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The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires

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Joan K. Lentini file photo

In Saratoga Springs, new leaders aim for changes to rebuild trust

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On the farm, new babies of spring

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The Spa City's push for police reforms

A new slate of city leaders in Saratoga Springs has been moving swiftly in recent weeks toward creation of a local civilian review board to investigate allegations of police misconduct. At the same time, the city's new public safety commissioner has released a lengthy report on the case of Darryl Mount Jr., a biracial man who was mortally injured while fleeing from city police in 2013. The draft report acknowledges misconduct by a former city police chief in handling Mount's case -- and recommends the city settle a civil suit brought by Mount's family. These actions mark a sharp change in tone from the city government after two years of bitter local debate and protests over policing and racial justice. Page 4



New York restores tuition aid for prison inmates

Every year since 1999, New York lawmakers have introduced legislation to make state college tuition grants available to students incarcerated at prison facilities. And every year until now, the legislation never made it out of committee. Now inmate education advocates are rejoicing, and some area colleges are preparing to expand their offerings for incarcerated students. Page 7



Leaving urban life to run a bookstore in a barn

When the pandemic prompted Sydney Nichols and Eric Kufs to reassess their lives and careers in southern California, the couple ultimately decided to take a big leap. Now they've landed in upstate New York as the new owners of Owl Pen Books, a beloved 60-year-old institution with a bountiful inventory. Page 14

Strands of history meet in a Hudson Valley home

The house where Martin Van Buren was married also claimed "Uncle Sam" Wilson as a tenant a few years later. Page 16

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Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: Police cruisers line the street outside Saratoga Springs City Hall.

Correction: A story in the April issue incorrectly included one environmental restoration project in a list of similar projects undertaken by Trout Unlimited in the Batten Kill watershed of New York and Vermont. The project, which reconnected the tributary Coulter Brook to the Batten Kill in the hamlet of Battenville, was undertaken by the Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District.

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In sign of spring, new life on farms

Area events provide close encounters with piglets, lambs and more

By **KATE ABBOTT**
Contributing writer

HANCOCK, Mass.

The barn is different on a spring night. Calves lie in the hay like deer in the undergrowth. Lambs sleep on their mother's backs, and sometimes a chicken will join them for the warmth.

"At night animals take on a whole different look," said Bill Mangiardi, the farm manager at Hancock Shaker Village.

He will sit quietly in the Round Stone Barn in the small hours, bottle-feeding a lamb whose mother hasn't had enough milk for twins, and listening to the stillness.

During the day, the village fills with sound — lambs and chicks, kid goats and calves and piglets, and hundreds of children who are here for the 20th annual Baby Animals Festival, a ritual of spring as the living history museum opens for a new year.

At farms throughout the region's hills and mountains, spring means new life. Calves are out to pasture at Cricket Creek Farm in Williamstown, around the corner from the farm shop with its cheeses, and at High Lawn Farm in Lee, beside the ice cream stand and farm store.

For woolcraft, the Sheep to Shawl festival is returning to Williamstown Rural Lands on May 7 after a two-year pause, with sheep herding and sheering, weaving and more. The festival will include spring babies: Luke McKay of McKay's Family Farm and Mountain Top Zoo will bring farm animals and young ones — lambs, baby bunnies, a calf and maybe more.

Up at Hildene, the Lincoln family museum in Manchester, Vt., dairy goats are grazing at the Dene Farm along with alpacas, sheep, cattle, pigs, rabbits and chickens.

Some working farms welcome visitors who ask ahead. Dominic Palumbo at Moon in the Pond Farm in Sheffield invites people to walk on the paths through his farm — as long as they check in with him first — and see the Dorset sheep, ducks and geese, black Cornwall pigs, highland cattle and more. (For everyone's safety and comfort, though, he asks visitors not to touch the creatures.)

And as spring warms into summer, Wing and a Prayer Farm in Shaftsbury, Vt., will welcome



Susan Sabino photo

Piglets are among the new arrivals this spring at the annual Baby Animals festival at Hancock Shaker Village in the Berkshires.

visitors to meet its sheep, goats and alpacas for hands-on experiences as the farm turns the animals' fiber into naturally dyed yarns.

More animals — and people

At Hancock Shaker Village, a young lamb has soft, dense wool, still closely curled. Mangiardi holds her back feet cupped in one hand, supporting her, and she gently noses his sweater.

Under Mangiardi's care, the village's baby animal event has grown, Executive Director Jennifer Trainer Thompson said. When he started running the farm operation, the spring festival was a modest affair; now, she said, the village sees more than a quarter of its annual visitors in these few weeks between mud season and the full green of spring.

This year, the village has more babies than they have often had, Mangiardi

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A city's push for police reforms

In Saratoga Springs, leaders pursue changes and aim to rebuild trust

By EVAN LAWRENCE
Contributing writer

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

A new slate of city leaders in Saratoga Springs has been moving swiftly in recent weeks toward adopting one of the key goals of local police reform advocates: the creation of a local civilian review board to investigate allegations of police misconduct.

At the same time, the city's new public safety commissioner has released a lengthy report on the case of Darryl Mount, a biracial man who was mortally injured while fleeing city police in 2013. The draft report acknowledges misconduct by a former city police chief in handling Mount's case – and recommends the city settle a civil suit brought by Mount's family.

These developments represent a sharp change in tone from the city government after nearly two years of bitter local debate and protests over issues of policing and racial justice — as well as accusations that city police targeted the protesters for disproportionately harsh treatment. The shift also reflects the victory of a pro-reform slate of candidates in November's city elections.

The new plan for a civilian review board, which could come up for a City Council vote by early May, largely mirrors a recommendation made more than a year ago by a 13-member task force that spent months reviewing the city's policing practices and policies. Municipal governments across New York were required to set up similar task forces after the national outcry over the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer.

Although the City Council that was in office last year adopted many of the local task force's recommendations, it blocked action on the



Joan K. Lentini photo

James Montagnino, the new public safety commissioner in Saratoga Springs, has been guiding an effort to create a new civilian review board that could investigate allegations of police misconduct.

proposal for a civilian review board.

But reform advocates have continued to argue that a review board is crucial to restoring trust in the city's police force by providing a process for prompt independent review of police actions in cases like Mount's.

The effort to create a review board gained new momentum in January when James Montagnino took over as the city's new public safety commissioner. Montagnino, a Democrat, had strongly supported the concept in last year's campaign. He defeated Republican candidate Tracey LaBelle, who was supported by the city police union, by more than 10 percentage points in the November election.

Terry Diggory of the Saratoga Immigration Coalition, who served on the city's Police Reform Task Force, said Montagnino's new blueprint for a review board is similar to what the task force

proposed last year.

"I'm glad the City Council is moving forward," Diggory said. "It's very important to have a civilian review board so people can have full confidence in the police department."

City Police Chief Shane Crooks, who also served on the task force, did not respond to requests for comment last month.

Subpoena power

Eric Lawson, a local lawyer and professional arbitrator, said he wrote the original civilian review board proposal five years ago for an initiative of the Saratoga Immigration Coalition.

"It's basically the kind of dispute resolution that you find in collective bargaining," Lawson said. "It's a completely neutral procedure that doesn't favor the police or the complainant. It provides for mediation with a neutral third party. Only if that fails does it go to a semi-judicious proceeding."

Lawson said he's "delighted to endorse" Montagnino's version of the proposal.

"It's really a very, very positive development," he said, adding that the new board should be effective at improving the relationship between city police and residents "if it's adopted, implemented and funded with an adequate chair."

As of late April, Montagnino's proposal called for a five-member civilian review board, with one member nominated by each member of the City Council, including the mayor, and each of the members appointed by a majority vote of the council. The mayor's nominee would lead the panel. The proposal specifies that the board's members should reflect the diversity of the city's population, with at least one member between the ages of 18 and 25.

The review board would have administrative subpoena power to obtain police records and investigate complaints. The public safety commissioner would review the commission's conclusions and recommendations before issuing a final decision in each case. Complainants who are dissatisfied with these decisions could appeal them in court.

The Rev. Joe Cleveland, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Saratoga Springs, has been following the city's policing issues since 2018 and said he hopes the creation of a review board



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will “go a long way to restoring trust between the folks who feel they’re being aggressively policed and the people policing them.”

Winston Grady-Willis, another member of the former city Police Reform Task Force and the director of the Black Studies program at Skidmore College, said Montagnino’s proposal incorporates several key elements originally suggested by the task force.

“The most important is perhaps subpoena power,” Grady-Willis said. “That’s critical for the civilian review board to have integrity.”

The true test, he added, will be when the civilian review board receives a complaint. How it handles its inquiry will “have the potential to move the community forward,” he said.

He hopes for a broader reckoning.

“At some point,” Grady-Willis said, “I would really like to see individuals in power, including the police department and the city, engage in conversation with the larger community with genuine acknowledgment of past failures and double standards of how protesters are treated.”

Failures of leadership?

Much of the distrust of the local police department among some Saratogians traces back to the city’s handling of the Darryl Mount case.

Mount was found unconscious in a downtown alley in August 2013 after fleeing city patrolmen on foot. Police said he was injured in a fall; Mount’s family has claimed he was a victim of police brutality. He never fully regained consciousness, and he died more than eight months later.

The police chief at the time, Gregory Veitch, told a reporter that the department was conducting an internal investigation of the incident. But five

years later, Veitch admitted under oath that no investigation of his officers’ conduct was ever undertaken.

In his campaign for office last year, Montagnino, whose lengthy legal career includes experience as both a prosecutor and a criminal defense lawyer, promised to produce his own report on the incident. He researched publicly available information from the police department and from a pending civil suit filed by Mount’s family. The result is his “Draft Report on the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Darryl Mount,” released Feb. 15.

“Obviously, the events of the last two summers

brought the case to the forefront,” Montagnino said in an interview. “I’m hoping that having presented publicly more evidence, people’s questions have been answered.”

Montagnino stressed that his research has turned up no evidence that the officers who were pursuing Mount on the night he was injured did anything wrong. But his 38-page report also blasted what he called a failure of leadership by Veitch, who he said was obligated to conduct a prompt internal review of the incident.

Details of a fatal encounter

Mount, who was 21 at the time of his encounter

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with city police, lived in Ballston Spa. He was on parole after a prison term for a nonviolent burglary offense. He was sent back to prison for 90 days for parole violations and was released again in July 2013. On the night of Aug. 30, the start of Labor Day weekend, Mount and his girlfriend, Morgan McLean, went barhopping on Caroline Street in Saratoga Springs — an act that represented a new parole violation.

About 2 a.m. on Aug. 31, according to Montagnino's report, a woman on Caroline Street told patrol officers she had seen Mount slap Morgan in the face. The woman was never identified. Two officers of the four patrolling the busy area questioned Mount and McLean separately. Both Mount and McLean denied they'd been involved in any altercation, and

police let them go.

Later, in a sworn deposition for the civil suit, McLean admitted that Mount had indeed struck her and had pulled her hair later when they were in a bar.

A short time after that, Mount and McLean were on opposite sides of Caroline Street when Mount saw her talking with another man. Mount charged over and slammed McLean's head into a brick wall. The two officers witnessed the attack and ran towards the couple. Montagnino's report notes that the officers had "probable cause" to believe that Mount's action qualified as attempted assault.

