

WELCOME TO THE BLOCK

Morgan Outdoors Comes to Main Street

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — Lisa Lyons says that prior to opening her highly successful Morgan Outdoors store in Livingston Manor in 2005 she had a revelation.

“I purchased the building in 2002, and as we were fixing it up after our day jobs, I realized that I’d always wished there was a store that complemented the fishing and hunting shops by focusing on the natural world and our enjoyment and appreciation of it,” she said last week.

That’s how Morgan Outdoors came to be. And after 17 years in the Manor, the store is now relocating to Main Street in Hurleyville, the first commercial venture to fill a storefront in the Main Street Mews. Ms.

Lyons says the move is just one more step in the ongoing evolution of the business.

“The store started with a mix of footwear, clothing, and gear for hiking, camping, and snowshoeing,” she told The Sentinel. “After I spent some time learning about shoe and boot fitting, the footwear section really took off. With that, came better quality socks, and our fabulous sock wall was born. Customers were thrilled to get personalized footwear fittings and I loved making people’s feet happy. Customers also ask for more outdoor-related and local author books, gifts, greeting cards, games for children and adults, and even outdoor things for dogs, so those departments grew too. It’s so gratifying to provide people with



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

quality products.”

Ms. Lyons says the Hurleyville store will continue to carry most of the familiar products people have come to expect from Morgan Outdoors, including Merrell, Keen, Kuhl, Osprey, and Badger, among others, but she is open to adding new lines once she learns what her new customers want.

“I look forward to responding to the needs and desires of my new neighborhood, too,” she says. “Customers have often given me excellent guidance, and I value listening and learning new things from local people and visitors. If we wish for people to shop locally, we need to try and provide what they want.”

Ms. Lyons is looking

for a grand opening to coincide with Earth Week, which this year begins on April 18, with Earth Day on Friday, April 22. After that, it is full speed ahead.

“I’ve been doing senior strolls and sensory walks that fit beautifully along the rail trail, as well as walks for children and families. But I also hope to continue my efforts to host programs indoors that amplify people’s experiences outdoors,” she says.

“I look forward to meeting people of all ages and abilities to share my love of nature experience in the outdoors. We have beautiful green spaces all around us with public access. Now all we need to do is find a way to make time outdoors part of the train of daily life.”

HERE TO HELP!

Fallsburg Officials Say Innovative “Resource Day” a Success

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE — Newly elected Fallsburg Councilman Dr. Sean Wall-Carty says local government should be about connecting people to “what’s out there” in terms of resources and services.

Dr. Wall-Carty, who holds a PhD from Western Governors University, says he believes that kind of connection doesn’t happen often enough, so he decided to do something about it.

That’s how the first “Resource Day” in the town of Fallsburg—held at Foxcroft Village in Loch Sheldrake on Sunday, March 27—came about. And from all indications, Dr. Wall-Carty says, it was a huge success, and is likely to be repeated



PHOTO PROVIDED

Fallsburg officials, state representatives, vendors, and participants combined to make the first Town of Fallsburg Resource Day “a huge success.” Dr. Sean Wall-Carty, who conceived the event, is pictured far left.

in other locations in the future.

The concept was to connect members of the community with income based free services from weather-

ization and appliance repair and replacement to rehabilitation and nursing services.

“It started with a woman from Foxcroft who said to me, ‘we need help,’” he

says. “I thought about it and just contacted everyone I know. Our goal was to connect people to actual aid.”

Dr. Wall-Carty says there were 22 vendors offering a variety of services present at the Foxcroft event, which drew more than 100 people, including Fallsburg Supervisor Kathy Rappaport and members of the Town Board Miranda Behan and Rebecca Pratt. State Senator Mike Martucci and Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther were also in attendance.

“It was an awesome event,” Dr. Wall-Carty says. “An indication of what can be done when a team works together. Based on the turnout and the enthusiasm, we will definitely try to do this again.”

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — Mike Parietti says he knows he faces overwhelming odds in his race for the U.S. Congress, but he is accustomed to uphill battles and is determined to give it his all.

In an interview at The Hurleyville Sentinel office late last month, the Rockland County Democrat, a West Point graduate and former Army Ranger, was upbeat, and just as the biblical David had his sling in his seemingly hopeless battle with the giant Goliath, he is wielding a weapon that he thinks could make a difference in his contest.

Mr. Parietti—who has run for public office six times before, losing each time—is hoping to force a primary



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY
Fallsburg officials, state representatives, vendors, and participants combined to make the first Town of Fallsburg Resource Day “a huge success.” Dr. Sean Wall-Carty, who conceived the event, is pictured far left.

against sitting congressman Mondaire Jones to become the Democratic candidate to represent the newly redrawn 17th District. Congressman Jones is currently serving his first term in the House, representing a district that is made up mostly of parts of Rockland and Westchester Counties. The new district, approved earlier this year by New York Democrats over the objections of many Republicans in the Legislature, bears only a slight resemblance. Most of Westchester has been lopped off, and a slice of western Orange County and all of Sullivan County added.

Mr. Parietti says the new district is quite different demographically from the one that elected Mr. Jones, whom he regards as a “political ideology,” two years ago.

“I question whether he is the best Democrat for this new district, which is much more of a moderate district,” he said.

Mr. Parietti views himself as “a moderate, common sense Democrat” who will “seek practical, workable solutions” and talk about “the issues no one else wants to talk about.”

And therein lies the weapon that is analogous to David’s sling.

One of the original founders

of the groups “Preserve Ramapo” and “Preserve Rockland,” Mr. Parietti’s top priority is putting an end to local zoning abuses that use—or threaten to use—a federal statute to override local zoning laws. Toward that end, he speaks passionately about the need to overhaul the “Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act,” or RLUIPA.

“RLUIPA is a federal law that was passed in 2000, with little or no public debate,” he maintains. “It has been misinterpreted by the courts, and abused by developers and religious groups throughout the Hudson Valley to advance high-density housing and other forms of land use that controvert legally enacted zoning statutes.”

Mr. Parietti says this is often done “by bludgeoning municipalities, small and large into submission with the threat of lawsuits that entail massive legal costs. The bottom line here is that RLUIPA is being used in ways that were never originally intended.”

He lists among his other priorities, tax relief for home owners and senior citizens, and “protecting and improving our public schools.”

Most importantly, he pledges to accept campaign contributions only from private

residents of his district. By contrast, he says, Mr. Jones has collected huge sums of money, mostly from out of the district.

“The root of nearly every single problem we face as a nation is a byproduct of big dollar contributions from powerful special interests that are fed to congressional candidates from outside their districts,” Mr. Parietti says. “These big donors have their own agenda that does not include our local concerns, and thus we are robbed of real-time, responsive, representation in the halls of Congress.”

Mr. Parietti believes in his message, and he thinks the issues he raises are important to the residents of the district. Yet, he realizes the improbability of his even getting a chance to run for the office. He needs to collect 1,250 valid signatures from registered Democrats in the district before the April 7 deadline, an arduous task made even more difficult by the fact that most party leaders have refused to carry his petitions. Faced with that additional obstacle, he has resorted to directing those interested in signing his petition to his website, mikessinthehouse.com where there are directions for signing and witnessing properly.

When asked if he viewed his candidacy as strictly a didactic effort aimed at educating the voters of the district about the issues—particularly the abuses of the RLUIPA statute—Mr. Parietti was emphatic.

“I’ve always been very analytical,” he says. “I have studied this new district and its demographics, and I truly believe I can win this race if I can get on the ballot.”

If a Democratic primary is necessary, it will be held on June 28.

FOOD IS MEDICINE

Schumer Delivers Again for TCFD

ROCK HILL — The Center for Discovery (TCFD) has been awarded \$605,000 through Congressionally Directed Spending for its Community Project Funding, sponsored by longtime supporter of TCFD, U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

The award will be used for the development of the Food Is Medicine Greenhouse at The Center’s Children’s Specialty Hospital for complex disabilities, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open in early 2023.

The Food Is Medicine Greenhouse will support The Center for Discovery’s comprehensive model of care, which emphasizes the medicinal and therapeutic value of high quality, nutrient-dense food — led by The Center’s Department of Nourishment Arts (DNA) — and will undoubtedly strengthen the standard of care for the highly complex and vulner-

able population the specialty hospital will serve. The Center’s farm currently spans over 300 certified organic and biodynamic acres in Sullivan County.

