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Panel Discussion To Follow SUNY New Paltz Screening Of 'Newtown'

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The Newtown Bee **Cultural Events** **8 months ago**

Begg, Cox, documentary, Halpern, Newtown

A screening of the documentary *Newtown* will be held at SUNY New Paltz N.Y., at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, March 7, in

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Lecture Center room 102. The event is free and open to the public.

Filmed over the course of three years and directed by award-winning filmmaker Kim A. Snyder, *Newtown* documents the aftermath of the December 14, 2012 attack on Sandy Hook Elementary School. The film explores what happens to a community after it becomes the epicenter of a national discussion, and what is still left to cope with after the cameras leave.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion that will give attendees an opportunity to hear directly from members of the Newtown community.

Panelists include:

David Wheeler, father of Ben Wheeler, one of the 20 children killed in the attack.

Rob Cox, co-founder of Sandy Hook Promise; 2017 James H. Ottaway Sr Visiting Professor of Journalism; Global Editor of Breakingviews; and a Newtown resident at the time of the attack.

Dr William Begg, emergency room physician, Danbury

Hospital. He was in the ER after the shootings.

James Halpern, emeritus professor of psychology and founding director, IDMH; provided crisis counseling in Newtown.

The panel will be moderated by Lisa Phillips, associate professor of journalism and a native of Newtown.

This event is sponsored by the James H. Ottaway Sr Visiting Professorship in Journalism and the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz.

Given the difficult subject matter treated by the film, a quiet room staffed by the Counseling Center will be available to attendees throughout the screening and the panel discussion.

For more information, contact Amy Nitza, director of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health, at nitzaa@newpaltz.edu or call 845-257-3479, or contact Lisa Phillips at phillipl@newpaltz.edu or 845-257-3573.