the public. For info or directions call 518–339–6485.

April 13
FDR VIRTUAL HISTORY TALK, Zoom, 6:30 pm. Presented by Jeffrey Urbin, education specialist at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. Sponsored by Columbia County Libraries Association. Email columbiacountylibraries@gmail.com to register and receive Zoom login information.

April 14
INVASIVE PLANTS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE or Symptoms of Other Stressors? Zoom, 8:30–9:30 am. Invasive plant expert Bernd Blossy presents groundbreaking research on ecosystem impacts of many of our most feared invasives, the unintended consequences of our most common management protocols, and the research avenues that remain underexplored. Partners for Climate Action's Avalon Bunge moderates, followed by a Q&A. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/>

GROWING AND EATING HISTORY, Germantown Library, Hover Room, 31 Palatine Park Rd, noon. Sara Everson, a food historian studying kitchen labor and food production in New York's 18th century speaks to the Germantown Garden Club. Talk explores how produce common in the kitchens and gardens of the past differs from today. Open to the public. New members always welcome. Refreshments served. For more info call Irene Clum at 518–537–4793.

April 15
BLOCK PRINTING WITH JEN HEWETT, Hudson Area Library Community Room, 51 N5th St, 5–7:30 pm. Learn how to carve a simple block and print on a fabric patch that you can sew onto a bag or jacket — or whatever else you can think of. <https://hudsonarealibrary.org>

TECH LABS, Roeliff Jansen Community Library and the Columbia County Libraries Association, on Zoom, 6 pm. Google Search. Discover smart search techniques to find what you need faster online. Presented by resident tech guru Pam Doran. Open to all ages. To register for a lab, email columbiacountylibraries@gmail.com.

April 18
HUNTER EDUCATION COURSE, Taghkanic Community Forest, 1330 County Route 27, 8:30 am–4 pm. Columbia Land Conservancy president Troy Weldy is the instructor. Course covers the necessary safety techniques and responsibilities that a hunter must know when using a gun, muzzleloader, crossbow, or bow to pursue wild game. Bring a folding chair, a water bottle, a bagged lunch, and weather-appropriate clothing and footwear. A way to take notes is recommended. No dogs or personal firearms. To learn more, register, and receive homework assignments for the course, visit the DEC website dec.ny.gov

MEDICARE101 WITH JAMES FARNHAM, ZOOM, Chatham Public Library, 11 Woodbridge Ave, 10am–noon. Learn about eligibility, how and when to enroll, when you can make changes, and the insurance options available to you. Review and compare what services are covered/not covered under Medicare Parts A, B, C and D. Detail the costs associated with medical and drug insurance. Explore and evaluate Original Medicare, Medicare Supplement Insurance, High-Deductible Medicare Supplement Insurance, Prescription Drug Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans. Registration required: <https://bit.ly/4r2C9QR> or <https://chathampubliclibrary.org/>

ARTMAKING IN THE AFTERNOON SATURDAY, Wagon House Education Center, Olana State Historic Site, 5720 NY-9G, Hudson, 1–4 p.m., free. Participate in drop-in artmaking and learn more about Frederic Church's artist-designed home and studio. This drop-in artmaking program is open to all ages and skill levels; all materials provided. No advanced registration required. Learn more: <https://olana.org/programs-events/>

WEBINAR: WHERE TO START: Frederic Church's Early Career in Wider Contexts, Zoom, 6–7 pm. Learn more about Church's earliest works and their broader contexts during this webinar with Joseph Mizhakiyaasige Zordan, PhD Candidate in the History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University and contributor to forthcoming publication, "Frederic Church: Global Artist." Learn more: <https://olana.org/programs-events/>

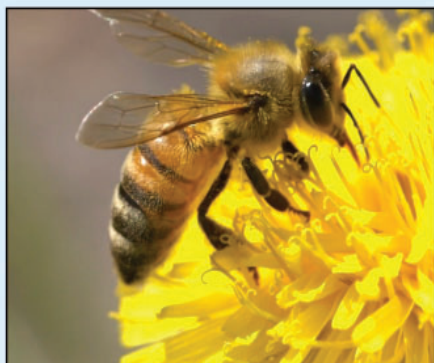
... It's all happening at the Grange! ...



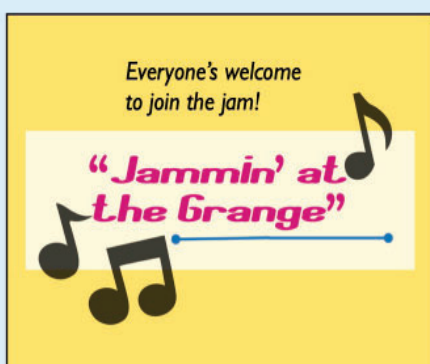
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MOVIE: "BURYING THE HATCHET - THE TOM QUICK STORY" SATURDAY APRIL 11 at 2PM



EARTH DAY MOVIE: "THE LITTLE THINGS THAT RUN THE WORLD" SATURDAY APRIL 18 at 7PM



MUSIC JAM SESSION PLAY ALONG SUNDAY APRIL 19 at 3:30PM



"STORIES IN SONG" - AN EVENING OF CABARET MUSIC SATURDAY MAY 16 at 7PM



KLEZMER NIGHT! WITH ITAY DAYAN & BAND SATURDAY JUNE 13 at 7PM

Details at: www.copakegrange.org/events

April 19
SEED STARTING WORKSHOP, New Lebanon Community Center, 523 US20, 10 am-noon. Start vegetable & flower seeds. All materials provided. Take starters home, get a jump on your summer garden. Talk gardening tips & tricks. Open to all ages. RSVP to Blaine 518-242-6778 by April 12.

250 YEARS OF GHENT'S HISTORY through the lens of the truths the Founding Fathers declared to be self-evident, Kinderhook Library, 18 Hudson Street, 12:30 pm. Ghent Town Historian Gregg Berninger speaks about Ghent's history which reflects a long and often steady progress toward the principle that "all men are created equal." From enslavement to suffrage to wealth inequality, this wide-ranging talk will invite you to reconsider both the past and the present in terms first articulated in the summer of 1776. cchsny.org or 518-758-9265.

DANCE

April 18
DOUG VARONE AND DANCERS: STRIPPED (no costumes, no lights), Hudson Hall, 327 Warren St, 7 pm, pay what you wish; free for members. An intimate look at Doug Varone's creative process through rehearsal excerpts, conversation, and a preview of a new work set to Radiohead's "In Rainbows." <https://hudsonhall.org/>

ON STAGE

April 10-12
DISENCHANTED!, Valatie Community Theatre, 3031 Main St, Friday and Saturday 7 pm, Sunday 2 pm, \$15, \$10 students/seniors. For tickets and info go to <https://valatiecommunitytheatre.org> or call 518-758-1309 or go to Facebook.

April 11
THE DIRECTOR'S CUT, The Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Pl, 7 pm, \$25. A fully improvised cinematic experience performed by the Hudson Valley Improv National Touring Company. Tickets at ghentplayhouse.org or at the door (if available).

