

Register-Star WEEKEND

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Serving Columbia and Dutchess counties since 1785
Saturday-Sunday, June 19-20, 2021

Price \$2.50

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	SUN
HIGH	LOW	86
88	60	63

Complete weather, A2



INSIDE TODAY!



INSIDE TODAY!

SPORTS



Bowes named Patroon MVP

Hudson's Matt Bowes was named the 2021 Patroon Conference baseball MVP.

PAGE B1

STATE



Foreign-born veterans

Bill would create fund for program to help families of veterans secure legal immigration status

PAGE A5

Juneteenth celebration

Festival commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S. will be held Sunday at Waterfront Park

PAGE A3

INDEX

Region	A3
Opinion	A4
State/Nation	A5
Obituaries	A5
Sports	B1
Classified	B4-B5
Comics/Advice	B7-B8

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Firefighter taken to hospital

By Bill Williams
Columbia-Greene Media

GERMANTOWN — A firefighter with the Germantown Fire Department was brought to the hospital after she became ill while fighting a fire on Thursday, Germantown fire chief Mike Lawson said Friday. The firefighter, whose name has not been released, experienced chest pains and shortness of breath. She was examined by Northern Dutchess Paramedics before she was taken to Northern Dutchess Hospital, where she was admitted, Lawson said. The hospital was

performing tests on the firefighter, Lawson said Friday afternoon.

Five fire companies fought the fire, which leveled a large garage.

At about 4:48 p.m., Columbia County 911 sent the Germantown Fire Department to a home at 50 Hunterstown Road after receiving several reports that a building was on fire.

When the first firefighters arrived at the home, they found the garage engulfed in flames.

See FIREFIGHTER A2



BILL WILLIAMS/
COLUMBIA-GREENE
MEDIA

Five fire companies were on the scene of a garage fire on Hunterstown Road in Germantown on Thursday.

Hudson filmmaker questions body camera policies

By Aliya Schneider
Columbia-Greene Media

HUDSON — The 326 Warren St. pocket park was full Thursday night for a screening of Hudson-based filmmaker Theo Anthony's film "All Light, Everywhere."

The documentary investigates the history and modern-day use of cameras and surveillance, particularly police body cameras. Anthony worked on the film from the summer of 2016 until December 2020. It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

Anthony began his interest in researching how power dynamics are changed with body cameras during the protests in Baltimore in response to Freddie Gray's arrest and death, he said.

There is a lot of lip service about transparency and accountability when it comes to body cameras, Anthony said. "That's all fine and great but if you're not actually setting the policies or enacting the changes that allow for accountability, you're not really doing anything but wasting people's time," he said.

The film demonstrates that the cameras largely serve a purpose to protect police officers rather than the public and Anthony has been advocating for the county to develop its body camera policies to better serve the public.

The filmmaker focuses on Axon body cameras, which the Hudson Police Department and sheriff's department both use. Anthony's film explored how the settings on the Axon cameras can present select perspectives of police incidents.

Viewers get a tour of the

company's facilities and get to sit in on an Axon training session for the Baltimore Police Department. Anthony, who lives in Hudson, is from Baltimore.

Anthony served on Hudson's Police Advisory and Reconciliation Commission and spoke about the use of force and body cameras at a presentation in January that centered on the release of the committee's 95-page advisory report. The Axon body cameras worn by Hudson police officers show what happens to officers but not necessarily the officers' actions, he said at the January presentation.

Various political candidates spoke before the screening, wrapping up with 3rd Ward Supervisor Michael Chameides speaking about the film's connection to local issues. Chameides criticized the county's decision to spend \$500,000 on a five-year body camera contract, saying the decision was rushed and the money could have been used toward other important issues such as transportation or mental health services.

He expressed frustration over the county's lack of body camera policy, saying the policy is a copy-paste version of the state recommended policy.

Chameides wrote a letter to the Columbia County Board of Supervisors on April 5 with eight body camera policy recommendations, which Anthony supports.

Anthony said that while the Hudson police department has been receptive to recommendations, he believes the sheriff's office and county police reform

See POLICIES A2



Theo Anthony, pictured, before the free screening of his film Thursday night.

ALIYA SCHNEIDER/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

Water supply refills, but device remains stuck

By Aliya Schneider
Columbia-Greene Media

HUDSON — The city's water supply is gradually refilling as a poly-pig cleaning device remains lodged in the system.

The device got stuck in the city's water main Tuesday, disrupting the city's water main flow. After workers could not retrieve the device Tuesday or Wednesday, they redirected their efforts to getting the city's water tank full, Superintendent of Public Works Robert Perry said.

The poly-pig is the full diameter of the water main and is pressurized and forced through the city's

120-year-old pipes, Perry said. The device is used to clean the water main annually and while there have been problems with the process over the past decades, there has not been an emergency like this, Perry said.

"It's kind of a violent process and things can happen," Perry said Wednesday.

The water supply has been filling the tank gradually as the pig device is lodged in a T-shaped section of the piping at the Claverack pump station.

The water tank was reaching 50% capacity Thursday and made it to 60% on Friday

See WATER A2



Partially treated water bubbles while being flushed by a filter at the city's water treatment plant. The organic matter is removed from the water then sent to a backwash tank for future treatment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO