

CHOOSING DAY IS COMING

Fallsburg Electing a Supervisor and Legislators

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE— Among the many local races to be decided on November 7 this year, voters in the town of Fallsburg will be choosing a town Supervisor, a Town Clerk, and two seats on the Town Board in addition to their representatives on the county Legislature.

Due to redistricting on the county level, Hurleyville, which had previously been part of Legislative District 6, is now part of the newly drawn District 8.

In the Fallsburg Supervisors race, incumbent Kathy Rappaport, who two years ago swept to victory over longtime Supervisor Steve Vegliante on the strength of absentee ballots, is the Republican candidate, while

Michael Bensimon is running on the Democratic Party ticket.

“There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done,” Ms. Rappaport told The Sentinel last week, before listing a number of her administration’s accomplishments, for which she was quick to credit the Town Board and town employees.

“We have been addressing the crumbling systems and infrastructure with a targeted and systematic approach,” she said, emphasizing the collaboration necessary to get the projects completed. “Our ability to supply water to our residents has been a cause of concern for several years. Currently, we are replacing two water tanks, which will provide approximately



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
Kathy Rappaport



PHOTO PROVIDED
Michael Bensimon



PHOTO PROVIDED
Amanda Ward



PHOTO PROVIDED
Justin Picciotti

60% more water storage capacity. We started and completed two culvert projects that were causing flooding of homes and dangerous road conditions, as well as a major drainage project on Laurel Ave [in South Fallsburg].”

Mr. Bensimon, an auditor who works for the county, is a firefighter and EMT with the Mountaintale Fire Department who has four children in the Fallsburg school district. He said he is “personally invested in creating a better future for our town.”

He cites his “strong background in government management, financial oversight, and extensive experience in public service,” and says he thinks he can “bring effective leadership, transparency, and accountability to the role of Town Supervisor.”

Mr. Bensimon, who has served on the town’s Zoning Board of Appeals, is well

aware of the importance of providing residents with adequate water and sewer facilities, and also cited “addressing traffic congestion, and enhancing emergency communications” as critical issues. “We must also focus on protecting our natural resources and rural character while accommodating sustainable growth,” he said.

He is in favor of removing barriers to development in the town, and taking steps to ensure ethical behavior on the part of town officials.

“Streamlining regulations to support entrepreneurship and attract new businesses is essential,” he said. “Closing the bribery loophole in our Town Code and implementing robust internal controls will promote transparency and accountability, fostering an ethical local government.”

Ms. Rappaport says that her nearly completed term

in office has convinced her that “the best candidate for Fallsburg is the person that can represent all our values and ideas. The person that can listen even when they do not agree with your point of view.”

“I grew up here,” she said. “I’ve seen Fallsburg do some amazing things over the years. I believe we need to continue what we’ve started.”

But Mr. Bensimon sees things differently.

“While I respect the efforts of the current administration, I believe there is room for improvement,” he maintains. “My vision for Fallsburg includes a more streamlined and transparent government that is responsive to the needs of all residents. I aim to lead by example, promoting consensus-based governance and a commitment to moving our town forward in a positive and inclusive manner.”

Hurleyville voters will also be choosing a representative on the County Legislature this year, with the hamlet and other parts of Fallsburg now included in the newly drawn District 8. Republican Amanda Ward and Democrat Justin Picciotti are squaring off in that race.

Mr. Picciotti said he is running for the Legislature for his children.

“I want them to have a chance to learn and grow in a vibrant community that offers the opportunity for them to become adults with a happy and comfortable life for their family and friends,” he told The Sentinel.

Like most of the Democrats running for the legislature this year, Mr. Picciotti has voiced his displeasure with the current group of Legislators, and is particularly concerned about their leasing out of the adult care center.

“The work of the current legislature is appalling and it holds us back as a community,” he said. “The lies, deceit and lack of communication makes for a toxic governing body that shows their decisions are not for the people. Good governance is working together, listening to the concerns of the people and then advocating for those concerns in a lively and respectful discussion to come to the best decision possible. The reduction and elimination of health services and programs in the name of fiscal responsibility hurts us all.”

Ms. Ward, who has deep roots in the community, told The Sentinel she decided to run for the legislature “because our community deserves more. I hope to champion a vision where our community flourishes with opportunities for high-quality employment, characterized by competitive wages and enhanced job security.”

Ms. Ward said there are a number of issues facing the county now and in the near future that have to be dealt with, but she is also concerned with the way in which they are dealt.

“It is imperative that, as public servants, we remain deeply connected to the concerns of our community members, including matters such as public safety and the opioid crisis,” she said. “I am dedicated to collaborating closely with law enforcement agencies to enhance public safety and to address the opioid crisis as a vital part of this effort. Taxes are undeniably another one of the pressing issues facing our community, impacting residents and businesses alike. As a County Legislator candidate, addressing the complexities of taxation and finding equitable solutions will be among my top priorities.”

“The other important issues affecting our town/county over the next two years are multifaceted and diverse, reflecting the unique needs and priorities of our residents. I firmly believe that identifying these challenges should not be solely reliant on my perspective but should instead be a collective endeavor.”

Mr. Picciotti’s campaign has been centered at least as much on the actions of the current legislature as on the qualifications of his opponent, but without offering specifics, he does not give her a pass.

“It is time for fresh eyes,” he said. “It is time for a person to represent us that is hardworking, has integrity, and is committed to working in the best interest of our district. Our current legislative majority is disingenuous, condescending and corrupt. My opponent fits that description as well. We must elect principled, trustworthy people that can work together to bring us towards a brighter future. I am that person in District 8.”

Ms. Ward’s campaign has not specifically acknowledged her opponent, relying instead on emphasizing her education, her many professional accomplishments, and years of community service.

“This community is where I was born and raised, and it holds a special place in my heart,” she said. “For me, the saying ‘it takes a village’ resonates deeply, underscoring the belief that collective efforts lead to growth, change, and a better life for all. If elected county legislator, I will bring this same spirit of collaboration, dedication, and service to our community by actively listening to your concerns and needs. Together, we can work towards a brighter future for all.”

SCARECROW FESTIVAL ON TAP

Get Into the Halloween Spirit



PHOTO PROVIDED

HURLEYVILLE— The 2nd Annual Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival will be held on Sunday, October 8 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Hurleyville O & W Rail Trail parking lot on Main Street.

Sponsored by the Town of Fallsburg, with support from the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce, Thompson Sanitation and Bold Gold Media, the Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival will be an afternoon of free entertainment, vendors, live music and dance, plus specials at Hurleyville businesses.

Scarecrows will appear throughout town, and a prize will be offered in the 2nd Annual Scarecrow Selfie Contest. To participate, take selfies with each scarecrow and post on Facebook and Instagram, tagging each picture with #hurleyvillescarecrows.

Main Street Dance will have a live performance at the parking lot, and visitors can also enjoy the paved O & W Rail Trail, as well as specials and sidewalk sales at Hurleyville restaurants

and businesses. Food will be available at the Pickled Owl and Casa Mia Restaurant, with food vendors also at the event. Live music by Carmine Gontz, The Avenue musical duo, and Heart’s Song will be featured during the festival, with support from Party Master. A bouncy house, scavenger hunt, craft activities and playground will be available for kids.

The Sullivan County Museum will be open for the day, featuring the Frederick Cook Exhibit, the Honorable Lawrence H. Cooke Exhibit, as well as corn hole and ping pong games. There will also be live music at the museum beginning at 2 p.m. The featured performers at the museum are Little Sparrow with special guests Henry Simon and Jay Brooks.

Admission to the Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival is free and is open to everyone. Bring friends and have fun!

Visit Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival on Facebook for more information.

Free Welding Course Available

County Again Partners with BOCES to Build Workforce

LIBERTY – Following the success of a construction trades course earlier this year, Sullivan County’s Center for Workforce Development (CWD) and Sullivan BOCES have teamed up again to offer another free course – this time in welding – to up to 10 local residents.

“I thank the Legislature for devoting funding to a second initiative to provide

local workers with practical, career-building skills,” said CWD Director Loreen Gebelein. “Graduates of this program will earn certification in Basic Welding and be immediately employable.”

The 10-week program is being administered by the CWD, part of the Division of Community Resources. Open to those who are 18 or older and have reliable

transportation, classes start October 10 and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday through December 21 from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Rubin Pollack Education Center on Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty.

“This is hands-on training at BOCES’ classrooms and shops in Liberty, and graduates of this program will be ready to work with any number of local employ-

ers, as the local building industry is growing fast,” said Community Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley. “I encourage anyone interested to contact us right away, as only 10 spots are available for this course.”