April 17
IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE, Tina Packer Playhouse, Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble St, 8 pm, \$10. Big Table Productions reading is presented as part of a nationwide series Fundraisers For Good: A Reading of "It Can't Happen Here" (ICHH2026.org) set to take place throughout 2026. All funds raised will be donated to Volunteers In Medicine and The Giving Garden. For tickets visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/it-cant-happen-here-a-fundraiser-for-good>

April 18
GRAND ILLUSIONS THE MAGIC OF JEFFREY JENE, The Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Pl, 4 pm, \$25. With a unique blend of mystery and entertainment, Jene has been captivating audiences for over three decades. General admissions tickets can be purchased at ghentplayhouse.org or at the door (if available).

ON VIEW

ART OMI, 1405 CR22, Ghent. Onnis Luque: Dominio in the Newmark Gallery. The Sculpture & Architecture Park and Benenson Visitors Center open Wednesday-Monday and closed Tuesday. 518392-4747, artomi.org

ART SCHOOL of Columbia County, 1198 Rt 21C. On view by appointment, artschoolofcolumbiacounty@gmail.com or 518-672-7140.

ARTLife717 Gallery, 717 Columbia St, Hudson. Windows and Doorways, explores themes of transition, perception, vulnerability, and possibility through artwork created by individuals connected to mental health and recovery communities. Free, open to public. Visit <https://stigmafree.art>.

BASILICA HUDSON Back Gallery, 110 S Front St. In Time. Thurs — Sunday, noon — 5 pm or by appointment email valle79valle@gmail.com

CALDWELL GALLERY Hudson, 355 Warren St. Fri-Sun 11 am-5 pm. 518828-7087, jay@caldwelgalleryhudson.com.

THE CAMPUS, 341 NY-217, Hudson. Open Saturday and Sunday, noon-5 pm. <https://www.thecampusupstate.com>

CARRIE HADDAD Gallery, 622 Warren St, Hudson. Four Painters: new works by Julia Whitney Barnes, Joan Hanley, David Konigsberg, and James O'Shea, March 27-May 17. Open 11 am-5 pm daily (closed Mondays). [Carriehaddadgallery.com](https://carriehaddadgallery.com).

CIRCLE46 GALLERY, 46 Green St, Hudson. Sat 1-5 pm, Sun 1:30-4 pm & by appt. 518303-6446. gallery.at46@gmail.com.

CLARK ART INSTITUTE, 225 South St, Williamstown, MA. For more information, visit clarkart.edu/ events. Tue-Sun, 10 am-4 pm. clarkart.edu.

CLAVERACK LIBRARY, Marilyn and Bob Laurie Gallery, 629 Route 23B. Threads of Tradition: Local Quilts and Their Makers, April 4-May 15. Open library hours. claveracklibrary.org.

CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE, 1 Clermont Ave. Fri-Sun 10:30 am-4 pm. friendsofclermont.org.

COLUMBIA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Museum and Library, 5 Albany Ave, Kinderhook. The National Union Bank of Kinderhook: A Village Institution. Houses Wednesdays-Fridays 10 am-2pm.

CREATE GALLERY, 398 Main St, Catskill. 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.

FASNYS Museum of Firefighting, 117 Harry Howard Ave, Hudson. admission. Wed-Sun 10 am-4:30 pm. 518822-1875. fasnyfiremuseum.com.

510 WARREN STREET Gallery, 510 Warren St, Hudson. Lionel Delevingne: INVENTORY, April 3-26. Meet the Artist: Saturday, April 11, 3-5:30 pm. Fri & Sat, noon-6 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 518822-0510. 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. 518828-4181 x 3241.

FRG OBJECTS & Design / Art, 217 Warren St, Hudson. Thurs-Mon, 12-6 pm or by appt. 646483-9109. frgdesignart.com.

HUDSON AREA LIBRARY, 51 N5th St. Open library hours. Patriots of Hudson in the Revolutionary War, Hudson Area Library's History Room exhibit, March 5-June 30. hudsonarealibrary.org.

HUDSON HALL, 327 Warren St. Sita Gómez, February 7-April 4. Curated by Nancy Cobean of Rose Gallery. Tue-Fri, 9 am-5 pm, Sat & Sun, noon-5 pm. 518822-1438. hudsonhall.org.

J. DAMIANI Gallery, 119 Rodman Road, Hillsdale. By appt. jdamiangallery@gmail.com.

KINDERHOOK KNITTING MILL, 8 Hudson St. Fri & Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-4 pm. shakermuseum.us, kinderhookknittingmill.com.

LABspace, 2642 Rt 23, Hillsdale. Sat & Sun 1-5 pm, no appt necessary. julielabspace@gmail.com. 917749-2857.

LIGHTFORMS Art Center, 743 Columbia St, Hudson. Fri 3-7, Sat-Sun 12-6 pm. By appointment 917330-6262. lightformsartcenter.com

LIMNER Gallery, 123 Warren St, Hudson. Small Works: Holiday Show & Sale. By appt. 518828-2343.

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. What's Missing, through October 2026. Landscape is free and open to all, every day from 8 am to sunset. April tour hours: Friday-Sunday, 11 am-3:15 pm. Olana Shop & Frederic Church Center for Art and Landscape Hours: Friday-Sunday 10 am-4 pm. For further inquiries, call ticketing at 518-751-0344 or email tickets@olana.org.

PAMELA SALISBURY Gallery, 362½ Warren St, Hudson. Thurs-Mon 11 am-6 pm, or by appt. 518828-5907. pamelasalisburygallery.com.

PARK ROW GALLERY, 55 Main Street, Chatham.

PHILIP DOUGLAS FINE ART, 545 Warren Street, 2nd fl. Friday & Saturday 11 am-5 pm, Sunday noon-5. Private viewings by appointment. 646-765-5818, www.philipdouglasfineart.com

PHILMONT LIBRARY, Garafalo Cultural Center, 101 Main St. Young Artists Show for all of April: Enjoy an exciting collection of works by local youth up to age 21. Open Mondays and Wednesdays 1-7 pm, Tuesdays and Fridays 1-5 pm, Thursdays and Saturdays 10 am-2 pm and is closed Sundays. philmlibrary.com.

PRIVATE PUBLIC GALLERY, 530 Warren St, Hudson. 212286-0075, privatepublicgallery@gmail.com.

PS21, 2980 Rt 66, Chatham. 518392-6121. PS21chatham.org.

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

ROSE Gallery, 238 Warren St, Hudson. 518828-5825. rosegalleryfineart.com.

SEPTEMBER Gallery, 4 Hudson St, 3rd Floor, Kinderhook. Alyson Baker, Kristen Dodge and Olga Dekalo, February 14-April 12. Fri-Sat 11am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm. septembergallery.com

SHAKER MUSEUM, 4 Depot Sq, Chatham. Shaker Outpost: Design, Commerce, and Culture marks, May 2-July 5. The Shaker Outpost: Paula Greif July 17-September 19, and Kiki Smith October 2-December 31. Friday and Saturday: 10 am-5 pm; Sunday: 11 am-4 pm. shakermuseum.us.

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

THE SPARK OF HUDSON, 502 Union St, Hudson. www.sparkofhudson.org

SPENCERTOWN ACADEMY ARTS CTR, 790 Rt 203. Variations on a Theme, March 28-April 26. Admission is free and the artworks are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the academy. Sat & Sun 1-5 pm. Spencertownacademy.org. 518392-3693.

SUSAN ELEY FINE ART, 433 Warren St, Hudson. Deirdre O'Connell, New Portraits, March 16-April 26. Thurs-Mon, 11 am-5 pm. susaneleyfineart.com.

