

FORECAST FOR HUDSON/CATSKILL

TODAY	TONIGHT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breezy in the afternoon	A rain or snow shower	Cloudy with a little rain	Cloudy with snow showers	Colder, a bit of a.m. snow	Not as cold with some sun
HIGH	LOW	43	36	27	38
41	35	32	16	17	29

Shows today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

ALMANAC

Statistics through 2 p.m. Monday

Temperature
Monday as of 2 p.m. **High** **Low**

Precipitation
Monday as of 2 p.m. **Trace**

YEAR TO DATE: **0.68** NORMAL: **1.07**

SUN AND MOON

Today Sunrise 7:23 a.m. Sunset 4:46 p.m. Moonrise 3:10 a.m. Moonset 12:19 p.m.

Wed. Sunrise 7:22 a.m. Sunset 4:47 p.m. Moonrise 3:10 a.m. Moonset 12:15 p.m.

MOON PHASES

Phase	Jan 18	Jan 25	Feb 1	Feb 9
New				
First				
Full				
Last				

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CONDITIONS TODAY

AccuWeather.com UV Index® & AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature®

0 1 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 0 0 0

28 31 34 37 38 32 34 31 28 26 24

8 a.m. 9 a.m. 10 a.m. 11 a.m. Noon 1 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m. 6 p.m.

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2 Low; 3-5 Moderate; 6-7 High; 8-10 Very High; 11+ Extreme. The patented AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.	City	Today	Wed.
Albuquerque	57/32 pc	55/31 pc	Little Rock	67/45 s	56/26 s
Anchorage	13/9 sn	20/14 sn	Los Angeles	79/55 s	82/51 s
Atlanta	60/41 s	57/29 sh	Miami	78/66 sh	80/63 r
Atlanta City	47/40 s	46/31 c	Milwaukee	48/24 s	31/18 sn
Baltimore	51/38 s	53/32 c	Minneapolis	43/14 pc	22/9 sf
Billings	58/40 pc	62/38 s	Nashville	62/43 pc	49/22 r
Birmingham	58/43 s	52/27 sh	New Orleans	59/47 s	66/42 c
Boise	41/29 pc	44/28 s	New York City	46/40 s	48/38 c
Boston	44/37 s	49/37 r	Norfolk	58/41 s	57/37 c
Charleston, SC	65/44 s	57/43 r	Oklahoma City	69/43 pc	51/24 s
Charleston, WV	55/42 s	45/22 r	Omaha	54/28 pc	33/16 s
Charlotte	60/41 s	58/31 c	Orlando	72/60 s	68/57 f
Cheyenne	55/36 c	50/39 pc	Philadelphia	50/38 s	52/38 c
Chicago	48/27 c	34/15 sn	Phoenix	73/47 s	75/53 s
Cincinnati	50/39 pc	42/18 sn	Pittsburgh	47/40 s	44/19 r
Cleveland	43/37 pc	40/17 sn	Portland, ME	40/34 s	43/33 r
Columbus, OH	47/38 pc	43/18 sn	Portland, OR	51/36 pc	48/38 pc
Dallas	67/45 pc	62/37 s	Providence	43/36 s	50/34 c
Denver	61/36 c	56/38 pc	Raleigh	61/40 s	57/34 c
Des Moines	61/25 s	58/31 c	Richmond	57/37 s	68/57 c
Detroit	43/24 c	39/16 sn	Sacramento	58/35 pc	58/38 pc
Hartford	43/35 s	43/35 r	St. Louis	61/37 c	43/18 c
Honolulu	82/69 s	79/67 sh	Salt Lake City	46/25 c	47/24 pc
Houston	61/47 pc	70/41 s	San Francisco	62/46 s	62/42 s
Indianapolis	49/35 pc	38/17 sn	Savannah	62/42 pc	58/44 r
Kansas City	60/35 c	39/19 pc	Seattle	58/44 pc	49/43 pc
Knoxville	56/40 s	49/23 r	Tampa	68/59 s	68/57 r
Las Vegas	68/48 s	72/46 s	Washington, DC	52/40 s	52/33 c

Weather: S, sunny; pc, partly cloudy; c, cloudy; sh, shower; f, thunderstorm; r, rain; sf, snow flurries; sn, snow; H, ice.

Solar

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partner to the community, and we are committed to transparent engagement with local residents and officials. Community input has meaningfully shaped the Shepherd's Run project, which has been reduced in size and adjusted multiple times to address concerns about land use, layout, and local impacts while still meeting its energy and economic objectives."

Copake Town Supervisor Richard Wolf, who spoke at Saturday's event, said it was a stark reminder of the community's feelings on the project.

