



April 13, 2026

The Overlook

Building a Sustainable Nonprofit Newsroom

National Press Foundation
Widening the Pipeline Fellowship
Noah Eckstein, Founding Editor-in-chief

Why This Moment Matters

Local journalism is facing an inflection point

- ❖ The Associated Press pivot away from newspapers.
- ❖ Growing "news deserts" and information gaps
- ❖ When communities lose local news, civic engagement drops, corruption rises, government spending goes without scrutiny. Increasing polarization and misinformation
- ❖ Since 2005, more than 3,500 newspapers have closed, with about two shutting down each week
- ❖ **Business model is outdated. Nonprofit newsrooms are showing that local journalism can grow when it is supported by readers, donors and community trust**

But there is also opportunity

- ❖ Nonprofit newsrooms are emerging nationwide
- ❖ Communities are stepping up to support local journalism
- ❖ New sustainable models are forming

About Me

- ❖ Before *The Overlook*, I was a freelance journalist for *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Variety*, *The Guardian*, *Daily News*, and a bunch of other regional publications.
- ❖ I studied international relations at Columbia U., have a B.A. in journalism from City, University of London, and a master's in U.S. History from University College London (UCL).
- ❖ My focus is community-centered news and culture journalism that looks beyond the obvious.
- ❖ My passion is rebuilding local journalism that is deeply reflective of the communities it serves.



Your voice in the Catskills.

Community nonprofit journalism serving Hunter, Hurley, Olive, Saugerties, Shandaken, Windham, and Woodstock.

THE OVERLOOK

Seed sharing has played a role in human survival since the first agricultural societies about 12,000 years ago.



NEWS /// HUNTER

Hunter Supervisor Urges DEC to Reject Plan to Cap Kaaterskill Visitors

Sean Mahoney says the proposal, which says more parking would worsen congestion, would hurt the local economy and restrict access.

by Mia Quick



THOUGHTFUL DISCUSSIONS
/// SHANDAKEN

The Pines Marks 10 Years as Shandaken Gathering Place

Owner Jeremy Bernstein said he built The Pines to feel like a living room for the Catskills—a place for food, music, and gathering—and 10 years later, that vision still defines the business.



NEWS /// OVERLOOK

Greene County Rescinds Poet Laureate Appointment Due to Facebook Posts

Lawmakers said poet Esther Cohen's social media posts promoted violence against President Trump.

The chairman of the Greene County Legislature is revoking the appointment of Esther Cohen as the county's first poet laureate, citing two of her Facebook posts that lawmakers said appeared to celebrate the prospect of President Donald Trump's death. In an April 3 letter, Patrick Linger, chairman of the Republican-majority Legislature, told CREATE Council on the Arts Executive Director Stella Yoon that...

by Robin D. Schatz



NEWS /// SHANDAKEN

Town Tinker Tube Rental, on Market Seven Years, May Have a Buyer

Owner of the Phoenicia attraction shuttered since the pandemic says he's been talking for months to an unidentified buyer willing to pay the \$945,000 asking price.

by John W. Barry



NEWS /// HUNTER

Douglas Kadow, Catskills Railroad Historian, Dies at 63

Douglas Kadow, 63, of Chichester appeared to suffer a medical emergency while working Wednesday evening, a company spokesperson said.

by Noah Eckstein



NEWS

Greene County Rescinds Poet Laureate Appointment Due to Facebook Posts

153K · View insights

Boost post

875 778 23 101

Liked by jackie_goldennotebook and others

theoverlooknews The chairman of the Greene County Legislature is revoking the appointment of Esther Cohen as the county's first... more

About The Overlook

- ❖ The Overlook is a nonprofit news outlet serving the Catskills communities of Hunter, Hurley, Olive, Saugerties, Shandaken, Windham, and Woodstock.
- ❖ The Overlook serves the people of the Catskills by producing independent, community-driven journalism that informs, connects, and empowers residents, fosters civic engagement, and deepens understanding of the region's unique history, culture, and challenges. Through rigorous reporting and thoughtful well-researched storytelling, we seek to amplify local voices, illuminate pressing issues, and strengthen the fabric of the communities we serve.