TANJA GRUNERT SALON, Princess Beatrix House, 21 Prospect Ave, Hudson. Fri-Mon noon-6 pm, or by appointment. 646944-6197, tanjagrunert.com.

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

THE SCHOOL: Jack Shainman Gallery, 25 Broad St (Rt 9), Kinderhook. Modus Operandi, opening May 30. Open Saturdays 11 am-6 pm. Jackshainman.com.

THOMAS COLE NAT'L HISTORIC SITE, 218 Spring St, Catskill. Emily Cole & Valerie Hegarty Life Cycles, March 13-December. Hudson Talbott Shining Objects: A Career Retrospective April 11-May 24, in the 1846 New Studio. Free public opening April 11, 4-6 pm. thomascole.org/visit. The grounds are open every day for free from dawn to dusk.

TSL Gallery, 434 Columbia St, Hudson. Beyond the Pale, Jenny Snider, April 18-May 17. Opening reception: Saturday, April 18, 1-3 pm. Fri-Sun. 518822-8448. TimeandSpace.org.

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

WINDOW ON HUDSON, 43 S3rd St, Hudson. windowonhudson.org.

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.

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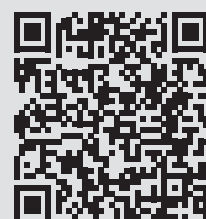
BY MAIL: Please make checks payable to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation with the fund name, "The Columbia Paper Journalism Fund," in the memo line and mail to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 800 North Main St., Sheffield, MA 01257-9503.

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

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Obituaries

**STUYVESANT- LOIS A. BERTRAM
1928–2026**

STUYVESANT- Lois A. Bertram, 97, of Stuyvesant, passed away on April 1, 2026, surrounded by her family at home. Born on June 13, 1928, in Hudson, she was the daughter of the late Henry and Mary (Egnasher) Fischer.

Lois is survived by and will be greatly missed by her son, Scott (Syndi) Bertram of Stuyvesant; four daughters, Wendy (Ray) Ponkos of Valatie, Cindy (Rudy) Arkenbout of Wellington, Florida, Joy (Geoffrey) Bertram of Kinderhook and Marybeth (Steve) Bertram of Stuyvesant; 10 grandchildren, Matthew (Linda), Melinda (Bill), Daniel (Kayla), Christina (Mike), Jesse, Leah, Julian, Scottie, Hunter Rae and Haydon; and great-grandchildren, Vanessa, Serena, Zoe, Jacob, Annalise and



Photo contributed
Lois A. Bertram

Luna. We were blessed to share and receive with mom the true meaning of love and family.

Along with her parents, Lois was predeceased by and will be reunited with her beloved husband, Stanley, her son Gregg; her granddaughter, Marleigh Rain Bertram;

and her brother Henry "Bud" Fischer (Jane).

The family would like to express sincere gratitude to Nurse Judy, Chaplain Matt, Gina, Stacy, Kelly and Barb, for their ongoing presence and care.

Relatives and friends are invited to celebrate a Mass on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 9am at St. John the Baptist Church, 1025 Kinderhook Street, Valatie NY 12184.

Burial will be held privately for family.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Lois' memory to Stuyvesant Fire Company No. 1, 194 Route 26A, Stuyvesant, NY 12173. To offer condolences please visit www.wjlyonsfuneralhome.com

PAID OBITUARY

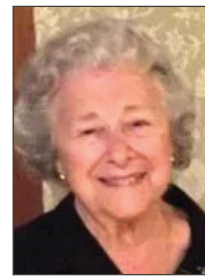
Antoinette Shallo (1922–2026)

HUDSON — Antoinette (Pierro) Shallo, age 103, passed away peacefully March 29, 2026. She was born August 14, 1922 in Stuyvesant Falls and spent much of her life in Hudson.

Known to many as "Nettie," she was the beloved daughter of the late Francesco and Michelina (Martino) Pierro. She was predeceased by her devoted husband, Lawrence "Piney" Shallo; her brothers, Joseph, Louis and Carmine Pierro; her niece, Antoinette Tamburro; and her nephew, Victor Pierro.

She is survived by: her loving nephews, Frank (Dolores) Pierro, Carmine (Leitha) Pierro, and Louis (Paula) Pierro; her nieces, Michele Pierro, Mary Ellen Pierro (Victor's wife), as well as several great-nieces and great-nephews, cousins and dear friends.

She was a most giving person, always there for her



**Nettie
Shallo**

family — supporting them and making sure they always had enough to eat. "Mangia!" was her loving reminder to all who entered her home. She not only cared for her family, but for everyone she encountered; her generosity truly knew no bounds.

For most of her life, she was the proud proprietor of Pierro's Italian Imports, a beloved store that served the Italian American community and broader in Hudson for more than 60 years. She fed her family and so many more with her homemade sausage, meatballs, sauce and other specialties that are still talked

about and missed dearly to this day.

She lived out her deep love of God and the Catholic Church in everything she did and in every life she touched, and was a devoted parishioner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and Holy Trinity parishes. She was also an avid bowler, walker and volunteer, serving for many years as a "Pink Lady" at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

She was a devoted wife, daughter, sister, aunt and a role model to all who knew her. She will be remembered for her warmth, her faith, her enduring smile and the lasting impact she made on her family and community.

Visitation was held April 6 at the Bates & Anderson-Redmond & Keeler Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 7 from Holy Trinity Church/St. Mary's Parish in Hudson. Interment was in Cedar Park Cemetery.

Judith F. Smith (1943–2026)

HUDSON — Judith F. Smith of Chatham passed away peacefully March 29, 2026 at the Firefighter's Home. Born February 8, 1943 to the late George and Alma (Moffitt) Stutzman, she grew up in Philmont. In 1961 she married the late Lawrence Smith, Sr.

"Judy" devoted much of her professional life to nursing, having worked as a licensed practical nurse at various establishments including Pine Haven, St. Peter's Hospital, and Barnwell. Her commitment to care extended beyond her career, as she was also a volunteer EMT and a life-member of the Chatham Rescue Squad. Moreover, she served as an active member of the Ghent Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, demonstrating a lifelong spirit of service and compassion.

Her passion for helping others was mirrored in her deep involvement with her church and community. A lifelong member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Philmont,



**Judy
Smith**

she was actively engaged in the women's group and frequently contributed to craft groups and church functions. She cherished sewing and various crafts, hobbies that reflected her creative and nurturing nature. She also gave generously of her time as a 4H leader and Girl Scout leader, shaping the lives of many young people through her guidance and encouragement. Her greatest joy came from her loved ones, especially her grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

She leaves behind her devoted companion and caregiver, Daniel Contento; her two daughters, Amelia Nesbitt and her husband Michael, and Melissa Lamarre and her husband

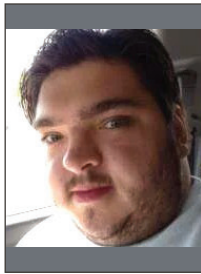
Daniel; her grandchildren, Robert Hills and his wife Shan, Daniel L. Lamarre, and Alannah O'Dell; and her beloved great-granddaughter, Kaiya Hills; her brother, Howard Stutzman; several nieces, nephews and cousins, who affectionately called her "Mama Jude."

She was preceded in death by: her husband, Lawrence Smith; her son, L. Roger Smith; her sister, Alma Harvey; and her brother, George Stutzman.