The Greenhouse will significantly advance the Children’s Specialty Hospital and The Center’s robust “Food is Medicine” — program by way of: providing optimal food and nutrition for patients of the specialty hospital and The Center’s broader program; providing educational, therapeutic, and pre-vocational opportunities for individuals admitted into the specialty hospital, as well as children from surrounding communities who will attend the adjacent daycare and 853 special education school; supporting nutrition and culinary training programs that will lead to improved outcomes for patients and their families—most of whom will come from un-

derserved communities where healthy eating is an unmet challenge; and, providing additional healthy and affordable food options to the surrounding Sullivan County community, which has historically had some of the poorest health outcomes in New York State.



PHOTO PROVIDED

**TCFD C.E.O.
Patrick H. Dollard**

“Over the years, I’ve been a tireless fighter for The Center for Discovery’s frontline workers and those they serve, and today I’m proud to deliver over \$600,000 to build the Food Is Medicine Greenhouse to strengthen the standard of care for their highly complex

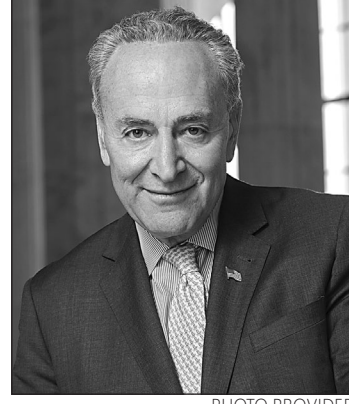


PHOTO PROVIDED

**U.S. Senator
Chuck Schumer**

and vulnerable population through high quality, nutrient-dense food. As the community works together to improve health outcomes and fight food insecurity in Sullivan County, this project will create new healthy and affordable food options for Sullivan County families and children while also providing new educational opportunities for hundreds of children with disabilities attending the special education school and receiving inpatient treatment at the new hospital in Rock Hill,” Senator Schumer said.

Hamlet Happenings

HURLEYVILLE -SULLIVAN FIRST

The volunteers in Hurleyville-Sullivan First will be working on several projects this year:

- the signs and stone planters at the entrances to Hurleyville
- the stone planter at the Hurleyville Firehouse
- the historical kiosk at the Hurleyville Firemen's Park
- the Little Free Library at the Hurleyville Firemen's Park

And, of course, annuals and perennials will be added to the stone planters and to the barrels on Main Street.

The group will litter pluck on Saturday, April 23 and on Sunday, April 24. Bags will be available by the front door of the firehouse both days for all who can come out and lend a helping hand.

Everyone is welcome to come out and help the members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First plant the planters and barrels. The first planting day is Saturday, June 4. The group will meet at 9 a.m. at the Hurleyville Firemen's Park.

Please visit www.hurleyville-sullivanfirst.org for more information about Hurleyville-Sullivan First. You can also visit Hurleyville-Sullivan First on Facebook.

HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Volunteers at the church will hold a Bake Sale on Saturday, April 30 from 9 a.m. until noon. This will be the first fundraiser held at the church since the pandemic began.

Sunday services at the church begin at 9 a.m. Children of all ages are invited to attend Sunday school at the church during services.

Pastor Jorge is delivering sermons online on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

The Bible study group meets in the sanctuary at the church every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry at the church will be open on Thursday, April 21 and on Thursday, April 28 from 3 until 5 p.m.

You can pray with others over the phone on the church's prayer line on Sundays from 7 - 8 p.m. The prayer line phone number is 605-472-5491 and the access code is 251678.

The next "Messy Church" is scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at 5 p.m. Youngsters attending this monthly event enjoy arts & crafts, games, music, singing and other activities that teach the Bible in a fun way. Children taking part in the fun must be accompanied by an adult.

The women's group at the church, Women in Faith, is gathering items including disposable diapers, new socks,

by Kathleen Sullivan



PHOTO PROVIDED

Helene, a member of Women in Faith, made this wonderful quilt for THE GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM.

new underwear, gently used clothing and gently used toys for infants and children from newborn to 12 years old. The items will be donated to THE GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM. The program assists grandparents who are caring for their grandchildren who otherwise would be placed in foster care.

Please call Cookie...845-428-5871...or Jena...845-866-0499...for more information on signing up for the children's choir at the church.

Please call Katrina at 845-436-7942 for more information on the church. You can also get updates at the church's page on Facebook.

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission is free. Donations to meet the escalating cost of operating the museum are always welcome.

Guided tours of the museum...behind the scenes and regular exhibits...are available. There is no charge for the hour-long tours but registration is required. Please call 845-434-8044 to make a reservation.

The first Sunday Concerts are back. The concerts are held at the museum on the first Sunday of each month from 2 until 4 p.m. Admission is free. Donations to support the program are appreciated. Performers scheduled for May and June include guitarist Van Manakas and Ellen Iovino on congas and vocals.

Upcoming events at the museum include the opening of the Eldred Post Office display, the first exhibit

vironmental Impact Statement) submitted to the Town of Thompson Planning Board by the developer of Gan Eden Estates was on the agenda of the planning board meeting on March 9.

The board and its technical consultants determined that the new statement is not adequate for public review and comments. They concluded that there are quite a number of areas where the statement is not complete and is not in agreement with the final scoping document adopted by the planning board in September, 2020.

- Some of the issues requiring more analysis or documentation are:
- soil contamination
- mechanical rock excavation or blasting
- balancing of site materials throughout phased construction
- impact on wetlands associated with development and testing of wells
- impact on neighboring wells associated with development and testing of wells
- sediment and erosion control
- questionable calculation for water supply and demand
- wastewater management
- fiscal impact
- vegetation and wildlife
- impact of traffic
- land use, zoning and community character
- community services
- structural integrity and hazard classification of the onsite dam
- more robust exploration of alternative land uses

After the developer submits a revised DEIS the Planning Board and the board's consultants will determine within 30 days if the document is complete and in agreement with the scoping document. If the revised DEIS is declared complete the statement along with all exhibits will be available for public review at www.townofthompson.com under the Public Documents/Development Projects tabs. A public hearing will then be scheduled.

The members of CHNA will continue to review the DEIS and to provide input on the ongoing process.

Visit CHNA at www.columbiahill.org and on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community.

COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA) by Roger Betters and Kathleen Sullivan

The determination of the completeness and accuracy of the new DEIS (Draft En-



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The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

The last weekend of March was a reminder of what life used to be.

Friday night was THE JOHNNY JULES BAND at CABERNET FRANK'S in Parksville. It was just the 'feel good' music I needed after spending so much time inside my house. Plus, I had come into a very special night, as there was a surprise birthday party scheduled for ED SCHUTTE of TREES-TALKERS TREE CARE LLC. I was introduced peripherally by what can only be described as glowing recommendations of his understanding of tree services. So not only did I get to hear my favorites from Dylan to Elvis to old timey Country and Bluegrass but met the Birthday guy with the best smile ever.

Saturday afternoon found me at the HURLEYVILLE GENERAL STORE for a talk by Sullivan County Historian JOHN CONWAY and MYRON GITTELL, the man instrumental in the publishing of Manville B. Wakefield's TO THE

MOUNTAINS BY RAIL in this beautiful, glossy edition. As you may remember from previous writings, this book captured me when I was lent a copy in my first few years up here and how thrilled when I learned a 50th anniversary publication was in the offing and I could have one my very own.

I have attended a few talks by JOHN CONWAY and I always come away with bits of knowledge that I didn't have before. This was no exception. I was not aware that Manville B. Wakefield was the Sullivan County Historian in the 1960's, which all by itself lends more credence to this book. I was surprised to learn that there are times in Sullivan County history that were tagged as the SILVER AGE (ending around 1915) and the GOLDEN AGE, (which was the age of the major hotels, ending in 1965). These terms are familiar, but I had never attributed them to a county. I acquired a new understanding of the prosperity that was here and how the

rail lines contributed to that, something that eluded me having moved here in 2009.

The second part of the talk was by MYRON GITTELL and involved the difficulty and successes of publishing this volume. The easy part was getting Wakefield's widow to agree to allowing the publication. After that, it's not as easy as copying a page, changing the size and calling it a day! He shared with the crowd a mock-up of the early days of what would become a treasure. The most difficult were the photos (and this publication is loaded with 600 of them), the placement of, the reproduction of, the sizing of, and so on. All of which gave one an intense appreciation of the tremendous amount of work that went into this book which is really a work of art.

