



Army rallies late, gets past Tulane on Jones’ field goal

SPORTS, 5B

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FALL is in the air



Foliage on full display in the Town of Poughkeepsie in October 2024. PATRICK OEHLER/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL FILE

It’s prime time for foliage

Nickie Hayes and Victoria E. Freile
Poughkeepsie Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

While there may still be some remnants of lush summer greenery in the mid-Hudson Valley, the tops of the trees have been kissed by the sun and vibrant foliage is fading in. Those reds, yellows and oranges aren’t going to last for long. Chillier nights, less daylight and any inclement weather will pop those leaves off quickly. AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Tom Kines told the Poughkeepsie Journal that if you’re looking to do some leaf peeping, hop to it. “Get out in the near future,” he said. “Don’t wait too, too long.” In the mid-Hudson Valley, Oct. 10-11 and Oct. 17-18 will be prime time and that’s “pretty typical” for the area, he said. After the weekend of Oct. 17-18, “it’s certainly not going to be as colorful,” Kines said. However, with Hurricane Isaias coming in on the evening of Oct. 11 into Oct. 12 for the region, according to AccuWeather, the leaves may be pushed to fall sooner rather than later.

We’re going to have particularly vibrant foliage this year

According to AccuWeather’s fall foliage forecast for 2026, the mid-Hudson Valley, the greater upstate New York area and New England are supposed to have the best fall colors, and there are a few reasons why. “It’s tough to beat the color those places display,” Kines said. Kines said the mid-Hudson Valley must have gotten adequate rain during the summer months. Plus, September and October’s weather had to “behave itself,” he said, meaning little wind to keep those leaves on, for a vibrant foliage outcome. Even though we did have the nor’easter only a couple weekends ago, which certainly left a mark in some parts of our region, many of the leaves were able to hold on. As far as fall foliage is concerned, Kines said if that storm happened later, it would’ve been much worse. Late spring freezes can pose an issue, particularly in May, but the April freeze earlier this year, which was detrimental to many New York farmers, did not pose as much harm to the tree buds, he explained.

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Poughkeepsie seeks input on future of former Kmart site

Nickie Hayes
Poughkeepsie Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

In January, the Town of Poughkeepsie community learned its dilapidated former Kmart site would eventually turn into something more. Now, the town is giving anyone who lives, works, visits or passes by the area often a chance to provide input on what the site could become at 6 p.m. Oct. 14 at the town hall at 1 Overocker Road. For those who can’t make it in person, an online survey is also available. The site, now known as the Brickyard Brownfield Opportunity Area, encompasses a 144-acre study area. It includes the Poughkeepsie’s Police and Courts Tucker Drive site, the former Kmart plaza, the 44 Plaza where Stop & Shop is located, as well as the intersection of Route 44 and Burnett Boulevard and north of there, toward where the former Van de Water landfill was located. There are dozens of properties in the previous dump area, which also includes the historical headwaters of Casper Creek. “This is an exciting opportunity to secure state designation for this area,” said Poughkeepsie Town Supervisor Rebecca Edwards. “The BOA process opens a path to remediation funds and community-guided revitalization of the area. We’re now launching the public engagement phase and look forward to hearing many points of view.” In February, the town promised the public an opportunity to get involved with the plans, and also planned a website devoted to the project. At the Oct. 14 public workshop, there will be a brief presentation about the process and findings so far, followed by discussion and public engagement. The town plans to work with residents, property owners, businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders to develop a combined vision and implementation strategy, guiding redevelopment and helping position the area for future public and private investment.

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The site of the former Dutchess Center and Kmart in Poughkeepsie is seen in January 2025. They are part of a larger site that will be redeveloped. The town is seeking public input on what the site could become at a town hall meeting and via an online survey. PATRICK OEHLER/POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL FILE

Cornell defendant challenges special prosecutor choice

Emily Barnes
New York State Team | USA TODAY NETWORK

A defendant in the lawsuit filed by a former Cornell University student who alleges she was sexually assaulted at a fraternity house in 2024 is legally challenging New York Gov. Kathy Hochul’s recent special prosecutor appointment. The related lawsuit, which was filed Sept. 14, alleges seven members of the Xi Chapter of the Chi Phi Fraternity sexually assaulted and raped a then 20-year-old

woman inside the fraternity house in October 2024. The woman, who is known anonymously as Jane Doe, reported the incident several weeks after it occurred, but no criminal charges were filed. Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten said his office was revisiting that decision recently. And on Oct. 1, Hochul appointed New York Attorney General Letitia James as special prosecutor on the case through an executive order, saying new information raised questions about how the case was handled by law enforcement, prosecutors and the uni-

versity. One of the defendants in the case filed an Article 78 petition against Hochul’s special prosecutor decision in Albany County Supreme Court on Wednesday, Oct. 7, calling it “improper” as James has “demonstrated a bias and presumption of guilt against the defendants,” court records show. An Article 78 proceeding is used to challenge an action or decision made by a state or local government official or agency.

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