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WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	THU
A severe afternoon t-storm	A severe t-storm early	A couple of showers
HIGH	LOW	75
81	62	64

Complete weather, A2

SPORTS



Spartans handle Cats

The Greenville Spartans took on the Catskill Cats in Monday's Patroon Conference boys soccer.

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STATE



Lawsuit halts vaxx mandate

Gov. named defendant in health workers suit

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LOCAL



DiNapoli issues broadband study

State comptroller holds Hudson news conference

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MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

Construction has begun at Riverside Park on a \$3.2 million state renovation project.

Work begins on \$3.2M park project

By Melanie Lekocevic
Columbia-Greene Media

COXSACKIE — Construction has begun on a \$3.2 million project at Riverside Park.

The park was closed Sept. 7 to make way for a state project that will renovate the boat launch, build a new open-air pavilion, add new trees, landscaping and seating, improve bicycle and pedestrian connections between the waterfront and downtown Coxsackie, upgrade the park's basketball court and add new sidewalks and signage.

Work on the project was in full swing Tuesday and several residents parked on South River Street to watch the action.

"Anything is an improvement," lifelong Coxsackie resident Ronald Dixon said Tuesday. "I used to fish off that dock when I was little. I'm happy the state is spending money on this park."

Resident Pat Osborn watched with dismay as several trees were cut down this week.

"It's a shame all the gorgeous trees were cut down," Osborn said. "I am sad to see the trees go — it was nice and shady. With the farmers market you could come down here and down the line there were trees there for shade. And now it's



MELANIE LEKOCEVIC/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

Riverside Park was closed Sept. 7 to make way for construction. The park is expected to reopen in the spring.

gone." New trees are expected to be planted in the park as part of the renovation project, according to the state's plans.

The hoops on the basketball court and the large sign at the parking lot entrance have also been removed.

Several residents have questioned village officials about the project since the park's closure, with

particular interest in the playground, Mayor Mark Evans said in a statement.

"One of the recent questions is, does the playground stay? The answer is yes," Evans said. "It is not in the drawing or renderings, as nothing is being done to it. So [the state] must have felt it was not necessary to draw it in."

Osborn said she was pleased to learn the

playground was not slated for removal and would not be changed.

The renovation project at Riverside Park is the first state boat launch to be renewed under the Hudson Eagles Recreation Area, an initiative to improve public access to the Hudson River and to enhance waterfront communities in the region,

See WORK A8

Medical center proposed for 9W

By Melanie Lekocevic
Columbia-Greene Media

NEW BALTIMORE — A medical center proposed for Route 9W had to be rejected before it could be approved.

Greg Barkstrom, director of real estate development for LeChase Construction, appeared before the New Baltimore Planning Board to submit a conceptual site plan for a proposed medical facility.

The size of the project isn't immediately known as the company is waiting on land-use approval before specific plans are developed, Barkstrom told planners.

LeChase is a construction management firm with a portfolio of projects that includes facilities in the fields of health care, education, commercial, industrial, multi-unit housing, and science and technology, according to the company's website.

Projects undertaken by LeChase in the health care field include construction of a 312,000-square-foot addition to Rochester Regional Hospital and the \$28 million surgical services and observation unit at Highland Hospital in Rochester, according to the company.

The scope of the proposed New Baltimore project is undetermined at this time, Barkstrom said.

"It will be one, maybe two medical buildings," Barkstrom said. "It would be on what is known as the Dunphy site on Route 9W."

The property, which is visible from the New York State Thruway, currently houses a disused restaurant that has not been in operation for many years and is in poor condition, Barkstrom said.

"It has been vacant for a long time — the place is falling down," he said.

LeChase is looking to merge two adjacent properties for the project.

"There are two parcels associated with this. They will be combined," Barkstrom told the planning board. "One is 5.8 acres and the other is 2.3 acres."

The area is zoned DMR — development multi-family residential — which does not permit medical facilities, Barkstrom

See CENTER A8

Greenport man charged in Leeds accident

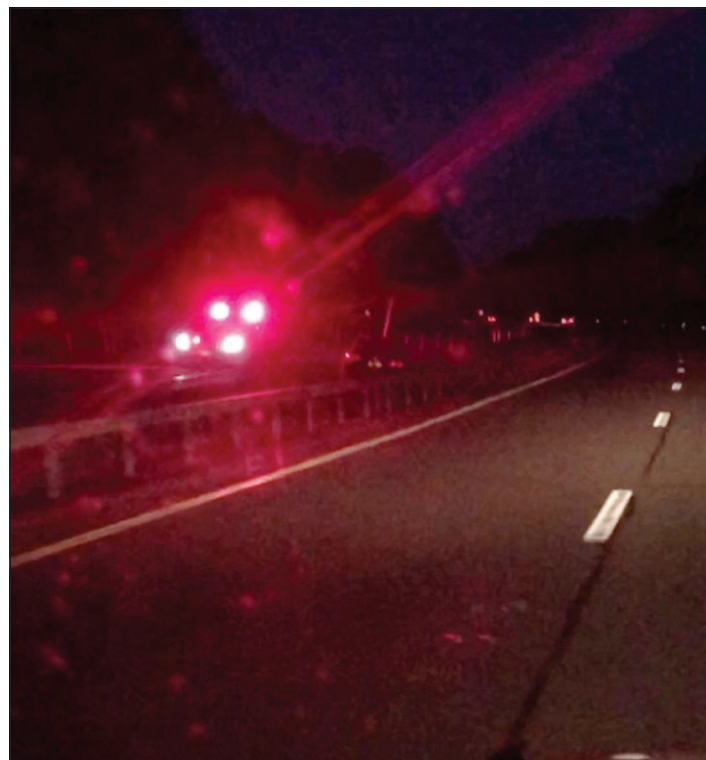
By Bill Williams
Columbia-Greene Media

LEEDS — A Columbia County man has been charged in connection with a one-car accident Friday night in Leeds, Steven Nevel, public information officer for state police Troop F, said Tuesday.

Nicholas Miller, 32, of Greenport was charged at Albany Medical Center on Sunday with first-degree operator impaired by drugs, a class U misdemeanor, Nevel said.

Miller remained hospitalized Tuesday as he continues to recover from his injuries. Miller complained of head pain following the crash, Nevel said.

On Friday, at about 7:10 p.m., a 2006 Volkswagen Jetta was being driven by Miller, east on Route 23, in the passing lane when the car struck two road signs and the guardrail, and



BILL WILLIAMS/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

Crews on the scene of a one-car accident Friday night, on Route 23 in Leeds.



BILL WILLIAMS/COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

Crews on the scene of a one-car accident Friday night, on Route 23 in Leeds.

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