"I think it demonstrates the continuing opposition that the vast majority of Copake has to Shepherd's Run because of its size and location," Wolf said Monday. "The opportunity to do that is to do it at these hearings that are scheduled for the 21st and 22nd."

Due to legislation passed setting goals for renewable energy across the state, Albany has final say on whether or not the solar farm goes forward. Wolf, who is personally opposed to the project because of its size and location, said he would continue to exercise what he sees as his town's right to every rule.

"We're doing everything we can to prevent the state giving the project a final permit," Wolf said. "We've been saying why on earth is this something where the state can simply override what the town clearly wants. It's not like there's any ambiguity as to where the town is coming from, and they [the state] have known it for a long time. They have until September of 2026 to make a decision as to whether they're going to give them a permit or turn them down. Once that decision is reached, depending upon what it is, we'll have to explore what our options are, which include possible legal action."

Past precedent could be used to stall the project, he said.

Cow, Hochul vetoed a bill that, I think in 2024, that would have sped up the development of a wind farm off Long Beach on Long Island on the grounds

they failed to build a working relationship with the community," Wolf said. "Hecate has certainly failed to do so here. So, we're having that risk to do something that she did for update, the same thing that she did for downstate."

One of the group's chief concerns about the project is the risk of fire at the facility in light of its proximity to the Taconic Hills school, and the fact Hecate has produced no fire evacuation plan for the surrounding area. Hecate has produced a fire evacuation plan for its workers, but not the surrounding area because it contends the solar farm poses no risk to surrounding communities.

Levine explained why Hecate came to that conclusion.

"Solar facilities do not involve combustion or on-site fuel storage and do not introduce greater wildfire risk than existing agricultural land uses, Levine said. "As a result, solar is treated by insurers, fire codes, and regulators as low-risk electrical infrastructure, and Hecate Energy complies with all applicable codes and local fire departments, in the unlikely event of a fire at the facility, the project has a safety response plan. Hecate also works with a fire preparedness consultant that performs training with local fire departments."

Retired New York City Fire Battalion Chief William Murphy was one of the event's speakers. He told the meeting it was "basically" impossible for Hecate to build a fire-safe solar farm at the site because of its proximity to the school.

"Placing these solar panels in the backyard of Taconic Hill school is putting them at risk because of the different materials, the fire metals in these solar panels," Murphy said. "When a heavy starts burning, the heavy metals create toxic smoke, which will reach the school and there's no evacuation plan. The closest fire department [the Crayville Fire Company], is only 15 minutes away."

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Murphy, who lives in Putnam County, said he hoped to move up to his second home in Crayville full time after he retired five years ago.

"I don't think I want to live there [Crayville], if this project goes through, because we're somewhat close to this location," Murphy said. "We would probably sell. I mean, I retired five years ago, and this issue with Shepherd's Run has been going on for nine years. We're trying to wait and see what the outcome is going to be, and if it goes through, we're probably leaving."

Fires at solar farms have increased in recent years and can start from any number of sources, Murphy said.

"Hecate says there is no danger and that solar farm fires are rare. That's not really true," Murphy said. The more these projects are built, the number of fires is also increasing. They can be started by anything. From lightning strikes, from hail. They can be from defective equipment. Frost heaves can shift the panels, causing a shift in the wiring and local fire departments. In fact, I believe they had a brush fire in this location last year."

Murphy, who was a firefighter in New York City on 9/11, said he has personally seen the harmful health effects of toxic smoke.

"I was forced to retire because I do have some medical conditions from 9/11 illnesses," Murphy said. "I've looked on some different websites and the EPA website and renewable energy magazine and they're saying exposure to toxic smoke from the panels can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, neurological and respiratory issues and cancers, even in low doses. I'm not comparing it to 9/11, but it's the same thing. It's toxic smoke."

"I mean, I was a New York City fireman. I took that job knowing it's a dangerous job and you're going to be exposed to stuff, but teachers and students shouldn't be exposed to a dangerous situation when they're at school and when it's avoidable."

Lindsay LeBrecht, a Realtor with Copake Lake Realty, also

spoke at the event. She shared what she has heard from property owners about their concerns about the project.

"What [Hecate] failed to mention is that there are these things called inverters that make a lot of noise all the time, or at least at night. I'm not 100% sure," LeBrecht said. "You've got this right next to a school, you've got this right next to people's houses, and they're concerned."

That noise will also have an impact on the environment, LeBrecht said.

"I've been here [in Copake] for 35 years, and I'm closer to Copake Lake, but I've seen bald eagles return," LeBrecht said. "I've seen great blue herons return. I've seen migratory birds. There are bald eagles that go fishing down there by the water, and peregrine falcons also, and we're gonna lose that, again, with all of this noise."

Hecate has followed the required environmental protection steps and worked to reduce the environmental impact of their project, Levine said.