A memorial service was held April 8 in the chapel of the Firefighter's Home, 125 Harry Howard Avenue, Hudson. Inurnment will take place at Mellenville Union Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Robert M. Donaghue at the French, Gifford, Preiter & Blas Funeral Home, Chatham. In lieu of flowers donations in her memory may be made to the Firefighter's Home, the Ghent Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary or to the Ronald McDonald House.

Jeremy Francis (2000–2026)

HUDSON — Jeremy Francis, 25, of Hudson died unexpectedly Sunday, March 29, 2026 at his home. Born December 5, 2000 in Hudson, he was the son of the late Michael R. and Antoinette (Arcarola) Francis. He was a loving



**Jeremy
Francis**

nephew, cousin and friend to all who knew him.

Memorial services were held April 4, 2026 at the Palatine Park Activity Building, 50 Palatine Park Road, Germantown. Arrangements were with the Sacco Funeral Home, Greenport.

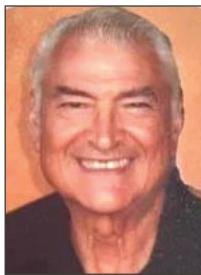
Nickolas Koulos (1935–2026)

EAST GREENBUSH — Nickolas Koulos, 91, beloved partner of the late Dolores Ruscitto, passed away March 28, 2026 in East Greenbush.

He was born February 26, 1935 in Athens, Greece.

When he was a young child his family moved to Hudson, where he grew up with his three brothers.

"Nick" graduated from Hudson High School in 1953, then enlisted in the United States Army to serve his country. After his honorable discharge from the Army, he worked at his family's business Koulos' Restaurant in



**Nick
Koulos**

traveling and playing bingo with his partner, Dolores.

He is survived by: his brother, Steve Kotzias, formerly known as Spiro Koulos, and his wife Helen.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Thomas Koulos and Ernest Koulos. He will be missed by his six nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church in Troy, April 1. Interment was in Cedar Park Cemetery in Hudson. Arrangements were with the Bates and Anderson — Redmond and Keeler Funeral Home, Hudson.

Hudson. He would later own his own business The Fresh Farmer convenience store on Warren Street, where he loved connecting with the local community.

He loved music and enjoyed playing the guitar and keyboard. He enjoyed dancing,

Glorianna Rozner (1963–2026)

ALBANY — Glorianna Rozner, 63, of Stuyvesant, a beloved and devoted mother, sister, grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully March 22, 2026 at Albany Medical Center after a courageous two-year battle with cancer. Born January 4, 1963, she lived a life marked by love, generosity and an unwavering dedication to her family, which she considered her greatest accomplishment.

Her kindness and warmth defined her spirit, as she constantly gave of herself to those she held dear. Her loving nature was felt deeply by all who knew her. A devoted fan of the New York Yankees, she cherished moments filled with the thrill of the game, a passion that brought joy to her life alongside her cherished fondness for road trips,



**Glorianna
Rozner**

including memorable drives to Florida.

She is survived by: her loving sister, Donna Alturi; brothers, James D. Cook, Dwayne Cook, Glen W. Cook and Edward J. Cook; her children, Joshua (Phelicia) Near and Desirae Rozner; and her grandchildren, Riley, Rowan and Cullen Near; Robert and Dakota Dutko. Her family also includes many nieces and nephews who were touched by her generosity and kindness

throughout her life. She shared a special bond with her best friend and caretaker, Ernest Near, whose steadfast support was a source of comfort and strength.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Gloria Cook; sisters, Deloris Hildreth and Patricia Cook; and her brother, William Cook.

Her life was a testament to the power of love and family. Her legacy is one of kindness, resilience and devotion. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered by those who were fortunate enough to have known her. May her memory be a blessing to all who loved her.

Arrangements were entrusted to Robert M. Donaghue at the French, Gifford, Preiter & Blas Funeral Home, Chatham.

Bruce N. Hallenbeck (1933–2026)

CASTLETON — Bruce N. Hallenbeck, 92, of Kinderhook passed away peacefully April 1, 2026 at Riverside Nursing Home in Castleton.

He was born in Ghent to George and Martha (Robertson) Hallenbeck, April 24, 1933. He attended Martin Van Buren School in Kinderhook. He

worked for a time at Fort Orange in Castleton and spent the rest of his career as general manager at Griffin Supply Company in Hudson. After retirement, he was known as "Mr. Fix-It" doing odd jobs in Columbia County.

He enjoyed the outdoors, whether at his cabin in the Adirondacks, as a member of Glencadia Sportsman's

Club or just at home putting around the property.

He was a die-hard Yankees fan and a man of faith who belonged to St. Mark's Lutheran Church. He loved his family above all else.

He is survived by: daughter, Susan Hallenbeck of Kinderhook and sons, Bruce G. (Rosa) Hallenbeck of Kinderhook and Brent (Tern) Hallenbeck of St. George, VT. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 74 years, Dale Marie (Antonius) and siblings, George, Shirley and Barbara.

A graveside service was held April 6 at Kinderhook Cemetery. Arrangements were with the Raymond E. Bond Funeral Home, Valatie.

Gladys B. Brown (1966–2026)

ALBANY — Gladys B. Brown, 59, of Elizaville passed away March 30, 2026 at Albany Medical Center surrounded by her loving family. She was born July 13, 1966 in Hudson to the late John and Mary (Laraway) McDarby.

She spent her life nurturing those around her with kindness and strength. She had an enduring love for her family and interests. Her dedication to community was most notably expressed through her role as a former 4H leader. She influenced many with her passion and commitment. She had a special fondness for Highland cattle, an interest that mirrored her deep appreciation for nature and rural life.

Family was at the center of her world. She shared a loving marriage of 42 years with her husband, Christopher.



**Gladys
Brown**

Together, they raised three sons, Chris Jr. (partner, Mercades), Ryan (wife Natasha) and Cory, whom she especially treasured. Her joy extended profoundly to her grandchildren, Kolby, Khloe and Hunter — who brought light and happiness to her days. She is also survived by: her brother, Alex Parent, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins, who remember her affectionately.

Beyond her family, she delighted in the excitement of dirt track racing. Alongside her

family, she traveled to various race tracks, including Lebanon Valley, Oswego, Albany-Saratoga, and Glen Ridge, creating treasured memories that highlighted her zest for life and connection with loved ones.

She was predeceased by her parents and her brother, Dale Parent.

Her life will be celebrated May 9, 2026, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Germantown Fire Company, 181 Main Street. The family has entrusted arrangements to Robert M. Donaghue and Jessica Cunningham at the French, Gifford, Preiter & Blas Funeral Home, Chatham. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the Germantown Hose Company, or to the Columbia Greene 4H, c/o of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

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CMH raises flag in recognition of Donate Life Month

HUDSON — Columbia Memorial Health (CMH) raised a Donate Life flag atop Columbia Memorial Hospital recently in recognition of Donate Life Month (April). The event was held in coordination with the Center for Donation & Transplant (CDT) to raise awareness of the lifesaving impact of organ, eye, and tissue donation, and to encourage the public to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry.

