

■ WEATHER

TODAY

TONIGHT

FRI

Partial
sunshine

A shower
and t-storm
around

Showers,
heavy
t-storms

HIGH

LOW

78

81

64

68

Complete coverage, A2

■ SPORTS

Return of sports?

Local sports waiting on decision from schools

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Charges in Catskill crash

Police charge Mass. woman with DWI

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NYC man dies in Windham lake

By Bill Williams
Columbia-Greene Media

WINDHAM — A 63-year-old New York City man died Tuesday afternoon at Lake Heloise in Windham apparently while swimming in the lake, Greene County Undersheriff Adam Brainard said.

The identity of the man, who the sheriff's office said was from Queens, is being withheld pending notification of family members, Brainard said.

Windham firefighters and Windham Ambulance were

sent by Greene County 911 to Serendipity Lake House, at 40 Princess Nauvoo Road, for a reported swimming accident at about 5 p.m.

The man entered the water from a small boat on the lake and began swimming to shore, according to several witnesses, Brainard said.

The man went under the water at some point and was not seen again, Brainard said.

His body was recovered on the lake by rescue crews, Brainard said.

The man was pronounced

dead at the scene by Greene County Coroner Richard Viglio. The body was taken to St. Peter's Hospital in Albany, where an autopsy was scheduled to be performed Wednesday, Brainard said.

It was not immediately clear if the man's death was due to drowning. His death may have been caused by a medical condition, Brainard said.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office is continuing the investigation, Brainard said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SERENDIPITY LAKE HOUSE

See LAKE A8 Lake Heloise in Windham.

Sheriffs unveil legislative proposals to protect police

COURTESY OF THE STATE SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

State Sheriff's Association President and Washington County Sheriff Jeffrey Murphy speaks during a press conference in Albany to propose 10 laws that would help law enforcement statewide. The association plans to submit the legislation proposals to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office and state lawmakers this week.

By Kate Lisa
Johnson Newspaper Corp.

ALBANY — County sheriffs proposed upgrading resisting arrest a felony charge and making certain offenses against police a hate crime as part of 10 legislative proposals they plan to send Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York lawmakers this week to protect law enforcement

statewide.

Several sheriffs from the state Sheriff's Association announced 10 proposals during a press conference at the Sheriff's Association headquarters on Elk Street in Albany late Wednesday morning to improve police protection. Sheriffs

See SHERIFFS A8

INCREASED CRIME RATE

(2020 to date compared to 2019)

	HOMICIDE	BURGLARY	SHOOTINGS
New York City	27.1%	45.2%	63.3%
Albany	800%	2%	379%
Buffalo	88%	—	54%
Rochester	40%	16%	46%
Syracuse	27%	31%	—

SOURCE: Regional police depts.

Cities statewide have seen a sharp increase in violent crime in 2020 compared to 2019. Law enforcement credit the crime spike to the state's recent police reform bills and anti-police rhetoric.

Van De Water prevails over Hawatmeh in 19th

By Nora Mishanec
Columbia-Greene Media

Former Millbrook village trustee Kyle Van De Water will face off against U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado in the race for the 19th Congressional District on Nov. 3.

Van De Water defeated fashion designer Ola Hawatmeh of Pleasant Valley in the Republican primary, receiving more than 55% of the vote, according to final but unofficial vote counts released by the 11 counties that make up all or part of the 19th district.

Hawatmeh is contesting the results and has not conceded the election, she said Wednesday.

In Greene County, Van De Water received 1,120 votes to Hawatmeh's 713 votes, according to results posted on the Greene County Board of Elections website.

In Columbia County, Van De Water

received 1,520 votes to Hawatmeh's 713, according to results posted on the Columbia County Board of Elections.

Columbia County is still scrutinizing its preliminary numbers and expects to release certified results within the next day, Democratic Commissioner Kenneth J. Dow said Wednesday.

Counties have until Friday to submit certified results to the state Board of Elections, Dow said.

"There is no delay," Dow said. "It is a painstaking process to ensure a thorough review."

Hawatmeh led by 475 votes, according to numbers released on June 23 by the state board of elections, but Van De Water later prevailed in the primary once mail-in ballots were

tallied.

Van De Water announced his primary victory in a Facebook post Wednesday afternoon. The Van De Water campaign thanked voters in a statement Wednesday afternoon.

"In uncertain times during the COVID-19 outbreak, we had to throw out the conventional campaign strategy book and adapt," the campaign said, vowing to "double" its efforts to oust Delgado.

Hawatmeh said "something is not right" with the election results and said she has written to Attorney General William Barr about election fraud.

"[Van De Water] has not held one meet and greet, he has not traveled the district," Hawatmeh said.

Hawatmeh said she believes she was the subject of unfair treatment during the campaign, citing persistent rumors that incorrectly claimed that she was not born in America.

Hawatmeh raised \$83,569 in individual contributions over the course of the campaign, and she loaned her campaign more than \$200,000, according to federal election commission records.

Van De Water raised \$17,655 individual contributions, including \$500 from the New Baltimore Republican Committee, according to federal election commission records.

Delgado acknowledged the results in an email to supporters Tuesday but did not mention Van De Water by name.

"Congressman Delgado has been focused on being accountable and accessible to the people of NY-19

See PRIMARY A8