The book is available at the SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY and MUSEUM, and at THE HURLEYVILLE GENERAL STORE.

And then on Sunday af-

ternoon, off to what became another 'standing room only' event at CABERNET FRANK'S, the tribute to drummer NICKY RED who passed away in February. Organized by guitarist GREG HATTAN, it became an all star review with some of the best names in the Sullivan County music scene. The weather, of course, did not co-operate. While in Parksville, there were only snow showers, in other parts that afternoon, full on frequent blinding snow squalls kept some away. Many of his friends and I agreed that this was Nicky. He would have hated this, hated the attention. And it was interesting that the snow flurries would stop when certain people took the stage and would start again immediately when the stage was turned over to someone else. I was not the only one to notice this. Approval and disapproval from beyond? We will miss you, Nicky!

Until next time.....

KLR KIDS RECEIVE RETURN ON INVESTMENT



PHOTO PROVIDED

MONTICELLO - All year long, students at the Kenneth L. Rutherford Elementary School in Monticello have been stocking up their pencil boxes with trinkets from the KLR School Store. The school store, an initiative coordinated by teacher Carolyn Rojas and staffed by KLR student volunteers, sells items such as pens, pencils, pencil grips, stamps, stickers, notebooks and more - all for under \$1.

"It's a big hit with the kids," Ms. Rojas said. "They're al-

ways so excited when it's their turn to shop."

Last week, the students even got to see a return on their investment. Using some of the store's profits, Ms. Rojas created goody bags for each classroom to share, containing games and activities. On Wednesday, March 23, Ms. Rojas' fourth-grade students pushed a cart filled to the brim with these bags, pausing at each classroom door to hand them out. The students were excited to receive the gifts!



MEATLESS MONDAYS

Meatless Mondays, can you do it? This is something you can try Meat is not the only protein Tofu, beans and eggs you fry It will be good for your body Even once a week pays off Preparations can be easy And it's cheaper, lower cost

You can stuff a portabella With diced veggies or some rice Sprinkle cheese or spoons of pesto Season with your favorite spice

How about a bowl of salad? There are many leafy greens Add a grain, some nuts and dressing Top it with a cup of beans

I would never say "No chicken" Or to put the steaks aside But, squeeze in just one day without them And you'll feel a sense of pride

- Mimi
April, 2022

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IT TAKES A TEAM TO TANGO

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE – Step- ping into the Tango Café is a lovely sensory experience – the place is light and airy with large windows, savory aromas from the open kitchen design and soft music playing in the background. An integral new part of the Hurleyville Performing Arts Center (HPAC) on Main Street and Railroad Avenue, the café is located behind, and is a compliment to, HPAC, as well as a new restaurant for the community to discover as it continues to increase its hours of operation.

Like dancers on a ball- room floor, the Tango café and the arts center are separate but moving together under the leadership of Janet Carrus, founder and artistic Director of HPAC. As pandemic restrictions fall away, HPAC is now open for movies and events,

while the Tango Café, in its soft opening phase, is offering food and drinks on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Both the chef and general manager of the Tango Cafe are new, but bring to the team years of experience. Chef Jonathan Martinez is a Sullivan County native with over 20 years in the world of hospitality and food, including time in the military, growing food, butchering, running his own food truck, and working as a sous chef. He learned about the industry as a kid when his parents worked at local hotels like Kutchers.

Chef Martinez was voted “Best Chef” in the River Reporter’s 2019 poll, and had a hand in winning both “Best Restaurant” and “Best New Menu” while at other eateries. Friendly and enthusiastic, he says he was at a post- COVID crossroads when Tango Café approached him – the perfect time for him



PHOTO BY DENISE SULLIVAN

to take on a new adventure where the menu is exclusively his own. After seeing so many people in the industry pivot or leave the profession in recent years, the chef is eager to “bring the love back to cooking and eating.” Watching him work while occasionally interacting with diners in the

café is a treat.

Just as in dance, timing is everything in life. Joy Leon, the new general manager, also had a “right time and place” moment when she came to Tango.

She has a wide range of experience in hospitality, from catering weddings to restaurants and retail, as

well as in mentoring at-risk local teens. Ms. Leon is calm and graceful, and as the manager, she fills in wherever needed, with the enviable skill of remembering orders without writing them down. She is looking forward to seeing how Tango fits in with other local restaurants, and is consider-

ing the possibilities of offering lunches and being open on days when others eateries are closed. The team at Tango would like to mentor local culinary students at the high school and college level, guiding young people who are just starting out in food service.

The Tango Cafe is open Fridays and Saturdays, 4 to 11 p.m. (kitchen open until 10 p.m.). Starting April 4, they will host Open Mic Night on the first Monday of each month, and Trivia Night on the third Thursday, beginning April 21. The Tango Café will host the Chamber of Commerce’s First Friday Breakfast on May 6, with a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony to be announced soon after.

Walk or dance up the path and into the Tango Café—it’s another cool gathering spot in the happening hamlet of Hurleyville!

FCSD Acknowledges STAR Award Winners

FALLSBURG – The STAR Award stands for Staff/Teacher Award Recognition. The purpose of the FCSD STAR award is to recognize students and staff members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty and have made a difference in the life of someone else. At the Board of Education Meeting on March 16, the BOE honored one student and one staff member for this prestigious award. Staff member Sharon Olvera nominated kindergarten student Aubree VanWolde.

Just before Valentine’s Day, Aubree found a one-dollar bill by the kindergarten wing doors. She gave the money to Ms. Olvera, the Teacher’s Aide in her classroom. After an announcement over the school loudspeaker, the money was returned to its owner, another kindergarten child. The dollar was for her to purchase a special Valentine lollipop.

In presenting the STAR Award, Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz thanked Aubree for always being willing to help her fellow students and



PHOTO PROVIDED

FCSD kindergarten student Aubree VanWolde is pictured with Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz and FCSD Board of Education President Debra Barbiani.

teachers.

“This is just one example of how this special student makes a difference. She is a great example of a caring and helping young person. This act of kindness and caring made a difference in the life of another student and for that we are recognizing and honoring Aubree VanWolde this evening.”

Before the presentation, young Aubree, with her dad Kyle, entertained the staff in the hallway outside the Board Room with her wonderful vocabulary and her poise. In addition to her kindness, she is bright-eyed and adorable.

Next, Dr. Katz thanked BCES School Nurse, Ashley Herbert, for nominating

staff member Sharon Olvera for a STAR Award, not for her role in Aubree’s award, but for her action to save a choking child in the school cafeteria.

Nurse Herbert reported that Ms. Olvera was present in the cafeteria when a child started choking. She “jumped into action and implemented the Heimlich maneuver. The student was able to clear the food and, after following up with mom a short time later, the student is home, happy and healthy after he was cleared by the doctor.

Dr. Katz acknowledged the teacher’s aide for her willingness to help her fellow students and teachers.

“She is a great example of grace under pressure and the Fallsburg Central School District is exceptionally proud of Ms. Sharon Olvera,” he said.

Ms. Olvera was unable to attend the ceremony. Principal Mary Kate Stinehour and teacher Dominick Scanna accepted the award for her. A few years ago, Mr. Scanna saved a choking student in the BCES cafeteria.

CCHS Dance Team Proves Itself

by Emily Arias

HURLEYVILLE – “I danced my heart out,” said former CCHS dance team member Rowan Bloomer. And dance her heart out, she did.

As CCHS students look for more ways to spend their Physical Education time, one 8th year student, Gabriela Almonte, has started up a completely student-run dance team.

Every season the dance team performs before the entirety of the CCHS school. So far, they’ve per-

formed to Santa Tell Me by Ariana Grande and Boss Ladies by Photronique. The members put in a lot of hard work and spend quite a long time practicing, and they haven’t disappointed their audience. All of their dances are choreographed by Gabriela Almonte and Natalie Westergreen, who later joined Jackson Loretto, Violet Adams, and Emily Arias for a group dance.

Even if dance isn’t everyone’s thing, there are still other ways to participate in the team. Although Rowan Bloomer doesn’t dance



PHOTO PROVIDED

anymore, she joins Alyssa Williams to help with special effects and, occasionally, with costume pieces. Speaking of costume pieces, in the most recent performance, members of the dance team were dressed with top hats and glitter, making for quite the fun and entertaining performance.

CCHS teacher, Alex Broz, was the teacher to make the dance team official. In an interview, he said that he “saw a lot of passion for dance and (I) wanted to give them a chance to practice, really

develop their skills, and work together as a team.”