Mount fled on foot with the officers in pursuit. Fleeing the officers represented another offense: resisting arrest. At Broadway, Mount turned south and then climbed a fence meant to keep people out of an alley where construction was going on. On one side of the alley, a scaffold nearly 20 feet high connected the street level with the alley's floor. A fire escape went down a building on the other side. By the time the first officer arrived at the top of the alley, Mount had disappeared, according to Montagnino's report.

About the same time, three workers in a restaurant kitchen that opened onto the alley heard a crash. One worker testified later that it

sounded like a head hitting a solid object. They ran into the unlighted alley and found Mount face down on the ground. One officer, still on the scaffold, asked if the workers saw anything. The other three officers arrived shortly. One handcuffed Mount, but removed the cuffs when he realized Mount was unconscious, and called for medical assistance.

Mount was taken to Albany Medical Center Hospital with facial fractures and brain bleeding. Staff there told Mount's mother, Patty Jackson, and McLean that his injuries were consistent with assault. Jackson and McLean immediately filed complaints of police brutality against the Saratoga Springs police.

The Times Union of Albany later reported that in October 2013, Jackson was advised by another health care worker at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady to hire a forensic pathologist to determine the cause of Mount's injuries.

Mount never recovered enough to give his side of what had happened. He was cared for, mostly at home, by his family and aides until he died of pneumonia the following May. He was 22.

An investigation that wasn't

Veitch, the police chief, received Jackson's and
continued on page 18

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NEWS & ISSUES

After 27 years, state restores tuition aid for inmates

Some area colleges set to offer more programs

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

Every year since 1999, New York lawmakers have introduced legislation to make state college tuition grants available to students incarcerated at prison facilities.

And every year, until this year, the legislation never made it out of committee.

Inmate education advocates rejoiced when Gov. Kathy Hochul, in her State of the State speech in January, somewhat unexpectedly pledged to restore tuition funding for the incarcerated, which the state had rescinded in 1995.

“That was a signal that there was going to be a sudden change,” said Stephanie Bazell, director of policy and advocacy for College & Community Fellowship, an organization based in New York City that advocates for education of incarcerated women.

Bazell’s organization led the Turn on the Tap Coalition NY, a statewide alliance of advocacy organizations that sought to restore inmates’ eligibility for funds from the state Tuition Assistance Program, or TAP.

Advocates rejoiced even more when the change was included in the new state budget that Hochul signed April 9.

“There are extraordinary things that open up when you have the opportunity for education in prison,” Bazell said.

Reinstatement of inmate TAP funding will add momentum to the rebuilding of inmate education programs that nearly vanished when the federal government stopped providing Pell grants to the incarcerated in 1994, and the state stopped providing TAP grants in 1995.

In 1994, the number of inmate tuition-aid programs in the nation dropped from 700 to

“I would like to think that every incarcerated individual, when they have completed their sentence, would walk out into the community having made good use of their time.”

— Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, D-Round Lake

fewer than 10, and in 1995, the number of programs in New York dropped from 70 to four, according to Turn on the TAP.

The movement gradually rebuilt some of these efforts, funded with private grants and, in recent years, a federal pilot program that demonstrated enough success that the Congress reinstated Pell grants for the incarcerated last year.

College courses at local prisons

Currently, college programs are offered at 34 state correctional facilities, according to the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

Locally, SUNY Adirondack offers a program at Washington Correctional Facility in Comstock, Bennington College offers a program at Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, and Ashland University Pilot College offers a program at Hudson Correctional Facility in Hudson.

Bard Prison Institute, established in 1999 by

Bard College, has operated for many years in six correctional facilities, with about 300 students enrolled. With the reinstatement of Pell and TAP grants, the program will open in a seventh facility — and increase from one to three the number of facilities where bachelor’s degree programs are offered, said Jessica Neptune, the institute’s director of national engagement. The other facilities will continue to offer associate degree programs.

Bard also will be able to increase its technical assistance to colleges and other organizations as they develop new inmate education programs or expand existing ones, Neptune said.

“TAP along with Pell Grants provides a baseline of stability that will give comfort to new programs working to launch, and gives older and more established programs some existential comfort as well,” she said. “But the history lesson from the loss of Pell and TAP in the 1990s and its return all these years later is the need for diversified funding streams going to a diversity of institutions of higher education doing this work, so that the field is never again vulnerable to the decimation of college opportunity in prison, should political winds once again shift.”

It is too soon to say how many new programs will open as a result of the state reinstating inmate tuition grants, said Sara Alpert of Hudson Link, another organization in the Turn on the Tap Coalition.

“It often takes time to create a new program by building partnerships between college providers and individual facilities to prepare for the logistics of running a college program in prison,” she said. “The hope is that with the reinstatement of Pell and TAP, we will see expanded programming in facilities, and the increased resources will allow current programs further to build program quality for a holistic approach to college in prison.”

Area legislators have mixed views about the change.

Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, D-Round



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See map on page 11

Lake, said she supports the change, as long as inmate college programs have the same enrollment requirements as a traditional college.

Incarcerated students must have a high school diploma or a general equivalency diploma to enroll, which is actually more stringent than some community colleges that have open enrollment.

"I would like to think that every incarcerated individual, when they have completed their sentence, would walk out into the community having made good use of their time," Woerner said in a telephone interview.

State Sen. Dan Stec, R-Queensbury, has expressed opposition to the change, characterizing it as a case of misplaced priorities by the Legislature's Democratic leaders.

"It's another example of how the actions of this legislative majority ... since 2019 have prioritized the needs of criminals and those that are incarcerated, those that have taken from society," Stec said in videotaped remarks on the Senate floor, posted April 9 on his Senate office Facebook page.

Stec said that instead of reinstating inmate TAP grants, the state should have allocated the funding to increase the maximum household income of \$80,000 for those receiving traditional TAP grants — a threshold that has been in place for 22 years.

Better outcomes, lower costs

Inmate education advocates say the change will actually save the state money, because inmates

with a college education have a greater sense of self-worth and a greater chance of gainful employment after release. As a result, inmates who complete college studies are less likely to commit new crimes after their release.

In the overall prison population, about 40 percent of released inmates in New York return to prison, while among those who complete college courses while incarcerated, the return rate is only 3 percent, said Andre Ward, associate vice president of the David Rothenberg Center for the Fortune Foundation, a New York City think tank that focuses on inmate rehabilitation issues.

The Turn on the Tap Coalition estimates that 1,578 incarcerated students, or about 5 percent of the state's prison population, will receive TAP assistance, costing about \$5.2 million, or less than 1 percent of the overall TAP budget.

Taking into account the reduced recidivism among inmates who complete college studies, the state's estimated return on investment will be between \$21 million and \$26 million, advocates estimate.

After more than two decades in which efforts to restore inmate TAP funding appeared stalled, Bazell, of College & Community Fellowship, attributed the coalition's sudden success to several factors.

For one, former Gov. Andrew Cuomo in 2014 and 2016 had unsuccessfully proposed establishing a separate inmate education program using funding from the Manhattan district attorney's office. When those efforts

failed, he did not want to risk any more political capital.

"He then had a sort of reluctance to lose it again," Bazell explained.

Hochul, on the other hand, was starting with a clean slate legislatively and was willing to take the political risk, she said.

In addition, criminal justice issues have been receiving stronger attention nationally in recent years, which helped lead to the federal government's reinstatement of Pell grants for incarcerated students. Thirty-one other states had reinstated state-level education assistance for inmates, leaving New York legislators "kind of embarrassed" at being behind the trend, Bazell said.

She said some legislators also were swayed when the New York State Association of District Attorneys endorsed the idea of restoring TAP funding for inmates.

District attorneys recognized the role of education in rehabilitation, said Washington County District Attorney Tony Jordan, a Republican who is president of the statewide association.

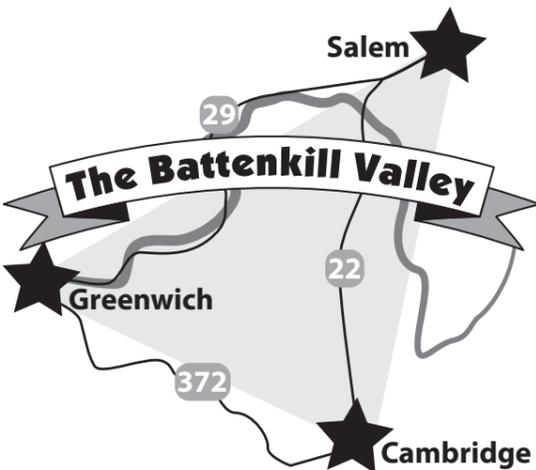
"The statistics were really across the country, not just in New York," he said.

Jordan said the inmate tuition-aid program won't take away funding from students on the outside who are eligible for traditional TAP grants.

"This doesn't erode the money that is available for others in TAP," he said.



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See map on page 11

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EDITORIAL

For Spa City's police, a breath of fresh air

For Saratoga Springs' new public safety commissioner, a big part of the job so far involves clearing the air. And it turns out that a lot of bad air has built up over the past decade inside City Hall and the city police department in particular.

James Montagnino, a retired lawyer with more than 30 years of service in the state's justice system, has said he opted to run for his seat on the City Council last year in part because of concerns about the city's handling of the case of Darryl Mount Jr. The 21-year-old biracial man was mortally injured in a 2013 encounter with city police.

As our cover story this month details, one of Montagnino's first projects after taking office in January was to produce a 38-page report laying out all of the publicly available records and information – from the police department and from a civil suit filed by Mount's family – about the events surrounding the young man's death.

At the same time, the new commissioner has been leading the process for creating a new civilian review board with the power to investigate allegations of police misconduct. The review board is a longtime goal of local reformers, but the previous City Council blocked it. The new council is expected to approve its formation this month.

The two projects are related, and both aim to start repairing the frayed relationship between the police department and a growing share of the city's increasingly diverse population.

After Mount was found lying unconscious nine years ago at the foot of scaffold in an alley behind Broadway, police said they believed he was injured in a fall while trying to elude officers who were chasing him on foot. The details laid out in Montagnino's report still seem to support some variation of that theory, and no evidence has emerged to indicate that any of the city's officers were within sight of Mount when he was injured.

But Mount's family, based on what they said was feedback from an emergency room doctor and other medical professionals, filed complaints alleging he was a victim of police brutality. Under department policy, Montagnino says, this should have triggered an internal review of the incident.

What happened next is what's troubling. The police chief at the time, Gregory Veitch, told the public an internal investigation was under way. But he told his staff that he'd already determined that any claims of police brutality were false. Finally, in a sworn deposition several years later, he admitted there had been no internal investigation.

Against that backdrop of deception, is it any wonder why Mount's family and supporters might still wonder whether there is more to be learned about his death?

As concerns about racial justice have increased nationally, the Mount case has become a rallying point for local Black Lives Matter protesters. And Saratoga Springs police have responded badly, targeting the protesters with particularly harsh treatment and arrest, with some being led to arraignment in shackles. The city's assistant police chief lashed out at critics last summer, saying, "You're either with us or you're not, and if you're not, then you're part of the problem."

It is past time for some transparency and accountability – time to clear the air, to let the sun shine in. Montagnino's report on the Mount case offers a good first step. A review by the state attorney general's office might help to resolve unanswered questions. And a civilian review board will help to keep the air clear in the future.