While more than 3,000 lifesaving organ transplants were performed in New York last year, nearly 8,000 New Yorkers remain on the national organ transplant waitlist. In 2025, more than 500 patients awaiting an organ transplant in New York State died because the organ



Photo contributed
CMH staff, including President and CEO Dorothy Urschel and VP of Operations Laurie Harbeck, attended a flag raising ceremony in recognition of Donate Life Month (April). Samantha Gulla and her daughter were honored at the ceremony as individuals positively impacted by the gift of life through organ and tissue donation.

needed to save their lives was not donated in time. A single organ donor can save up to eight lives, while tissue and cornea donors

can improve more than 75 lives.

CMH is proud to partner with CDT, the local organ procurement orga-

nization, to save and improve the lives of those in need of transplants.

“Organ and tissue donation emphasizes selfless sac-

rifice, and by raising the flag, we honor those who have given the gift of life through organ and tissue donation. We encourage others to register their intent to donate their organs by enrolling in the New York State Donate Life Registry, a powerful step towards helping to save and improve the lives of those in need,” President and CEO of CMH Dorothy Urschel said in a press release.

Seven million New Yorkers have already enrolled in the New York State Donate Life Registry, the state’s electronic database that documents a person’s authorization to be an organ, eye, and/or tissue donor upon their death. New Yorkers aged 16 or older who haven’t already enrolled have several opportunities to do so:

- Check “yes” in the “New York State Organ and Tissue Donation” section

when applying for or renewing your driver license, learner permit, or non-driver ID. The DMV will transmit your enrollment to the Registry and print a heart icon and the words “Organ Donor” on your photo document.

- Enroll online in just minutes by visiting www.cdtyny.org.

- Complete the optional “Register to donate your organs and tissues” section on the back of your NYS voter registration form. Your county Board of Elections will forward that page of the form to the New York State Donate Life Registry.

- Check “yes” to organ and tissue donation when applying for health insurance through the New York State of Health Online Insurance Marketplace (nystateof-health.ny.gov).

Cole discusses resources available to seniors

CANAAN — Columbia County residents are invited to attend the second year of the Canaan Congregational Church’s “Resource Roundtable Series,” a series of presentations that have been planned by staff at NY

Connects — Columbia County, a program of The Healthcare Consortium.

This free series takes place at the church, 1670 County Route 5, April 24 at 10 a.m.

Rachel Cole, Consumer Assistance Programs coordi-

nator at the Healthcare Consortium, discusses resources available to seniors; provides applications for Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Plan, and Elderly Pharmaceutical and Insurance Coverage (EPIC); and shares

recent news articles on topics such as saving on prescription medication costs and developments in funding for additional senior housing. She will additionally offer guidance on navigating Medicare and other health insurance programs.

She has worked in human services for over three decades. She travels throughout Columbia County sharing important information with senior groups and those with disabilities about Medicare, home health care, prescrip-

tion access, and durable medical equipment.

For additional information about the Consumer Assistance Programs available at the Healthcare Consortium, contact Ms. Cole by email at rcole@columbiahealthnet.org.

See what’s going on in the galaxy

GALLATIN — The Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association hosts a Monthly Star Party at the Lake Taghkanic State Park, West Beach parking lot, 1528 State Route 82, Friday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Bring your own telescopes and binoculars or use those provided by members. You will be asked to provide your license plate number and make/model car, so park management and police have

a record of who will be in park after hours. RSVP is required at least one day beforehand.

More information at www.spy-hill.net/myers/astro/ltsp/

Hochul announces more than \$25M awarded to help farmers

ALBANY — Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that more than \$25 million is being awarded to 133 farms in 23 counties across the state through the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Grant Program. Funded projects help New York’s farmers reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect water quality, protect and enhance soil health and increase on-farm resiliency to the effects of a changing climate. Funding for the program was included in the New York State FY2026 Enacted Budget and the governor has proposed additional support for the CRF program in this year’s proposed Executive Budget, as part of the Environmental Protection Fund. To date, \$94 million has been award-

ed through the CRF program to 700 farms across the State, with an estimated 642,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year of emissions reduced, or the equivalent of removing 142,984 gasoline powered vehicles from the road for one year. Nearly half of the funding has been invested in methane reduction practice systems, which represents approximately 94% of the reduction.

“New York State has long been a leader in combating climate change, and a big part of that includes supporting our farmers,” Governor Hochul said in a press release. “Ensuring New York’s agricultural industry has resources to mitigate the effects of climate change is critical to not only protecting our environment but also maintaining the economic viability of the state’s agricultural industry for generations to come. I congratulate all the awardees of this terrific program and look forward to seeing the progress made in creating a cleaner, greener, more resilient New York.”

\$617,640 was awarded to Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District to support healthy soils and reduce carbon emissions by helping eight farms adopt, expand, or improve multi-species cover crop mixes. Over four years, this project is expected to cut greenhouse gases emissions while improving soil health through more diverse cover cropping. To extend the impact beyond participating farms, the district will also conduct sustained outreach by hosting a staffed cover crop education exhibit at the Columbia County Fair for four consecutive years, promoting the benefits of cover

crops and available NYS support programs.

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, also in the release, “Through programs like the Climate Resilient Farming program, our farmers are implementing best management practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, capture and sequester carbon, and protect our soil and water quality, all while remaining competitive in the marketplace. Through our governor’s leadership and our ongoing partnership with our County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), we are continuing to make great strides in the fight against climate change.”

The goal of the CRF Program is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration on agricultural lands, and prepare farms for a changing climate. Led by county Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), a total of 50 projects will be implemented on 133 farms across New York State through this round of funding. Of the 50 awarded projects, half of them involve a new farm participant, demonstrating the growing reach and impact of the program. Grants support on-farm implementation of conservation practices such as manure and methane management, nutrient management, water management, soil health management including cover cropping, reduced tillage, afforestation and building pollinator habitat.

Senator Michelle Hinchey (D-41st) said, “New York farmers are growing our food while simultaneously standing on the front lines

Continued on Page B9

Stroll with Lindstrom, hear ‘Water Protectors’ story

PHILMONT — The Columbia Land Conservancy invites you to the High Falls Public Conservation Area, 540 Roxbury Road, for a Story Walk with Carole

Lindstrom, April 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Take a stroll along the Agawamuck Creek to look for the animals that call this creek home as renowned author Carole Lindstrom reads her

Caldecott Medal-winning “We Are Water Protectors.”

Visit ColumbiaLand.org/Events to register and learn more about the program, including accessibility information and what to bring.

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Public Notices

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of 14 PONDWORKS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/29/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of 7 CHARLES ST HUDSON LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/30/2025.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of AMCAKE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/25/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Bada Bing Farms LLC. Filed with SSNY on 3/26/2026. Office : Columbia, SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to 1804 Country Route 7, Ancram, NY 12502.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of LITTLE APPLE FARM AND CIDERY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/01/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
Cemetery Of The Evergreens, Inc Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting of the Cemetery of The Evergreens will be held April 22 at 6pm at the Town Hall, Lebanon Springs, NY.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Acorn Property Holdings LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/05/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING, BUDGET VOTE, AND ELECTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing on the proposed 2026-2027 Budget for the Taconic Hills Central School District shall be held in the Board of Education Room of the Taconic Hills Central School, Craryville, New York, on May 6, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. prevailing time.