To find out more or to apply, contact the Center for Workforce Development at 845-794-3340 or sccwd@sullivanny.us.

IN MEMORIAM:

The Hurleyville Sentinel wishes to acknowledge the passing on August 8 of Peter Dollard, Hurleyville resident, Chief of Assistive Technology & Universal Design at The Center for Discovery, and a dear, unforgettable friend to all. In announcing his passing, The Center noted that “Peter was instrumental in bringing universal design and assistive technology to The Center, along with other invaluable projects during his 30+ years here. His deep commitment to accessibility for all has inspired us and will continue to do so as we carry on his legacy. Peter changed thousands of lives and his contributions will have a profound and lasting impact. We are so thankful for his leadership, vision, and most of all – his heartfelt kindness and friendship.”

In addition to his significant professional attainments, Peter was a gifted athlete, with proficiency in most every sport, especially soccer, and was a talented photographer, as well as a dynamic personality. He is already terribly missed.

The Hurleyville Sentinel staff extends its sincerest condolences to the entire Dollard family and to Peter’s colleagues at TCFD.

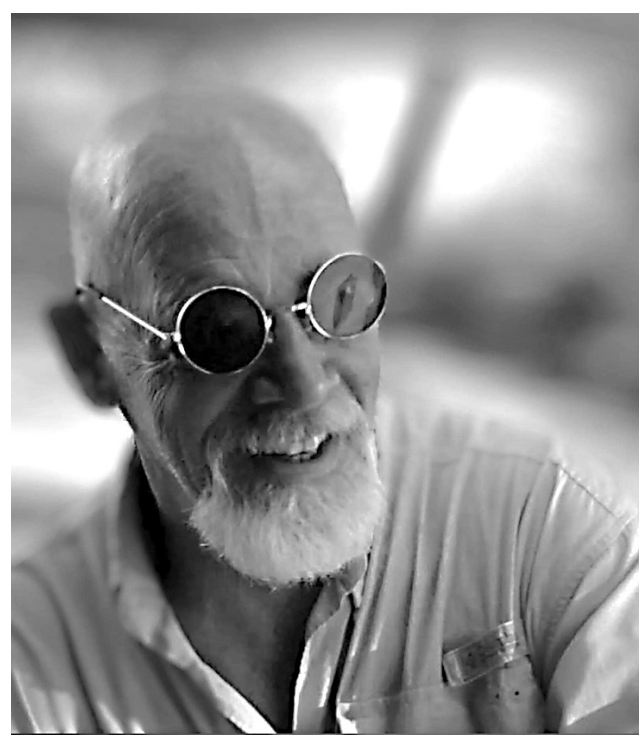


PHOTO PROVIDED

ABOUT OUR HEADLINE

The headline for this edition comes from a Walt Whitman poem from 1884 entitled “Election Day,” and refers to our main article this month, previewing two of the major political races to be determined on November 7.

Whitman writes about the importance, and the impact of America’s electoral process, noting that the “powerfulest” scene in the entire western world is not the great falls at Niagara, nor the huge rifts of canyons in Colorado, or America’s National Parks, but Election Day, or what he poetically refers to as “choosing day.”

The poem starts:

If I should need to name, O Western World, your powerfulest scene and show,

‘Twould not be you, Niagara—nor you, ye limitless prairies—nor your huge rifts of canyons, Colorado, Nor you, Yosemite—nor Yellowstone, with all its spasmodic geyser-loops ascending to the skies, appearing and disappearing,

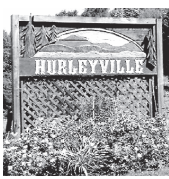
Nor Oregon’s white cones—nor Huron’s belt of mighty lakes—nor Mississippi’s stream:

—This seething hemisphere’s humanity, as now, I’d name—the still small voice vibrating—America’s choosing day, (The heart of it not in the chosen—the act itself the main, the quadriennial choosing.)...

Hopefully, our article this month will familiarize you with the issues and the candidates, and encourage you to vote on Election Day, November 7.

Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

The volunteers in Hurleyville-Sullivan First are always busy working on projects to make our hamlet even more beautiful. They'll soon be preparing our barrels, planters and gardens for winter.

Members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First are collaborating with the Hurleyville Hub on plans for the Scarecrow Festival on Sunday, October 8 and Holiday in Hurleyville on Saturday, December 2.

Please visit www.hurleyvillenyny.com for more information about Hurleyville-Sullivan First. You can also visit Hurleyville-Sullivan First on Facebook.

HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 delivers sermons online on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry at the church will be open on Thursday, October 19 and on Thursday, October 26 from 3 until 5 p.m.

Youngsters are invited to attend the next "Messy Church" on Saturday, October 14. The fun will begin at 5 p.m. An adult must accompany children taking part in the games and creative activities.

New socks, new underwear, diapers and gently used clothes are being collected for children in foster care. Volunteers at the church are also gathering new socks, new underwear, new pants and new t-shirts for local veterans. Please contact Cookie at 845-428-5871 or Goldie at 845-467-1641 for more information.

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

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

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Sullivan County Historical Society will present the 2023 "History Maker" and "History Preserver" awards at the Society's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner at the Rockland House in Roscoe on Sunday,

2nd Annual

Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival

Sunday Oct. 8
12 - 4pm

Scarecrow Contest

Kids Activities

Live Music

Vendors

Sidewalk Sales

Enter the Scarecrow Selfie Contest!
take selfies with all the
#hurleyvillescarecrows
and post on social media at
#hurleyvillescarecrows
Win prizes!

October 22. Award winners are honored for their preservation of Sullivan County history for the enlightenment of future generations, the stated mission of the Society.

The "History Maker" award will be presented to Judge Anthony Kane as an acknowledgement of his devotion and dedication to the American judicial system on both Sullivan County and New York State levels.

The "History Preserver" award will be presented to the Sullivan County Veterans Coalition in recognition of the non-profit group's support of veterans' needs and the preservation of the contributions of veterans.

The Museum will open at noon on Sunday, October 8 in time for the 2nd Annual Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival. A live musical performance featuring Little Sparrow with special guests, Henry Simon and Jay Brooks, will begin at 2 p.m. Corn hole games and ping pong can be enjoyed in the new game room in the auditorium before and after the concert. The musical performance and the new game room are courtesy of the Frederick Cook Society.

The historical and genealogical archives at the Sullivan County Museum are open for exploration on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

Guided tours of the museum are available at no charge. Please call 845-434-8044 to make a reservation.

Sullivan County memorabilia and books describing the history of Sullivan County are always available at the museum gift shop.

Anyone interested in genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can send an email to info@scnyhistory.org to find out about volunteering at the museum.

Visit www.scnyhistory.org to see the newly redesigned website for the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum. You can also visit the Sullivan County

Historical Society and Museum on Facebook.

The museum, located at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville, is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

The members of Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance (CHNA) are committed to their mission of sustainable development. The group continues to assess issues that must be considered before development can be deemed sustainable and worthy of approval....lack of water resources, damaging rain and sewer runoff, traffic intensification, loss of rural character and wildlife habitat depletion. Sustainable communities are places where people want to live and work, now and in the future.

The Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill threatens Hurleyville and the towns of Thompson and Fallsburg. Flawed planning decisions, faulty water quality testing and irresponsible environmental considerations can only lead to disaster in our community.

There has been increased well-related activity on the site of the Gan Eden development. However, the developer of the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill has not appeared before the Town of Thompson Planning Board since early 2022. The members of CHNA continue to meet regularly in order to be prepared for the next time the project is on the board's agenda.

Visit CHNA at www.columbiahill.org and on Facebook to learn how you can protect your environment and your community by demanding responsible development.

Poetry by Mimi

THE SEASON OF FALL

Our calendars tell us that the season of Fall has begun
A telltale sign of that is there are fewer hours of sun
There are also layers of leaves beginning to form a pile
Don't think of putting it off, our leaf-blowers will be used in a while

Now, let's think of how lucky we've been
To see the various leaves and their shapes
Both their forms and their colors can be a surprise
How they beautify our landscapes!

We can also put a smile on our faces
Because late October will be aglow
The leaves on the trees will perform
By putting on a great "leaf-peeping" show

There are many who visit our hamlet
In the Spring and Summer each year
Others come up only in Autumn
To see how intense the colors appear

The shades can be like looking at gold leaf
Or hues of ruby, garnet and rust
Look hard for the ones that are blood orange
Seeing this color is truly the best

When most of the deciduous trees are undressed
And nature does not seem so sublime
Be patient for Spring and Summer
And enjoy the green colors of firs and pines!