Letters to the editor

Ads skip downsides of Medicare Advantage plans

To the editor:

You probably have seen Joe Namath on television hawking Medicare Advantage plans. Don't be fooled! Joe was a decent quarterback, but a health insurance expert he is not.

Right now, there are two versions of Medicare: Original (federal) and Advantage (commercial). In addition, there is a new program called Reach that can switch your plan from original to a commercial plan without your consent.

Commercial insurance companies such as United Health Care, Cigna and Aetna make huge profits if they can sell their Medicare Advantage plans. These insurers are overpaid middlemen. They spend your premium dollars on fat-cat executive salaries, lobbying, investor dividends, advertising and political donations, not on your medical care. In addition, the government subsidizes Advantage plans using original Medicare funds, thereby making the Advantage plans even more profitable and depleting the Medicare Trust Fund.

Advantage plans will limit your care if they can. They will insist that your doctor prescribe certain drugs and not others. You will be restricted to a certain panel of doctors, and they will make it difficult for you to go to anyone outside this panel. If your doctor orders a test, they might not pay for it unless you get prior approval.

If you get really sick and you want to switch back to original Medicare because it provides more options, you will do so at a greater cost. If you switch from one Advantage plan to another, you may have to switch doctors as well.

Don't be fooled by Joe Namath's slick but empty promises. Commercial insurers have turned our health care system into an expensive, poor performing mess. They are profit motivated not patient-care motivated. The only way out of this mess is a federally funded single-payer system that would insure everyone from birth to death.

G. Richard Dundas, M.D.
Bennington, Vt.

Your letters

The *Observer* welcomes letters from readers. To be considered for publication, letters to the editor must be signed and must include the writer's address and phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for length so as to

allow presentation of a wider range of viewpoints. Send your letters by mail to Hill Country Observer, P.O. Box 158, Cambridge, NY 12816. Fax them to 518-677-8898. Or e-mail them to fdaley@hill-countryobserver.com.

Recruiting guardians for a seagull sanctuary

The somewhat unusual classified ad, published in various newspapers around the country in 1921, generated 1,600 applications:

“Wanted — A man to live alone on an island, inland lake; eight miles from the shore; transportation, food, shelter, boat, etc. furnished; no work; no compensation.”

The successful applicant that year was a recent Harvard University graduate.

Similarly worded ads had been placed annually for more than 15 years, directing responses to “Summer Time,”

a pseudonym for Edward P. Hatch Jr., whose family owned Four Brothers Islands, a group of four Lake Champlain islands 5.5 miles northeast of Willsboro, on the New York side of the lake, roughly across from Burlington.

The islands were a breeding place for the Arctic seagull and a stopping point for migratory geese, ducks and other birds.

Hatch was the grandson of Burlington physician Horace Hatch and the son of Edward P. Hatch Sr., a principal in the Lord & Taylor dry goods business as well as a financier and real estate investor in New York City.

The father, who died in 1909, left an estate of more than \$2.6 million — the equivalent of \$79.7 million in today’s dollars — including real estate valued at more than \$863,000, the *Ticonderoga Sentinel* reported on Aug. 31, 1911.

The son, Edward P. Hatch Jr., was a naturalist and environmentalist. He purposely

kept his identity and the location of the islands out of the ads, and exaggerated the distance from shore, to keep curiosity seekers away from the islands, fearing they might disturb the gulls that returned each summer.

“For fear that the birds be molested, Mr. Hatch has sent one man yearly to live on the islands with no pay, but with all his needs adequately supplied, as guardian of the birds,” *The Lake Placid News* reported Oct. 20, 1922.

One might think of the gulls as feathered tourists from New York City. They lived most of the year at the New York harbor but returned to the islands for mating season.

“The old ones return each year, but the young of each season’s hatch seek places as yet undiscovered,” *The Republican Journal of Belfast, Maine*, reported on July 17, 1909.

“Each year, the same ten or twelve hundred come back to the islands to rear their young,” *The Washington Herald of Washington, D.C.*,

Maury Thompson

“Wanted — A man to live alone on an island, inland lake; eight miles from the shore; transportation, food, shelter, boat, etc. furnished; no work; no compensation.”

wrote on May 19, 1912. “Their number never increases, because under a peculiar law of their own, the young are sent away as soon as they have learned to shift for themselves and establish new colonies elsewhere. Only the original settlers return to the old home the following spring. When an old gull dies, his place is filled by another elderly bird, but never by a young bird.”

Hatch’s motive for protecting the birds extended beyond an interest in ornithology.

“Mr. Hatch says that the gulls deserve protection, for despite their beauty they are really flying sewage disposal plants, as they consume about two pounds of waste daily,” the *Ticonderoga Sentinel* reported on May 19, 1921.

Hatch began bringing a summer “guardian” to the islands annually around 1904, when he learned the connection between gulls and remediating pollution.

He led an early 20th century effort for more than a decade to crack down on pulp mills that dispensed sludge into Lake Champlain — and to convince the city of Burlington and other municipalities to find alternatives to dumping raw sewage into the lake.

Backers of the campaign included Dr. W. Seward Webb, a capitalist and former railroad builder who lived in New York City and Shelburne, Vt., as well as George H. Allen and publisher Henry Holt.

continued on page 12

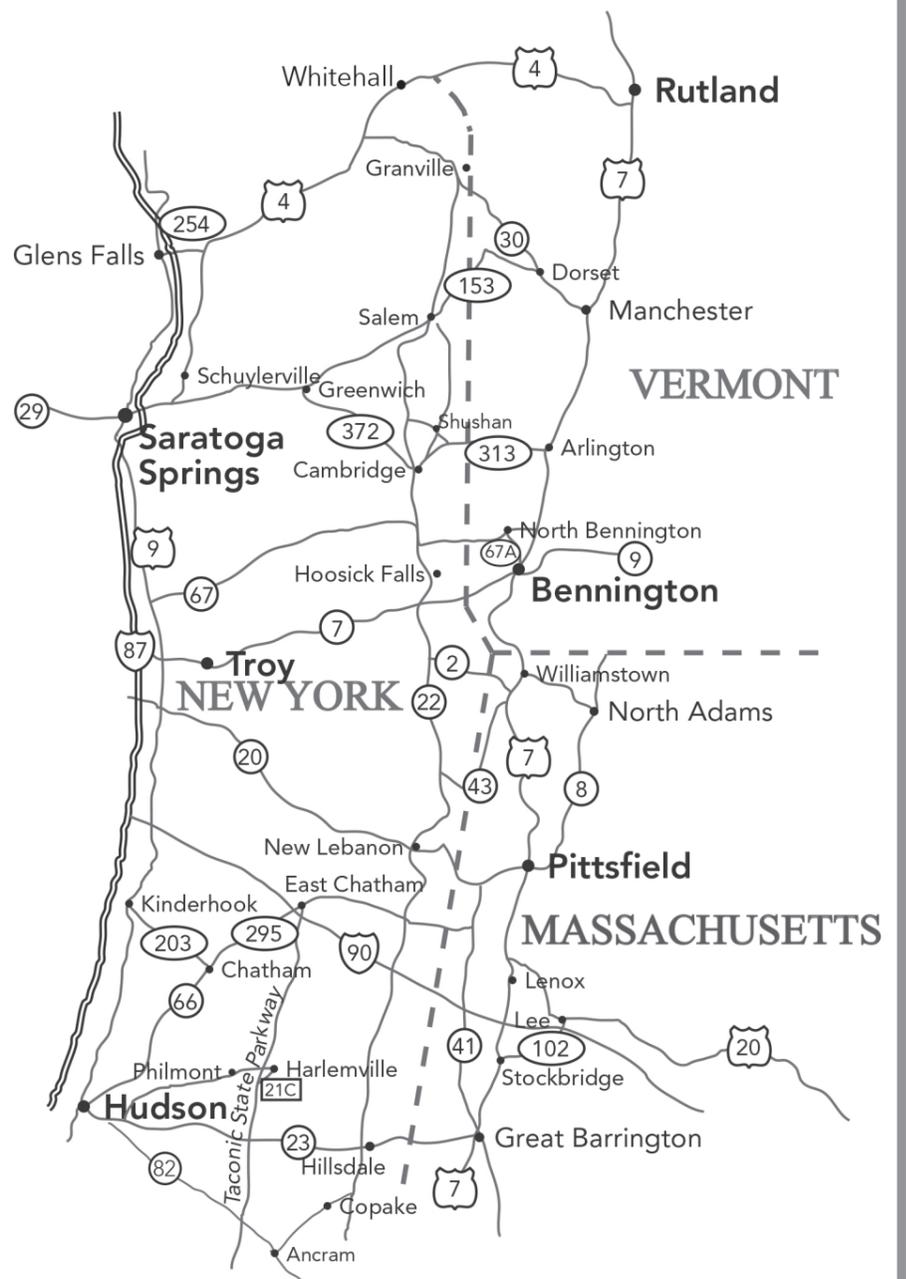
News that’s slow-brewed for a high-speed age

We’re told we live in an information age, yet the traditional gathering of news is in decline.

Conventional news organizations are scaling back their efforts to ferret out the facts, even as they spread each factoid ever more widely via 24-hour broadcasts and the Internet. Is this the best way to keep you informed?

At the *Hill Country Observer*, we still take time to connect the dots, to put the news and issues of our region into a broader perspective. We only publish once a month, but we shine a light on stories and trends that aren’t getting much attention elsewhere.

Judging from our growing circulation, readers like the results. Tell us what you think.



Seagulls continued from page 11

The group convinced New York Gov. Benjamin Odell, who served from 1901 to 1904, to direct the state Health Department to conduct an investigation, which led to the state requiring pulp mills on the New York side of Lake Champlain to build sedimentation beds to keep sludge out of the lake.

"The fight against the pollution of the beautiful lake aroused widespread interest at the time, and, as usual, the authorities in many states have taken similar action to stop the pollution of streams and lakes by manufacturing interests," the *Ticonderoga Sentinel* reported on Oct. 26, 1905.

In 1907, Hatch was chairman of a similar campaign that the Merchants' Association of New York City established to reduce the quantity of sewage being dumped into the Hudson River.

At Four Brothers Islands, the duties of the guardian included counting the number of gull eggs that were laid, keeping strangers off the islands, cleaning up storm damage that might damage nesting areas, and filing a report at the end of the season with the Audubon Society.

In 1912, there were about 1,200 applications for the unpaid position.

"They came from men of millions ... and they came from penniless young men who begged for the chance of earning their food and shelter," *The Washington Herald* reported.

"There were applications from romantic young women and disheartened old men, from artists, inventors, professional men, students and from hundreds of both sexes in every walk of life."

Several engaged couples applied, thinking the islands would be an ideal honeymoon destination.

"The house is a particularly snug little abode, sheltered by a grove of cedars and very close to the water's edge," the *Herald* reported. "It is cozy and warm, with a large cooking range, ample furniture, romantic little verandas, vine covered and looking out over the lake. There are corners for books and room for a piano, if you like, and pleasant windows where the sun comes in at morning and the breeze from the lake floats up at night."

The details of the accommodations normally were shared only a few finalists who were called in for interviews each year. Hatch arranged for all provisions.

"You could go there in your pajamas, if you like, for all necessary clothing is supplied to your order," the *Herald* reported.