1. 2026-2027 BUDGET
Shall the Board of Education of the Taconic Hills Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the budget, for the 2026-2027 school year, in the amount of TBD and to levy the necessary tax therefor?
1. PURCHASE OF SCHOOL VEHICLES AND BUSES
Shall the Board of Education be authorized to (a) acquire one (1) large school bus, one (1) small school bus, and one (1) SUV at a maximum aggregate cost of \$351,000.00; (b) finance such purchase by expending \$351,000.00 from the unassigned fund balance?

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the School District's budget for the 2026-2027 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the District during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the Annual Meeting except Saturdays, Sundays or holidays, at District school buildings between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., prevailing time and also at said District Election. A report of tax exemptions, showing how much of the total assessed value on the final assessment roll or rolls used in that budgetary process is exempt from taxation, shall be annexed to the budget document.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Sections 2035 and 2008 of the Education law, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said vote and election, must be filed with the Board of Education on or before April 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. prevailing time; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be directed to the District Clerk; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) of the qualified voters of the School District; and must state the name and residence of each signer.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election.

COLUMBIA COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION & ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING
FOR THE NEW LEBANON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting and Election of the New Lebanon Central School District, will be held at Walter B. Howard Elementary School, 1478 Route 20, New Lebanon, NY, on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 between 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. for the election of Board of Education members, the vote upon the appropriation of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures of the District for the 2026-27 school year and the levy of taxes to finance the same.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Board of Education will hold the District's Annual Budget Hearing on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School, 14665 Route 22, New Lebanon, NY, to present the proposed 2026-27 budget to District voters.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money required for the ensuing year for school purposes may be obtained by District residents during the 14 days preceding the Annual Meeting (except Saturday, Sunday, or holidays) at the New Lebanon Junior/Senior High School main office, the New Lebanon Jr/Sr High School main office, and the District Office (in the High School), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the propositions stated below shall be submitted to the District voters at the Annual Meeting:

PROPOSITION 1
Shall the Board of Education of the New Lebanon Central School District be authorized to expend the total amount of \$TBD during the school year 2026-27 and to levy the necessary tax therefor?

PROPOSITION 2
Shall the Board of Education of the New Lebanon Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire school buses and vehicles, at a cost of not to exceed \$304,849, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law, taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$304,849, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that petitions nominating candidates for the office of Board of Education member must be filed with the District Clerk between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., no later than Monday, April 20, 2026. Two (2) vacancies are to be filled on the Board of Education.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that pursuant to Education Law Section 2014 personal registration of voters is required and no person shall be entitled to vote at said meeting whose name does not appear on the District's register or who does not register as hereinafter provided, or who is not registered to vote under the provisions of Election Law Article 5. Individuals who are registered with the county board of elections will also be eligible to vote.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that Absentee Ballots may be applied for at the District Clerk's office. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection in the District Clerk's office on each of the five days prior to the day of the election except Saturday, Sunday, or holidays and will also be available at the Walter B. Howard Elementary School on May 19, 2026 between 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Hudson Valley Nanny Network, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/22/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
Town of Copake Zoning Board of Appeals
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS [ZBA] OF THE TOWN OF COPAKE, NEW YORK will be holding a public hearing on an application by Gwenneth Pierson at 121 Weed Mine Road in the Town of Copake, tax parcel 176.1.73 who is seeking relief from Section 232-11D of the Town Code, for Development within 100 feet of water.

GREENE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Victoria Rose Balloons & Co LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/28/2025.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice
Town of Copake
Zoning Board of Appeals PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS [ZBA] OF THE TOWN OF COPAKE, NEW YORK will be holding a public hearing on an application by Charles Schade at 314 Lake Shore Drive in the Town of Copake, tax parcel 176.3-3-2 who is seeking relief from Section 232-11 D2 of the Town Code, for development within 100 feet of water for a black top driveway.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Villa Pebbles LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/13/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Wildwing Pizzeria CO. LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/24/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Slate Hill Farm NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/13/26.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Top Speed Tree Care LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/16/2024.

GREENE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of ONNEXT MEDIA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/29/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Schwab Technology Services, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/07/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LLC
Inna Culinary LLC, a domestic limited liability company, filed Articles of Organization with the New York Department of State on 03/31/2026 (DOS ID 7875835, File Number 260401021528).

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of WILDWING PIZZA CO. LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/24/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Green Start Holding LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/26/2021.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of LEV ABE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/12/2025.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
Town of Copake
Job Title: Park Maintenance Worker
Location: Copake Memorial Park
Type: Part-time/Seasonal
Pay: Hourly wage based on experience
About the Role: Join our team in keeping Copake Memorial Park a beautiful and safe place for the community.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
Town of Copake
Key Responsibilities:
• Landscape Maintenance: Mowing lawns, maintaining ball fields, weed whacking, trimming hedges, weeding flowerbeds, and raking leaves.
• Facility Care: Emptying trash bins, and keeping walkways and parking areas clear.
• Safety & Inspections: Performing basic safety checks on playground equipment and park facilities.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
The name of the LLC is Sugar Hill Farm Claverack, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on March 24, 2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Twenty-0-Three LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/6/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Allen Family Farms NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/16/2026.

GREENE COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Round Top Farmhouse, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/09/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of formation of Taghkanic Creek Tree Farm, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 3/07/2026.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF GALLATIN PUBLIC MEETING
You are hereby notified that the Town of Gallatin Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a PUBLIC HEARING April 28, 2026 at the Gallatin Town Hall-6:00 PM.

COLUMBIA COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice
Town of Copake
Zoning Board of Appeals
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS [ZBA] OF THE TOWN OF COPAKE, NEW YORK will be holding a public hearing on an application by David Brandon Smith at 38 Robin Road in the Town of Copake, tax parcel 165.6-2-57 who is seeking relief from Section 232-Table 1 of the Town Code, for right, left and front yard variances for rear addition bathroom.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID**

Separate sealed proposals will be received by the Board of Education, Taconic Central School District (herein referred to as the "Owner") for the Taconic Central School District
2025 Taconic Hills Capital Improvement Project

Bids shall be received by the Owner, in the District Office at, 73 County Route 11A, Craryville, NY 12521 until **1:00 P.M., local time, on Friday May 1, 2026**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids transmitted electronically or via facsimile will not be accepted. All bids received after that time will be returned to the respective bidder unopened. Bids are requested for the following Prime Contracts:

- Contract # 101 - General Construction**
- Contract # 102 - Plumbing and Mechanical Construction**
- Contract # 103 - Electrical Construction**
- Contract # 104 - Roofing Construction**
- Contract # 105 - Site Construction**

Attention of the Bidders is called to the requirements regarding the NYS Department of Labor Public Work Contractor and Subcontractor Registry. Bidders are required to submit a copy of their valid Certificate of Registration with their bid. Applications for registration shall not be accepted as a substitute for a valid Certificate of Registration. A Bid not accompanied by required bid security, a valid NYS Department of Labor Certificate of Registration or by other data required by the Bidding Documents, or a Bid which is in any way incomplete, or irregular is subject to rejection.

The Architect for the Project is: SEI Design Group Architects, D.P.C., 2 Winners Circle, Suite 101, Albany, NY 12205.

