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2 injured hikers rescued by rangers

By Bill Williams
Columbia-Greene Media

HUNTER — Two hikers were brought to area hospitals following two separate rescues, involving state forest rangers, Department of Environmental Conservation spokesman Jeff Wernick said on Wednesday.

The two incidents took place

on Huckleberry Point Trail and at Kaaterskill Falls, Wernick said.

A 28-year-old man from Albany experienced a seizure while hiking Huckleberry Point Trail in the Kaaterskill Wild Forest.

A hiker called Greene County 911, to report the man was in distress and needed assistance. Dispatchers requested forest rangers

to assist local fire and rescue crews, who were also sent to the area, Wernick said.

Forest rangers from Region 3 and Region 4 responded along with Greene County Paramedics and Tannersville and Cedar Grove fire departments.



FILE PHOTO

Kaaterskill Falls in Hunter, where a woman was injured while hiking last weekend.

See HIKERS A2



C-GM FILE PHOTO

A deer grazes in an upstate county during the wintertime.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

There are many fewer deer in Columbia and Greene counties following the EHD virus outbreak.

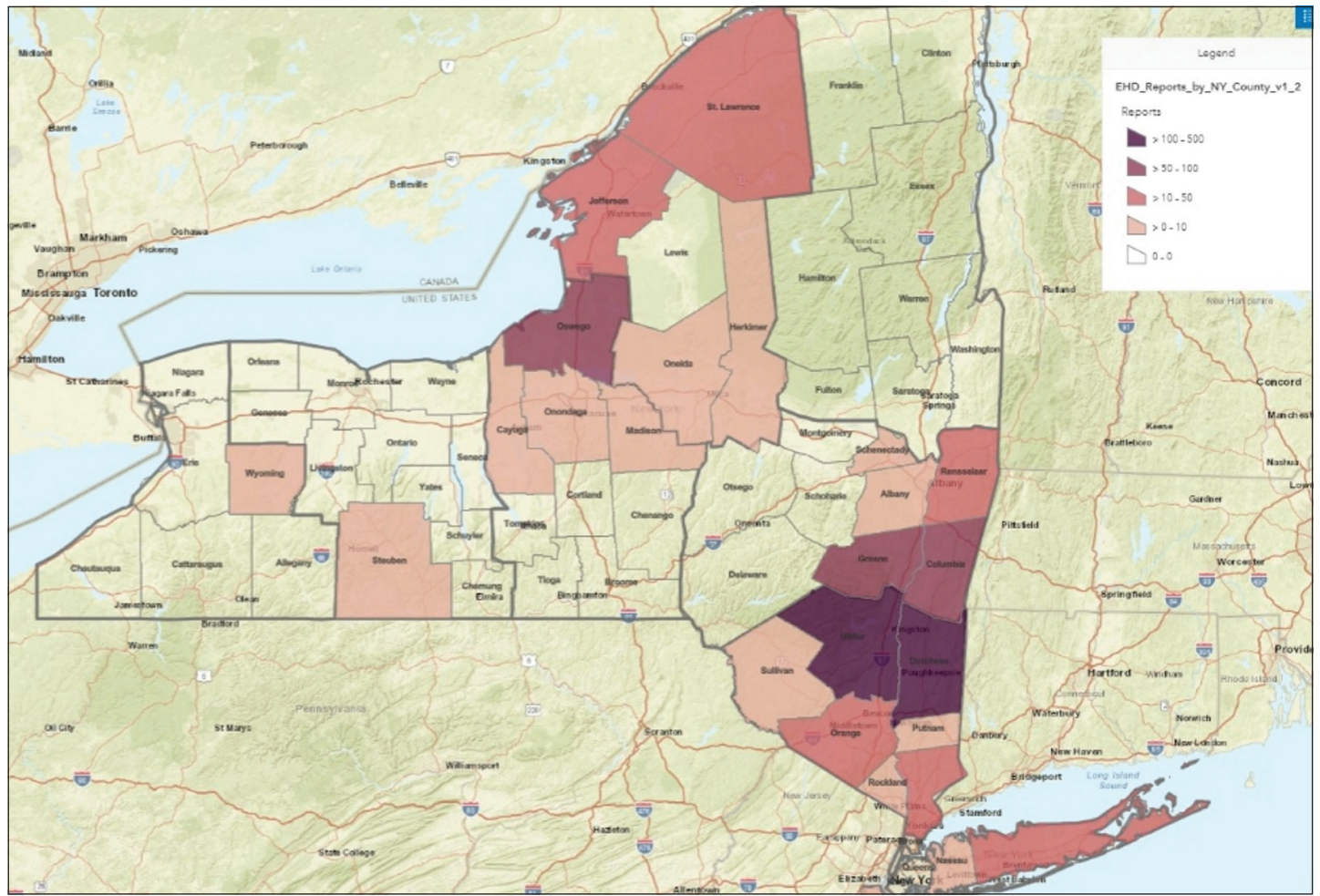


CHART COURTESY OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Showing the counties affected by deceased deer in upstate New York. The total has more than doubled in the last three weeks.

Deadly virus sweeps through deer population in Greene

By Bill Williams
Columbia-Greene Media

Greene County reported 110 deer have been killed in a severe virus outbreak that has decimated the deer

population in a contiguous four-county area in less than a month, according to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

The number of deer that

have been found dead in upstate New York has more than doubled in the past three weeks, according to the DEC.

The total number of

deceased deer cases under investigation Wednesday was 1,521. That's up from 700 on Sept. 16.

Epizootic Hemorrhagic

See DEER A2

Residents rise up against realignment plan

By Melanie Lekocevic
Columbia-Greene Media

COXSACKIE — District residents on Tuesday voiced strong opposition to a proposed plan to reconfigure the two elementary schools in Coxsackie-Athens.

A public forum was held at Coxsackie Elementary School to present the district's responses to community concerns aired at five previous forums and to reveal some modifications aimed at alleviating those concerns.

The original reconfiguration proposal would shift all students in pre-kindergarten through second grade to E.J. Arthur Elementary School in Athens, and all third and fourth graders to Coxsackie Elementary School, regardless of where they live.

The proposal has drawn sharp criticism from many parents who say they

want their children attending elementary school in their home community.

Concerns have also been voiced by Athens residents who fear the move could be the first step toward closing the Athens school due to low enrollment. District officials have emphatically denied that plan, saying there would not be enough room in the Coxsackie school to house all of the district's elementary-age students.

The biggest modification made to the proposed plan is how the changes would be implemented in the first couple of years.

"One of the concerns that was expressed was that if we did this whole hog, so to speak, there would be some students who would start at Coxsackie Elementary who have to go over to Edward J. Arthur for a year or possibly two

years, and then come back to Coxsackie Elementary, and the concern was that was a lot of transition for children," Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Kerry Houlihan said.

Under the modified plan the change would be phased in year by year so students are not forced to move to a different school several times, Houlihan said.

Bus transportation was another concern raised by families at previous forums. Transportation Director Ted Nugent said the length of the bus ride would remain the same — at most 50 minutes from start to finish — but the students that have the longest ride would change as the route changed.

The lack of a bus monitor on buses with both young and older students was another concern.



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

Athens resident John Cameron expresses his opposition to a regrouping proposal at the elementary schools in the Coxsackie-Athens school district.

See PLAN A2

WEATHER Page A2

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRI
Nice with periods of sun	Partly cloudy	Partly sunny and nice
HIGH 71	LOW 55	70

SPORTS



Local Roundup:

Jeralds' hat trick sparks Chatham

PAGE B1

Cinematic shocks

Horrors of the flesh and mind in graphic thriller "Tinane"

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