The guardian had use of two rowboats and of Hatch's motorboat, "The Fly," named for a national campaign he conducted to convince municipalities that dumping sewage in open waters created conditions that contributed to breeding of the common house fly.

In October 1922, Hatch and his family donated the islands to the New York Zoological Society, which planned to bring a team of university scientists to the islands

the next summer to study the migratory and mating patterns of the gulls.

At least one report at the time suggested that the island's seagulls had done their part in enforcing Prohibition.

"Bootleggers, of late, tried unsuccessfully to establish a base on the islands, running from Canada in fast motorboats by night," *The Post-Star* of Glens Falls reported on Oct. 9, 1922. "But the birds, by their screaming and uproar at the intrusion, betrayed the Volsteadian pirate of the northern moon."

The bootleggers may have been more successful than the report suggested, however. Antique bottles from the Prohibition era could still be found buried on the islands, *The New York Times* reported on Nov. 29, 1981.

The islands have had various owners over the decades.

In 1977, John Jacob Astor donated them to the University of Vermont, which in 1981 sold them to The Nature Conservancy, at which point the town of Willsboro refused to continue a property tax exemption, the *Times* reported.

The group of islands, home to eight species of rare birds, is still one of the most important nesting areas for colonial water birds on Lake Champlain, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Maury Thompson was a reporter for The Post-Star of Glens Falls for 21 years before retiring in 2017. He now is a freelance writer focusing on the history of politics, labor and media in the region.

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Farms *continued from page 3*

said. As the festival opened in mid-April, he had 13 lambs, four kid goats and another one due, eight piglets, two bottle-fed calves with two more coming, and two miniature donkeys.

And after two years of pandemic restrictions, this spring young visitors can pat the babies again, carefully, under the eyes of volunteers.

In a straw-lined pen, a sow, a new mother, lies protectively beside eight piglets three weeks old. They are curled up together in a sleepy pile, all clean pink with dark splashes, and small as house cats.

They have already tripled or quadrupled in size, Mangiardi said. He and Christine McCue, the livestock manager at the Shaker village, were there when the piglets were born, and they were small enough to hold in one hand. She told him she had never seen something so small be born, especially from a sow larger than a Saint Bernard. The mother was born a year ago in April, he said, and she weighs more than 300 pounds now.

"Pigs are very clean if you let them be clean," he said. "It was written in the Shaker journals that it was a pleasure to walk through a Shaker pig pen, and that's how we keep them here."

They are also, contrary to popular belief, one of the only animals that won't overeat. They have small stomachs, and they eat frequently but lightly, he explained.

Mangiardi lifted one gently by the back feet.

"If you do this right, they won't squeal," he said, as the piglet promptly protested, and the

sow and all the family scrambled up to see what was happening. Pigs are closely related to bears, Mangiardi said, and they are alertly protective of their young ones.

The sow settled down again, and the piglets took the chance to nurse. It takes an amazing amount of food, Mangiardi said, to keep a mother pig fed while she's nursing.

"What you do is you feed the mother, and the mother feeds the babies," he said.

The sow answered with low rhythmic sounds in her throat as her babies drank. She was talking to them, McCue said.

"When sheep and goats are nursing, the mothers make a chattering sound," she said, "and that's their communication with their babies. That's what she's doing, and she'll do that the whole time when they nurse. Sometimes you can hear them do that before the babies are born, like they're talking to their babies."

Kids and chicks

McCue lifted up two new buck kid goats, and they rested against her, one on each hip, dun and grey and white.

"I just like calling the ones with big ears Yoda," Mangiardi said. "They look like little Yodas."

Mangiardi said he has a hatch program with local schools. Classrooms incubate the eggs and care for them. The first chicks hatched as he was preparing for the festival to open, and the students wanted to keep them in class for a few days longer. He expected some 30 chicks to arrive at the village in the festival's early days.

Over the three weeks of the festival, more will

hatch at the village. They have chickens in their coop now, and one who lives in the barn by her own choice. She lays her eggs in a hay feeder, Mangiardi said, and when he comes in the middle of the night to nurse some of the little ones, she will wake up in the quiet barn and fan his hair.

He comes in often at night, he said, and sometimes stays late. Baby animals, like baby humans, will wake up at night and need feeding. Young lambs need to nurse every three or four hours, and sometimes a mother has trouble and needs a hand.

In the dairy ell now, black and white lambs nuzzle curiously around their mother. She has a coat of thick white wool, and they have white feet and foreheads and noses, but black wool from their eyes and ears to their ankles.

The Shakers raised merino sheep for their fine wool, Mangiardi said, and he has some here. But merinos are not always good mothers. He has Finn sheep at his own farm who will happily care for triplets, but he has seen merino ewes reluctant to care for their babies.

He will sometimes take a young lamb or kid home to bottle-feed. Mangiardi runs his own farm in Lanesborough, and he used to bring home farm babies more often when his daughters were home. Now that his girls have grown, and he and his wife are running the family farm between them, with 50 sheep and 50 cows, he tries to come to these babies and their mothers here in the barn — in the evening, after the bright noisy day, when the animals have a chance to rest.

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Shedding urban careers for a rural pace

Family leaves California to take charge of area vintage bookstore

By **STACEY MORRIS**
Contributing writer

GREENWICH, N.Y.

When the pandemic prompted Sydney Nichols and Eric Kufs to reassess their lives and careers, the couple ultimately decided to take a big leap.

Now they've landed in upstate New York in a new life that's far removed from the traffic, urban sprawl and palm trees of southern California, where she was a graphic designer and he taught college English and worked as a musician.

These days, Nichols and Kufs walk from their two-story farmhouse to their new workplace in an elongated red barn that once housed a bustling chicken coop. They are the new owners of Owl Pen Books, a beloved 60-year-old institution with a bountiful inventory of used and rare books covering everything from geology to poetry and from history to cooking.

They bought the business in a package deal with their new home and 100 acres along Riddle Road on an east-facing mountain ridge. It's a setting they couldn't have imagined for themselves and their young daughter even a couple of years ago.

"I never thought I'd own a bookstore — let alone a bookstore in a barn," Nichols said with a smile.

Although she'd lived in southern California all her life, Nichols said the pandemic and other changes spurred her and Kufs to explore their options for going somewhere new.

"It was getting more and more expensive to live in Los Angeles," she said. "And it also was getting hotter and hotter. We didn't see that changing during the next 20 years."

Last summer, Nichols happened upon an online listing for a 100-acre property in upstate New York that included an established vintage bookstore.



Joan K. Lentini photo

Sydney Nichols and Eric Kufs stand with their daughter Sally Jane in the children's section at Owl Pen Books. Nichols and Kufs are the new owners of the 60-year-old vintage bookstore in Greenwich, N.Y.

Intrigued, she forwarded the link — "half jokingly," she said — to her husband. He ended up embracing the idea.

"The more we looked into it, the more appealing it was," Kufs recalled. "It was a property with a purpose, and we liked the idea of running a business that's an institution."

Nichols began floating the idea of a cross-country move to their friends. It turned out one of those friends knew someone who lived in Greenwich. That person agreed to record a video tour of the 200-year-old farmhouse for the couple. The virtual walk-through only intensified their interest.

Palm trees to snow

Nichols and Kufs reached out to the seller, Edie Brown, and her real estate agent, Virginia Tremblay of Barkley Real Estate, but they learned another party had already made an offer. When Tremblay

called to say that deal had fallen through, Kufs and Nichols were on the next plane out of Los Angeles to see the property in person.

Six months later, the deal was finalized, and Kufs, Nichols and 4-year-old Sally Jane moved into the farmhouse at the end of February — just in time for a massive snowstorm and a stretch of sub-zero weather. But the family kept their sense of adventure.

"The bookstore wasn't the only draw for us," Nichols said. "We liked the idea of having land and so much space around us."

Brown and her late husband, Hank Howard, had owned and operated Owl Pen Books since 1980. After Howard's death two years ago, she decided her tenure overseeing the business was reaching its conclusion.

"It was a lot of work for one person — not just the bookstore but the property maintenance," Brown said. "It was a great run, but I knew it was time."

Though she was eager to sell, Brown was adamant that the new owners must understand they were buying more than just a slice of country paradise, but also a business operation.

"When Sydney and Eric visited the property for the first time, I showed them the bookstore first," Brown recalled.

Then Tremblay gave them a tour of the house the next day.

When it became clear that Kufs and Nichols were enthusiastic about keeping the bookstore going, Brown breathed a sigh of relief. Preserving

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the one-of-a-kind operation — and continuing its service to generations of area book lovers, was at the top of her mind.

“Edie and I were thrilled at the number of people interested in continuing the legacy,” Tremblay said. “We just needed to find the perfect couple, and we did. I’m sure Sydney and Eric will bring new ideas to the bookstore, and they have a great foundation to build on.”

Fateful encounter

Much like the happenstance occurrence of Nichols discovering Owl Pen’s online real estate ad, the bookstore ultimately owes its existence to a chance encounter in 1945 that began with a case of car trouble.

Barbara Probst, then an editorial assistant at *Mademoiselle* magazine in Manhattan, was visiting friends in Washington County when her car overheated in front of the long-dormant farm. She walked up the driveway, found a spring that provided water for her ailing automobile, and decided the bucolic setting should be hers.

Probst bought the property and turned it into a working chicken farm, with production reaching 1,800 eggs a day at its peak. She also kept a flock of Hampshire sheep as well as a few hogs.

Probst also ran an independent bookstore at Skidmore College. But when the college asked Probst to combine her carefully curated book inventory with college textbooks and supplies, she balked.

Instead, she moved her collection of 1,200 books to the farm in 1960, settling them in a cozy red cabin, a former hog pen next to the farmhouse. Owl Pen Books was born. The name is a hybrid, referring both to old building’s original purpose as a hog pen and to the wrought-iron

antique owl that Probst hung at the entrance.

As word of the rural bookstore spread and her customer base kept expanding, Probst outgrew the tiny cabin. So in 1967, she sold her laying hens and relocated the bookstore to the chicken barn, where it’s been ever since.

When Probst began eyeing retirement in the late 1970s, she approached Howard and Brown, whom she’d gotten to know over the years when Howard taught botany and ecology at Skidmore. They were also regular Owl Pen customers, Brown recalled.

“One day when Hank and I were visiting the bookstore, Barbara said to us, ‘Kids, I’m getting a little tired and thinking of selling,’” Brown said. “And that’s how it began.”

Continuing a tradition

When Brown and Howard bought the property in 1980, they were intent on continuing Probst’s legacy.

“We didn’t change the interior of the bookstore except to add more shelves,” Brown said. “And Hank added lots more bookshelves in the two-story barn for backup inventory.”

In that era before the Internet, the couple relied on word of mouth and good press to build business. So when *The Philadelphia Inquirer* featured the bookstore on the front page of its travel section, the result was a welcome flow of out-of-state license plates to the store’s grassy parking lot.

Brown said she’s excited to see the store beginning a new chapter.

“I’m delighted — not only for the new ownership, but because there’s been no interruption,” she said. “The Owl Pen has been open every year since it started.”

Although the digital age has reshaped the used-

book business, in-person browsing is still a crucial component.

“Online sales are a big part of the Owl Pen now, but I have a feeling Sydney and Eric are going to get a lot of walk-in traffic,” Brown said. “They do the social media end of things well.”