The Instructions to Bidders, Form of Proposal, General Conditions, Drawings, and Specifications may be examined at the offices of the Owner, Architect and the following locations:

- Construction Journal, 400 SW 7th St., Stuart, FL 34994, <http://www.constructionjournal.com>*
- Syracuse Builders Exchange, 6563 Ridings Rd., Syracuse, NY 13206*
- Northern New York Builders Exchange, 22074 Fabco Rd., Watertown, NY 13607*
- Eastern Contractor Association, 6 Airline Dr., Albany, NY 12205*
- Mohawk Valley Builders Exchange, 10 Main Street, Suite 202, Whitesboro, NY 13492*
- iSqFt, 30 Technology Pkwy S., Ste. 100. Norcross, GA 30092*

A Pre-Bid walk-through conference shall be held at the Taconic Hills Central School District, High School Main Office, 73 County Route 11A Craryville NY 12521, at **9am, local time, Thursday, April 9, 2026**, for the purpose of touring the building to review the existing conditions and considering Bidders' questions.

All pre-bid RFI's should be sent to AlbSubmittals@seidesigngroup.com.

Bidders for Prime Contract Work may obtain physical Contract Documents at the office of 2215 Central Avenue Schenectady, NY 12304 (518-463-2192) or bidsupport@godataflow.com. Bid Documents will require a bid deposit of One-Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each set of documents requested. Payments to be done by credit card through the www.nyplanroom.com website. Any Contract Document holder, upon returning the Contract Documents in good condition within thirty (30) days of the award of contract, or rejection of proposals, will be refunded the full amount of deposit to the same credit card used for purchase. Any Bidder after thirty (30) days after Bid opening or Non-Bidder so returning such a set will not be refunded.

Shipping: Additional shipping charges may apply for any delivery requests.

Electronic bid documents in .PDF format are available for purchase to registered plan holders for a nonrefundable fee of \$59, payable by credit card through the designated website. Upon payment, Dataflow will email plan holder a link to their FTP hosting site for downloading the files.

NOTE TO BIDDERS: Post Bid: To obtain your refund, drawings and specifications must be returned to DataFlow, 2215 Central Ave Schenectady NY, 12304. - 518-463-2192.

Bids shall be on the form provided in the documents, prepared in duplicate as set forth in the Instructions to Bidders and enclosed in an envelope bearing on its face the name and address of the bidder and the title of work to which the proposal relates. If submitting for more than one contract, submit each contract bid in separate envelope.

The Board of Education hereby reserves the right to waive any informalities and reject any or all Bids or to accept the one that in its judgment will be for the best interest of the school district.

A Bid Bond or Certified Check made payable to the Owner in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid, subject to the conditions provided in the Instructions to Bidders, must be deposited by each Bidder with his Bid as a guarantee that, in the case the contract is awarded to him, he will then, ten days thereafter, execute such contract and furnish a satisfactory Performance and Payment Bond, and the Bidder shall not withdraw his Bid for a period of forty-five days after the above date of Bid opening, and to guarantee the performance of all other obligations of the Bidders as set forth in Instructions to Bidders.

Attention of the Bidders is called to the requirements as to the conditions of employment and minimum wage rates to be paid under this Contract as well as to other provisions set forth in the Instruction to Bidders. Work shall be commenced and continuously and diligently prosecuted immediately after contracts have been signed.

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Town of Copake

Zoning Board of Appeals

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS [ZBA] OF THE TOWN OF COPAKE, NEW YORK will be holding a public hearing on an application by Rolando Cohen at 24 Pond Hill Road in the Town of Copake, tax parcel 155.13-1-211 who is seeking relief from 232 Table 1 of the town code for a left side yard variance for a garage. Said hearing will be held on Thursday, the 23th day of April 2026 at the Copake Town Hall at 230 Mountain View Road, Copake, at 7:00 PM. All interested persons shall be given the opportunity to speak at such hearing. By order of the Chair, Jon Strom

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
NOTICE OF
FORMATION OF A
LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY**

Notice of formation of FFOH LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/27/2026. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to FFOH LLC: 160 Imlay Street, 5C1, Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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OLD-SCHOOL NATURALIST

By MARLENE MCTIGUE

**Notes from the fields
and forests of Upstate
New York**

IT BEGINS EARLIER than you think. In fact, it is already underway.

Even now, as winter loosens its hold, the woods are opening to new life. Snow lingers only in the most shaded parts of the forest and along the highest ridges, tucked into quiet places where sunlight arrives last, but all around us we see signs that the great wheel of the seasons is turning.

While we wait for green to take hold, songbirds are already nesting, weaving early homes into branches that have not yet leafed out. High in the crooks of bare trees, squirrel mothers curl around blind and furless newborns, holding warmth against the chill of these early spring nights.

These new beginnings do not wait for comfort. They do not wait for peent of the wood-thrush or the first peeper chorus. They arrive quietly, invisibly, when the nights still drop below freezing.

The light is shifting now. Not dramatically. Not all at once. The afternoons stretch longer. Meltwater threads across frozen ground. The air carries that faint metallic scent of thawing earth. What looks like the tail end of winter is, in truth, the first chapter of renewal.

In the shallow, sunlit pockets of woodland, vernal pools are coming alive. Eastern newts move beneath the surface, laying their eggs one by one among submerged leaves. In time, the forest floor will carry their next form, the small, bright red efts that seem to appear out of nowhere and everywhere at once on forest trails.

Beneath brush piles, inside hollow trees, under root systems and field banks, new life is already here.

OLD-SCHOOL NATURALIST NOTE

If you find an animal in need

If you come across an injured or orphaned wild animal, there are people ready to help.

**Albany, Rensselaer, Warren, Saratoga, Schenectady, Columbia & Greene counties
North Country Wild Care
(518) 964-6740**

**Schoharie County
New York Wildlife Rescue Center, Middleburgh
(518) 817-7186
(518) 827-4616**

Image contributed

These new beginnings are not just a moment in a season of beauty.

They are an opportunity to see what is here and move through the fields and forests with greater care. The rewards can be immense.

Birth in Upstate New York is happening now. And it is fragile.

The Old-School Naturalist does not look away.

If you encounter a young animal, the first rule is this: do not panic.

Many are not abandoned. A fox mother may be hunting. A doe may be watching from a distance. Wildlife parenting does not look like ours, and absence does not always mean neglect. In fact, human intervention is often more dangerous than distance.

Observe first.

Watch from far enough away that the animal does not react to you. Give it time. In many cases, the mother will return when the area is quiet again.

But there are moments when help is necessary.

If an animal is visibly injured, bleeding, or has been attacked by a cat or dog, it is

time to act. If it is cold to the touch, covered in flies, lethargic, or lying on its side, it is time to act. If a nest has been destroyed and the young are exposed with no chance of the mother rebuilding, it is time to act. If a young animal is wandering alone for extended periods and crying persistently, that is your cue.

Do not feed it. Do not give it water. Do not attempt to raise it yourself. Keep it warm, dark, and quiet if containment is necessary, and call for guidance.

Add the numbers to your contacts before you need them.

The fields and forests of upstate New York are entering their most delicate chapter. The treetops are nurseries. The ponds hold life just beneath the surface. The dens are full.

Walk gently. Look twice.

And when it feels right, do not turn away. Your intervention can mean the difference between suffering and survival.

Your Old-School Naturalist journey begins here, if only you have the eyes to see. See you next week.

HOCHUL ANNOUNCES

Continued from Page B7

of the Climate Crisis, and they need our full support for on-farm efforts to lower emissions, protect our water, and boost soil health to secure our food supply for the future. The Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program is one of the key initiatives delivering that support. I'm proud to champion this critical program and congratulate our farmers across the state who have been awarded grant funding."