As part of the state's comprehensive environmental review process, Shepherd's Run has undergone extensive evaluation of impacts to habitat, wildlife, and land use, with mitigation measures developed alongside state agencies where relevant impacts are identified," Levine said.

"The project is proposed on land already actively managed for agriculture, and just as farming and habitat protection are not mutually exclusive, solar development and habitat protection can work hand-in-hand," Levine said.

Animal expert Nicholas Jacinto, of Nature Nick's Animal Adventures, a Long Island-based animal entertainment company, also highlighted the environmental impact of the project.

"We cannot cut down the environment in order to save it," Jacinto said. "Companies like Hecate purport to be green but their own report states that pairs of peregrine falcons and bald eagles were spotted in the proposed area of the project. These birds are most likely breeding. Furthermore, it's dubious whether an environmental impact assessment was conducted by the DEC."

Protests

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but we got way more than that. I think everyone's just so mad."

Nance, a former MSNBC commentator who fought in the International Legion for the Territorial Defense of Ukrainian early in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, is a strong critic of Trump and a Columbia County resident. His "disgust" at the actions of immigration agents under the Trump administration brought him to the Sunday protest, he said Monday.

"I was horrified by what we saw in Minnesota with the murder of Renee Good," Nance said. "They've [ICE agents] been violating the Constitution. They operate like a lawless secret police, which is the literal definition of the word Gestapo. They are operating as if they are personal enforcers of the president [Donald Trump], and it shocks

the conscience."

In his speech Sunday, Nance argued the Trump administration was straying from long-held American values.

"We are here to inform everyone that our government has finally reached the point where it is now thoroughly un-American," Nance said. "That's my message, is that we need to stand up. Everyone needs to stand up for the Constitution, and we need to swat down this organization. ICE shouldn't even exist. Until 9/11 it was the Immigration and Naturalization Service."

While Nance stressed the importance of the First Amendment, he said there were other ways to express one's First Amendment rights.

"I'm a believer that you don't have to come out to the protest to make your voice heard," Nance said. "What I encourage people to do is, if you can't come to the protest, like me, exercise your First Amendment right at any place and all the time. I

mean, I got a giant banner out in front of my house, you know, a 9-foot-by-3-foot banner."

Jim McCabe, of Columbia County for Palestine, said his protest drew roughly 150 people to the intersection of 5th and Warren streets.

"We were just, like everybody else, kind of horrified at what we've seen from the Trump administration in the first week of January, between the bombing of Caracas, Venezuela, and then murder of Renee Nicole Good by ICE agents in Minneapolis on Jan. 7," McCabe said. "So, those things were kind of the catalyst. We felt like we just wanted to be out there in the streets, like so many others, expressing our outrage, so we kind of pulled it together pretty quickly."

The protest connected opposition to ICE, Trump's Venezuela operation and Israel's actions in Gaza on the grounds they represented excessive U.S. militarism, people at the ground were also beginning to make that connection,

McCabe said.

"It seemed like everybody was very supportive of all three issues and the need for things to change, because we can't go on like this," he said. "There's got to be justice for Renee Nicole Good, the Venezuela thing seems like a real force, and for the Gaza genocide. It's been three months since the so-called cease fire (in Gaza) and something like 425 people have been killed since Oct. 10, which averages about five a day."

Despite the surge in liberal activism in the county this weekend, the two protests were unconnected, McCabe said.

"We get the perception, sometimes, that they are still reluctant, after two-plus years, to talk about Gaza," McCabe said of the organizers of the Sunday protest, who are loosely affiliated with Indivisible, Nelson said. "It's strange, they're fine supporting protests around Ukraine, but when it comes to Israel and Gaza, it's taboo."

But often, they're more inclined to side with one of the parties over the other.

This year, the Democratic Party gained the partisanship edge when independents were asked whether they lean more toward the Democratic or Republican Party.

inflationary pressures have faded enough for drastic rate cuts to occur. Trump has repeatedly used investigations — which might or might not lead to an actual indictment — to attack his political rivals.

The risks go far beyond Washington infighting to whether people can find work or afford their groceries

Voters

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Democrats or the Republicans.

And it's part of the reason why frequent, dramatic swings in political power may become increasingly normal.

Powell

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is bad at his job," Leavitt said. "As for whether or not Jerome Powell is a criminal, that's an answer the Department of Justice is going to have to find out."

DEMOCRATS REGAIN THE EDGE WITH POLITICAL INDEPENDENTS

Independents have long been the largest political group in the U.S., and their numbers have increased over the last 15 years.

CRITICS SEE TRUMP AS TRYING TO CONTROL THE FED

The investigation demonstrates the lengths the Trump administration is willing to go to try to assert control over the Fed, an independent agency that the president believes should follow his claims that

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