- Mimi
October, 2023

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



MICROBURSTS

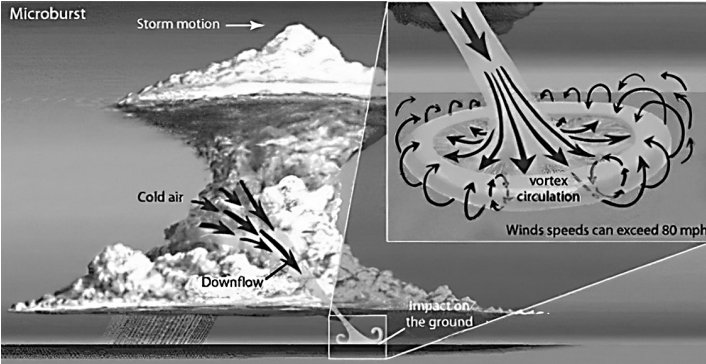


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, a microburst is a pattern of intense winds that descends from rain clouds, hits the ground, and fans out horizontally. Microbursts are short-lived, usually lasting from about five to 15 minutes, and they are relatively compact, usually affecting an area of from one to three kilometers, or one-half to two miles in diameter.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says that microbursts are often, but not always, associated with thunderstorms or strong rains.

By causing a change in wind direction or speed—a condition known as wind shear—microbursts create a particular hazard for airplanes during take-offs and landings, because the pilot is confronted with a rapid and unexpected shift from headwind to tailwind.

Microbursts are often confused with tornadoes, since both typically leave uprooted trees and other

types of property damage in their wake. However, microbursts do not feature the rotation that is necessary for a tornado.

One of the most damaging microbursts in Sullivan County in recent years occurred in May of 2018, when a storm with winds estimated at 95 miles per hour uprooted trees in an approximately 16 mile long path from Narrowsburg to Eldred to Forestburgh. There were no reported injuries or fatalities as the result of the microburst, but electrical power was disrupted for nearly a week in some areas.

John "the Weatherman" Simon writes a regular column on weather for *The Sentinel*. He lives in Hurleyville.

The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison



PHOTO BY JANE HARRISON

Don Cerce and Lil Scoles

guitar work, caught up in the whole, if I hadn't been seated next to the man of the hour, his father, DON CERCE. Every so often he'd say, "Wait 'til you hear the pickin' on this one!" while beaming with pride and more to Lil or BILL GRIESBECK, a great guitarist in his own right. OK, so I eavesdropped.

When DON, Sr. took the stage, it was easy to see where all the talent of the son comes from. At 87, put a guitar in that man's hands and a microphone anywhere near him and he becomes a young man again. He might have needed a bit of help getting up the few stairs to the Museum's stage, but those hands knew exactly what to do with those strings. His voice was just as

strong and clear as his son's and his daughter-in-law's. I was in awe.

DON CERCE will be inducted into the HALL OF HONOR at the NEW YORK STATE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME on October 29.

I was so happy that LIL and DON, Sr. got to reunite and reminisce after 50 years.

I came in too late, and missed MICKEY BARNETT's performance, who, as Lil found out, also knew her father.

Both Dons have the best, groan worthy "dad jokes."

I don't know how I end up in these situations, I really don't, but I will be in Cortland on October 29.

Happy Halloween everyone! Be well, stay safe.

Until next time...

HPAC HOSTS INDIGIGENOUS WOMEN'S VOICES SERIES

HURLEYVILLE — "Teaching Freedom" is the theme for the fourth annual Indigenous Women's Voices Series at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre on Saturday, October 14.

Events are scheduled from 12 noon to 5 p.m. that day at HPAC.

Highlights of the event include an Eco Acres Fiber Arts Workshop at 12 noon, in which participants can learn cordage-making techniques using natural materials in a hands-on workshop led by survivalist and educator Stephen Kraska.

The critically acclaimed, Emmy Award winning documentary film, "Dawnland," directed by Adam Mazo and Ben Pender-Cudlip, will be screened in the cinema at 3 p.m. The film tackles the serious themes of stolen children and cultural survival.

In a 4:30 p.m. lecture,

mother, visionary, land protector, master seamstress, artist and activist Kaweniiosta Jock reflects on the legacy and vision of the Akwesasne Freedom School, an institution that has been fostering full Mohawk immersion education since its inception in 1985.

The Indigenous Women's Voices Series is made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. The Indigenous Sci-Fi Film Series is made possible with funding from a Sullivan County Arts & Heritage Grant, funded by the Sullivan County Legislature and administered by Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

For more information visit the HPAC website, hurleyvillesrtscentre.org.

BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY



Thursday, October 19th
Thursday, October 26th

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Hurleyville United Methodist Church
263 Main Street
Hurleyville

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

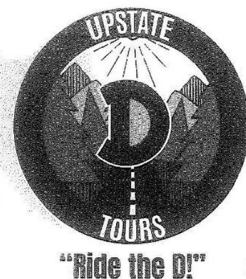
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MEET KADEIDRA DEAS

AN INTERN AT THE HURLEYVILLE GENERAL STORE, AND SO MUCH MORE

by Lily Barrish

HURLEYVILLE — Kadeidra Deas moved to Hurleyville in 2019, and has lived in the Barefoot House, owned by The Center for Discovery, since then. Six residents reside there.

The Barefoot House is part of The Neighborhood, which consists of five different resident homes. Everyone in Ms. Deas's house spends a lot of time together. During the week they eat breakfast and dinner together. Recently they all went to the Rainbow Festival in Hurleyville, the Bagel Festival in Monticello and SplashDown Beach Waterpark in Fishkill.

Ms. Deas likes keeping busy. It was very exciting for her when she secured an internship at the Hurleyville General Store over

the summer. It was all of her own doing. First Ms. Deas asked her director about the opportunity, and once it was approved, they approached Denise Lombardi, the owner of HGS. Ms. Lombardi couldn't say yes fast enough—she was thrilled to add Ms. Deas to her staff.

"It is impossible to express how much it means to us that Kadeidra chose the HGS for her internship. We must be doing something right to have the privilege of working with such an incredible young woman. Her joie de vivre, her dedication to and outwardly visible enjoyment of her job truly helps me to keep going. With significant unforeseen challenges, I've been working six to seven days a week for almost four years to build this inclusive business in addition to my

numerous volunteer and advocacy roles. Kadeidra helps me recharge my battery in so many ways, such as sourcing of sassy new products, managing the grocery and grab-and-go inventories, assisting customers, promoting the coffee bar on social media, etc. We simply cannot say thank you enough to Kadeidra for choosing us," Ms. Lombardi said.

Before COVID, Ms. Deas worked at the now shuttered Hurleyville Market which happened to be at the same location as the HGS. On Monday and Wednesday mornings, she shows up at the HGS with a big smile and enthusiasm to get what needs to be done. She loves helping Ms. Lombardi run the store, is happy interacting with people, and enjoys seeing the dogs that come through the door. She plans



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH
Kadeidra Deas ordering inventory at the Hurleyville General Store.

to continue working at the HGS all year long. Keep an eye out for "Kadeidra's Picks."

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, she works at the café at the Carrus Institute, managing the register at lunchtime. On Fridays, she goes to Fiber on Main, and helps Rachel Carrigan with sewing and knitting. Then on Saturdays, she frequents concerts that The Center for Discovery hosts at the Big Barn with local talent.

Ms. Deas also dances at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre. Currently they are preparing for the Christmas show debuting on the first Saturday in December. Once a week she goes on the Hurleyville Rail Trail with a behavior specialist, Stephanie Parsons, who brings along the canine, Hurley.

When she's not work-

ing, her favorite pastimes are going on the Rail Trail, attending movies at the HPAC, where she orders Twizzlers each time, and watching her favorite shows on Netflix—one of her latest binges was Madame Secretary. She also participates in 5K races, such as the Rhulen Rock Hill Run & Ramble held in June. Last fall, she was the proud winner of the Hurleyville Scarecrow Selfie Raffle. With almost 60 entries, it was quite the ac-

complishment.

When asked if she'd met anyone particularly interesting in Hurleyville, she didn't hesitate to say Ralph Burger. Her reason was, "not everyone says hello to us, but Ralph always talks to us." The Sentinel did a profile of Mr. Burger in March, 2023.

Ms. Deas sees herself staying in Hurleyville forever. Stop on by the Hurleyville General Store and say hi to her. She swears by the iced coffee there.