Altogether, the projects are estimated to reduce greenhouse gases by 67,677 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year — the equivalent of removing 15,786 gasoline powered vehicles from the road for one year.

SWCDs were awarded the grants on behalf of farmers in one of four tracks:

- Track 1: Livestock Management: Alternative Waste Management and Precision Feed Management
- Track 2: Adaptation and Resiliency

- Track 3: Healthy Soils NY (systems and Best Management Practices that support soil health and agroforestry)
- Track 4: Agricultural Forestry Management (afforestation for carbon sequestration).

The Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program follows the state's Agricultural Environmental Management planning framework. The Round 9 awards to SWCDs in the following regions are:

- Capital Region \$1,007,740 awarded to work with 13 farms; Central New York \$6,012,742 awarded to work with 11 farms; Finger Lakes \$11,312,579 awarded to work with 57 farms; Long Island \$178,819 awarded to work with 8 farms; Mohawk Valley \$1,576,658 awarded to work with four farms; North Country \$481,725 awarded to work with four farms; Southern Tier \$3,730,736 awarded to work with 33 farms; and Western New York \$1,096,415 awarded to work with 3 farms

To highlight a few project types, the awarded farms are projected to implement 34,600 acres of cover crops, 11 acres of riparian buffers and nine manure storage cover and capture systems for methane emission reduction. For a complete list and descriptions of projects awarded, visit the Department of Agriculture and Markets' website at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/agricultural-environmental-management>.

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SOFT PAWS

By CHARLENE MARCHAND

Some thoughts on good pet healthcare

I'M SUFFERING FROM spring fever. As a result, some random thoughts will flow, or follow, in an equally random order:

- A change in temperament or appetite, or sudden stiffness, lethargy or lameness on the part of your four-legged family member can be symptoms of Lyme disease, or other tick-borne infections. Don't just write off behavior changes as a reaction to the sweltering temperatures. Get the "kids" to your vet for blood work

- When we're in summer heat, realize that your dog's cooling mechanism is not as efficient as yours. They need lots of fresh water, shade, and house rest (not arrest), when temps are sweltering. We need to be vigilant about watching for signs of heat stroke during exercise, trips (even local ones) as well as any environmental stressors which can elevate body temperatures. Remember, puppies and kittens run "hotter," and do not regulate temperature extremes as well as adults of their respective genotypes. FRESH water must be available at all times — not ponds, puddles, rain-collectors or toilet bowls...i.e. water you would drink



Photo contributed

Pictured with CGHS Office Manager Jenn Maloney is Link, a 6-year-old domestic shorthair who was transferred to us from another shelter. He's a very affectionate cat who loves human affection more than anything. As friendly as he is, he doesn't care for being picked up too much. But he'll happily sit on your lap or next to you to soak up all the pets! He lived with other animals in his previous home, so he'd blend into just about any home.

- Keep a red-eye alert for signs of bloating or possible gastric dilation and volvulus. Make an immediate call to your veterinary practitioner if your dog is unusually restless, is experiencing unproductive vomiting, has any abdominal swelling or tenderness, or continues to turn his/her head to look at their abdomen. Bloat is a medical emergency where time is of the essence!

- Now that our canine kids seem to be enjoying more "fresh vegetables," i.e. outdoor grasses, plants and vines, beware of: English Ivy, tulips, rhubarb leaves, all Rhododendron, hydrangea, Japanese Yews, are but a few red flags from your garden. Many mulch mixtures are also very gastrointestinal reactive, especially where babies are concerned. Dogs experiencing Pica (consumption of inappropriate substances) warrant a trip to the clinic

- Many cats and dogs do not do well with flea and tick collars. Some experience inappetence, lethargy and the like. Discuss with your veterinarian if these collars are necessary, especially when the topicals like K-9 Advantix, Vectra,

Bravecto, etc. have greater efficacy. For a few dollars more per month, our furry companions can be better protected. New lines of systemic flea/tick and heartworm protection are gaining in popularity

- If your capricious canine thinks she's Esther Williams, or he thinks he's Michael Phelps in your pond or pool, you need to be aggressive in the towel or blow-drying department. Moist dermatitis ("hot spots") runs rampant in the heat and humidity, is painful, and can spread like wildfire in the dry forest of your dog's coat if not properly attended to. An ounce of prevention is always worth more and costs less than a pound of cure!

- Dogs riding in open-bed trucks on highways can be moments away from serious injury. Keep them safe and secure inside the vehicle. Spinal cord and leg injuries are not uncommon, and are serious

- Get ready for thunderstorm season now with any sound-sensitive pets you have. I'll follow up with an in-depth article on this fairly common problem.

If your cats are indoor/outdoor, make sure that they have effective flea and tick protection. Even indoor cats can benefit from a topical application two or three times a year, especially those kitties who share their homes with a doting doggie. Dogs and cats can both carry in undetected visitors, that fall off before they drink that lethal cocktail.

Feel free to call us with any questions at 518-828-6044 or visit our website at www.cghs.org. Our Food Bank is open to any from the public in need of pet food or for those wishing to donate food from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Spay/neuter clinics for cats are \$110 male or female, including a rabies vaccination and a 5-in-1 feline distemper combination vaccination. Nail clipping services are available every Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at the shelter for a donation of \$10 for cats and \$15 for dogs (currently prepaid only).

Charlene Marchand is the Chairperson of the Columbia-Greene Humane Society/SPCA Board of Directors. She may be contacted at cghsaaron@gmail.com.

Marchand tells of Rensselaer regiments in the Civil War

STEPHENTOWN — Historian Michael Marchand talks about Rensselaer County in the Civil War at the Stephentown Heritage Center, 4 Staples Road, Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m. This gathering of the Stephentown Historical Society is free and open to the public. For information or directions call 518-339-6485.

Mr. Marchand, whose ancestors lived in Rensselaer County since 1730, has studied the rich history of the area and has been collecting artifacts with a focus on the Civil War era. The 2nd, 125th and 169th NY were regiments that fought along with the 21st NY Cavalry out of Troy. Company E, of the 125th NY, was recruited from Stephentown and other small towns in the

southeast corner of the county. The regiment served from 1862 to 1865 ... from Harper's Ferry to Appomattox.

Mr. Marchand will also present a large display of pictures and artifacts from Rensselaer County's Civil War military and industrial past. He encourages folks to bring pictures of and letters they may have from their soldier ancestors.

Spiritual activist speaks about her new book

HUDSON — The Hudson Valley Interfaith Circle invites all to hear award winning Quaker speaker, author and leader in spiritually-based activism, Eileen Flanagan, discuss her new book

at the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson, 369 Warren Street, April 14, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The book is called "Common Ground: How the Crisis of Earth is Saving Us From Our

Illusion of Separation" and to learn more about the book and author go to: <https://eileenflanagan.com/common-ground/>

All are welcome, the event is free. No RSVP is required.

Gallatin & New Lebanon station closures extended

GALLATIN / NEW LEBANON — The Columbia County Board of Supervisors Public Works Committee met March 18 and recommended

extending the temporary closure of the Gallatin Transfer Station, 2180 Route 82, and the New Lebanon Recycling Center, 22 County Route 5A (West Street),

through June 1. Any questions or concerns regarding the stations' closure should be directed to the solid waste department office at 518-828-2737.



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