Brown remains in Greenwich but has moved into the village.

“I told Sydney I’m not going to hover, but I’ll help in any way I can,” she said.

The barn’s interior still retains the air of a rustic library, its wooden floors, rows of bookcases, armchairs placed in various corners for impromptu reading, and a kid-sized table and chair in the children’s section. In addition to the store’s 50,000 books, Owl Pen also sells postcards, prints, maps and vinyl records.

“I have to admit,” Kufs said as he stood in front of a row of hardcover books in the store’s philosophy section, “I like the feeling of paper when I read.”

And for all the technological advances of the past few decades, he’s not alone. There are still legions of book lovers who insist on doing their reading the old-fashioned way. Factor in a storybook setting on a rural hilltop, and Owl Pen remains a winning formula — even in the age of portable screens.

“When you’re there looking at books, it’s like you’re in a little world of its own,” explained Tremblay, a decades-long customer. “I love going there to de-pressurize. There’s nothing better than sitting on a stone wall and chilling out with a book. It’s just a magical place.”

Owl Pen Books is located at 166 Riddle Road in Greenwich, N.Y., and is open Wednesday through Sunday from May 1 through Nov. 1. Call 518-692-7039 or visit www.owlpenbooks.com for more information.

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See map on page 11

ARTS & CULTURE

Strands of history in a Hudson Valley home

A president, national icon and barrier-breaking writer all had links to property

By PAUL POST
Contributing writer

CATSKILL, N.Y.

When Martin Van Buren married his childhood sweetheart, Hannah Hoes, on Feb. 21, 1807, the couple had to cross the frozen Hudson River from the Columbia County town of Kinderhook, where they both were born and raised.

Their destination was a grand Federal-style house built 10 years earlier by Hoes' sister and brother-in-law, Christina and Moses Cantine.

The house, which stands today at 251 West Main St. in Catskill, would play more than one role in early American history. Within a decade after it hosted the future U.S. president's wedding, it became the home of "Uncle Sam" Wilson, the inspiration for one of the nation's most celebrated patriotic symbols.

At the time of his marriage in 1807, Van Buren was a 24-year-old lawyer in the early stages of a political career that would take him to the White House as the nation's eighth chief executive, beginning in 1837.

His father, Abraham Van Buren, who was politically active during and after the Revolutionary War, owned a popular Kinderhook tavern where travelers and politicians met to gossip and exchange news. The Van Burens were well known and well liked locally, but they weren't particularly wealthy.

"Martin and Hannah were married in Catskill in part to avoid inviting the entire community of Kinderhook to an expensive party," explained Dawn Olson, a National Park Service ranger at Lindenwald, Van Buren's Kinderhook home, now a national historic site.

Over the next 12 years, the young couple lived in Hudson and Albany, and had four children. In his work as a lawyer, Van Buren often investigated the land grants of wealthy families including the descendants and heirs of Chancellor Robert Livingston (1708-90), a



Paul Post photo

Within a few years after hosting the wedding of the future president Martin Van Buren, the house at 251 West Main St. in Catskill became the home of "Uncle Sam" Wilson.

member of the Committee of Five (along with Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Roger Sherman) that drafted the Declaration of Independence. The Livingston family in that era owned a large portion of the land in Columbia County.

Van Buren's young family moved to Albany as his political career advanced. He was elected to the state Senate in 1812, serving two terms, and later won election as U.S. senator in 1821 and as governor of New York in 1829. Along the way, he became a co-founder of the Democratic Party.

He resigned the governorship within a year to become President Andrew Jackson's secretary of state and then served as vice president for Jackson's second term, beginning in 1833. That set the stage for Van Buren's successful presidential campaign in 1836.

"Van Buren followed his father's lead and supported Thomas Jefferson for the presidency in 1800," Olson said. "Decisions throughout his career were made with a focus on balance of central government and states' rights."

Van Buren worked closely with Andrew Jackson when both were serving as U.S. senators.

"He managed Jackson's presidential campaign and became a trusted adviser to Old Hickory," as Jackson was known, Olson said.

But at home, Van Buren endured tragedy before he reached Washington. Hannah succumbed to tuberculosis on Feb. 5, 1819, two weeks before their 12th anniversary. The two youngest of the couple's four sons, who ranged in age from 10 to 2, went to live with Hannah's sister and brother-in-law in Catskill.

The meatpacker turned icon

In the early years of the 19th century, Catskill had become a bustling place as the Hudson River emerged as a major transportation route.

"A great trade had sprung up, comprised of freighting to New York and the shipping of goods to the interior of the state," F.A. Gallt wrote in "Dear Old Greene County," a book of local history published in 1915.

In 1817, "Uncle Sam" Wilson, a tall, gangly meatpacker from Troy, moved his business to Catskill and along with his brother, Nate, rented rooms from Van Buren's sister-in-law and her husband, the Cantines.

In the War of 1812, Wilson became highly regarded by the 5,000 U.S. troops stationed at a cantonment in the present-day city of Rensselaer, because his goods were packed in solid oak barrels and were superior to the rancid meat provided by some other suppliers.

Wilson's nephews and other young boys worked for him. When soldiers unloading barrels saw Wilson, they'd say, "Here comes Uncle Sam!"

Wilson also worked as inspector for fellow meatpacker Elbert Anderson, whose barrels were stamped E.A.-U.S. (Elbert Anderson-United States). Another version of the story holds that a worker once asked what the initials E.A.-U.S. stood for and was told they meant Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam.

Whatever the case, the nickname stuck.

"Those stories are then told to political cartoonists like Thomas Nast, and he's the one who got it started developing this caricature of what is now Uncle Sam," explained Kathryn Sheehan, the Rensselaer County and Troy city historian.

"Wilson never knew he was going to be this famous person," Sheehan added. "But he's the official progenitor of our nation's symbol, when President Kennedy signed that into law in 1961."

After the War of 1812, shipping on the Hudson started to become more expensive, so Wilson moved the base of his operation down to Catskill. The business was on the west side of Catskill Creek near a large rock landmark called Hop-O-Nose that juts out into the water. The firm did so well that the Wilsons soon moved it a short ways downstream to The Point, at the mouth of Catskill Creek, where supplies could be loaded onto river boats.

"Sam returned to Troy in 1823, but Nate stayed in Catskill and died in 1854, 19 days after Sam," Sheehan said.

The Uncle Sam Bridge, which connects Catskill's East and West Side neighborhoods, just around the corner from 251 West Main St., is a permanent reminder of Wilson's ties to the village.

Writer's refuge to dive bar

By the 20th century, the Cantines' old home fell into relative obscurity and various



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stages of disrepair until 1974, when the British-born author Dawn Langley Simmons, an adopted child of the English actress Margaret Rutherford, moved there with her African-American husband, John Paul Simmons, and their daughter, Natasha.

Dawn was the former Gordon Langley Hall, who had undergone one of America's first sex-change operations in 1968, the year before she wed Simmons in what The New York Times later described as the first documented interracial marriage in Charleston, S.C. Her former Charleston home is on the National Register of Historic Places, and a National Park Service website explains that she "challenged social norms at a time when Americans were demanding greater civil liberties in the 1960s and 1970s."

But the couple also became targets of threats, violence and hate crime. In Dawn Simmons' 2000 obituary, the Times described how the couple's wedding gifts were destroyed by a firebomb and how, some time later, Simmons reported that a white man wearing a ski mask broke into her house in Charleston

"and beat her, breaking her nose and foot and necessitating hospitalization."

Seeking peace and safety, the couple found a more tolerant, quiet setting in Catskill. They made modest improvements to the aging, 6,000-square-foot house, which quickly became too expensive to maintain.

Some time later, John Paul Simmons was confined to a mental institution near Albany. Dawn Simmons spent most of her later years in Hudson, where she was an active member of a local Episcopal church and a leader of its youth group. She continued to support her husband and daughter on her meager earnings as a writer, according to the Times obituary.

In 1978, Guy Chirico, a renowned landscape artist who owned a resort in the town of Hunter, bought the Catskill home and restored it to its former glory in painstaking detail. He opened a fine-dining restaurant, The President's Wedding, which paid homage to the Van Burens' nuptials.

The venture was short-lived, however, as were attempts by several subsequent owners at running a tavern in the building's basement area.

Mike Lanuto, who bought the property in 1993, had more success. He re-envisioned the tavern's exposed brick interior with Pirates of the Caribbean atmosphere. He named it Captain Kidd's Inn, for the Capt. William Kidd, the legendary pirate who once sailed partway up the Hudson River and was said to have hidden part of his vast stolen treasure before being tried and hanged in London in 1701.

Visitors to Lanuto's tavern today are greeted by life-size pirate statues, which he purchased in Florida, and an array of skull-and-crossbones banners.

"We were named the Hudson Valley's number one dive bar in 2019 by Chronogram magazine," he said.

His daughter, Natale Lanuto, described how, in 2011, a film crew from Travel Channel's Ghost Adventures was scheduled to visit the property to film a segment about old spirits hanging around the old house.

"Then Hurricane Irene happened the weekend they were supposed to come here," she said with a smile. "That means Martin didn't want them here. That's how we feel about it."

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Police continued from page 6

McLean's complaints alleging police brutality. Montagnino says that under department policy, the complaints should have triggered an internal review.

Veitch told a reporter for The Saratogian newspaper in October 2013 that the department was indeed investigating. But in an internal email obtained by the Times Union, Veitch told his staff two days after the incident that he would accept witnesses' statements that Mount had been beaten only to assure the public that the department took such complaints seriously and to head off civil lawsuits. Veitch said he knew such statements would be false.

Montagnino says it was wrong for the police chief to effectively prejudge the outcome of an internal review he was obligated to pursue.

In fact, the only investigation the department ever undertook was to determine what charges could be filed against Mount. The department's official position was that Mount fell from the scaffolding while trying to elude police. Because Mount remained unconscious, he was never charged.

Montagnino said his review of witness statements and video footage showed no officers were near Mount at the time he was injured. The public safety commissioner also learned that Mount's upper spine had been fused in 2010 after he broke his neck in a diving accident. As a result of this prior injury, Mount's inability to bend when he started to fall might have led to a fatal head injury as he fled from police, Montagnino says.

Montagnino's report concludes that Mount had no injuries consistent with falling from a great height, such as from the top of the scaffold, but that scrapes on his hands and knees indicated he had fallen a lesser distance, either from lower on the scaffold or fire escape or even by tripping on the alley's rough floor. Colliding with a wall was another possibility. Mount's blood-alcohol level was twice the legal limit for intoxication.

"At least at present, there is no evidence in the public domain that suggests anything other than Mr. Mount's accidental sustaining of his injuries," Montagnino wrote.

Calls for an independent inquiry

In 2014, Jackson filed a civil suit for wrongful death in Saratoga County Supreme Court against Veitch, then-city Public Safety Commissioner Christian Mathiesen, the four officers who responded that night, and two other department staff. The suit sought unspecified damages for violation of Mount's civil rights, deprivation of due process, subjection to excessive deadly and unreasonable force, racial profiling, and failure by some officers to intervene when, the suit claims, others attacked Mount.

Jackson's forensic expert, Dr. Cyril Wecht, testified that since Mount had no injuries consistent with falling from a height, he must have been assaulted. The city's expert witness, medical examiner Dr. Michael Sikirica, disputed that conclusion.