New Game Room, Music at Museum

Part of Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival

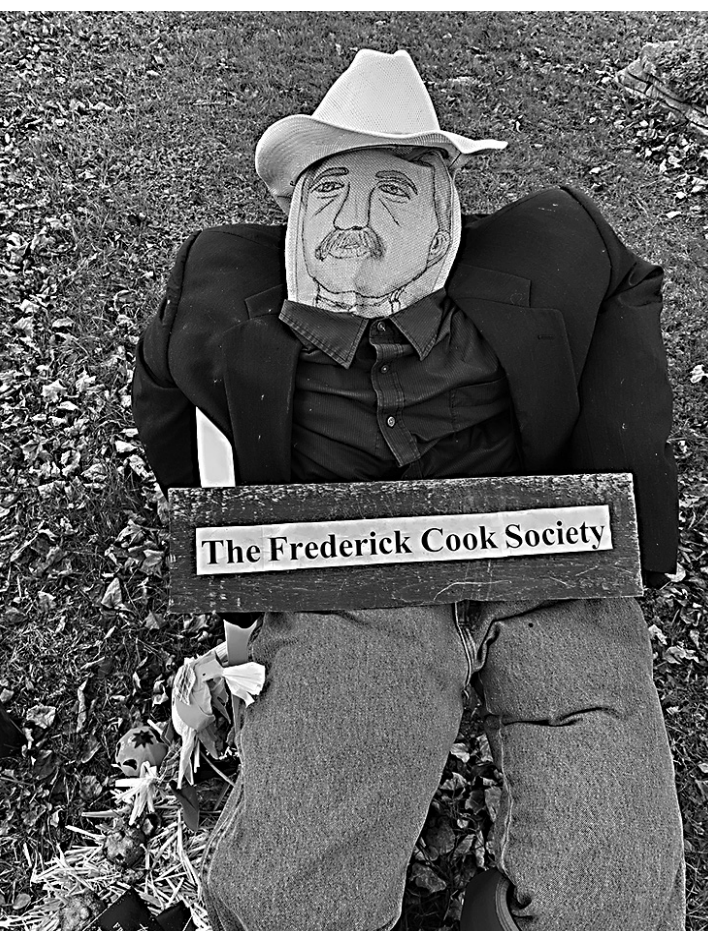


PHOTO PROVIDED

HURLEYVILLE — Stop by the Sullivan County Museum on Sunday afternoon, October 8, to catch live music with local band Little Sparrow during the Hurleyville Scarecrow Festival!

Joined by special guests Henry Simon and Jay Brooks, Little Sparrow and their unique multi-generational band have quickly become local favorites. Simon is a guitarist and a senior at Sullivan West High School, and band members Aldo Troiani and Carol Smith are also seniors (just not the high school kind). Bassist Jay Brooks is a retired art teacher from Monticello High School. They share a love of the music of Neil Young, Jerry Garcia and the songs of the Woodstock generation.

The Museum will open at noon on Sunday, and the music begins at 2 p.m. Come early and enjoy the new game room in the Mu-

seum's auditorium, which now has cornhole boards and a ping-pong table! Museum tours and refreshments will also be available and donations are welcome.

Call the Museum for more info at 845-434-8044.

And while you're in town, wander down to the Main Street Festival area, which will include vendors, kids' activities, live music, sidewalk sales, and of course, scarecrows! Take a selfie with all the scarecrows around town and enter to win a prize. Festival hours are from 12 to 4 p.m.

The Museum is located at 265 Main Street, Hurleyville. The concert and game room at the Museum is brought to you courtesy of the Frederick Cook Society, which maintains an arctic photography gallery and a research library there. For information about the Frederick Cook Society, visit www.frederickcook-polar.org.

Lisa McAdoo is Fallsburg CSD's Latest STAR Award Recipient

FALLSBURG — On September 20, the Fallsburg Central School District Board of Education honored Lisa McAdoo as its newest STAR award recipient. The STAR award recognizes students and staff members who were caught making a phenomenal difference in someone's life. STAR stands for Staff/Teacher Award Recipient.

Ms. McAdoo, a Character Education Coordinator for the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School for the last seven years, has left more than a positive impact on the district. Students and staff alike consider her a role model, mentor, and advocate for the welfare of others. Her passionate approach to education continues to motivate students to excel

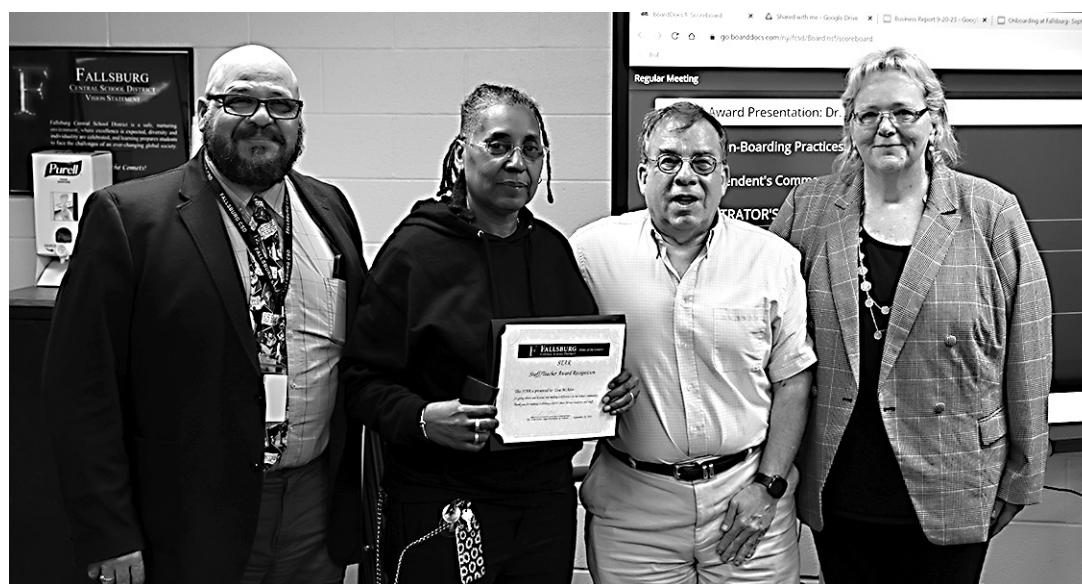


PHOTO PROVIDED

Lisa McAdoo (second from left) accepts her Star award from FCSD Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz (left), Board of Education president Michael Weiner (second from right) and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Sally Sharkey (right).

far beyond what they could imagine.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, gave his remarks on Ms. McAdoo (who was nom-

inated for this special honor by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Sally Sharkey). "Lisa has demonstrated an unparalleled dedication to the students here at Fallsburg. Her kindness and compassion create an environment where students feel valued, supported, and empowered to excel. She consistent-

ly goes above and beyond to ensure that a student's unique needs are met and that students feel valued and respected. Whether it's providing additional help to struggling students or reaching out when students need extra emotional support, Lisa's approach inspires growth in the individuals she comes in contact with."

HPAC THIS FALL!

Indigenous Women's Voices Series: Teaching Freedom

OCTOBER 14TH EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

12:00pm
WORKSHOP: ECO ACRES FIBER ARTS

3:00pm
FILM: DAWNLAND

4:30pm
LECTURE: AKWESASNE FREEDOM SCHOOL

LIVE PUBLIC REHEARSAL

HALF LIFE

OCTOBER 22

Half Life is a full-length drama by John Mighton, which asks the question: "What shines through when memory fades away?"

IN THE CINEMA

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE
SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 8

Senior Cinema Social Presents

BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER
OCTOBER 12

NIGHT RAIDERS
OCTOBER 13, 6PM

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Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

The thunderstorm on the night of September 7 brought down the upper half of a tree near our cottage. It scythed across our neighbor's garden, prematurely harvesting the summer's crop and toppling the fence. A power line, snagged in the fork between trunk and branch, sagged precariously low. The next day, as people assessed the local damage, I overheard on a supermarket checkout line: "We were scared to look outside this morning. The garden's mostly trashed, but the tomatoes might be okay."

There's a downward drift to autumn; things are brought low, primed to depart. According to the Greek myth, the season begins not with the equinox but with Persephone's descent into the Underworld, a movement that mirrors the drift of the season. When Persephone goes under, her mother, Demeter, the goddess of the harvest, mourns her daughter's loss, and the Earth grows cold and infertile for half the year, until Persephone returns in spring, initiating a new season of growth.

"Now it is autumn and the falling fruit/and the long journey towards oblivion..." — D. H. Lawrence wrote these words in a notebook dated October 1929, the last autumn of his life. He was thinking about mortality, of course, and of Persephone. In the autumnal fruits of medlars and sorb-apples, Lawrence caught an "exquisite odour of leave-taking" that evoked "the winding, leaf-clogged, silent lanes of hell" — Persephone's path, crossed with leaves falling from earthly trees.

