New Congressman Pat Ryan Addresses Breakfast
Former Ulster Executive Has Been Here Before

U.S. Rep. Pat Ryan is currently the largest manager to Chamber breakfast. He appeared numerous times since Ulster County Democrat on Jan. 18, 2023, when he takes the podium at 7:30 a.m. The breakfast, which is sponsored by Ulster Savings Bank, is an important event for the congressman, who is seeking a second term in Congress.

Ryan said he has been committed to working with partners at all levels, including the local and federal levels, to address the issues that matter most to the people of the 19th Congressional District.

In his speech, Ryan talked about the importance of investing in our communities and the need to create jobs and build the local economy. He also discussed the need to invest in education and make sure that all children have access to high-quality schools.

Ryan expressed his support for the Chamber of Commerce and its efforts to bring people together and build a stronger community. He said that the Chamber is an important partner in the effort to create a better future for everyone in the area.

In conclusion, Ryan thanked the Chamber for hosting the breakfast and for all the hard work that goes into making it a success. He said that he looks forward to working with the Chamber and other local leaders to create a brighter future for Ulster County.
Laura Kandel

He stressed the platform’s local nature. “Not only does the app showcase local work, but it brings the community together in an innovative and collaborative way, according to the founders.”

“The idea is just to connect the region with the content that is being made,” said HUDSY co-founder Angel Gates Fonseca, who oversees production and outreach. “This is a lot of amazing content being made, but unfortunately is not being seen.”

“I think that has to do with people getting zippered up in different communities. They’re being asked to go to this website and that. We realize if the bigger players are doing it, why not do it on a local level, where we have a platform that focuses on local content?” Gates Fonseca described HUDSY, which creates and distributes content, as “like a NETFLIX for the Hudson Valley.”

The app is free to download and features the work of more than 35 filmmakers and over 300 films. “We feature a lot of everything,” Gates Fonseca said, “from comedies to narratives, really anything filmed locally. We’re really looking to diversify the content. One thing lacking is Spanish-speaking content and we’re working on that.”

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“We focus on telling local stories, and the issue we always come up against is that big production companies from New York City and Los Angeles come into our local communities and tell our local stories and then they’re gone,” he said. “Where we separate ourselves from that is we’re from the community, and we should be the ones telling our local stories, not production companies outside of our community. That’s where I think we bring a different element.”

HUDSY will soon launch a 2.0 version of the app, which Gates Fonseca says will be much more interactive. For example, if HUDSY did a film on a local filmmaker, the new app will allow viewers to connect directly to the company’s website.

“We just really trying to find ways to support local all around,” he said, echoing the Chamber’s “Buy Local” mantra.

“It’s the paid part of HUDSY that we’ve been working on,” Gates Fonseca said. “The paid side is called HUDSY+. The idea is to support staff we’re in doing.”

HUDSY is much more than an app with content. The company also established an apprenticeship program, “where we teach people from all walks of life about the business through hands-on work and workshops,” Gates Fonseca said. “We want to help them be storytellers and filmmakers and give them the tools that they need to really succeed in this space,” he said.

HUDSY also created a “community content fund.” Last year, HUDSY was able to give away $25,000 to local filmmakers. This year, $40,000 will be distributed in $5,000 grants to four different film projects. Gates Fonseca hopes it will one day go as high as $100,000. “We described the current iteration of what we’re doing as a ‘corporation’ to adopt the values of a non-profit, but we’re a for-profit business,” he said. “All six employees are also owners and we’re not built like a typical tech company. We’re not building this to sell, COVID hampered HUDSY’s ability to acquire office space, but a permanent space is in the works.”
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Kristine and Robert Sykes (both with Simply Good) Mobile Dumpsters, Custard Therapy and Crystal Boice (both with Town of Ulster), and Chamber Ambassador Jim Bracco (Jim Bracco Classic Auto Broker Service).

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