Mr. Broz was impressed with the dance team, and praised them.

“It’s very difficult to create a team, and perform under pressure without adult supervision, so I think they’ve done great handling conflict, but needed help at some points,” he said.

Overall, the dance team has proved to be more than talented at what they do, and all of CCHS looks forward to seeing them perform again.



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

The vernal equinox, when day and night are of equal duration, rolls round – a moment of balance. Yet spring this year arrives with an acute sense of disequilibrium; things seem out of whack. It’s a time of fraying nerves and reckless energy abroad. Perhaps the fog of war, seeping out of the east, has charged the air.

I register the signs of the season: changes of light (the softening of winter’s icy palette) and of color (the first flush of the red-tipped buds), but the consolations of spring falter. Rather, it’s the radical disparities of the world that strike me – while the first flocks of robins are alighting on the lawns of Divine Corners, images of unremitting bleakness and cruelty stream out of Ukraine. The mind tries to grasp how it is that these things are happening in the same world, at the same time.

When World War I broke out, Thomas Hardy wrote a poem, “In Time of ‘The Breaking of Nations’,” that locates solace in the ongoingness of daily life – a man harrows his field; a couple go a-courting: the eternal verities. The war is only alluded to; the date, 1915, is all the context needed. But the consolations of 1915 are not the consolations of 2022. We no longer have the privilege of seeing nature as a sanctuary, a realm apart. There is no more “apart.” And the future, into which Hardy’s lad and lass are walking, is no longer so serenely assured.

More credible consolation, to my mind, comes from the words of Simone Weil, written during the first year of World War II. She doesn’t mention the war, nor does she mention Hitler. Her essay is titled “The Iliad, or the Poem of Force.” (Google it. It’s available for free on the Internet. No summary does the piece justice.) Weil casts her keen eye on the play of force on the battlefield, how unpredictably it moves from one side to the other – “a continual game of seesaw” – first the Greeks, then the Trojans, then the Greeks again, each side temporarily the possessor of force it wields triumphantly over the other, only to have it turn against them in the next phase of battle.

The force she is talking about is not the force of the physicists; it is something lodged totally within the human sphere, within the human tendency to reduce other humans to the status of objects and to treat them accordingly. “It turns anybody who is subjected to it into a thing.” In the extreme theater of war, that

reduction is literal – war makes corpses. In the more decorous theater of social relations, force produces all the varieties of abjection humans are subject to, whether by means of fear, shame, coercion, or, in the extreme instance, enslavement.

From her reading of “The Iliad,” Weil concludes “Thus it happens that those who have force on loan from fate come to count on it too much and are destroyed.” The date, 1940, is all the context needed. It could as well be 2022. Her description of the warrior intoxicated by force is as apt for the invasion of Ukraine as it was for the fall of France: “The man who is the possessor of force seems to walk through a non-resistant element; in the human substance that surrounds him nothing has the power to interpose, between the impulse and the act, the tiny interval that is reflection. Where there is no room for reflection, there is none either for justice or prudence.”

In that “tiny interval” resides Weil’s faintly etched and unmistakable hope. “The Iliad” would present “a monotonous desolation... were it not for those few luminous moments... those brief, celestial moments in which man possesses his soul” and escapes the dominion of force, when “friendship floods the hearts of mortal enemies.” This luminosity is glimpsed in the friendship of comrades-at-arms, in the poem’s depiction of conjugal and brotherly love. Such moments interpose between reckless impulse and impulsive act, and allow prudence, justice, and love to “bathe the poem in their light.” They put a stop to the seesaw momentum of force and create an equilibrium, a moment of balance. Just as Weil sees in the battle for Troy a paradigm of wars to come, so in “The Iliad’s” luminous moments she sees the potential for a type of transcendence over the sway of force in human affairs.

In that state of balance, it’s possible to pause, catch one’s breath, and attend to spring. The first flock of robins arrived a week before the equinox. My neighbor spotted, among them, a lone albino robin, a rare enough sighting – not exactly a white dove with an olive branch, but a harbinger of peace, we hope, all the same.

Jonathan Shimkin, writer and editor, may be contacted at jonathanshimkin@gmail.com, or via his website: jonathanshimkin.weebly.com/

PAPER CLIPS...
by Elaine Corrington



TIME JUST AIN’T WHAT IT USTA BE

So many goals. So many “I-have-tos.” Not even enough time to plan out the most efficient ways to get everything on our lists done, and making plans to make more lists to make sure that we can make do with the time we have left at the end of the day, week, month, year or lifetime ahead of us... stretching out in front of us like the Hurleyville Rail Trail before time, the great wreck, cars, electric scooters, sneakers, the internet, and the pandemic all rolled beyond our real or imagined ability to use the time we had in the ways we needed or wanted.

Was the Great Hurleyville Train Wreck of 1907 a metaphor for the future?

Temporary? Not yet. Annoying? Do you know even one person who is thoroughly practicing and loving the limited options and the interrupted solutions that used to be available to them?

What are the options they had spent so much time organizing or trying to organize for success with life choices?? Are they always doing the RIGHT things instead of doing what they want? Were the people most at ease the smart ones or the crazy ones? Is being weird, normal? Is it weird to want to laugh? Is it different, scary, fun, creative, boring or helping others to? Do the limitations on who you can see, how often, how closely, how safely, and how protectively does being weird assure that you can’t be right?

There is a good chance you now have more time available to ponder planning a right life as we move forward from here in whatever direction wins out, but winter is coming to an end. Predictions about the future are changing about the pandemic (in every way a person can seem to imagine). Will distant relations, aided by modern technology, win out over closer and more personal interactions?

Will we listen to ourselves more closely? Do we have the time NOW to contemplate time and action in the future that allows us to succeed in being who we think we want to be? Are we right to think we can work toward a future others would “know” was a better choice than some of the possibilities others have historically challenged themselves to celebrate?

That time bank account doesn’t have to be emptied with weird choices of no great value. Is this a decision that we can make for ourselves...with plenty of time right now to make sure that how we use our time- even in a pandemic- can be our choice. Will this encourage arguments?

Or not. What to choose, what to choose? Who to be? How to get there? It ain’t at all what it usta be...

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From the Firehouse

by Jack Halchak, Past Chief H.F.D.



The Hurleyville Fire Department is always looking to recruit new members. You can stop in on any Monday evening at 7 p.m. to get an application or see what we are all about. If you do not want to fight fire, we can use fire police or work behind the scenes and support the front-line fire fighters. We do more than just fight fire. We even provide all your training and gear for free.

Hard to believe that it is already April. The snow was gone about a day and a half before we had our start to brush fire season. The wind was blowing pretty good for a few days in the third week of March and dried things out. It was windy and a few people were out burning their winter piles of sticks and it got away from them.

The **BURN BAN** is in effect from March 16 thru May 14.

There is NO open burning during this time period. Everything is dry and a glowing ember from a pile of burning branches is all it takes, add a little wind and it is a brush fire. You can be fined \$500 for a violation.

I have always talked about training in this column, and how important it is. I would like to relate an incident where training paid off, even saving the lives of the firefighters involved and the victims they rescued.

This was a room content fire (contents in the room burn and it does not spread) on the fifth floor of a five-story building. There was heavy black smoke filling the hallway of the fifth floor with reported people trapped. Firefighters could not see their hand in front of their face. Two firefighters went into a non-fire room to do a search, and, as it turned out, to make a res-



GRAPHIC PROVIDED

cue. They needed help getting the victim out, and one of them went for help. The other firefighter stayed with the victim and shared his air with the victim. Command told them help was on the way and to keep the door closed and “shelter in place” (stay in the room there was no fire, and they were safe). Another two firefighters went into the fire room to do a search. Again, they could not see their hand in front of their face.

At some point, air was introduced into the room, and it flashed (this was an oxygen-starved fire, and the incomplete combustion was producing volatile gases that ignited when the air was introduced into the room). One firefighter was close enough to the door and was pulled out to safety. The other firefighter was on the other side of the room near a window. The heat was so intense he was getting burned. He made a lifesaving deci-

sion to bail out the window with his bailout system. He tired off one end and went out the window (firefighters carry a rope and some type of device to tie off with). A ladder truck picked him off the side of the building.

The firefighter that was sheltering in place with a victim saw the firefighter hanging out the window. He transmitted a “MAYDAY” (firefighter is in trouble, needs help). I listened to the incident on my radio at home and in the 53 years in the fire service I never heard a firefighter call a MAYDAY. My hair stood on end, and I knew this was not good.