The leaves around the cottage are dropping early this year, before they've turned color. The branches of the lone apple tree across the yard bend with new fruit. Our beloved local orchard has posted notice: no picking this season, due to a few hours of freezing temperatures in May that nipped the crop in the literal bud.

In this particular orchard, the apples grow on cuttings that trail along trellis-like fencing, giving the place the feel of a vineyard. Instead of picking overhead, from the height of branches, you pick low, knee-level to shoulder height, along rows of fruiting vines laden with heirloom varieties you'd be hard-pressed to find elsewhere.

Some things come down by virtue of their own ripeness and weight; some are brought down by unanticipated force. Persephone's descent is also an abduction, a type of violence. In Louise Glück's suite of Persephone poems, Persephone looks back on summer as "balm after violence" as she prepares to descend anew: "This is the light of autumn, not the light of spring./The light of autumn: *you will not be spared.*" Departure, the long journey towards oblivion, is her destiny, as certain as the Earth turns.

Against the prospect of oblivion, we're storing up provisions for the winter, cooking corn and tomatoes and preserving them for the months ahead. It's a comforting activity, filling the freezer with jars of the red and yellow fare, a frozen cornucopia. One longs for assurance, after all, that things will end well, that Persephone will return, that the loss of gardens to storms and of crops to weather, and all the leave-takings of autumn, will have compensatory restorations.

There's harvest still to come in October — the late root vegetables, squash and pumpkin; the succession of apples rolling into November; the rich wintry kale. Our neighbors kept some produce growing in pots on their porch, which survived September's big storm. The tomatoes, it turns out, are okay.

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

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From the Firehouse

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



The Sullivan County Bureau of Fire wants you to know
Fire Prevention Week OCT. 8th—14th
“COOKING SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU”



The Hurleyville Fire Department is always looking for help, to fight fire or support those that do. We even supply all the gear and provide all the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

The fire department traveled to Roscoe where the Roscoe Fire Department hosted the 94th Annual Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighter’s Parade. It was a beautiful sunny day for a parade. The Hurleyville Fire Department walked away with three trophies: Best appearing small company in marching, 2nd best appearing apparatus (11-11), and best appearing Firematic color guard.

Countless hours were spent in the firehouse getting 11-11 ready for the parade, and it paid off. As for the color guard, I was extremely proud to carry the American flag guarded by Bobby DeGraw and my son, Austin.

Coming up the week of October 8-14 is Fire Prevention Week. This year’s theme is “Cooking Safety Starts With You.” The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove. With that in mind here are some safety hints to consider:

“Cook with Caution”

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don’t use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove or stovetop.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains away from your stovetop.

(grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire:

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire:
- **Just get out!** When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- **CALL 9-1-1** or the local emergency number from outside the home.

Even though we promote fire prevention this week, you should practice Fire Prevention year-round.

NOW is the time to get your heating equipment cleaned and ready for the heating season.

On October 10, I will be traveling to the 26th Annual Fallen Firefighter’s Memorial Ceremony at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany. The names of 29 Line-of-Duty Deaths (LODD) from across New York State for the year 2022 have been added to the wall, and will be unveiled. The name of Posthumous-Promoted-to-Chief of the Forestburgh Fire Department, Chief William “Billy” “Steinberg” will be unveiled.

Billy was a student of mine when I taught in Monticello. Billy’s death was at an arson fire in Monticello on January 15, 2022. The arsonist had set two previous fires that week, was caught by great detective and fire investigation work, only to be let go to start the third fire where Billy lost his life doing what he loved, being a firefighter. I remember Billy’s funeral as if it were yesterday. I gave the order to hundreds of firefighters lining Broadway in Monticello, “**Present! Arms!**” as Billy took his final ride on Forestburgh’s antique firetruck to St. Peter’s Church through the “Sea of Blue.” Rest in Peace my friend.

Be Safe Out There.

COUNTY FINANCIAL SCORE BEST EVER

Reaches Best-Ever Scores in Annual Fiscal Stress Rankings

MONTICELLO-- The New York State Comptroller’s Office has designated Sullivan County free of fiscal stress, with the County’s finances continuing to be in the best shape since reporting began.

‘No Designation’ Is the Best Designation

The Comptroller’s Office just released its 2022 Fiscal Stress rankings for municipalities Statewide, based on the annual financial reports submitted to the Office. Sullivan County scored better than it ever has, once again earning the best rank of “No Designation” (meaning there are no indications of the County being susceptible to fiscal stress at this time).

Municipalities receive a fiscal score and an environmental score. Based on the fiscal score, the system assigns a municipality to one of three categories of stress or to the “No Designation” category if its score doesn’t meet the threshold of stress. The three categories of stress are “Significant Fiscal Stress,” “Moderate Fiscal Stress” and “Susceptible to Fiscal Stress.”

“This latest report reaffirms that we continue to maintain County government’s fiscal stability,” Sullivan County Manager Josh Potoske said. “And for the third year in a row, we also received ‘No Designation’ for environmental stress, meaning prospects are excellent for the County continuing that stability.”

Another Significant Improvement in Rank

In 2019, Sullivan earned a Fiscal Stress score of 42.1 points. That improved to 35.8 in 2020 (a lower score indicating better finances), then to 13.3 in 2021 and now dropping to a best-ever 3.3 points.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Stress score dropped from 30 in 2019 to 23.3 points in 2020, then 20 for 2021, and now stands at its own best-ever of 13.3 points. Unlike Fiscal Stress, the data used to create the Environmental Stress score — population changes, poverty levels, tax base, unemployment rates, state/federal aid and other items — represents issues that are not fully within the County’s control.

“Sullivan County was

among the top fiscal performers in all of New York State in 2022,” noted County Treasurer Nancy Buck. “We nearly had a perfect score of 0 for Fiscal Stress, the only reason being that we had minor deficit in our 2020 budget (and none since). Everything else — how we managed our fund balance and cash flow, the state of our cash ratios, our complete lack of short-term debt, and rising revenues — put us in the top percentile Statewide.”

Legislators Weigh In

“Taxpayers demand a Legislature that understands their needs and, just as importantly, their limits,” Legislature Chairman Robert A. Doherty remarked. “The dollars they give us must be managed in a way that benefits them, not harms them. I think this report shows we’ve turned this County around, even in the wake of some pretty tough times. And we plan to continue on this fiscally sustainable path, to the benefit of taxpayers.”

“Long before this Legislature was in place, I was part of a team of legislators that kept our focus on proper use of taxpayers’ monies and competitive compensation for employees, all while managing a number of large projects, like the new Jail/Patrol Offices, and keeping afloat important services, like the Care Center,” said District 2 Legislator and former Legislature Vice Chair Nadia Rajsz. “While it’s good that we continue to do well financially, we need to provide better services to those who need them most in Sullivan County.”

“Last year saw amazing revenue growth in the County, and this year we may see even more incredible gains,” current Vice Chair and District 3 Legislator Mike Brooks observed. “I’m confident that, with the very experienced management team we currently have in place, we’ll ensure taxpayers’ funds are spent prudently and properly.”

“These latest State rankings prove we’re moving in the right direction,” added District 4 Legislator Nick Salomone. “I’ll continue to keep a watchful eye on our expenditures and also continue to encourage a fiscally conservative, future-oriented approach to

budgeting.”

“Along with my fellow legislators, I give credit to Josh, Nancy and the rest of our County personnel. They keep taxpayers in mind by safeguarding public funds and using them where appropriate,” said District 5 Legislator and Management & Budget Committee Chair George Conklin. “This ranking dramatically illustrates that point.”

“This upward trend began a while ago, interrupted briefly by the COVID pandemic,” noted District 6 Legislator and former Chairman Luis Alvarez. “I am proud to have been a part of that upward movement for my entire time on the Legislature, and I thank Nancy, Josh and their teams for working with me and my colleagues to craft responsible budgets that have provided so much for the people of Sullivan County.”

“I’ve been a member of several Legislatures that have aimed to keep taxpayers first, recognizing that whether it’s grants, sales and room taxes, or fees, it’s all coming out of their pockets,” said District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello. “So I’ll continue keeping a close eye on how we’re spending their money.”

“Economic development decisions by past Legislatures have made significant differences in our room and sales tax revenues, which are largely responsible for this good news about our fiscal picture,” explained District 8 Legislator Ira Steingart. “Our good planning laid the foundation on which the current Legislature sits, and I’m proud to have been a part of that years-long effort.”