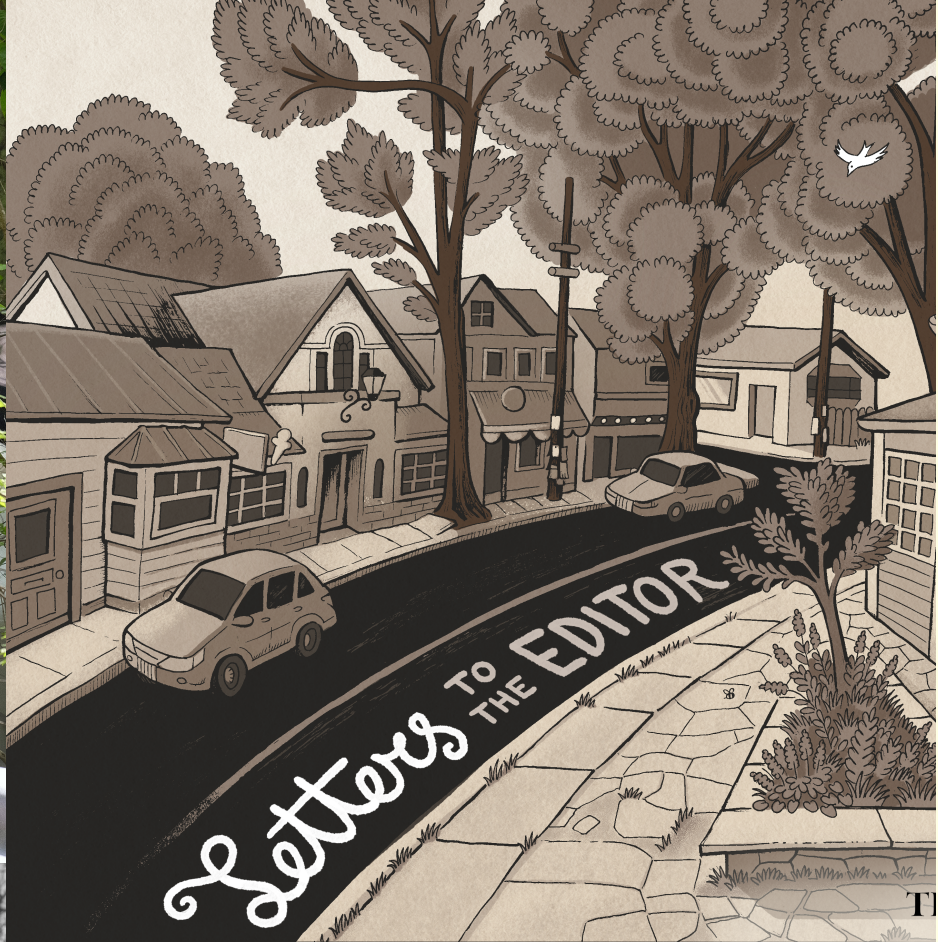
How The Overlook Started...

- ❖ In 2024, Woodstock bookshop owner Jacqueline Kellachan and political consultant/journalist Scott Widmeyer recognized an information gap existed in the Northern Catskills.

- ❖ I was brought on in November 2024. We started publishing in February 2025. In October 2025, we received our 501c3 status.
- ❖ Community Listening Sessions at all libraries.
- ❖ Board of Directors. Expansion to Windham.
- ❖ Nonprofit local news often grows first in places with
 - ❖ Wealth
 - ❖ Philanthropic culture
 - ❖ Civic engagement
 - ❖ Educated audiences
- ❖ Creating a sustainable and replicable model.

Story Highlights: Saugerties





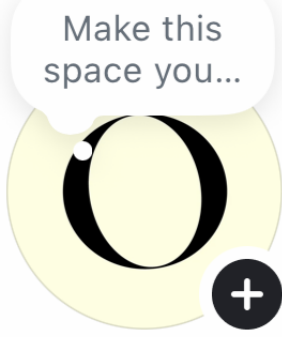
Why local news is still viable

Local news remains viable when it is:

- ❖ Rooted in a specific community
- ❖ Clear about its mission
- ❖ Supported by readers and donors
- ❖ Producing journalism people find useful and meaningful

What the nonprofit model gets right

What we're building



The Overlook News

206 posts 4,473 followers 185 following

Your voice in the Catskills. Nonprofit community journalism serving Hunter, Hurley, Olive, Saugerties, Shandaken, Windham, and Woodstock.

