

MARCHING FORWARD

March is Women's History Month

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — March is officially women's history Month in the United States, and although there may not be any parades or celebrations to mark the occasion locally, it is nonetheless worthy of note.

According to the National Women's History Museum, headquartered in Washing-

ton, DC, "Women's History Month began as a local celebration in Santa Rosa, California. The Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (CA) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a 'Women's History Week' celebration in 1978.

"The organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International



There have been many prominent women in Sullivan County history, none more so the Elizabeth Worth Muller, a suffragist seen here at the White House with President Calvin Coolidge. Ms. Muller, who lived in Monticello, is the tall woman over the president's right shoulder.

SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Tango Café Presents Women in Jazz Night For Women's History Month

HURLEYVILLE — The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) is proud to announce Women

in Jazz Night, a special evening of live music at Tango Café on Saturday, March 28, at

7 p.m. This event celebrates Women's History Month by spotlighting the artistry, innovation, and lasting contributions of women in jazz.

The evening will feature the Hudson Valley Jazzwomen, an acclaimed ensemble of talented women jazz artists who have been captivating audiences throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond since their founding in 2023.

Led by drummer and founder Kim Peralta, the group includes saxophonist Kate Anderson, bassist Jennifer Vincent, and pianist Sarah Jane Cion. Together, these accomplished musicians bring a dynamic and diverse repertoire, showcasing jazz, Latin jazz, classical, and contemporary styles infused with global influences.

Collectively, the Hudson Valley Jazzwomen have performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center, on Broadway, and alongside legendary artists including the Duke Ellington Orchestra, Abbey Lincoln, Betty Carter, and Wynton Marsalis. Their performance at Tango Café promises to be an unforgettable celebration of women's contributions to the world of jazz.

Tickets are \$20, available for purchase through the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre website, with food

and drinks available for purchase during the event from the Tango Café.

HPAC is actively seeking sponsors to support this event and help celebrate the incredible contributions of women in jazz. Sponsorships will help cover artist fees, event production costs, and promotional efforts, ensuring the success of this unique celebration of Women's History Month. Sponsors will receive recognition in event promotions and materials, offering valuable exposure while supporting the arts and women's achievements.

"This event is a perfect way to honor Women's History Month and highlight the incredible talent and innovation of women in jazz," said Lourdesa Hunt, Director of Development at HPAC. "We're thrilled to bring the Hudson Valley Jazzwomen to Tango Café and provide our community with an evening of world-class music and celebration."

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026
- Time: 7 p.m.
- Location: Tango Café, 219 Main Street, Hurleyville
- Tickets: \$20 (food and drinks available for purchase)

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Local businesses, organizations, and individuals are invited to partner with HPAC to support this event. Sponsorships will help ensure the success of Women in Jazz Night while celebrating the contributions of women in the arts.

Women's Day. The movement spread across the country as other communities initiated their own Women's History Week celebrations the following year.

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the

first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th 1980 as National Women's History Week.

"Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women's History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as 'Women's History Month.' Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to pro-

claim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as 'Women's History Month.'"

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, March is an appropriate month to recognize the contributions of women, because "it dates to March 8, 1857, when hundreds of women from New York City garment and textile factories rallied

to protest harsh working conditions. In 1909, New York City became the site of the nation's first Women's Day celebration, a year after 15,000 women there marched to demand shorter working hours, better pay, an end to child labor and the right to vote."

It is also significant to note on this occasion that the roles of women in our society continue to grow. In Hurleyville, for example, women are in leader-

ship positions in most of the businesses on Main Street and beyond.

Dr. Theresa Hamlin, President and CEO of The Center for Discovery and Janet Carrus, CEO of the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, oversee two of the largest and most visible organizations in the community, and much of the senior staff of both comprise a high percentage of women. The Sullivan County Historical Society and the Frederick Cook Society, two other prestigious Main Street organizations, are both headed by women.

History.com notes that

"Women's History Month is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to U.S. history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women's history milestones stretches back to the founding of the United States."

But History.com also acknowledges that Women's History Month is "a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society" and far from just being relegated to history, those contributions are ongoing, in Hurleyville and throughout the country.

History.com notes that

HURLEYVILLE'S HISTORY MAKING LEGISLATOR

First African American Woman Elected

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE— When the Sullivan County Legislative districts were last revised, Hurleyville was removed from District 6 and placed in District 8. And when elections for that new district were held, they were historic.

Amanda Ward was elected, becoming the first African American woman ever elected to the County Legislature.

Ms. Ward has long embodied a deep-rooted commitment to community service, stemming from her humble beginnings in Sullivan County. After earning her Juris Doctorate from Hofstra School of Law in 2006, she returned to South Fallsburg, driven by a desire to contribute positively to the community that had nurtured her values and aspirations.

Ms. Ward always credits her dedication to public service to the legacy of her parents, Roland and Sonia Ward, who were always active in the community.