Montagnino says Wecht's testimony is the only evidence that supports the claim that Mount was assaulted.

Although his report finds no culpability by officers at the scene, Montagnino had harsh words for Veitch, who retired in 2019.

"That he was never formally disciplined for his misconduct is inexcusable," Montagnino wrote. He also criticized Mathiesen, the former public safety commissioner, saying that deferring to the chief over his handling of the case was "an abdication" of Mathiesen's responsibility.

Montagnino labeled his report a draft, recognizing that some people may still have questions and some witnesses may not yet have come forward.

"A grand jury investigation by the state attorney general would be the best vehicle for finally establishing all the facts of this case," he wrote.

"People say there are people with evidence who are reluctant to come forward," Montagnino said.

Grand jury proceedings are secret and witnesses are immune from prosecution, although Montagnino noted that by now, the statute of limitations has run out on any crime short of murder, "and there's absolutely zero evidence of that."

In January, the new City Council asked Saratoga County District Attorney Karen Heggen to call a grand jury to investigate the case. Heggen refused, saying that in her view, there was "not a modicum of evidence against the police" that would justify a grand jury inquiry.

The council then invoked a 2015 executive order by then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo allowing the

state attorney general to investigate deaths of unarmed people caused by law enforcement officials. The order is not retroactive to cases like Mount's that date from before 2015, so Gov. Kathy Hochul would have to make a special request for state Attorney General Letitia James to launch an inquiry.

The City Council authorized Mayor Ron Kim to ask Hochul to pursue the issue, and Montagnino said he believes Kim is "in conversation" with Hochul's staff.

The civil case brought by Mount's family is ongoing. In November 2019, the city's lawyers moved for summary judgment, meaning that in their view, the facts were not in dispute and the judge could rule for the city without the need for trial. A court date was expected for March 2020, but the outbreak of Covid-19 shut down the courts. Jackson's lawyer asked for and was granted time to search for more evidence. Litigation is likely to continue for at least another year, Montagnino said.

Brian Breedlove, a Queensbury lawyer representing Mount's family, did not respond to requests for comment.

In his report, Montagnino recommended that the city offer to settle with Mount's family. Although there's no evidence of misconduct by officers at the scene, he wrote, there is "more than sufficient proof that the misconduct of former Chief Veitch has caused Mr. Mount's family considerable pain and suffering."

He also contended that a settlement is appropriate because the city "should recognize it was the plaintiff's attorney who did the investigation the city should have done."

Montagnino predicted a settlement is unlikely until the judge has ruled on whether to go to summary judgment.

MLK Saratoga, a local racial justice group, has an undated "Justice for Darryl Mount" petition on its website, calling for a "full, independent investigation into the actions of the police, the coroner and other court and law enforcement, and city officials before and since the fatal injuries suffered by Darryl Mount on August 31, 2013."

The petition asks for review of the police department's policies and procedures and demands "mandatory training for the Saratoga Springs Police Department and all city employees on implicit bias and bias reduction, intercultural proficiency and nonviolent conflict reduction."

As of late March, the petition had collected more than 20,000 signatures.



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Arts & Culture

AREA EXHIBITIONS

SOME VENUES ARE CLOSED AND/OR HAVE RESTRICTIONS. CHECK ONLINE BEFORE YOU GO.

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park • outdoor, self-guided tour, at website
• through Jun. 12: Raven Halfmoon: "Ancestors," at the Newmark Gallery

BenningtonMuseum.org • 75 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571 • Extensive online collections
• through Jun. 5: The Student Art Show
• through Jun. 22: Marion Huse: "Picturing Pownal"
• through Nov. 6: Historical Story of Parks and Recreation

BerkshireMuseum.org • 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-7171
Permanent collections: "Objects and Their Stories," "Voyage to the Deep," "Animals of the World in Miniature," "The Berkshire Museum Aquarium," "Berkshire Backyard," "Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation," "The Rocks and Minerals Gallery"

BerkshireBotanicalGarden.org • 5 West Stockbridge Rd., Stockbridge, MA • 413-298-3926
• Apr. 1-May 1: "Shimmer"

(Saratoga County Historical Society at)
BrooksideMuseum.org • 6 Charlton St., Ballston Spa, NY • Sat. & Sun., 10 am - 4 pm • Free
• The Country Store in Saratoga County • Century of Ice Cream • Mystery Photos from Eastern Saratoga • Black Experiences in Saratoga County 1750-1950

Canfield Gallery • 528 East Arlington Rd., Arlington, VT • MarthaCanfieldLibrary.org • 802-375-6153
• through May 4: George Van Hook, new and selected works

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
• through May 30: "Bold Little Beauty" feat. Julia Whitney Barnes, Linda Newman Boughton, Sue Bryan, Shawn Dulaney, Susan Hope Fogel & Betsy Weis

ChaffeeArtCenter.org • 16 S. Main St., Rutland, VT • 802-558-8845
• through May 27: "Images of our World" photography

ChapmanMuseum.org • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
• Ongoing: "Hands-On History: Experiences of Hometown Life"
• through Sep. 4: "Family, Tradition, & Personal Identity"

ClarkArt.edu • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA • 413-458-2303 • Masks & vax proof REQ'D
• through May 30: "As They Saw It: Artists Witnessing War"
• through Dec. 31: Tomm El-Saieh: Imaginary City

ClaverackLibrary.org • Intersection of NY Rtes. 9H and 23B • 518-851-7120
• through May 7: "The Jazz I Saw" (photos of eminent jazz musicians from the collection of Jeff

Monkash, MD)

CollarWorks.org • 621 River St., Troy, NY • 518-285-0765
• May 1-7: "Between the Waves," interdisciplinary and new media by Electronic Arts Ph.D. candidates at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • Dates & times at link
• through Aug.: "Flat Files," curated by Kate Mothes (feat. small 2-D works by over 50 artists)
• through Aug.: "Object Lounge," curated by Madison LaVallee & YiyiMendoza (small-scale 3-D objects by 14 artists)

Columbia County Historical Society • Rural Properties (c. 1850 Ichabod Crane Schoolhouse & 1737 Luykas Van Alen House), 2589 NY-9H, Kinderhook, NY • Dawn to dusk
• Permanent outdoors: "Early Heritage of Columbia County, New York" • Outdoor Narrative Panel Exhibit • Dutch Farming Heritage Trail • 1.7 mi. footpath to Lindenwald

Courthouse Gallery • 1 Amherst St., Lake George, NY • 518-668-2616 • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks REQ'D
• May 4-Jun. 4: "Community," solo work by Bugzdale (AKA Anthony Jackson)

CrandallLibrary.org/Folklife Center • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-792-6508
2d Floor Atrium Gallery:
• through Jun. 30: "Life Through Bloomer's Lens: Portraits from the Richard M. Bloomer Glass Plate Negative Collection"
• through Jun. 30: "Shutter Squad: Fall 2021 Photography Show"

DarcySimpsonArtworks.com • 409 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 201-452-7101 • ellen@darcysimpsonartworks.com
• through May 14: "Seeing Through the Gray," by Mary Breneman

HancockShakerVillage.org • 413-443-0188 •
• May 30- Nov. 14: "A Sprit of Gift, A Place of Sharing," feat. Yusuke Asai of Japan, Kimsooja of Korea, and Pinaree Sanpitak of Thailand
• through Oct. 30: James Turrell & Nicholas Mosse: "Lapsed Quaker Ware"

HartCluett.org • 57 2nd St., Troy, NY • 518-272-7232
• Permanent Collection: "By Water & By Land;" "South End Tavern;" "Uncle Sam;" & "Stoves of Troy"

HudsonHall.org • 327 Warren Street, Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438
• May 7-Jun. 12: Nearly Stationary: Barbara Kilpatrick "Performance and the Still Object"

HydeCollection.org • Adv. REG., Masks & Distance REQ'D • 518-792-1761
• through May 1: Georgia O'Keeffe: Pattern of Leaves
• through May 7: Here @ The Hyde: LGBTQ+ artists after WWII

Image Photos Gallery • 413-298-5500
• photography of Clemens Kalischer

@LABspace • 2642 NY Rte 23, Hillsdale, NY • julielabspace@gmail.com
• through May 29: "Exit," by Pauline Decarmo TheLafferGallery.com • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181
• through Jun. 5: "Nature's Voice," feat. ten accomplished artists

MASSMoCA.org • 1040 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA • 413-662-2111
• through May 2022: Wendy Red Star's "Apsalooke: Children of the Large-Beaked Bird"
• through May 2023: Yto Barrada: "Ways to Baffle the Wind"

MuseumOfTheCreativeProcess.com • 257 Wilburton Dr., Manchester Village, VT • 802-368-1278 • Guided tours Sat. & Sun. • Five permanent exhibits introducing the creative process as a scientific conflict-resolution mechanism

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100 • Masks REQ'D indoors
• through Jun. 5: Permanent Collection Highlight Exhibition: Bascome (master printmaker, illustrator, painter & collagist)

NorthCountryArts.org
--The Shirt Factory • Suite 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY
• May 7-Jun. 11: "Expressions"
--The 2nd Floor Gallery • City Hall, 42 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY
• through May 13: "Shelly Fairbanks – mixed media"

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • 362 1/2 Warren St., Hudson, NY
• through May 1: Elena Sisto: "wonder women;" Lisa Hoke: "Bird by Bird;" Eric Wolf: "Works on Paper;" Daniel Wiener: "At Home With Scallywags and Rapsallions;" and Seth Becker: "Meadow"
• May 7-Jun. 5: Jeanne Silverthorne: Sculpture; Richard Bosman: Selected Work; Wilford Boepple: Towers and Tablets; Amy Pleasant and Pete Schulte: tête-à-tête: Works on paper; Don Voisine: On Point; Kamilla Talbot: Works on Paper

SchantzGalleries.com • @schantz_galleries • 413-298-3044 • Online or by appointment only
• May 21-Jun. 19: Legendary: The Art of Lino Tagliapietra

The Sembrich.org • 4800 Lake Shore Dr., Bolton Landing, NY • 518-605-8965
• Online: "The Hawaiian Nightingale: Exploring the Life and Career of Hawaiian Soprano Ululani Robertson" • The Thacher Photos • "Passing the Torch: A Legacy Through Teaching"

ShakerMuseum.us | Mount Lebanon • 17 Main St., Chatham, NY • Past exhibits online
• "Fringe Selects: An Exhibition of Shaker Objects Curated by Katie Stout"

Southern Vermont Arts Center • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org
• through May 22: Spring 2022 All Member Exhibition, w/Special Guest: Vermont Watercolor

continued on page 23

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2022

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

1

 **Clarion Concert** • Duo Pianists Ran Dank & Soyeon Kate Lee, w/ flutist Eugenia Zukerman • 3 pm • 352 Main St., Great Barrington, MA • 413-551-9901

HudsonHall.org • Alexi Kenney: Capital Region Classical • 3 pm

CaffeLena.org • JigJam • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed

 See Theater Listings

• **Bridge Street Theatre**

WAMTheatre.com • Staged Reading "The New Galileos," by Amy Berryman • 2 pm • Pittsfield, MA

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "The Northman" (closes 5/5) • 4:40 pm

misc.

