

# Register-Star WEEKEND

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## WEATHER

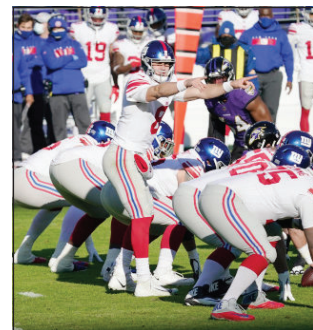
TODAY	TONIGHT	SUN
<b>HIGH</b> 44	<b>LOW</b> 26	<b>37</b> 30

Complete weather, A2



## INSIDE TODAY!

## SPORTS



### Facing the same scenario

Giants and Cowboys clash for playoff berth

PAGE B1

## LOCAL



### Fire damages Hudson home

House suffers water damage following blaze

PAGE A3

## STATE



### Overtime for farm workers?

Farm Wage Board mulls changes for workers

PAGE A5

## INDEX

Region	A3
Opinion	A4
State/Nation	A5
Obituaries	A5
Sports	B1
Classified	B4
Comics/Advice	B7-8

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# C-GCC delays semester by one week

By **Natasha Vaughn**  
Columbia-Greene Media

GREENPORT — Columbia-Greene Community College has announced it will delay the start of its spring semester by one week.

The college announced Tuesday it will begin the spring semester Jan. 25, a one-week delay because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Columbia-Greene Community College is exercising extreme caution with respect to the virus," said college president Carlee Drummer. "The recommendation from SUNY

"Columbia-Greene Community College is exercising extreme caution with respect to the virus. The recommendation from SUNY is that classes begin a little bit later than normal in order for the Christmas holiday and New Year's holidays to have passed and enabled students to get tested for the virus before they

— COLLEGE PRESIDENT CARLEE DRUMMER

is that classes begin a little bit later than normal in order for the Christmas holiday and New Year's holidays to have passed and enabled students to get tested for the virus before they

return to campus."

Most SUNY colleges are starting Feb. 1. Columbia-Greene Community College is starting Jan. 25 instead of the original Jan. 19 start date with

limited face-to-face classes and the majority of classes being taught remotely, Drummer said. This will allow the college to end its spring semester and keep its normal schedule for the

summer term, which begins May 17, she added.

"We are doing everything we can to reach out to students to make sure everything is going smoothly," Drummer said. "We are having our advisors and our faculty team check in with their students frequently just to ask questions, just to make sure everything is fine, and if there's feedback that we should have, they'll tell us. They aren't shy and that's really helpful to have that open communication."

See C-GCC A2

# TOP 10 STORIES OF 2020 COUNTDOWN

Through the end of the year, The Daily Mail and the Register-Star will be featuring the top 10 stories of 2020, based on HudsonValley360.com's website analytics, which measures readership.

— #2 —



Liana Lekocevic/Columbia-Greene Media

Hundreds turned out to a demonstration at Promenade Hill Park on Sunday to call for justice in the wake of George Floyd's death in Minneapolis.

## Hundreds rally in a call for justice

By **Melanie Lekocevic**  
Columbia-Greene Media

HUDSON — Hundreds turned out to Promenade Hill Park on Sunday afternoon to rally for justice in the wake of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Floyd, 46, who is African-American, died following a confrontation with police on Memorial Day, which was caught on video by a bystander. His death has sparked protests, demonstrations and riots nationwide.

"I just want everyone's voices to be heard," Hudson resident Bella Lugo said. "It's really hard, what is going on. We need to stand up for people whose voices aren't being heard. I want it to be a safe place for my nieces and nephews to be able to go outside and not be discriminated against because of the color of their skin."

The demonstration, which was peaceful, was organized by Mayor

Kamal Johnson to give voice to people angry over the events in Minneapolis.

"This is an event for solidarity, and to let the world know — there doesn't have to be chaos, but we can be fed up and we can be angry," Johnson said prior to the demonstration.

Johnson and city officials organized the rally.

"We just want to make sure the community feels heard, and also that our police understand that this isn't just about them, but it is about us being heard and us all doing a better job for our community," he told the crowd.

Protesters carried signs reading "Demand Justice Now," "End Police Brutality," "No Justice, No Peace," "End White Supremacy" and "Black Lives Matter," among other messages.

"The violence needs to end," Hudson resident Irene Porcaro said. "People

See RALLY A2

— #1 —

## Five regions cleared for Phase II

By **Kate Lisa**  
Columbia-Greene Media

NEW ROCHELLE — After mass confusion among regional executives, half the state entered the second phase of reopening nonessential businesses Friday and New York City is expected to start reopening in early June as downstate COVID-19 numbers continue to drop, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

The North Country, Finger Lakes, Central New York, Mohawk Valley and Southern Tier regions were cleared to resume Phase II businesses of the state's four-phase reopening plan for nonessential businesses Friday afternoon. Professional services including barber shops and hair salons, finance and insurance, retail, administrative support, real estate and rental leasing industries and other office-based work can reopen under the second phase.