Many firefighters on the scene and at home were listening on their radios and all held their collective breaths. This was a life-threatening situation. Once the firefighter was in the bucket of the ladder truck the MAYDAY was canceled.

When the firefighter was on the ground, he was trans-

ported to the hospital and then transferred to the burn unit in Westchester.

The victim in the fire room was burned and flown to the burn unit in Westchester. The firefighter and victim in the non-fire room were able to leave the building uninjured once the smoke was cleared.

While all of this was going on, firefighters were doing a room-by-room search, floor-by-floor, to be assured all residents were out and safe.

Training was key here, from the IC (incident commander) to all the firefighters involved. Tying off and bailing takes training, doing a search in heavy smoke takes training, running the ladder truck takes training, the IC giving commands takes training, FAST teams take training I could go on, but you get the picture.

I was assigned to go to the hospital to help the injured firefighter with paperwork (it takes training to fill out the forms needed).

In the end all the residents and firefighters were accounted for.

I will end this column with a quote from Dennis Smith, who recently passed away. He was the founder and first editor of Firehouse Magazine and wrote “Report from Engine Co.82.”

Dennis said “Firefighters may be the most ubiquitous civil servants we have. Think of a natural or man-made disaster you might have seen on television or read about in the papers... and in every photo you see, every paragraph you read, there will be firefighters. Paid or volunteer, often at great personal risk, they are there, giving of themselves for others.”

Be Safe Out There

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburg

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

April 15, 1938

Fire Destroys Elm Shade Hotel in Fallsburg

Fanned by a strong wind, flames destroyed the 110-room main building of the Elm Shade Hotel near Fallsburg on Sunday. The loss was estimated at \$125,000.

The hotel had recently been opened in preparation for a busy Easter week and seven guests had already arrived when the fire was discovered, shortly after 11 a.m. Most of them, as well as the dozen employees and family of the proprietor, lost all their possessions as the flames spread quickly through the stucco-covered frame building.

Aside from Joseph Stern, South Fallsburg police chief and fire captain, who was overcome by smoke in the cellar where the fire is believed to have started, no one was injured. Chief Stern was picked up by other members of his department who brought him outdoors, where he was quickly revived; he returned to fight the fire, the cause of which was undetermined.

Arthur Williams, the hotel's bell-boy, discovered the fire in the cellar near the oil-burner and sounded the alarm. South Fallsburg companies responded first and laid two lines to the Neversink River, 1,000 feet away. Next in order came companies from Woddrige, Mountindale, Monticello and Woodbourne, but the flames soon escaped control despite efforts of all firemen.

The blaze roared through the building and ate through floors and ceilings. As floors and walls of the four-story structure collapsed,

steam radiators dropped through to the basement or fell out through the crumbling walls.

A hotel built on the same site in 1920 burned a year later. It was reconstructed. In 1929, it was greatly altered and enlarged, so that its 210-foot frontage then made it the widest hotel in Sullivan County. It was at that time valued at considerably more than \$100,000.

When the Monticello firemen arrived, Chief Robert York and Assistant Chief Floyd Brown concluded that the main building was beyond saving; they directed their men to keep the fire from spreading to the nearby social hall, a large structure that was saved and then turned to the main building.

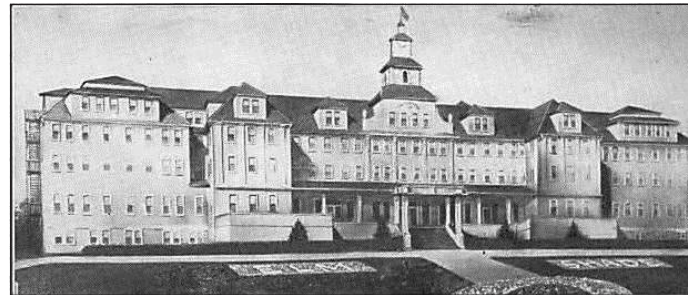
The fire continued to burn till after dark Sunday evening. South Fallsburg firemen, last to leave the scene, returned home tired and hungry.

Morris Kaufman was owner of the hotel, and his partner in its operation was Harry Cherkoff, both of whom lived in New York for the winter. The Kaufman family had been at the hotel more than a week, however, to prepare the place for Easter occupancy. Cherkoff arrived just before the fire started.

April 22, 1938

Strict Sunday Closing Laws For Monticello; Mayor de Hoyos Orders Rigid Enforcement of Sunday Ban on Retail Trade

Responsibility for enforcement of the State Sunday closing law, an annual summer problem at Monticello, seldom presented before June, has been placed



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The Elm Shade Hotel in South Fallsburg in 1937.

directly on the new police force by Mayor Luis de Hoyos, it was learned this week.

A resolution of a Grand Jury last July, which investigated complaints of religious groups there, criticized laxity in enforcement.

“You are hereby directed,” the Mayor’s written orders to all police read, “to see that at 12 o’clock sharp on Saturday nights all stores are closed and that no store is open Sunday excepting those authorized by law. The police force will be held responsible unless enforcement is carried out according to the law. In case of doubt as to the law, you may telephone the Mayor or acting Mayor for instructions.”

The order was relayed to all policemen by Chief Grant Davison, who explained that articles of food may be sold Sunday until 10 a.m., but restaurants may be open all day. Articles that may be sold all day are prepared tobacco, milk, eggs, ice, carbonated water, fruit, flower, candy, souvenirs, newspapers, gasoline, tires, drugs, medicines and surgical instruments. Delicatessen dealers and bakeries may conduct business until 10 a.m. and between the hours of 4 and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

In the summer of 1936, businessmen in Monticello obtained a temporary injunction restraining police

from enforcing the Sunday closing law. The injunction was returnable in Supreme Court in September, after the summer season has ended.

Vigorous objection to enforcement is expected from retailers in the village, who have repeatedly pointed out that their existence depends entirely on the earning every possible dollar during the ten-weeks summer season, and loss of Sunday trade would be fatal.

April 29, 1938

New Highway Machinery Ordered For Fallsburg

At a meeting of the town board on Monday evening, a resolution was passed for the purchase of a new gasoline roller for the Town of Fallsburg at a cost of \$5,025. The machinery will be purchased from the Springfield Roller Co. of Springfield, Ohio, and delivery is expected next week. Officials declare that work on town highways will be greatly expedited with the aid of the new equipment.

A committee of business men representing the Chamber of Commerce of South Fallsburg presented several recommendations to the board which included the request for twenty-four hour police protection for the village during the summer months.

HURLEYVILLE – The opening narration of “The Batman” explains that the masked vigilante has only been active for around two years, which gives us arguably the most compelling version of the Caped Crusader: The Batman who is still figuring out how to be Batman, and how to balance that with being Bruce Wayne.

Everything about this movie indicates that it’s a story to be taken seriously. Director Matt Reeves and Cinematographer Greig Fraser give us a macabre, perpetually-raining

Gotham that feels alive; a mixture of towering high rises, seedy underground clubs, neon lights, and endless shadows, where The Batman may or may not be lurking. It’s the perfect setting for the story that unfolds, which is part *film noir* detective story reminiscent of Frank Miller’s iconic *Batman: Year One* (1987), part serial killer mystery/suspense thriller à la David Fincher’s *Zodiac* (2007).

Robert Pattinson’s performance is superb, and in depicting a Batman who’s exceedingly not comfortable

Movie Review

by Andrew Yoast



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Batman

and, perhaps more importantly, not interested, in being Bruce Wayne, we get the heartbeat of the story. Batman is his true identity, and his work on the streets is what he considers his family’s legacy, much to the chagrin of the steadfast Wayne family butler, Alfred Pennyworth (Andy Serkis). His unrelenting commitment to beating the vengeance into the criminals of Gotham parlay into a partnership with Lt. James Gordon (Jeffrey Wright) of the Gotham City Police Department. Wright is a masterful character actor, and his rendition of Jim Gordon illuminates the steel-sharpening-steel nature of the relationship between himself and The Batman which brings out the

best in both characters.

Gordon and The Batman rely more heavily on each other throughout the story as they work together to solve a string of gruesome, politically motivated serial killings by a masked villain called The Riddler (Paul Dano). The Riddler appropriately leaves riddles addressed “To The Batman” at each crime scene, because to him these assassinations are part of a game or a joke that only he and The Batman are in on. The Batman’s quest for answers entwines him with the very pinnacle of criminality in Gotham, represented by the scar-faced lieutenant, The Penguin (an unrecognizable Colin Farrell), and the Godfather of the criminal underworld,

Carmine Falcone (John Turitto).