BerkshireBotanical.org • "Roy Boutard Day" • 9 am-5 pm • Events on website

SUNY Albany • Darius Homayounpour w/"Magical Indigo: Talk & Hands-on Dyeing Workshop" • 1 pm • Multipurpose Rm Campus Ctr West • Free • Park inDutch Quad

HistoricSalemCourt house.Betterworld.org • Ongoing Online Auction (through 8 pm, May 5)

2

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • Live 7-9 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "The Northman" • 4:10 & 7:30 pm

3

 **CaffeLena.org** • Folk Club Kids • 10:30-11 am



ImagesCinema.org • "The Northman" • 7:30 pm



CaffeLena.org • --Art of Community: Saratoga's Impact Sector Speaks • 4-5 pm • Free --Storytelling Open Mic feat. Karen Glass • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed

misc.

Rutland Co Audubon • Poultney River & Rail Trail (3.3 mi, easy, 3 1/2 hrs) • 7:30 am • Meet at D&H Trail crossing, Main St., Poultney, VT

4

 See Theater Listings

CaffeLena.org • --Open Dress Rehearsal: "Mother Jones In Heaven" • 10-11:30 am • Free --Poetry Open Mic feat. Henry James Knippen • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed



ImagesCinema.org • "The World" • 4:15 pm; "The Northman" • 8 pm



Northshire.com Online • Kathryn Miles ("Trailed") • 6 pm

8

 **CaffeLena.org** • Josh Ritter at Universal Preservation Hall • 8 pm • Saratoga Springs, NY

 See Theater Listings

• '62 Center
• **Bridge Street Theatre**
• **Strand Theater**

 **Berkshiremuseum.org** • "Skylight," by David Hare • Filmed live in 2016, ages 15+ • 2-4:45 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Cow" • 3 & 5:30 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Mother's Day at the Clark • Artmaking, lower lobby, 1-4 pm

9

 **MyStrandTheater.org** • Lobby Concert: Marc Clayton • 7-8:15 pm • Hudson Falls, NY

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • Live 7-9 pm



ImagesCinema.org • "Cow" • 5 pm; Fresh Fest: "Hive" • 7:30 pm

10

 **CaffeLena.org** • --Folk Club Kids • 10:30-11 am --Chuck Lamb Trio feat. Steven Bernstein • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed

MyStrandTheater.org • Red Canna Trio • 7-9 pm • Hudson Falls, NY



ImagesCinema.org • "Cow" • 5 pm; Fresh Fest: "The Ants and The Grasshopper" • 7:30 pm



Northshire.com Online • Derek Baxter ("In Pursuit of Jefferson") • 6 pm

misc.

Rutland Co Audubon • Fairgrounds East hike (3 mi., easy-to-moderate) • 7:30 am • Meet at 131 Town Farm Rd., Poultney, VT

11

 **MyStrandTheater.org** • Open Mic Night • 7:15-9:30 pm • Hudson Falls, NY



ImagesCinema.org • "Cow" • 5 pm; As They Say It: "Chimes at Midnight" • 7:30 pm



Northshire.com Saratoga • JPV Oliver ("I Know This Looks Bad") & Richard Lovrich ("Have a Very Bad Day") • 6 pm

ChapmanMuseum.org • Corlis Carroll: "The Lost Art of the Painted Photograph" • 7 pm • Reg. REQ'D • 518-793-2826

15

 **BenningtonPerformingArtsCenter.org** • Taconic Chamber Players • 3-4:30 pm • 331 Main St., Bennington, VT • Masks REQ'D

CaffeLena.org • --John Dillon Album Release ("Hope Road—From Addiction to Recovery") • Live 3-5 pm • Streamed --Gil Gutiérrez Trio • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed

SalemCourthouse.org • Chamber Music feat. Violinist Kaori Washiyama, pianist Daniel Shulman, & guest artist cellist Maxine Neumann • 3 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/13

 **BenningtonMuseum.org w/ Bennington Historical Society** • Michele Pagan: "How To Do House History" • 2 pm

16

 **MyStrandTheater.org** • Kolarova, Susi, Newell – violin, viola, piano • 7-8:30 pm • Hudson Falls, NY

CaffeLena.org • Open Mic Night • Live 7-9 pm



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/13 • 5:05 pm



Columbia Co. Libraries w/ Citizens' Climate Lobby • Info on Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act of 2019 by Sen. Jen Metzger & Peter Savio • Zoom • 6-7 pm

17

 **CaffeLena.org** • --Folk Club Kids • 10:30-11 am --Rochmon Record Club: Cat Stevens' Tea for the Tillerman • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/13 • 5:05 & 7:30 pm



Northshire.com Sara-

toga • Isabel Sterling ("Melt With You") • 6 pm

misc.

Rutland Co Audubon • Endless Brook (3 mi., easy-to-moderate, 3 hrs) • 7:30 am • Meet at Endless Brook Trailhead, Endless Brook Rd., left, 0.9 mi from VT Rte. 30, Poultney, VT

18

 **CaffeLena.org** • Bluegrass Jam w/Red Spruce • Live 7-9 pm

MyStrandTheater.org • Open Mic Night • 7:15-9:30 pm • Hudson Falls, NY



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/13 • 5:05 & 7:30 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2022

Thurs

Fri

Sat

5

 **The FoundryWS.com** • What? • 7 pm • \$18 Adv/\$20 door

CaffeLena.org • Liz Longley • Live 7-9pm • Streamed

 See Theater Listings

• '62 Center
• Bridge Street Theatre

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "The Northman" (closing) • 4:10 & 7:30 pm

Berkshiremuseum.org • "Skylight," D. Hare • Filmed live, 2016, 15+ yrs • 7 pm



BattenkillBooks.com • Book Club: Kazuo Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun" • 6:30 pm

SalemCourthouse.org • Al Cormier ("The Heart of Salem") • 7 pm • Salem, NY

12

 **CaffeLena.org** • Parsonsfield • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed

DeweyHall.org • Pub Sing w/ Mike Pagnani • 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "Cow" • 5 & 7:30 pm (closing)



Tang.skidmore.edu • Curator Tour: Rachel Seligman - "Lauren Kelley: Location Scouting" • 12 pm

BattenkillBooks.com • Author Event: Bliss McIntosh ("Once Around the Sun") • 6 pm • Cambridge, NY

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • MCLA Artist Lab Roundtable on Blackness as a Multifaceted Experience • 5:30 pm

19

 **CaffeLena.org** • Mr. Sun • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed

MyStrandTheater.org • Opera Night: "The Ship's Captain" • 7-8:30 pm • Hudson Falls, NY

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/13 (closing) • 5:05 & 7:30 pm

6

 **CaffeLena.org** • Suzy Roche & Lucy Wainwright w/opener Stash Wyslouch • Live 8-10 pm • Streamed



62Center.williams.edu • Kusika & CoDa: Dance and Music Spring Concert • 7 pm

 See Theater Listings

• '62 Center
• Bridge Street Theatre
• Strand Theater

TheFoundryWS.com • "Behind the Tapestry," written & perf. by Tom Truss • 7:30 pm • Free



ImagesCinema.org • Fresh Fest: Food & Farming Film Fest: "Cow" (runs through 5/12) • 7:30 pm

13

 **CaffeLena.org** • Jeffrey Foucault w/opener Erik Koskinen • Live 8-10 pm • Streamed

The Stationary Factory • Rees Shad & the Conversations; The Weight Band • 8 pm • 63 Flansburg Ave., Dalton, MA • ReesShadMusic.com



ImagesCinema.org • "Petite Maman" (runs through 5/19) • 5:05 & 7:30 pm

misc.

GildedAge.org • Elizabeth L. Block, Ph.D. ("Dressing Up: The Women Who Influenced French Fashion") • only on Zoom, 3:30 pm • Res. REQ'D

20

 **TheFoundryWS.com** • Pittsfield HS Orch: Chamber Octet • 6 pm • Free

CaffeLena.org • Maya DeVity Band & guest Alexa Rose • Live 8-10 pm • Streamed

 See Theater Listings

• Ghent Playhouse

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "Downtown Abbey: A New Era" (runs through 6/2) • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

misc.

Northshire.com Manchester • Booktopia 2022 • Starts 9 am

BerkshireBotanical.org • Plants-and-Answers Plant Sale • 11 am-5 pm • Free admission & parking

CityOfPittsfield.org • 1st Fridays Artwalk • 5-8 pm

Northshire.com Manchester • J. Peter Cobb ("To Alice") & Peter Hogenkamp ("The Vatican Secret") • 5:30 pm

MyStrandTheater.org • Comedy Night w/Jay LaFarr & Friends • 8-10 pm • Hudson Falls, NY



Northshire.com --Manchester • Chris Bohjalian ("The Lioness") & John Searles ("Her Last Affair") • 5:30 pm --Saratoga • Kim Reed ("Workhorse") • 6 pm

misc.

LakeGeorgeCommunityGardenClub.org • Perennial Plant Sale • 8 am-2 pm • St. James Episcopal Ch

DeweyHall.org • Considering Community: Talk & Concert by Mark & Rianne • 7 pm

7

 **ClarkArt.edu/events** • The Met: Live in HD - "Turandot" • 12:55 pm

@Unihog • Organ Fairchild Live • 7 pm • \$10 • 2 Center St., Hoosick Falls, NY

CaffeLena.org • House of Hamill • Live 8-10 pm • Streamed



62Center.williams.edu • Kusika & CoDa: Dance and Music Spring Concert • 7 pm

 See Theater Listings

• '62 Center
• Bridge Street Theatre
• Strand Theater



Berkshiremuseum.org • "Skylight," by David Hare • Filmed live in 2016, ages 15+ • 2-4:45 pm

ImagesCinema.org • Fresh Fest: "Inhabitants: Indigenous Perspectives on Restoring Our World" • 5:15 pm; "Cow" • 7:30 pm



ArtOmi.org • Native Plants Walk w/Glenda Berman • 11 am

GildedAge.org • Maria Teresa Cometto: "Sculptor Emma Stebbins: Forgotten Trailblazing Woman of Lenox's Gilded Age" • 3:30 pm

misc.

"NYS I Love My Park Day" • Assorted locations

in NY: <https://www.ptny.org/events/i-love-my-park-day>

BerkshireBotanical.org • Plants-and-Answers Plant Sale • 9 am-5 pm • Free admission & parking

Northshire.com Manchester • Booktopia 2022 • Starts 9 am - 9 pm

Blind Buck Valley Farmstead • "Spring Into Salem" • 10 am-2 pm • Free • 116 Riley Hill Rd., Salem, NY

RuralLands.org • Sheep to Shawl • 11 am-3 pm • Williamstown, MA • 413-458-2494

14

 **@Unihog** • Saints & Liars with GingerRoots • 7-10 pm • 2 Center St., Hoosick Falls, NY

TheFoundryWS.com • Suo • 7:30 • \$18 Adv/\$20 door

CaffeLena.org • Aztec Two-Step 2.0 • Live 8-10 pm • Streamed

MyStrandTheater.org • Beatles & Stones Tributes • 8-10 pm • Hudson Falls, NY

 See Theater Listings

• Bridge Street Theatre

HubbardHall.org • NY Neo-Futurists: --Workshop • 1:30-3 pm •

Free • Reg. REQ'D. --"Infinite Wrench" • 7:30-9 pm • \$25/\$10 under 18 yrs



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/13 • 2:40, 5:05 & 7:30 pm



LABspaceArt.blogspot.com • Pauline Decarmo + Sharon Butler • 3 pm, in Courtyard

CaffeLena.org • Stories, Convo & Readings w/ Bruce Piasecki, feat. Gordon Lambert • Live 3-4:30 • Streamed

ArtOmi.org • Writers Residency Reading • 5-7:30 pm • Pre-reg. requested

misc.