“Our current State ranking is a reflection of the sound fiscal positions this Legislature has taken over the past three years,” remarked District 9 Legislator Alan Sorensen. “I am beyond pleased to be ending my tenure as a legislator on this extraordinarily positive note.”

To access the Comptroller’s reports for the County and other municipalities and school districts, visit www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/index.htm.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburg

COMPILED BY Sullivan County Historian John Conway

October 17, 1941 Success Predicted for Strong G.O.P. County Ticket

Sullivan County residents from the Ulster line to the Delaware River and from Rockland to Bloomingburg are showing unmistakable enthusiasm for the Republican county ticket, it was revealed over the week-end as candidates ended the first week of intensive campaigning and took time off to sum-up the results of the initial part of their tour.

For the office of Sheriff, John R. Baldwin, of Livingston Manor, is meeting with general approval. Capable, honest, experienced in business and in public office, the Republican candidate is recognized throughout the county as one of the best known and best qualified men to handle the important post at Monticello. Mr. Baldwin, it will be recalled, lost the election by a mere 46 votes in 1935 — and he and his friends are determined that he will go over the top in a big way in this year’s campaign.

J. Bruce Lindsley’s re-election to the office of County Clerk is being freely admitted in opposition circles. An able campaigner who is seen and known by his constituents the year around, Mr. Lindsley is finding Republican sentiment at high pitch and expresses the opinion that the entire G.O.P. ticket is going to meet with a hearty response on the part of the voters. Mr. Lindsley’s qualifications for County Clerk need no expounding, the efficient manner in which he has conducted the office indicating more plainly than could words that the multitude of details and the high standards of accuracy demanded by the position are being handled with entire satisfaction.

October 31, 1941 A Valuable Public Servant for Both Town and County

Largely responsible for the adoption of the self-insurance plan for Sullivan County in 1939 which replaced the state compensation system previously used, Arch B. Rosenstrauss during his last term as Supervisor of the Town of Fallsburg, can be credited with saving the taxpayers of the county more than \$40,000



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Hyman E. Mintz

in the 1939-1940 and 1940-1941 period on that one measure alone. This is only one of the many valuable services he has rendered.

Seeking re-election as Supervisor of the Town of Fallsburg on an independent ticket and with the endorsement of the Republican Party, Arch Rosenstrauss unquestionably deserves return to the office he has handled so well in the past.

Hyman Mintz Well-Qualified for Office of Tax Collector

Hyman E. Mintz, the Republican candidate for Tax Collector of the Town of Fallsburg, well deserves this office.

As a child living in South Fallsburg, he attended the South Fallsburg Grade School and Monticello High School. After graduation, he attended Cornell University where he earned the degree of B.A. He then enrolled in the Cornell University Law School and was graduated with an L.L.B. degree. His clerkship was served for a period of two years in the prominent law offices of Watts, Oakes and Bright at Middletown and in the office of Ellsworth Baker of Monticello.

Mr. Mintz, immediately upon his return from college, took an active interest in the civic and community affairs of the Town of Fallsburg. He joined the South Fallsburg Fire Department and ably served as its President for a period of three years. He was one of the founders of the Fallsburg Community Center and had been a member of the Board of Directors of the Center since it was organized.

The candidate for Tax Collector has served on the Board of Directors of the Monticello Hospital for the past five years and has given much of his effort toward the progress of that institution. He is also

a member the Board of Directors of the South Fallsburg Hebrew Association.

During the past four years when he served as a member of the Town Board of the Town of Fallsburg, Mr. Mintz has had the opportunity to acquaint himself with the problems of the taxpayers and residents of the town and has given unsparingly of his time and assistance in efficiently and justly solving their problems.

Mr. Mintz has the education, the business experience, the knowledge and honesty so necessary in carrying out the duties of Tax collector. Above all, his pleasant and courteous manner, together with the foregoing qualifications, ably fit him for your choice as Tax Collector of the Town of Fallsburg.

Your vote for Hyman E. Mintz will place in office a man who is qualified and will efficiently serve you.

October, 2019 County Court Judge, County Clerk Positions Open

The 2019 election in Sullivan County features races for all nine seats on the County Legislature, myriad town races including town supervisors, and two county-wide races of great interest, both brought about by the retirement of incumbents.

Sullivan County Clerk Daniel L. Briggs is retiring at the end of the year, deciding not to seek re-election after 12 years in the office. Former Sullivan County Legislator and ex-Monticello Village Manager David Sager of Jeffersonville is running on the Democratic line, while Deputy County Clerk Russell Reeves, a councilman in the Town of Liberty and former acting Supervisor of the town, is the Republican candidate.

Sullivan County Court Judge Frank LaBuda is also retiring at the end of the year, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 for judges in New York State. Longtime Sullivan County District Attorney Jim Farrell is the Republican candidate in that race, while Mamakating attorney and Town Justice Cynthia Dolan is the Democrat. County Court judges serve ten-year terms.

Bold Gold Media Recognized with Four NYSBA Serving New York Awards

MONTICELLO — On Wednesday, September 20, Bold Gold Media was recognized by the New York State Broadcasters Association with four “Serving New York” Awards, which annually recognize the extraordinary efforts of New York State’s broadcasters in serving the public interest every day.

Bold Gold’s 98.3 WSUL was recognized for the 98.3 WSUL Heart-A-Thon, which celebrated its 45th Anniversary in February of this year, and raised over \$103,000 for prevention, education, and treatment of heart disease in the Sullivan Catskills. To date almost \$3,000,000 has been raised to fight

heart disease locally, as a result of this legacy community event.

WVOS-AM was recognized for its Diamond Anniversary celebrated in September of 2022. Sullivan County’s first radio station WVOS, known as the Voice of Sullivan, began broadcasting at 1240 AM on September 26, 1947. Bold Gold commemorated this milestone by working with the Sullivan County Historical Society to create a special WVOS exhibit in the Sullivan County Museum.

Thunder 102 was recognized for the Ciliberto & Friends Saving Friends campaign in partnership with Sullivan County Public Health. The goal of

this campaign was to raise awareness about the local Opioid Epidemic, and the benefits of having people in the community Narcan trained in an effort to save lives. Over twenty businesses and organizations pledged to host a Narcan training, easily exceeding the 102-participant training goal.

Catskills News Talk 92.5 & 94.9 was recognized for the legacy local talk show Ciliberto & Friends. This show has provided lighthearted talk and public service, as well as local news and information, for over fifteen years. Ciliberto & Friends supports countless community organizations and fundraisers. With the

growth of the popularity of Ciliberto & Friends, it transitioned to becoming the anchor live morning show as Bold Gold Media launched a brand new talk format in the market called Catskills News Talk, resurrecting Sullivan Counties first radio station 1240 AM.

“We believe that the fabric of local radio is to support our community, and we are honored to do that every day on all four of our local radio stations. It is icing on the cake, and an incredible honor to be recognized by the New York State Broadcasters Association for this work,” Bold Gold Media NY General Manager Dawn Ciorciari said.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Sullivan County’s Deputy Director of Public Health, Jill Hubert-Simon (left), and Bold Gold Media’s Paul Ciliberto and Dawn Ciorciari with the awards.



"H" IS FOR HALLOWEEN

An Original Short Story by Jack Robbin

In recognition of Halloween, we revisit this story about Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly, originally published in October of 2019. In this story, Bronco investigates a strange occurrence at the Smith Hill Cut on the O&W Railway tracks in Hurleyville on Halloween in 1933.

When you're a Constable like me, you learn to dread Halloween. It's not the alleged hauntings or the trick-or-treating that makes it so difficult, it's the fact that otherwise good kids often use the occasion as an excuse for bad behavior, doing things they typically would never think about doing. And because they are otherwise good kids, no one wants to see them in trouble, at least of all me.

About 9 o'clock on Halloween night in 1933, I was walking along Main Street in Hurleyville, marveling at how quiet the evening had been when I heard a commotion from down near the train station. I was only a hundred yards or so away and quickly made my way over to see what was going on.

Upon arrival, I found a group of about ten young kids, probably ranging in

age from nine to twelve, talking excitedly and all at once to Caleb Will, the O&W's nightshift station master.

"I sure am happy to see you, Bronco," Caleb greeted me as soon as I was in sight of the crowd gathered in front of the station. "I don't know what to do with these kids."

I surveyed the group of kids, recognizing most of the faces. They were mostly boys, though I did see a couple of young girls among them.

"What's going on, kids?"

The question was greeted with an indecipherable cacophony of voices, so I decided to take a different tact.

