



**SPORTS**

Fifth-seeded Union and No. 9 seed RPI set for ECAC hockey playoff games. **B1**



**REGION**

Undisclosed easement blocks Ballston couple's horse plans. **C1**



**STATE**

Blakeman echoes conspiracy theory that motivated mass shooter. **A3**

# TIMES UNION

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## Struggling Six Flags selling Great Escape, other parks

Season passes, active memberships to be valid through 2026 season

**By Mike Goodwin and Larry Rulison**  
STAFF WRITERS

QUEENSBURY — Six Flags says it is selling The Great Escape, along with several other amusement parks.

The location is one of six amusement parks in the United States and one in Montreal that the chain is selling to EPR Properties, a real estate investment trust based in Kansas City, Mo. that owns property ranging from movie theaters to schools to ski mountains and amusement parks.

EPR Properties said the deal

is valued at \$342 million, with \$27 million of that being paid by its "operating tenants" that will be running the parks, money that will be for "working capital and capital improvements" at the new parks it acquired.

"We understand how meaningful these parks are to the communities they serve and to the guests who have grown up visiting them. Our teams at these locations have created countless memories, and they are an important part of the Six Flags family," Six Flags wrote in a statement on its website.

"We are confident in the future of these parks under the

care of EPR and its operating partners, who have strong experience managing parks of this scale. At the same time, this decision allows Six Flags to invest more deeply in the parks with the greatest opportunity for growth and innovation."

The sale comes at a time when Six Flags is facing financial difficulties. The company carries significant debt and saw a decline in attendance at parks last year.

The company still owns major attractions in the U.S., including Six Flags over Texas in Arlington, Magic Mountain in

See **GREAT ESCAPE**, A3



Will Waldron/Times Union

**Six Flags Great Escape on Route 9 in Queensbury is seen from above on Thursday. The amusement park is being sold by Six Flags to a real estate firm and will be run by the owner of the Enchanted Forest in Old Forge.**

## Slick design, slicker roads



Fernlike stellar dendrite snowflakes, with their six-pointed star shape, are a classic example of frozen water crystal precipitation. Snowflakes like these, photographed in January in Niskayuna, form when the temperature dips to about 5 degrees or lower. Ice may make for a messy Friday commute as a winter weather advisory will be in effect for the Capital Region through noon. Some locales could see up to 2 inches of snow and sleet, while ice accumulations of a few hundredths up to 3/10 of an inch may further glaze roads.

JIM FRANCO/TIMES UNION

## Climate Act mandates in PSC's hands

Rules can be altered if panel finds they threaten reliability or sizably hike rates

**By Ezra Bitterman**  
STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — The Public Service Commission, which regulates New York utility companies, has opened a proceeding that could roll back clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction requirements without legislative approval.

The proceeding may take pressure off Gov. Kathy Hochul, who is trying to convince resistant Democrats in the state Legislature to amend New York's 2019 Climate Act as part of the ongoing budget negotiations. The governor appoints the five to



Will Waldron/Times Union

**The New York Independent System Operator has warned of reliability shortfalls in the energy grid supplying New York City in the coming years.**

seven members who make up the commission, which is charged by law with setting utility rates and ensuring New York's utilities provide adequate service.

Citing a section of the

Climate Act that allows regulators to roll back the law's clean energy requirements, the Coalition for Safe and Reliable Energy, which includes The Business Council of New York

State and regional business groups, petitioned the Public Service Commission in January to have a hearing on the matter.

"Renewable energy development has not kept pace with generator retirements, which has resulted in declining reliability margins across New York, jeopardizing electric reliability and safe and adequate service," their petition to the commission reads.

The Climate Act includes a provision allowing the commission to "temporarily suspend or modify" the law's requirements for New York to have 70% renewable energy by 2030, and 100% clean power by 2040.

Those mandates can only be changed if the Public Service Commission determines they threaten

See **CLIMATE**, A5

## Trump: Noem out, Mullin in at DHS

She's the 1st Cabinet secretary ousted in president's 2nd term

**By Michelle L. Price, Rebecca Santana and Seung Min Kim**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday fired his embattled Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, after mounting criticism over her leadership of the department, including the handling of the administration's immigration crackdown and disaster response.

Trump, who said he would nominate Oklahoma Republican Sen. Markwayne Mullin in her place, made the announcement on social media after Noem faced a two-day grilling on Capitol Hill this week from GOP members as well as Democrats.

Noem's departure marks a stunning turnaround for a close ally to the president who was tasked with steering his centerpiece policy of mass deportations. But she appeared to increasingly become a liability for Trump, with questions arising over her spending at her department and over her conduct in the aftermath of

See **DHS CHIEF**, A4

## Ex-principal, once suspended, to lead district

**By Roger Hannigan Gilson**  
STAFF WRITER

CATSKILL — At a Catskill Board of Education meeting Wednesday night, President Mike Dedrick listed the lengths the board had gone to in search of a permanent superintendent. It had hired a consultant, who found a qualified candidate, only to have the pick reject the offer. The consultant found a second candidate, who also rejected the position.

After these frustrations, "it became clear to the board that we had an exceptional candidate much closer to home," Dedrick said, according to a video of the meeting.

Dedrick announced the pick: Junait Shah, the former Catskill High School principal who left the district in August 2024 after being suspended, then placed on administrative leave, by former Superintendent Dan Wilson, leading to weeks of protests by students and parents. Shah will now have Wilson's former job.

"Welcome home," Dedrick said.

The crowd exploded into applause. Later,

See **CATSKILL**, A3