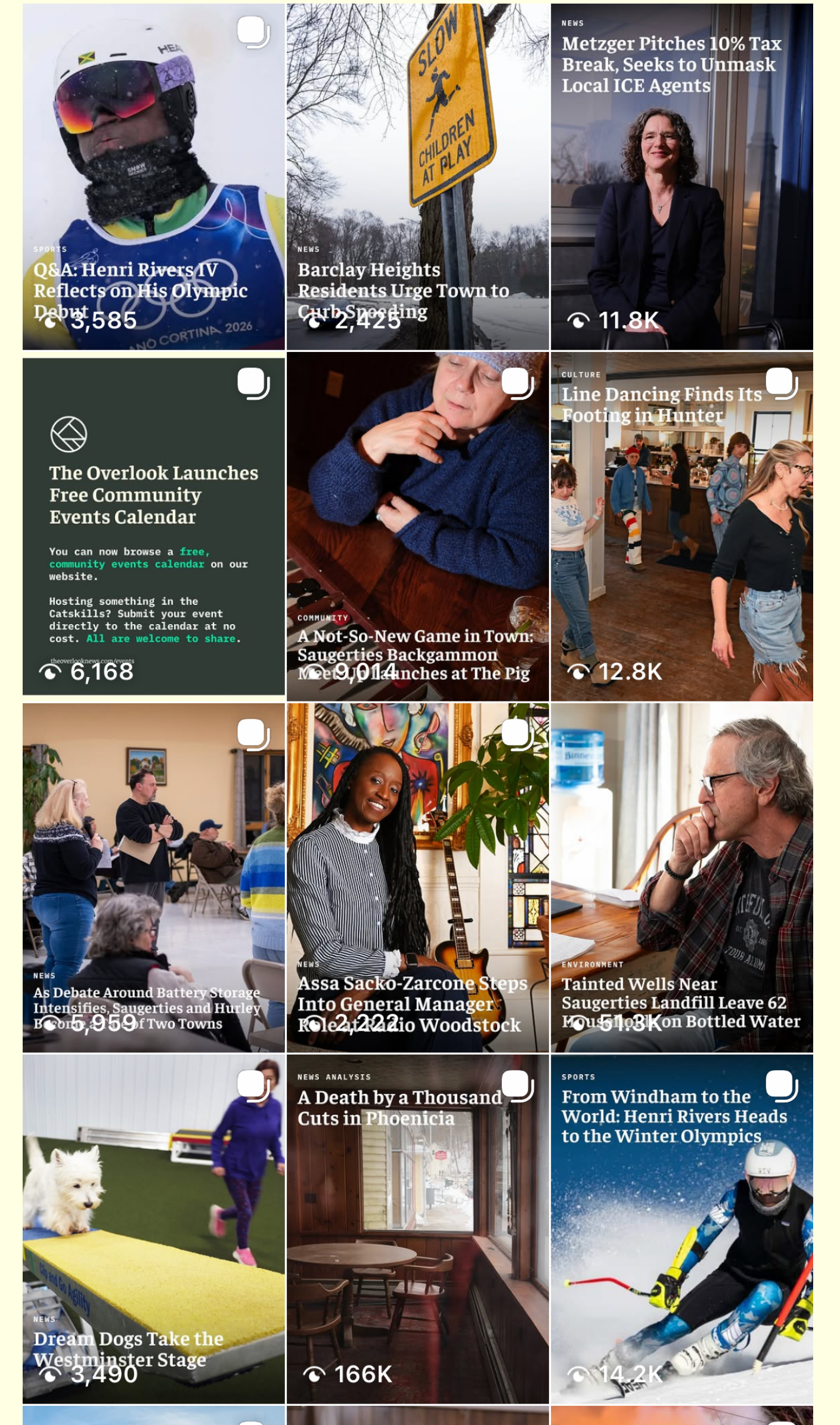
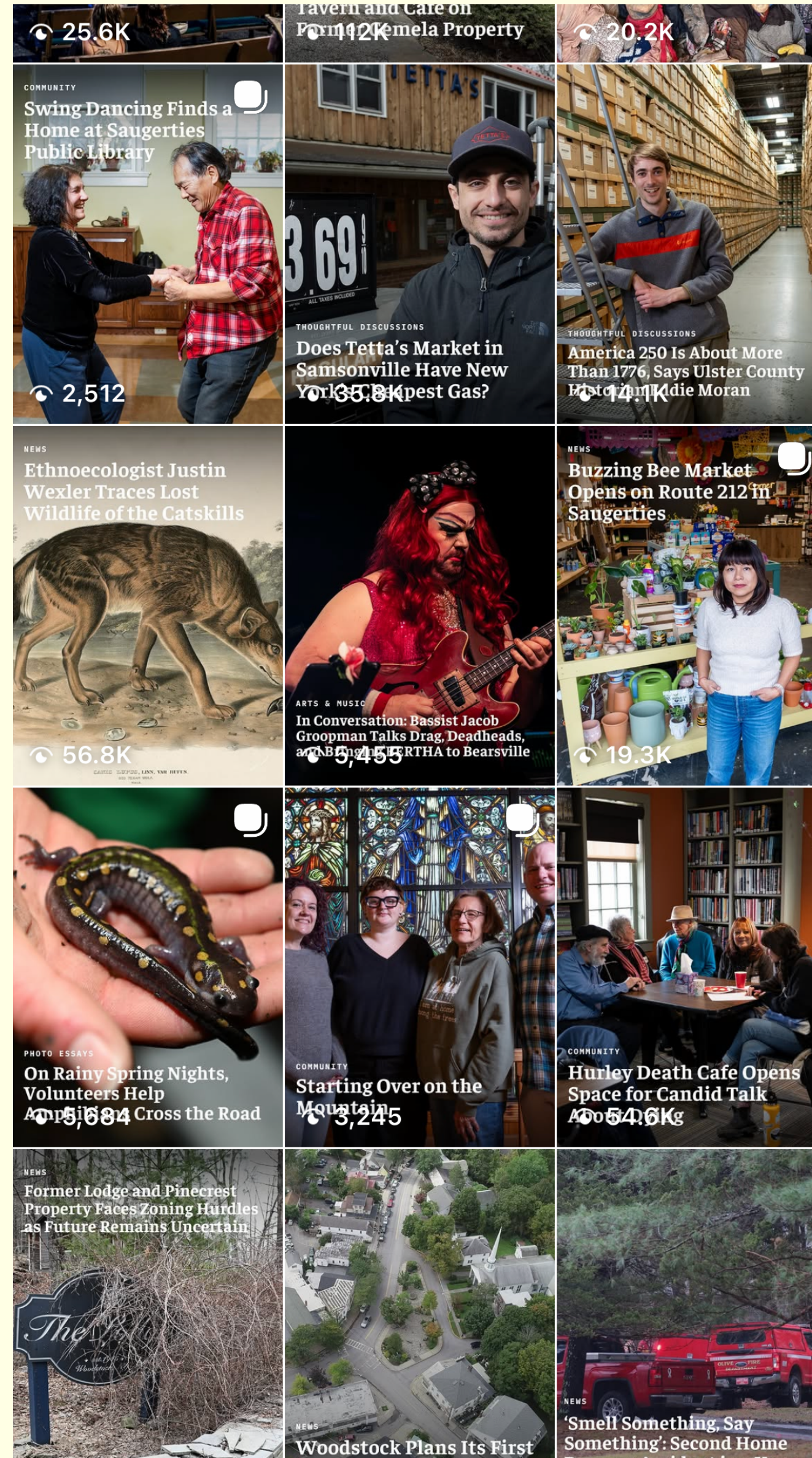
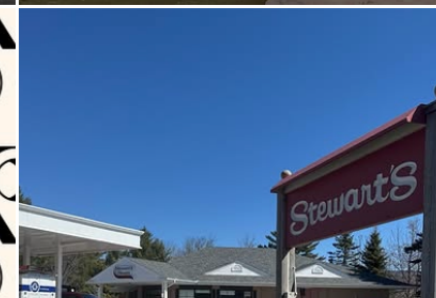
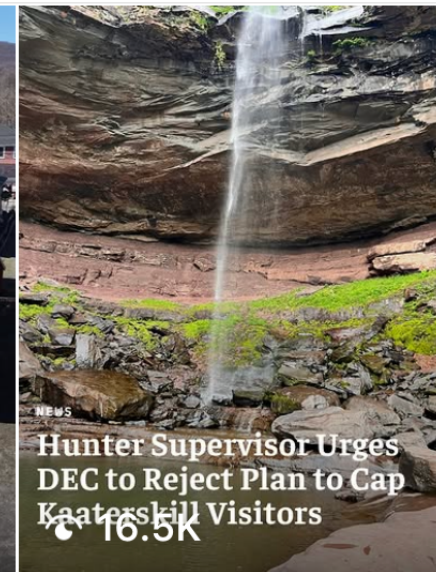
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Professional dashboard

399.9K views in the last 30 days.

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What gives me hope

Any Questions?