"All right, settle down!" I said loudly. "Jimmy, let's start with you. Why don't you tell me what this is all about?"

Jimmy Smythe was the tallest kid in the group, and seemed to be the leader.

"It's the damndest thing I ever saw," Jimmy said excitedly, blushing when he realized he had uttered a curse word in front of an authority figure.

"We were out trick-or-treating, not causing a bit of trouble, when we heard some of the older kids saying they



had seen an actual ghost

down by the Smith Hill Cut. They were all scared and excited. We weren't afraid, just curious, so we decided to walk down there and see for ourselves. We got just about to where the rock walls are and it's pitch black right in there, and then we started to hear really strange noises, like chains rattling around, and all of a sudden a big white thing comes out of nowhere, moaning and floating toward us! It was a real ghost, no fooling! So we all ran back here. It wasn't that I was scared, Constable

Kelly, I just wanted to warn everyone else."

"Yeah," some of the other kids echoed more or less in unison. "We weren't scared, we just wanted to warn everyone!"

"Well, that was very commendable," I said. "You've told the right person, so I'll take a walk down there and see what I can find. How does that sound?"

The kids all responded at once, talking excitedly.

"Make sure you take your gun, Constable!" Jimmy said.

"I always have my gun,

Jimmy. But I'm not sure that will be much help if it is really a ghost. You kids wait right here, and I'll go take a look."

I took Caleb Will aside and asked him to make sure the kids stayed put while I took a walk down the railroad tracks. Although I was convinced whatever they saw was the result of their imaginations running wild, the last thing I needed was a bunch of excited kids tagging along.

I walked east along the tracks, pausing to light my lantern once I got away from

the muted lights of a mostly deserted Main Street. The Smith Hill Cut was less than a quarter-of-a-mile down the tracks and my long strides got me there pretty quickly. As expected, I heard no sounds, and saw no apparition, but decided to look around a bit before returning to the train station with the news that there was nothing to see.

I walked along the tracks, moving my lantern from side to side as I did so, trying to see if there was anything to see alongside the rails. I was just a few feet from the walls

of the cut when I spotted something I couldn't quite make out lying in a heap just off to the side of the tracks. I walked over to get a better look, quickly seeing that it was a jacket.

I picked it up and examined it as best I could in the dim light of the lantern. Not that I needed much light to see that it was a familiar looking blue jacket, one with a big bright orange "H" sewn onto the front. It was a letterman's jacket from the Hurleyville High School basketball team, and there weren't that many of them around town. Only a few kids these days could afford a jacket to sew their letter on, so that narrowed it down quite a lot. A look at the tag in the collar of the jacket narrowed it down even more. The name "Leo" was written clearly on the tag.

I slung the jacket over my shoulder and walked back toward town, but instead of returning right away to the train station, I made a detour through the brush to a tidy little house just off Main Street.

My knock on the door was quickly answered, and I asked if Leo was at home. In less than a minute the teenager was standing sheepish-

ly in front of me. I held out the jacket.

"So let me guess," I said. "You and your friends thought you'd have a little fun with the younger kids, so you set up a 'haunting' by the rock cut, and arranged for them to walk down there so you could scare them. I think you left something behind."

"You're right, Constable Kelly," Leo replied nervously. "But that's only part of the story. We had concocted all these plans to scare the kids, all right, but we never got the chance. Just before they got to where we were hiding, we heard an awful racket and then we saw a wisp of white, moving fast and making the most God-awful groans. We all ran as fast as we could. While we were waiting there for the kids, my girlfriend had said she was getting cold, so I put my jacket over her shoulders. She told me she dropped it when we ran, and I sure wasn't going back there to get it."

The fictional adventures of local author Jack Robbin's character, Constable Bronco Kelly, appear from time to time in The Hurleyville Sentinel. Happy Halloween everyone!

HAUNTED HISTORY LANTERN TOUR AT FORT DELAWARE

NARROWSBURG — Cushtunk resident Joseph Skinner is believed to be the first European murdered in the Upper Delaware River Valley, and that 18th century crime has never been solved. In fact, there was enough blood spilled in the Valley in the years leading up to and during the Revolutionary War that there are bound to be a few spirits roaming about, even to this day.

The unanswered question of who killed Joseph Skinner, and other colonial era ghost stories will be the focal point of an evening of family-oriented fun at the Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg on Saturday, October 14 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The Haunted History Lantern Tour will feature guided tours of the Fort by lantern light, with various period attired interpreters relating ghost stories with a local flavor. There will also be musical entertainment provided by special



PHOTO PROVIDED

guests The River Ramblers, who will perform around the campfire. Admission is \$10 per person, and \$25 per family of up to four children and adults. Refreshments will also be available for purchase.

The Haunted History Lantern Tour is a fundraiser for The Delaware Company, a non-profit history

education group dedicated to supporting and promoting the history and historic landmarks of the Upper Delaware River valley and beyond.

The event will be held even if there are intermittent showers. If the rain is heavy or steady, the event will be cancelled. Announcements will be made

on The Delaware Company and Fort Delaware Museum Facebook pages.

Those attending may wish to bring their own flashlights, although there will be Fort Delaware flashlights available to purchase with all proceeds going toward 2024 programming at the Fort.

FCSD Finishes Second in Sullivan 180 Grant Prize Contest

FALLSBURG — On September 21, the Fallsburg Central School District was awarded \$51,000 in grant prize monies at the Sullivan 180 Empowering a Healthier Generation Celebration at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

Fallsburg's Benjamin Cosor Elementary School was among five schools in Sullivan County that participated in the Empowering a Healthier Generation Competition. Each school was required to present their wellness initiatives to a group of objective judges. The top grant awards were for \$75,000 and \$50,000.

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School was named the recipient of the \$50,000 grant prize. Additionally, the district was the recipient of the \$500 Nutrition Turtle Award, sponsored by Foster Supply Hospitality, and the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School



PHOTO PROVIDED

FCSD Athletic Director Amanda Stevens, Elementary teacher Stacy Strassburg, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ivan Katz, Board of Education President Michael Weiner, and Elementary Principal Mary Kate Steinhour (l to r) holding up grant prize checks.

was presented with the \$500 Collaborator Turtle Award, sponsored by Zuffall Family Foundation.

The prize money is intended to be spent on improving the outdoor class-

room spaces and various wellness programs at Benjamin Cosor Elementary School. Dr. Ivan Katz, Superintendent of the Fallsburg Central School District, was beaming

with pride when he stated, "This is a very proud moment in Fallsburg Central School District history and it is a testament to the hard work and long-time efforts of our school community."

RADIO CATSKILL RECEIVES AWARDS

LIBERTY — WJFF, Radio Catskill collected five awards from The New York State Broadcasters Association (NYSBA) at the 57th Annual Awards for Excellence in Broadcasting ceremony in Binghamton, NY on September 20.

The station won in the following categories:

- Best Coverage of Spot News: "Roe V Wade Reaction," Patricio Robayo, Producer

bayo, Producer

- Best Feature Story: "The Local Edition: Hope Not Handcuffs," Patricio Robayo, Producer
- Best Interview: "Ukraine - One Year Later," Patricio Robayo, Producer
- Best Election Coverage: "Election 2022," Jason Dole and Patricio Robayo, Producers
- Serving NY Award:



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

WJFF Radio General Manager Tim Bruno

"Why Vote?" - NAACP/Radio Catskill Community Forum, Jason Dole and Patricio Robayo, Producers

The Annual "Excellence in Broadcasting" Awards competition encourages

professional performance and recognizes outstanding achievement among radio and television stations in New York State.

The "Serving New York" Awards recognize the extraordinary efforts of New York State's broadcasters in serving the public interest every day.

"Our mission is to serve our listeners with meaningful local news and information every day. We are very honored for this recognition from the New York State Broadcasters Association and I am extremely proud of Patricio and Jason for their selfless dedication to our community," said Tim Bruno, Radio Catskill General Manager.

MONTICELLO-- The Kiwanis Club of Monticello is once more making their Annual Bernie Shore/Rose Raimond Fundraising Dinner available at a time of one's choosing from Yanni's Café on Pleasant Street in Monticello. Tickets are \$25 each,

which entitles the buyer to dinner platter choices of Hot Open Roast Beef, Grilled Chicken or Gyro Platter or Vegetarian Crepe. Included are choices of soup or salad as well as two side dishes. Dinners can be socially distant "eat in" or "take out"

at the window by ordering ahead.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are valid currently until December 31, 2023. They are available by contacting a Monticello Kiwanis member or by mailing a check made out to Kiwanis Club of Monticello, P.O. Box 413, Monticello, NY 12701.