Many county and regional officials monitoring their COVID-19 hospitalization, infection and death rates were confused Thursday into Friday as they expected to start Phase II at midnight — or the expected 14 days between phases — so Friday could be the first full day of business.

The governor said he understood the frustration over the half-day delay, adding the afternoon announcement came after multiple international experts cleared regions to proceed with reopening after examining their COVID-19 metrics.

"Today is today," Cuomo said Friday during a 1 p.m. pandemic briefing at Iona College. "I wanted to make sure we had the best minds review all the data and give us their opinion. A county expert may be very good at what they do, but they're not an expert of viral transmission."

"...It's stone to stone across the morass," the governor added. "If you step



Courtesy of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Office

Half of New York entered Phase II of reopening Friday afternoon and New York City is expected to begin reopening June 8, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced during a COVID-19 briefing Friday at Iona College in New Rochelle.

on a lily pad across the morass, you will sink."

Friday marked two weeks since the regions started Phase I after the governor's NY On Pause order first expired.

New York City is expected to begin reopening June 8, or one week from Monday, as hospital bed capacity continues to improve and officials hire and train hundreds of contact tracers. The city is the last region to restart the local economy and satisfied five of the Department of Health's seven required reopening benchmarks Friday afternoon.

The state will focus COVID-19 resources in low-income and minority New York City "hot spot" neighborhoods, mainly in the Bronx and parts of Brooklyn where some infection rates topped 40% — twice the city's general population, Cuomo said.

See REGIONS A2

# Shelter nearly triples fundraising goal

By **Bill Williams**  
Columbia-Greene Media

HUDSON — The Columbia-Greene Humane Society is ending 2020 on a high note.

In the beginning of December, the organization's president Ron Perez announced the shelter would have to raise \$10,000 by the end of the month to keep essential services going through the winter months. The shelter was also overwhelmed with a record number of pet surrenders due to owners losing their jobs or having to relocate to a residence where pets were not allowed, Perez said.

"The community came through in a big way this month," Perez said.

The Humane Society received more than \$28,000 in donations. A friend and lifelong supporter of the shelter promised to match the first

\$10,000 raised, which he did.

With the match, the Humane Society ended up raising more than \$38,000.

"That's nearly triple what we needed and will go a long way to keeping essential services, including the low-cost veterinary clinic and pet food bank, operating well into the spring," Perez said.

Pet adoptions were way up throughout December as well.

The shelter announced early in the month adoption fees would be waived until the end of the year. During the month, the Humane Society found homes for more than 82 cats, 14 dogs and 14 small animals like rabbits, Perez said.

There are still a few more pets at the shelter who are still in need of a new home, Perez said.

The shelter's website lists six

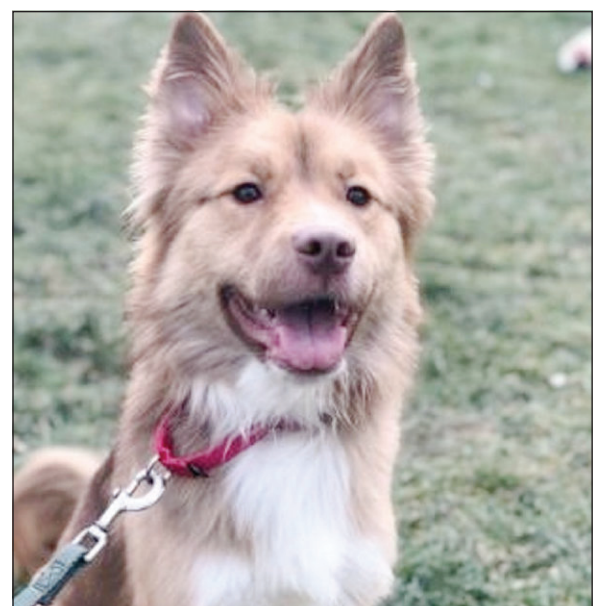
dogs, nine cats and a couple of guinea pigs and rabbits available for adoption.

The cash donations that were received came in many forms, from one donation of \$5,000, to numerous donations of \$100, \$250, \$25 and many smaller donations of \$5 or \$10.

People gave what they could afford and all donations are appreciated, Perez said.

More than 100 community members made donations throughout the month, which added up to more than \$28,000, Perez said.

The year has been a financially challenging one, but the generosity of donors has helped a great deal, Perez said.



Contributed photo

Milo is a 3-year-old male collie smooth/mix, available for adoption at the Columbia-Greene Humane Society.

See SHELTER A2