In the thick of this layered, multi-narrative plot, we’re introduced to the scene-stealing Selina Kyle (Zoë Kravitz), a cocktail waitress in Falcone’s club who moonlights as a nightcrawling, cat-loving burglar. Kravitz delivers the definitive version of Catwoman, displaying the sensuality and dexterity associated with the character while simultaneously providing a tender, compassionate foil to the brooding Pattinson. “I have a thing for strays” she tells The Batman, a line with an inherent double meaning that defines her character throughout the film. They form a tenuous partnership, a means to different ends that eventually illustrates the ethical and moral lines that Batman refuses to cross. If Pattinson’s performance is the heartbeat of the movie, Kravitz’s is the soul.

Ultimately this is just a tremendously crafted movie made by a person who really cares about the source material. The ensemble cast delivers in every single performance, the movie is darker, grittier, and more serious than any of its predecessors, the direction creative and perpetually moving, and the Nirvana-enhanced musical score rattles the bones at its most intense yet still finds subtlety in its most tender moments. And for comic book fans,

the film plays the hits: Dazzling hand-to-hand combat, “World’s Greatest Detective” problem solving, extended use of the grappling hook, a riveting Batmobile car chase, and some nifty gadgets that help Batman along the way.

So, what is *The Batman* about? It’s *about* fear, and how fear can manipulate people into corruption. It’s about how hard it is to grow up and process the grief of losing someone you love. And it’s *about* the challenge of how to find balance within yourself.

Comic book stories, like mythology, are so infinitely interesting because we get to explore what happens when a character with an immense amount of power comes into conflict with their own emotions. Stories of gods, superheroes, vigilantes, or characters with otherwise extraordinary capabilities are woven into the fabric of human nature, and always will be. That’s partially because it’s intoxicating to think what we would do with those powers. But a more significant part of it is that watching someone with inconceivable power confront the fallibility of the human heart will always resonate with us.

Andrew Yoast is a freelance writer who lives in Hurleyville. His movie reviews will appear from time to time in The Hurleyville Sentinel.

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SPRINGTIME À LA CARTE PART II

by O. Henry

This is the conclusion of a short story by the American author, O. Henry (born William Sydney Porter (September 11, 1862 – June 5, 1910), which was first published in 1906. It is in the public domain.

A knock at the door dispelled Sarah's visions of that happy day. A waiter had brought the rough pencil draft of the Home Restaurant's next day fare in old Schulenberg's angular hand. Sarah sat down to her typewriter and slipped a card between the rollers. She was a nimble worker. Generally in an hour and a half the twenty-one menu cards were written and ready.

To-day there were more changes on the bill of fare than usual. The soups were lighter; pork was eliminated from the *entrées*, figuring only with Russian turnips among the roasts. The gracious spirit of spring pervaded the entire menu. Lamb, that lately capered on the greening hillsides, was becoming exploited with the sauce that commemorated its gambols. The song of the oyster, though not silenced, was *dimuendo con amore*. The frying-pan seemed to

be held, inactive, behind the beneficent bars of the broiler. The pie list swelled; the richer puddings had vanished; the sausage, with his drapery wrapped about him, barely lingered in a pleasant thanatopsis with the buckwheats and the sweet but doomed maple.

Sarah's fingers danced like midges above a summer stream. Down through the courses she worked, giving each item its position according to its length with an accurate eye. Just above the desserts came the list of vegetables. Carrots and peas, asparagus on toast, the perennial tomatoes and corn and succotash, lima beans, cabbage—and then—

Sarah was crying over her bill of fare. Tears from the depths of some divine despair rose in her heart and gathered to her eyes. Down went her head on the little typewriter stand; and the keyboard rattled a dry accompaniment to her moist sobs.

For she had received no letter from Walter in two weeks, and the next item on the bill of fare was dandelions—dandelions with some kind of egg—but bother

the egg!—dandelions, with whose golden blooms Walter had crowned her his queen of love and future bride—dandelions, the harbingers of spring, her sorrow's crown of sorrow—reminder of her happiest days.

Madam, I dare you to smile until you suffer this test: Let the Marechal Niel roses that Percy brought you on the night you gave him your heart be served as a salad with French dressing before your eyes at a Schulenberg *table d'hôte*. Had Juliet so seen her love tokens dishonoured the sooner would she have sought the lethean herbs of the good apothecary.

But what a witch is Spring! Into the great cold city of stone and iron a message had to be sent. There was none to convey it but the little hardy courier of the fields with his rough green coat and modest air. He is a true soldier of fortune, this *dent-de-lion*—this lion's tooth, as the French chefs call him. Flowered, he will assist at love-making, wreathed in my lady's nut-brown hair; young and cal-

low and unblossomed, he goes into the boiling pot and delivers the word of his sov-



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

ereign mistress.

By and by Sarah forced back her tears. The cards must be written. But, still in a faint, golden glow from her dandeleonine dream, she fingered the typewriter keys absently for a little while, with her mind and heart in the meadow lane with her young farmer. But soon she came swiftly back to the rock-bound lanes of Manhattan, and the typewriter began to rattle and jump like a strike-breaker's motor car.

At 6 o'clock the waiter brought her dinner and carried away the typewritten bill of fare. When Sarah ate

she set aside, with a sigh, the dish of dandelions with its crowning ovarious accompaniment. As this dark mass had been transformed from a bright and love-indorsed flower to be an ignominious vegetable, so had her summer hopes wilted and perished. Love may, as Shakespeare said, feed on itself: but Sarah could not bring herself to eat the dandelions that had graced, as ornaments, the first spiritual banquet of her heart's true affection.

At 7:30 the couple in the next room began to quarrel: the man in the room above

sought for A on his flute; the gas went a little lower; three coal wagons started to unload—the only sound of which the phonograph is jealous; cats on the back fences slowly retreated toward Mukden. By these signs Sarah knew that it was time for her to read. She got out "The Cloister and the Hearth," the best non-selling book of the month, settled her feet on her trunk, and began to wander with Gerard.

The front door bell rang. The landlady answered it. Sarah left Gerard and Denys treed by a bear and listened. Oh, yes; you would, just as

she did!

And then a strong voice was heard in the hall below, and Sarah jumped for her door, leaving the book on the floor and the first round easily the bear's. You have guessed it. She reached the top of the stairs just as her farmer came up, three at a jump, and reaped and garnered her, with nothing left for the gleaners.

"Why haven't you written—oh, why?" cried Sarah.

"New York is a pretty large town," said Walter Franklin. "I came in a week ago to your old address. I found that you went away on a Thursday. That consoled some; it eliminated the possible Friday bad luck. But it didn't prevent my hunting for you with police and otherwise ever since!"

"I wrote!" said Sarah, vehemently.

"Never got it!"

"Then how did you find me?"

The young farmer smiled a springtime smile.

"I dropped into that Home Restaurant next door this evening," said he. "I don't care who knows it; I like a dish of some kind of greens at this time of the year. I ran

my eye down that nice typewritten bill of fare looking for something in that line. When I got below cabbage I turned my chair over and hollered for the proprietor. He told me where you lived."

"I remember," sighed Sarah, happily. "That was dandelions below cabbage."

"I'd know that cranky capital W way above the line that your typewriter makes anywhere in the world," said Franklin.

"Why, there's no W in dandelions," said Sarah, in surprise.

The young man drew the bill of fare from his pocket, and pointed to a line.

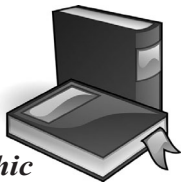
Sarah recognised the first card she had typewritten that afternoon. There was still the rayed splotch in the upper right-hand corner where a tear had fallen. But over the spot where one should have read the name of the meadow plant, the clinging memory of their golden blossoms had allowed her fingers to strike strange keys.

Between the red cabbage and the stuffed green peppers was the item:

"DEAREST WALTER, WITH HARD-BOILED EGG."

FROM THE FALLSBURG LIBRARY

by Amanda Letohic



It's April, and that means spring is in the air!

We hope you're as excited for it as we are. Did you know that April 3-9 is National Library Week? We're starting something new at the Fallsburg Library. We will now have Book Boxes available for all ages. What is a book box? It's a monthly, FREE selection of books hand-picked by someone in the library. Each book box features 2-3 books, a craft, and some goodies based on your preferences. Email aletohic@rcls.org to get your monthly box started!