All proceeds benefit charitable projects in the community helping the Kiwanis Club fulfill their mission of "serving the children of the world, one child and one community at a time."

For further information on obtaining tickets, contact Marvin Rappaport at 845-701-1655.

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SENTINEL SPORTS



STREAKING COMETS

FALLSBURG STARTS GRID SEASON 3-0 BEFORE DROPPING ONE

by Win Hadley

FALLSBURG — The Fallsburg Comets started out the 2023 high school football season with a three game winning streak, outscoring their opponents by 114-64. Game number four, however, ended with the Comets on the short end of a 32-16 score at conference

foe Sullivan West.

With that loss, Fallsburg dropped to 3-1 on the season, while the Bulldogs improved to 4-0.

Fallsburg began the season with a 48-24 home victory over the Ellenville Blue Devils in a game in which the Comets led 48-8 after three quarters of play. Junior quarterback Nick

Storms threw three touchdown passes to Donovan Hart—including an 85 yard score—to pace Fallsburg in the air, finishing the game with 5 completions out of 9 attempts good for 158 yards.

The Fallsburg ground attack was even more effective, grinding out 291 yards, good for four touchdowns. Isaiah Young was the leading ground gainer for the Comets, rushing for 121 yard on 12 carries and scoring three times.

Fallsburg next hosted the Bears of Tri-Valley, coming away with a 40-20 win. Nick Storms again accounted for three touchdowns in the air, with two of the scoring tosses going to Hart, who also caught a touchdown pass from Young, making it two games in a



PHOTO BY WIN HADLEY
Fallsburg quarterback Nick Storms(2) connects on a 24 yard touchdown pass to Donovan Hart against Eldred.

row in which he accounted for three scores. On the ground, Young picked up

186 yards rushing on just ten carries, scoring twice.

The Comets travelled to

Eldred on September 22 for a contest with the Yellow Jackets, who were coming

off a 34-0 win in their opening game. Fallsburg raced out to an 18-6 halftime lead, and then held on for a 26-20 win.

Three of the Comets four scores in the game came through the air, with Storms and Hart teaming up for all of them. It was the third game in a row in which Hart caught three touchdown passes.

The Sullivan West game was tied 8-8 at halftime, but the Bulldogs pulled away in the second half to secure the win. Donovan Hart caught two touchdown passes from Nick Storms for Fallsburg, which also converted two point conversions after both scores.

Donovan Hart leads Fallsburg in scoring on the year, with 11 touchdowns, while Isaiah Young has scored

six times, including five on the ground. Young is averaging better than 106 yards per game on the ground, while Hart has amassed an average of 116.5 receiving yards per game. On defense, Ethan Dunn has been a standout, with three fumble recoveries, while Xavier Young has recorded two interceptions.

Fallsburg had closed out their 2022 season with two victories, which had given them a five game winning streak overall heading into the Sullivan West game. They finished the last season with four wins and four losses.

The Comets are next scheduled to take on Rondout Valley in Stone Ridge on Friday, October 6. At press time, the Ganders stood at 2-3 on the season.

October Questions:

1. In what year was game 3 of the World Series postponed due to an earthquake?
2. What player holds the record for most World Series home runs in a career?
3. Which is the only franchise from outside the USA to win the World Series?
4. Who was the first manager to win a World Series with teams from both leagues?
5. In what year was the first scheduled night World Series game played?

September Answers:

1. Which college football team has had the most players drafted in the first round of the NFL Draft? (**U.S.C.**)
2. Which college football team has appeared in the most bowl games over the years? (**Alabama, 62**)
3. Which college football team has won the most overall conference championships? (**Nebraska, 46**)
4. Army and Navy have met on the gridiron almost every year since the rivalry began in 1890. Who leads the series? (**Navy, 62-54, with 7 ties**)
5. What two colleges meet annually in the Red River Rivalry? (**Texas and Oklahoma**)

There was no winner last month.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO... SCCC Harriers on the Upswing

by John Conway

SOUTH FALLSBURG—The cross country team at Sullivan County Community College had a disastrous season in 1972, failing to win a single meet, finishing the year with an 0-7 mark, so the Generals had nowhere to go but up as the following season began.

The Sullivan harriers had a successful October in 1973—50 years ago this month—and ended their '73 season with a respectable 4-3 overall record, including a 4-1 slate in the Mid-Hudson Conference, losing only to perennial powerhouse Orange County Community College.

The month began for Sullivan with a squeaker, a 27-29 conference win over Westchester County Community College at home on October 2. After the Vikings' Bill Knobel had finished the race in first place, the Generals captured the next three places, with Dave DeLucia, Tony Knight, and Mike DeLucia completing the 4.12-mile course within 18 seconds of one another. Carl MacDowell (7th) and Dave Williams (11th) rounded out the Sullivan scoring. Linda MacDowell, the only female runner competing, finished 13th.

The win left the Generals at 2-0 on the year.

On Thursday, October 11, Sullivan captured a 24-31 win over Dutchess County Community College in Poughkeepsie to remain unbeaten in the conference. The Generals again captured second, third and fourth places to seal the win. This

time, Tony Knight paced the Sullivan contingent, finishing five seconds ahead of Dave DeLucia and nine seconds better than Mike DeLucia. Carl MacDowell and Gary Williams rounded out the scoring for the Generals.

Sullivan closed out its dual meet season on Wednesday, October 24 with a 24-31 win over conference foe Ulster County Community College, improving its record to 4-1 in the conference. Mike DeLuica was 11 seconds faster than Dave DeLucia to take first place honors with a time of 24:23, with Tony Knight capturing third place with a time of 24:37. Linda MacDowell finished in 11th place in the race.

On Tuesday, October 30, the Generals competed in the Mid-Hudson Conference championships at Watts Park in Middletown, which saw the defending champion, Orange County Community College, dominate, capturing the first four places in the race, and five of the first six. Only Jim Haslam of Rockland County Community College was able to break up the Orange onslaught, taking fifth. The Colts George Shurter was the overall winner.

Competing without Tony Knight, Sullivan was led by Dave DeLucia, who placed 12th, while Mike DeLucia finished 15th. Carl MacDowell, Gary Williams, Dave Williams and Linda MacDowell also finished the race for Sullivan.

Despite the disappointing close to the season, 1973 proved to be a satisfactory year overall for the Generals.

FALLSBURG ANNOUNCES SWIMMING PROGRAMS

FALLSBURG — The Town of Fallsburg has announced an invigorating aquatic program designed to bring community members together for a splashing good time.

Starting September 28, residents can dive into free open swim sessions at the Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School Pool, with an exclusive opportunity for adult swimmers. This program, running until November 30, promises a refreshing and fun-filled experience for all participants.

Kathy Rappaport, Supervisor of the Town of Fallsburg, expressed her enthusiasm for this initiative, saying, "Our aim is to foster a sense of community, health, and well-being among Fallsburg residents.

We believe that this open swim program will not only be a source of joy but will also promote physical fitness and relaxation for everyone. We are also pleased to offer students Allana, Katelyn, Lilly, and Ross from the Fallsburg Central School district jobs as lifeguards."



PHOTO PROVIDED

guards."

The open swim sessions will be held at the Fallsburg Jr./Sr. High School Pool, providing a safe and enjoyable environment for participants of all ages. Whether you're a seasoned swimmer or just looking to swim, these sessions are open to individuals and families alike. Lifeguards will be on duty to ensure the safety of all swimmers.

For those seeking a more tranquil swim experience, the program also includes

dedicated adult swim sessions. These sessions are perfect for adults who want to enjoy a peaceful swim without the hustle and bustle of a typical pool environment.

Fiona Feltman, Aquatics Coordinator, remarked, "We are thrilled to offer these opportunities for our community members. The adult swim sessions are designed to provide a serene and relaxed atmosphere for those looking to unwind and exercise at their own pace."

While the Town of Fallsburg is proud to offer these activities free of charge to its residents, there will be a nominal fee for out-of-town participants. This fee

ensures that the program remains accessible to the broader community.

Program details:
Open Swim Sessions:
4:30 - 9:30 p.m.
• October 19, 25

• November 2, 9, 16, 30
Adult Swim Sessions:
6:15 - 7:45 a.m.
• October 17, 19, 25, 31
• November 2, 6, 8, 14, 16, 20, 22

Location: Fallsburg JR/SR High School Pool, 115 Brickman Road, Fallsburg

Program Duration:
9/28/2023-11/30/2023
Fee: Free for Fallsburg Residents, \$5.00 per person for Out-of-Town Participants

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