With a rich background blending legal expertise and a fervent dedication to community service, Ms. Ward serves as the Chief of People Operations and Educational Sustainability at The Center for Discovery Her 16-plus years of experience in human resources, including more than 12 years in leadership positions, showcase her ability to enhance organizational effectiveness.

Beyond her professional endeavors, she contributed significantly to her community as an adjunct professor at SUNY Sullivan for a decade. Her involvement as the former President of the NAACP, Fallsburg Library Trustee, and Board member of the Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan underscores her commitment to community development.

Ms. Ward's dynamic leadership style, coupled with a wealth of experience in HR, organizational development, and transformative leadership, reflects her commitment to driving positive change. Her dedication to providing innovative solutions, fostering workplace inclusivity, and ensuring fair practices resonates deeply within her pursuit to shape a brighter future for Sullivan County.

In celebration of Women's History Month, The Hurleyville Sentinel recognizes the historic nature of Amanda Ward's election to the Sullivan County Legislature.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward

Sullivan County's First Woman Juror Had Hurleyville Connection

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE — Women's inexorable march toward equality in politics and government in this country has been one of small steps, and there have been many obstacles to overcome. Sometimes in looking back, it is difficult to believe that certain milestones along the journey took so long to achieve.

For example, it wasn't until 1937 that women were eligible to serve on juries in New York State. In Sullivan County, no woman sat on a jury until December 2 of that year, and the historic occasion had a distinct Hurleyville connection.

While the first woman selected to serve on a jury in a Sullivan County Court case was Freda Mueller of Livingston Manor, the historic occasion of her selection was recorded for posterity in the minutes of the court by Deputy County Clerk J. Maxwell Knapp of Hurleyville, who just happened to be filling in that day as court clerk for his boss, County Clerk J. Bruce Lindsley.

"Knapp Records Historic Incident in Minute Book" the Middletown Times Herald newspaper proclaimed in a December 3, 1937 article under the headline, "First Woman Juror in Archives of Court."

"The seating of the first woman on a Sullivan jury yesterday provided occasion for J. Maxwell Knapp, deputy

county clerk, to undertake some historical recording," the article began.

"In the book, he set down for posterity: 'This case is of historical interest in that it is the first action to be tried in Sullivan County in which a juror representing the fair sex was chosen to hear and determine the issue.'"

The path that led to Ms. Mueller's historic moment was a long and circuitous one. Although women had gained the right to vote in New York State nearly two decades before, there was no clear understanding that the right to be a trial juror was included, and the movement to gain that right is sometimes looked upon today as a "second suffrage campaign."

Interestingly, during colonial times in North America, women were occasionally called upon to make up what had been called in English common law a "jury of matrons" to offer expertise in trials involving pregnant women. However, while the U.S. territories of Wyoming and Washington had given women the right to serve on juries in the 19th Century, and Utah became the first state to do so in 1898, most states still barred women from serving on juries even after they had won the right to vote on a national level in 1920.

On May 24, 1937, New York State finally granted women the right to sit on juries, passing legislation to



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO J. Maxwell Knapp

take effect on September 1 of that year. At the time, more than 20 states had still yet to do so.

The situation was complicated, and the transition to women serving on juries was not at first a smooth one. Since each of the 15 towns in the county were required to prepare a list of eligible jurors from town tax rolls in July—at which time women were still barred by law from consideration—and that list was submitted to the county for use during the court term beginning in September—when women would be eligible—the question of whether women should be included on the list became a hot topic.

Fallsburg town clerk Mortimer Michaels found the new legislation so confusing he wrote a letter to the state Attorney General seeking clarification. After much discussion—sometimes heated in many of the towns—only Rockland and Forestburgh ended up including women on their lists of potential ju-

rors that year.

Although now merely a footnote to history, the case Ms. Mueller helped decide was a civil matter involving the Parkston Hotel in Livingston Manor, which had been sued by a Philadelphia man who claimed they owed him for hotel equipment they said they had already paid another vendor for. The man's claim was discredited by several witnesses, and the jury found in favor of the hotel.

Nor did Ms. Mueller's historic tenure as a juror pass without incident. For one thing, the court case had to be delayed for 20 minutes that first day because she was late to arrive at the Court-house. It was later revealed that she had been in an automobile accident in Harris on her way to report. The car in which she was riding, which was driven by another town of Rockland woman reporting for jury duty that day, Anna Portz of Roscoe, was struck by another car on Route 17.

Interestingly, Ms. Mueller later filed suit in state Supreme Court against the driver of the other vehicle, Gideon Hornbeck of Harris, asking for \$3,000 in damages in compensation for the injuries she had received. The case was settled for an undisclosed sum. In the June 13, 1938 newspaper article about the settlement, the Times Herald identified Ms. Mueller as "Sullivan's first woman juror."

