



WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	SAT
Partly sunny	Considerable clouds	Cloudy with afternoon rain
HIGH	LOW	40
46	31	32

Complete weather, **A2**

SPORTS



Region III player of the week

C-G C C sophomore Cameron Thomas was named the NJCAA Region III Male Athlete of the Week. **PAGE B1**

STATE



Cuomo pitches shared jails

Sixteen months after Greene County voted to build a new lockup, the governor has a new plan **PAGE A3**

HEALTH

Radon myths debunked

Radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer, and there are five things you should know **PAGE A3**

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18 years in fatal overdoses

By **Melanie Lekocevic**
Columbia-Greene Media

ALBANY — A Columbia County man was sentenced to 18 years in prison after he admitted he sold heroin and fentanyl to two Columbia County people who died in 2016 as a result.

Jacob Ebel, 32, of Niverville pleaded guilty Sept. 11, 2019, admitting he sold heroin, fentanyl and other controlled substances from 2014 to 2016, in Columbia County, according to a statement from U.S. Attorney Grant C. Jaquith.

In addition to serving 18 years in prison, Ebel will



Jacob Ebel

also serve a three-year term of supervised release. The sentence was agreed to by Jaquith's office and Ebel in September 2019 under a plea deal, and was imposed by U.S. District Judge Mae A. D'Agostino at Ebel's sentencing Wednesday.

Ebel was convicted on a four-count indictment, including one count of

conspiracy to distribute heroin, two counts of distribution of a controlled substance resulting in serious bodily injury or death, and one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, under federal law.

"You are forever intertwined with the senseless, tragic deaths of two people who were loved by their families," D'Agostino told Ebel at his sentencing.

The case stemmed from the overdose deaths of a man and a woman in the summer of 2016 as a result of drugs they purchased from Ebel.

A 29-year-old man identified in court only as "S.B." was found overdosed and unconscious in Niverville on July 3, 2016, less than a mile from Ebel's house.

"A state police investigation established that prior to the overdose, S.B. had had extensive text message communications with Ebel, and that Ebel had sold heroin and fentanyl to S.B. at about 2:15 p.m. on July 3, 2016, several hours before S.B. was found unresponsive," according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Inside S.B.'s vehicle, state

police located a folded, yellow sticky note with heroin and fentanyl, and '4-0' written on the outside — the amount of money that S.B. told the defendant he had in the text message conversations," according to the statement.

Ebel and S.B. were friends, and Ebel continued to deal heroin and fentanyl even though he knew S.B. had died, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

On July 23, 2016, a 19-year-old woman, identified as "S.S.," was found dead when

See FATAL A2



Legalize marijuana in 2020, Cuomo says

By **Massarah Mikati**
Johnson Newspapers

ALBANY — The state Legislature has returned to the Capital after a historically productive session last year with a slew of new goals to build on and accomplish.

One — legalizing adult use of marijuana — was fumbled by lawmakers last year.

In his State of the State and budget addresses, Gov. Andrew Cuomo vowed that this would be the year the state would pass the legislation.

"For decades, communities of color were disproportionately affected by the unequal

enforcement of marijuana laws," Cuomo said in the State of the State. "Last year, we righted that injustice when we decriminalized possession. This year ... let's legalize adult use of marijuana."

Cuomo's vow comes after legislators last year couldn't agree on how to regulate licenses and where the revenue from the new industry should go, which many advocates argued should be reinvested into communities of color that have been disproportionately impacted by the criminalization of marijuana.

According to a 2018 study,

African-Americans were arrested on low-level marijuana charges eight times more than whites over the previous three years in New York City, despite multiple studies finding that different races use the drug at the same rate.

This year, though, is different, elected officials said.

Cuomo included a 200-page bill in his \$178.6 billion 2020-21 budget proposal to legalize the use of marijuana for adults 21 and older, which includes initiatives to direct funds to invest in communities of color

See LEGALIZE A2

New York State Police photo/File
About \$200,000 worth of marijuana was recovered in a bust in Hillsdale on May 15, 2019. Gov. Andrew Cuomo vowed Thursday that he will push for legalization of adult recreational use of marijuana in his 2020-21 state budget proposal

Hudson woman airlifted after Claverack crash

By **Amanda Purcell**
Columbia-Greene Media

CLAVERRACK — A collision involving a propane tanker truck and a car led to a Hudson woman being flown to Albany for medical treatment and the closure of a portion of Route 9H and 23 on Wednesday, state police said.

The accident occurred around 11 a.m., according to police

Troopers responded to Route 9H in front of Valley Energy in the town of Claverack. Initial investigation shows that the tractor-trailer traveling north and carrying propane was making a right-hand turn into Valley Energy and slammed into the woman's car, according to state

police.

Lynne Clark, 73, was traveling north in a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu, when, for unknown reasons, she failed to stop, state police said.

Clark's vehicle left the road and veered onto the right shoulder, avoiding a vehicle stopped behind the tractor-trailer but striking the tractor-trailer, police said.

Clark was pinned inside her vehicle, according to state police.

Clark, who had to be extricated from the vehicle, sustained serious, but non-life-threatening injuries and was airlifted to Albany Medical Center, state police said.

See CRASH A2



Lance Wheeler/For Columbia-Greene Media
One person was airlifted to Albany Medical Center following an accident in Claverack on Wednesday.

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