

# STANDING TALLEST

Ulster County Edition

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Freeman photo by Tania Barricklo

Artist Maria Reidelbach measures her giant gnome on Thursday at Kelder's Farm.

## Gnome man is an island among garden-variety lawn sculptures

■ Gnome Chomsky, at Kelder's Farm in southern Ulster County, cements his place in the world record book.

By **JOSHUA M. RINALDI**  
Freeman staff

**KERHONKSON** — A 13.5-foot yard gnome off U.S. Route 209 should soon grace the pages of "Guinness World Records."

The gnome, called Chomsky, will hold the record for the world's largest yard gnome. It stands sentry over Gnome on the Grange, a mini-golf course at Kelder's Farm.

Chris Kelder, whose family has owned the farm for more than 200 years, said it's nice to have such an attraction.

"It's a lot like having the world's largest ball of string," he said. "We used to say we're right across from NAPA (Auto Parts). Now we'll say we're right next to the gnome."

The gnome was the brainchild of Maria Reidelbach, who also built the mini-golf course on Kelder's Farm. The record-setting gnome is actually Chomsky II, Reidelbach explains. The original Chomsky was built in 2003, but was made out of the wrong mater-

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### Father and son go with the flow

Kingston calls them after ocean crossings

■ Jim and Troy Samuels plan their years of shore duty before returning to West Africa.

By **KEVIN WONG**  
Freeman staff

**KINGSTON** — It's one thing to take a 5-hour ocean crossing. It's another matter to take a trans-Atlantic voyage from West Africa to the United States.

Jim, 46, and Troy Samuels are two such men.

1000, developing a working life out here for the culture and people of Ghana, West Africa. They returned to Kingston on Monday, making their last voyage.

The father and son return to Kingston, where they will see their 10-year-old son, Troy, and his 10-year-old daughter, Sarah. They will also see their 10-year-old son, Troy, and his 10-year-old daughter, Sarah.

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### Hospital moves to cut jobs

Columbia Memorial deficit \$1.7 million

■ Manufacturing plant opens to reduce operating costs by \$2 million.

By **FRANCIS BERRY**  
Freeman staff

**ELIZON** — Columbia Memorial Hospital will close some units and cut jobs throughout the facility to ease a financial hemorrhage that has put the hospital in the red.

Local President and CEO Thomas H. Hines said the hospital's board of trustees will approve the annual operating expenses by \$2.5 million.

"We're in the red right now in the range of about \$1.7 million," Hines said. "The last year a half-million dollars in the red."

Hines said employees were notified of the plan Tuesday. He said the hospital has nearly 1,000 employees. He said he expects to cut 100 jobs.

Under the plan, the hospital has closed its fully staffed and operating such — Hines

See Hospital, page A5

### Police seeking clues about woman's death

By **HEATHER H. RINALDI**  
Freeman staff

**PULVER** on Thursday were looking for more bodies in the dead zone of the Hudson Valley. It is an area that has been searched for many years.

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Artist Maria Reidelbach measures her giant gnome on Thursday at Kelder's Farm.

### City parking debate shifts to pay kiosks

Majority leader suggests an alternative to meters

■ The city's parking debate has shifted to pay kiosks as an alternative to meters.

By **PAUL BERRY**  
Freeman staff

**KINGSTON** — The City Council's debate over parking meters has shifted to pay kiosks as an alternative to meters.

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## Gnome hopes to stand tall in world records book

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...ial to be qualified for the world record.

Guinness said that for Chomsky to be record-setting, he would have to be built out of the same materials as other yard gnomes: cement. Reidelbach said she was committed to making the world's biggest gnome and enlisted artist Ken Hutchinson to craft Chomsky II out of cement, straw and chicken wire.

Reidelbach said Chomsky didn't dethrone any other big yard gnomes. Guinness did not have a previous record in this category.

So, building a gnome for a mini-golf course is historically appropriate, Reidelbach said. The first mini-golf course built had gnomes on it. Building a gnome of Chomsky's size just fulfilled an old desire of hers, Reidelbach said.

"It's been a dream of mine for about 10 years to build a roadside attraction," she said.

The measurements were ceremoniously taken with an oversized ruler Thursday evening. As part of the rules of Guinness, Reidelbach assembled a board of "local luminaries" that included Ulster County Legislator Rich Parete, Rochester Town Supervisor Pamela Duke and Mark Brown, leader of a local country-rock band, to witness the event.

Brown, who wrote a song about U.S. Route 209, said the gnome is in a very fitting place.

"If you were going to find it, it would be on 209 or at least in this part of the world," he said.

Also among the luminaries was David Work, a local mushroom enthusiast with the Mid-Hudson Mycological Association. He said the history of gnomes and mushrooms is a lengthy one, which is why he was invited to attend the event. Reidelbach said she is considering adding an oversized mushroom next to the gnome in the future.