CCESaratoga.org • Saratoga Horse Symposium • 4-H Training Center, Ballston Spa, NY • Reg.: 518-885-8995

HudsonHall.org • The Proprietors Social gala fundraiser • \$150 cocktails/\$300 dinner • Vax proof req'd.

21

 **ClarkArt.edu/events** • The Met: Live in HD - "Lucia di Lammermoor" • 12:55 pm

CaffeLena.org • Jocelyn & Chris: --Band By Request • Live 5-6:30 pm • Streamed --Favorite Ghosts Album Premiere • Live 8-9:30 • Streamed

 See Theater Listings

• Ghent Playhouse
• Hubbard Hall



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/20 • 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 pm

Old Chatham Quaker Meeting • "All of Us" • 7 pm • 539 Co. Rte. 13



Northshire.com Manchester • Ted Flanagan ("Every Hidden Thing") • 5:30 pm

misc.

LakeGeorgeCommunityGardenClub.org • Annual Perennial Plant Sale • 8 am-2 pm • St. James Episcopal Church, 172 Ottawa St., Lake George, NY

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2022

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

22

 **HubbardHall.org** • Community Drumming Circle, feat. Master Bolokada Conde • 2 pm • Free • Reg. REQ'D

 See Theater Listings

- Ghent Playhouse
- Hubbard Hall

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/20 • 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30 pm

23

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • Live 7-9 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

24

 **CaffeLena.org** --Folk Club Kids • 10:30-11 am --Andy Statman & Jake Eddy • Live 7-9 • Streamed

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

 **SpeakSooner.org** • "Comfort or Conflict in End-of-Life Care: A Discussion About What's Missing in Advance Directives" • In person or online • Reg. online REQ'D

son or online • Reg. online REQ'D

misc.

Rutland Co Audubon • Castleton University Trails (2.6 mi., easy) • 7:30 am • Meet at D&H trail crossing on South St., park in Stafford lot (#39), Castleton, VT

25

 **CaffeLena.org** • Acoustic Blues Open Mic & Jam, feat. Elly Winger • Live 7-9 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/20 • 4:30 pm; & As They Saw It: "The Burmese Harp" • 7:30 pm

 **Northshire.com Saratoga** • Låle Davidson ("Against the Grain") • 6 pm

29

 **CEWM.org** • Reeds & Strings w/ oboist Liang Wang; violinists Itamar Zorman & Susan Heerema; violist Michael Strauss; & Yehuda Hanani • 4-5:45 pm • Mahaiwe PAC • 413-528-0100

 See Theater Listings

- Ancram Opera House
- Fort Salem Theater
- Ghent Playhouse
- Hubbard Hall

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

30

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

31

 **CaffeLena.org** • Folk Club Kids • 10:30-11 am

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm



Northshire.com Online • Carol Tatelbaum ("Putting My Heels Down") • 6 pm

misc.

Rutland Co Audubon • Delaney Woods (3.4 mi., easy-to-moderate) • 7:30 am • Enter Delaney Cross Rd. off North St., across from Lakeside Park, park on right • Wells, VT

THEATER LISTINGS

'62 Center for Theatre and Dance • Masks, ID, & proof of vaccines REQ'D • 62Center.Williams.edu

• "Sometimes the Rain, Sometimes the Sea," by Julia Izumi, dir. by Kym Moore • Adams Memorial Theatre • May 5-8 • Thu.-Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 5 pm

Ancram Opera House • 1330 Co. Rte. 7, Ancram, NY • ancramoperahouse.org

• Summer Play Lab: "Sunwatcher," with Tidtaya Sinutoke, Isabella Dawis and Nana Dakin • May 27-29 • Fri. & Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm

Bridge Street Theatre • 44 West Bridge St., Catskill, NY • BridgeSt.org • 518-943-3818 • Masks and vax proof REQ'D.

• "Clarkston," by Samuel D. Hunter, dir. by Elihu Kramer • Regional Premiere • May 1-8 • Thu.-Sat., 7:30; Sun., 2 pm

• "A Bintel Brief," dev. & dir. by Carol Rusoff • Staged reading with live music • May 14 at 7 pm; May 15 at 2 pm • Pay what you will • Res. By email: julieg-oldweitz@gmail.com

Fort Salem Theater • 11 E. Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-9200 • FortSalem.com

• Pride and Prejudice • May 27-29 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

The Ghent Playhouse • 6 Town Hall Pl., Ghent, NY • GhentPlayhouse.org • Masks & proof of vax REQ'D

• "Last Train to Nibroc" • Written by Arlene Hutton, directed by Sky Voge • Funny and touching portrait of the search for happiness after a chance meeting on a train • Nominated for Best Play in 2000 by the New York Drama League • May 20-22; 27-29; & Jun. 3-5 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30-9 pm; Sun., 2-3:30 pm

Hudson Hall • 327 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438 • hudsonhall.org

• NEARLY STATIONARY: RASHAUN MITCHELL + SILAS RIENER • Interdisciplinary work conceived & designed by Barbara Kilpatrick; choreo. by Rashaun Mitchell and Silas Riener • Music: John Cage's "String Quartet in Four Parts (1950)" • May 14: Premiere, special gala performance; May 21-Jun. 5, 3 & 5pm • \$15

Strand Theater • 210 Main St., Hudson Falls, NY • 518-832-3484 • MyStrandTheater.org

• "Zigzag" • written by Neal Herr, dir. by Nicole McDonald, choreo. by Timothy Frost • Full-length romantic musical comedy that asks, "What would you tell your younger self—about love?" • May 6-8 • Fri. & Sun, 7:30 pm; Sat., 2 & 7:30 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR MAY 2022

Thurs

Fri

Sat

26



Friends of Clermont.org • Jim Gaudet & RR Boys • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org • Dylan Perrillo Quintet • Live 7-9 pm • Streamed



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm



Northshire.com Online • Rachel Feltman ("Been There, Done That: A Rousing History of Sex") • 6 pm

27



TheFoundryWS.com • Cantrip • 730 pm • \$25

CaffeLena.org • Annie & the Hedonists • Live 8-10 pm • Streamed



See Theater Listings

• **Ancram Opera House**
• **Fort Salem Theater**
• **Ghent Playhouse**



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm



Northshire.com Manchester • Allen Ricca ("Catching Hell: Insider Story of Seafood from Ocean to Plate") • 5:30 pm

28



SpencertownAcademy.org • Lucky Five • 7 pm • \$20 open/\$15 Academy • Spencertown Park Pavilion (816 Rte. 203, Spencertown, NY)

@Unihog • Unihog's Awesomely Adult Prom, feat. Large Farva • 6 pm

TheFoundryWS.com • World Class Jazz (Charlie Apicella, Don Braden, Avery Sharpe, Austin Walker) • 7:30 pm • \$20 adv/\$25 at door

CaffeLena.org • The Suitcase Junket: Album Release • Live 8-10 pm • Streamed



See Theater Listings

• **Ancram Opera House**
• **Fort Salem Theater**
• **Ghent Playhouse**
• **Hubbard Hall**



ImagesCinema.org • See 5/20 • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

misc.

DeweyHall.org • Science Meets Art Exploration with Flying Cloud Institute • 11 am-12 pm

Exhibitions *continued from page 19*

Society

- May 7-Jun. 12: "Exhale: A Multisensory Art Experience"
- May 28-Jul. 17: Spring 2022 Solo Exhibitions

SpencertownAcademy.org • 790 NY 203, Spencertown, NY •

- through May 15: "Spring Mix" feat. William Bullard, Tia Maggio, and Gina Occhiogrosso
- May 21-Jun. 19: "Flowers, Fields, Forests: Abstracted" Curator's Choice: Timothy Ebneht, Tina Lincer, Sherry Meeks, and Susan Sabino.

StoneValleyArts.org Center • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT

- Virtual tour of "Painters Choose Painters" at <https://vimeo.com/480725058>
- Online Artist Member Gallery and Gift Shop

Tang.skidmore.edu Museum and Gallery

- 518-580-8080 • Vax proof and masks REQ'D
- through May 15: "Opener 34: Ruby Sky

Stiler" • Online: <https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/287-opener-34-ruby-sky-stiler>

- through Jun. 12: "Radical Fiber: Threads Connecting Art and Science"
- through Sep. 10, 2023: Lauren Kelley - "Location Scouting" • Online: <https://tang.skidmore.edu/exhibitions/360-lauren-kelley-location-scouting>

ThompsonGirouxGallery.com • 57 Main St., Chatham, NY • 518-392-3336

- through May 8: T. Klacsmann

ValleyArtisansMarket.com • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2765 • Online shop

- through May 10: "Celebrating Nature: Two Distinct Approaches," by Barbara Sarvis and Judy Kniffen
- May 13-Jun. 7: Glass and Mixed Media, feat. Kathy Klompas and Cheryl Gutmaker

Warren County Historical Society • 50 Gurney Lane, Queensbury, NY • 518-743-0734 • wcnynhs.org

- Permanent exhibit: "Warren County 360: Celebrating Place and People"

WorldChildrensMuseum.org • 89 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2773 • Open Fri.-Mon.

- Artifacts Collection Online • Online "COVID-19 & Me: Changes in My World" Exhibition Walkthrough

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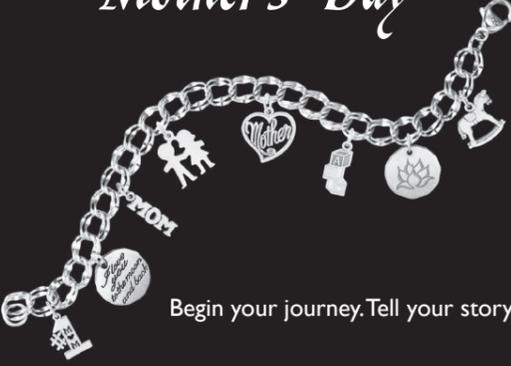
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<p>CHILDREN'S THEATER June 27-July 8 and July 11-22 (9 am-12pm) Performances at noon on July 8 and 22. \$199 per session; Ages 5-7.</p>	<p>YOUTH THEATER - THE WIZARD OF OZ June 27-July 22 (9 am-12 pm) Performances July 22-23. \$399 for full program; Ages 8-12</p>
<p>AFTERNOON ARTS Weekly Sessions June 27-July 22 (12-4pm) \$80 per week; Ages 5 and up. \$60 per week if enrolled in a morning program.</p>	<p>TEEN THEATER - BUGSY MALONE June 27-July 15 (1-4pm) Performances July 15-16 \$299 for full program; Ages 13-18.</p>

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- from Hudson: 2 hours (Dorset, 2:10)
- from Pittsfield: 1 hr, 20 min (Dorset, 1:30)
- from Saratoga Springs: 1 hour, 20 min (Dorset, 1:10)
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See map on page 11

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