We also have some great crafts for this month. Adults can stop in and pick up the supplies to make a Watermelon Wind Chime out of terra cotta pots. All that you need is included in the Take & Make

kit. For kids this month, we have a kit to make their very own Infinity Cube fidgets! All Take & Make kits are limited, so be sure to call Miss Amanda at 845-436-6067 ext. 102 or email to reserve yours!

We are open for browsing and public computer use, so come see us! We will also continue to offer curbside pick-up as a convenience to all our patrons. Just give us a call, or email us to let us know you're coming. As always, don't forget to check out all the amazing online resources we have, including Rosetta Stone and the Libby app to download borrowed books directly to your own device.

Keep up with all things Fallsburg Library on our social media and website www.fallsburglibrary.org. Thank you all for your support!

Trail Towns Conference Scheduled for Hurleyville

Recreational and Economic Benefits of Trails in our Communities

LIBERTY – What is the key to a successful trail town? Come find out! Sullivan Renaissance and the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance will present the Trail Towns Conference on Thursday April 7 and Friday April 8. The conference will include a keynote and discussion with David Kahley, Co-founder, President and CEO of The Progress Fund, a nonprofit that founded the Trail Town Program, the first economic development program in the nation to capture the potential of rail-trail based recreation.

The Trail Town program can help municipalities and local businesses make the most of the outdoor recreational assets near them.

Mr. Kahley will draw examples from the Great Allegheny Passage a 150-mile rail trail in Pennsylvania and how dozens of communities benefit from increased visitation and visitor spending; and business growth and development.

Each day will focus on different aspects of trails and the towns that support them along with some on location activities. Thursday evening at 5:30pm will be the "big picture;" the basics of the program and easily achieved projects our businesses and communities can complete to start benefitting from existing sections of Sullivan O&W Rail Trail. Friday morning at 8:30am will offer an overview and delve deeper into how the Trail Towns program works and fosters larger and longer-term projects and goals.

"Trails provide an array of proven benefits, said Sullivan County Planning Commissioner Freda Eisenberg. "They serves as a source of recreation and transportation for residents and they also strengthen our tourism-based economy." Not on the Sullivan

O&W Rail Trail? The Trail Towns program offers strategies for community revitalization applicable to all Sullivan County communities that can capitalize on our outdoor recreational resources."

"Volunteers have been active building, clearing and enhancing our trails for decades. We are at a point now where it is all coming together for everyone to enjoy," said Denise Frangipane, Executive Director for Sullivan Renaissance.

Thursday's conference begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Michael Ritchie Big Barn,

54 Discovery Ridge Road in Hurleyville. The Friday event starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Mamakating Town Hall, 2948 Route 209 in Wurtsboro.

The Trail Towns Conference is presented with support from Catskills Agrihood, Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association and the County of Sullivan. The Conference continues a series of events to connect the community with the Sullivan O&W and other trails throughout the county. The conference is free but registration is requested at www.sullivanrenaissance.org.

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Superheroes Enjoy Special Breakfast in Fallsburg

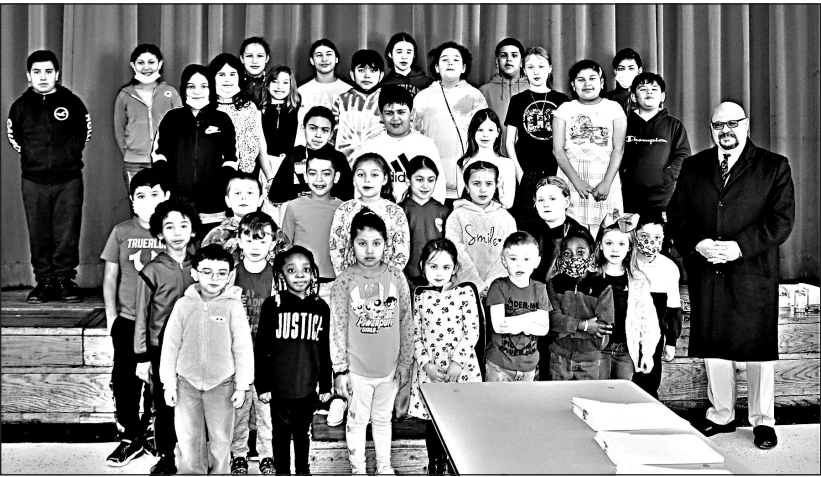


PHOTO PROVIDED
FCSD Superintendent Ivan Katz (far right) was on hand to honor the district's young superheroes.

FALLSBURG – The March Superheroes at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School (BCES) received their honors in the School Cafeteria on March 10 with a special breakfast prepared by the cafeteria staff.

The following students exhibited the monthly trait of Be Kind and earned the approval of their teachers and staff: Jason Padilla Orellana, Faith Kehlenbeck, Leah Forgione, Alexis Gold, Dominic Bush, Layla Cruz, Hayden

Gibson, Jalen Anthony, Josue Mora Ceron, Jase Loncto, Dalila Koljenovic, Elijah Castro, Alisson Lagos, Penelope Anziani, Aaron Cubias, Kaylin Cumming, Bubacar Kasama, Giada Evangelista, Ashley Hernandez Merino, Kelvin Giron Garcia, Joel Montalvo, Surey Delgado, Olivia Lucido, Isabella Postell, Kristy Izaguirre, Bryan Lopez Romero, Madison Maldonado, Jaime Giron Pare-Alexis, Leo Bonilla Urbina, Samantha Saciolo, Jiovan-

ni Anthony, Fernando Turcios Garcia, Camdyn Hoefling, Naavah McJunkin, Jocelyn Zempoaltecatl, Ariel Payne, Jax Pillius, Layla Herman, Brady Romero Arriaza, Aubree VanWolde, Jaysi Nicanor-Perez, Wilmer Mateo Garcia, Fressia Carcamo, and Keyrin Tercero.

Special thanks go out to the PBIS Team Coordinators, Nicole Cortes and Brittany Davis, their entire team, and the cafeteria staff for decorating, preparing and serving the delicious food.

As Fiber on Main is taking preventive measures to ensure the health and safety of all, open studios and classes are cancelled until further notice.

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The Art of Being

by Deborah Chandler, Ph.D.

Miracles

I awaken with spring. I start to notice the halo of fuzz on budding trees, preparing to unfurl their majestic canopies.

I scan the night sky, hoping it will reveal its secrets to me. The spring sky seems brighter and closer. I see Andromeda. This galaxy is hurling through the heavens at 70 miles each second on a collision course with our Milky Way Galaxy. This galactic merging will begin in about 3.75 billion years. How do I grasp the vastness of space? How do I comprehend the minute speck that I refer to as my self?

Focused back on earth, I struggle to comprehend the inexplicable facts of existence. Science provides wonderful theories and stories. But the fact that life exists reveals a power, a determination to manifest that is incomprehensible.

As a species we have always created stories to explain existence. We rely upon these narratives to define our place. Yet the stories that extol the sacredness of our appearance become separate from my life as I live it.

I notice I collapse into my own needs and disrespect the fragility that allows this existence to sustain itself. What choices do I make that support the cosmic mission spreading out from me?

Does it matter that I curb my anger, my greed? I've acquired the perspective that my actions, emotions are part of the larger unfolding of the cosmic dance. As a speck in the dance, I hold myself accountable for the integrity of the universe. I believe that my minute choices influence the existence of all life. How could I be other than joined with the cosmic oneness?

Within, I am convinced that kindness makes a difference in the cosmos. Somehow, I want to know that I have a place and a share in the outcome. I may never know how my part influences existence. I just want to do my best to provide nurturing, so that the fuzz on the trees blossoms forth creating the miracle of spring.

Do I blame my self for the disasters that befall us on this planet? No. But I do ask that I hold up my end of the relationship. I want to deprive my self of the luxury of whining, bemoaning, and suffering. The miracle of existence shines forth in its splendor and ferocity. I need to celebrate the majestic manifestation of life in whatever form it puts forth. I am a miracle, masquerading as an identity. All that will be left in the end will be the vastness of the cosmos.

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SENTINEL SPORTS



WHAT A RIDE! SULLIVAN'S RUN ENDS WITH FOURTH PLACE NATIONAL FINISH

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE — The SUNY Sullivan Generals men's basketball team might not have ended the 2021-22 season quite the way they would have liked to, but no one can deny it was a successful campaign nonetheless.

The third-ranked Generals' bid for a fifth national championship—and first as a Division II school—ended in the semi-finals of the NJCAA Championships in Danville, Illinois late last month when they dropped an 85-78 decision to second ranked Davidson-Davie Community College from North Carolina.

The Generals then lost the consolation game to defending national champion

Des Moines Area Community College 86-78 to finish fourth. South Suburban College of South Holland, Illinois defeated Davidson-Davie in the championship contest.

Sullivan had previously beaten Dakota County Technical College 75-71 and Cecil College 90-79 to reach the semi-finals. Coach Brent Wilson's Generals finished the season with an impressive 28-5 record.

"I don't think I can adequately state what an accomplishment this was for our program," Wilson said last week. "For us to come off a school year with zero on-campus classes, practices or games, and finish fourth in the country is a tremendous accomplishment. Every other institution at the



Coach Brent Wilson

National Tournament had a season last year. Our kids were home, taking online classes without the same ability to work on their athletic craft. However, once they returned to campus in August they bought in and

worked extremely hard."

In their four years at the Division II level after years as a Division III school, The Generals boast an enviable record that includes three Mid-Hudson Conference Championships, three Re-



Guard Kareem Welch

gion XV Championships, and two District Championships, plus two National Tournament appearances. One of those tournaments—in 2020-- was cancelled due to Covid-19, the second—this year—resulted in the

fourth place finish.

In the semi-final loss to Davidson-Davie, Kareem Welch led the way for the Generals, scoring a game high 28 points, while also pulling down eight rebounds. Jalen Reneau con-

tributed 23 points and Sam DeSouza chipped in with 12 points and seven rebounds.

In the consolation game, Welch again led the way, scoring a game-high 32 points with 5 rebounds and 2 assists. Reneau scored 17 points and Sam DeSouza 14.

Welch, a sophomore guard who was the Region XV men's Player of the Year, led the team in scoring for the year, with a 21.8 points per game average. He also averaged 4.9 assists per game and 6.8 rebounds per contest.

Jalen Reneau, another sophomore guard, averaged 14.6 points per game on the season, while freshman Jay Alvarez contributed 14.4 and forward Jarell White, also a freshman, scored at a 14.2 clip. Sophomore for-

ward Sam DeSouza scored 10.3 points per game. White led the team with 8.5 rebounds per game.

The Generals will be losing the core of this very successful team, as Wilson says five of his sophomores are being recruited by four-year schools. It is part of the coaching staff's job, he noted, to help the players with that process.

"Our staff now has two very important jobs," he said. "Help move our sophomores to the four-year level, but also recruit new student-athletes to SUNY Sullivan. Both jobs are equally important, and very much related. We will be having students in to visit all spring to take advantage of them meeting the current players in our program."

BALLGAME BAFLERS

BY BRIAN

Here are five ballgame bafflers for your consideration. The first person to email the most correct answers to hurleysent@hotmail.com will win a prize. Have fun!

April Questions:

- In what year did UNLV win the NCAA men's basketball championship by beating Duke in the final game?
- In what years did the University of Florida Gators win back-to-back NCAA men's basketball championships?
- In what year did the Baylor Bears win the NCAA men's basketball championship?
- Through 2021, in what year did the South Carolina Gamecocks win its last women's national basketball championship?
- In what years did the Connecticut Huskies win both the men's and women's national basketball championships?

Last month's answers:

- In what year did all professional and college sports get suspended in March due to the COVID pandemic? **(2020)**
- Where has the end-of-season Big East basketball tournament been played annually since 1983? **(Madison Square Garden in New York City)**
- Who is the only team to win five games in five days at the Big East men's basketball tournament? **(The University of Connecticut in 2011)**
- What is the highest scoring game in NCAA basketball tournament history? **(In 1990, Loyola Marymount defeated Michigan 149-115 for a total of 264 points)**
- What college compiled the longest winning streak in women's basketball history? **(The University of Connecticut, 111 games)**

There was no winner last month.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO... Fallsburg Coach Reacts to O.C.L. Rejection

by John Conway

FALLSBURG — "Black doesn't rub off."

That is how longtime Fallsburg High School basketball coach Jim McDermott closed out a letter he wrote in April of 1972—50 years ago this month—following the Orange County Interscholastic Athletic Association's (OCIAA) third rejection in less than a year of a Fallsburg application to join.

The league also turned down, for the fourth time, an application by Monticel-

lo. Both schools were looking for a league to call home after the DUSO Village League in which they had traditionally competed—along with Liberty, Ellenville and Port Jervis—had folded.

In a lengthy article by sportswriter Lou Hansen, who devoted several pieces to the topic over a ten-day period, the Times Herald-Record reported that the reason Orange County League officials gave for the latest Fallsburg rejection was different from their earlier rationale.



PHOTO PROVIDED

On Sunday March 20, Fallsburg High School's Andrew Rein was honored as All-Section for football for the 2021-2022 Season. COVID postponed the original ceremony, but he was belatedly honored at Kuhl's Highland House in Middletown. Andrew is pictured (right) with Fallsburg Football Coach Dominick Scanna.

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"We realize the problem that confronts your school in its athletic endeavors, but the OCIAA feels that it does not wish to expand its membership at this time," Hansen quoted from the league's announcement of its rejection. Previously, the league had cited rowdiness, travel distances, and financial problems for the earlier rejections.

For McDermott, the third rejection was the last straw. "The real reason Fallsburg has been rejected is as clear as the black noses on the black faces that are 90 per cent of our athletes," he told the Record. "We're too black."

In his letter following the April 20, 1972 vote reject-

ing the Fallsburg application, McDermott noted that, "Three times the Orange County League has rejected Fallsburg. Three times I have written this letter and twice I didn't mail it because I was afraid I would anger other schools and terrified that I'd provoke administrators who would not allow their athletic teams to play ours..."

"Now I feel humiliated," his letter continued. "I find it difficult to face my athletes and I know I must speak out or I am less of a man than I ask my athletes to be."

The Record presented enrollment figures for the existing Orange County League schools that showed that only one of them,

from Otisville, the smallest school to Middletown, the largest, had as many as half the percentage of African American students in grades 7 through 12 as Fallsburg and Monticello, which had 19.6 and 15.3 percent respectively. Only Otisville, which had just 145 students in grades 7-12 (and, incidentally, would close its doors less than a year later) came close to the two Sullivan County schools, as the 22 African Americans enrolled in the district accounted for 15.2 per cent of its student body.

McDermott concluded his letter by proposing that if the Orange County school administrators "want to help minorities, if they re-

ally care, all they have to do is cast a ballot for Fallsburg and Monticello and Newburgh. Is it asking too much to permit their children to compete against ours? Black doesn't rub off."

The letter provoked a slew of letters to the editors—on both sides of the issue—and further coverage by TH-Record, but the OCIAA stuck by its decision for quite some time, characterizing McDermott's reasoning as inaccurate and insulting.

Fallsburg and Monticello had both regularly competed against OCL schools in non-league contests for years, and both schools currently compete in Section IX against several schools from the league.

A ROCKY START Generals Baseball Yet to Hit Stride

by John Conway

LOCH SHELDRAKE — It has been a rocky start to the 2022 season for the Sullivan Generals varsity baseball team.

Sullivan began the year by dropping three out of four games against Cecil College in North East, Maryland in early March, and as the month was drawing to a close stood at 5-12 on the season.

The Generals opened their southern trip with a tough 15-14 loss to the Seahawks. After scoring eight runs in the top of the seventh inning to tie the game, Sullivan surrendered the winning run in the bottom half of the inning. Cecil had previously scored eight runs of their own in the bottom of the sixth to take a commanding lead in the game.

Sullivan managed eight hits in the game, and were



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pitcher Tanner Maclean

their vbeneficiaries of six Seahawk errors. Five of the Generals 14 runs were unearned, as were six of Cecil's 15. The Generals made three erros on the afternoon.

Both teams played much tighter defense in the night-

cap of the twinbill, which Cecil also took 6-2 to complete the sweep. The Seahawks scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth of a tied game to take the lead in that contest and shut Sullivan out the rest of the way to seal the victory.

Sullivan split a doubleheader with Cecil the next day, taking the opener 11-9 and dropping the nightcap 15-7. They followed that by taking one out of two against Scotland Prep in Fayetteville, PA before dropping five games in a

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