HUDSON VALLEY JAZZWOMEN

SATURDAY MARCH 28TH
TANGO CAFÉ 7PM \$20

PHOTO PROVIDED

AKTION CLUB SUPPORTS HEART-A-THON



The Aktion Club of Sullivan County raised \$303.00 for the 98.3 WSUL Heart-athon by selling paper hearts to their families and friends. The club is comprised of individuals affiliated with The Arc Greater Hudson Valley, New Hope Community and The Center for Discovery and is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge. They look forward every year to presenting a check for the heart-a-thon to "Heart Man" Al Frangipane, who was unable to attend their meeting this year, but they

displayed the hearts and know that Mr. Frangipane is very impressed and thankful for their ongoing contributions. Both Kiwanis Clubs are so proud of the Aktion Club and how they constantly and enthusiastically get involved in so many activities to give back to the community.

Aktion Club members proudly display paper hearts with Pres. Tommy Abelson kneeling and displaying check to Heart-a-thon.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

The members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First continue to collaborate with local community groups and businesses in the ongoing revitalization of "the liveliest little hamlet in the mountains".

Everyone is invited to come out and help plant annuals and perennials in the barrels on Main Street and in the stone planters at the entrances to Hurleyville and at the Hurleyville firehouse. Work dates will be scheduled in the spring.

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

HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Bread of Life Food Pantry will be open on Thursday, March 19 and on Thursday, March 26 from 3 until 4:45 p.m. Visitors to the food pantry are asked to please bring a bag. More than 75 families are served at the food pantry each week. Donations of clothing, household items and personal care items are always welcome. The volunteers at the food pantry work hard to help those in need and they appreciate the support of the community.

Sunday services are held at the church at 9 a.m. Children of all ages can attend Sunday school at the church during services.

"Messy Church" will begin again soon. All children are invited to take part in the fun and creative activities and must be accompanied by an adult. Please call 845-434-5097 for information.

Pastor Wendy delivers sermons on the church's page on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

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

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

Donations of diapers, new socks, new underwear and new t-shirts for children in foster care are being collected at the church. The volunteers at the church also collect new t-shirts and new underwear for veterans along with new clothes for women who are starting over after escaping from domestic violence. Please contact Cookie at 845-428-5871 or Goldie at 845-467-1641 for more information on the program. Please call Lonnie at 845-798-4809 for more information on services and



activities at the church. You can also visit the church on Facebook.

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

First Sunday concerts are returning to the museum. The concerts are presented by the Frederick Cook Society and feature performances by Little Sparrow and local musicians. Contact Carol Smith, Executive Director of the society, at 845-434-8044 for more information or visit Little Sparrow on Facebook.

The volunteers at the museum work on a variety of activities including research and exhibits. Anyone interested in exploring genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can contact the museum for information on volunteering.

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...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.

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

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

You can visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum at www.scny-history.org or on Facebook.

COLUMBIA HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE (CHNA)

The Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance (CHNA) was formed in 2012 by a group of local residents dedicated to sustainable development, responsible development, protection of our water supply, preservation of our rural environment and safety of wildlife. Members of the group

have met regularly since then in order to be prepared for when the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill appears again before the Town of Thompson Planning Board.

The developer of the proposed Gan Eden Estates project has requested approval from the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) for water withdrawal from the wells at the site of the proposed project. The wells are in Hurleyville. Gan Eden's application for approval was scheduled to be on the agenda at DRBC's business meeting on March 4, 2026. If the request for water withdrawal is approved the project's developer will then have to work with the Town of Thompson on approvals for the project.

The impact on noise, traffic, electric capacity and air quality will affect the entire neighborhood. The development is in the Hurleyville Fire District. The Hurleyville Fire Department will be responsible for the protection of lives and properties at the development.

The group meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Hurleyville Firehouse. The meeting is open to all residents in the community who demand responsible and sustainable development.

Fallsburg Supervisor, Michael Bensimon, was invited to the February 28 meeting of CHNA. The meeting, open to the public, was scheduled to ensure that the Supervisor is aware of the community's concerns with high density/non-sustainable residential development in Fallsburg.

Major concerns of community residents scheduled to be discussed included:

- Frightening scope of proposed developments
- Dangerous impact on water supply... municipal and private
- Adverse effect on neighboring wetlands
- Perilous effect on fire-fighting needs
- Harmful effects of runoff
- Wastewater treatment plant discharge
- Wastewater treatment plant failure
- Hazards of increased traffic
- Loss of community character
- Scrupulous vetting of projects submitted to town boards for approval

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



THE OLYMPIANS

What a good impression they made
They were there to win with their skill and maybe a bit of luck

Many years of toil and strain
Without a social life to speak of
Missing birthdays and weddings and such

Total the hours they spent
To reach the Olympics in their special event
Mind, body and soul they've given
To represent the country they live in

Some will win after making countless attempts
They practice with injuries and pain
Others lose having worked just as hard
Perhaps they lost focus and let down their guard

There were tears and disappointments
But, here's what I often saw
Positive expressions that were honest and raw
Athletes who weren't in 1st, 2nd or 3rd place
Showed us what good sportsmanship was like
By congratulating the winners with humility and grace

They gave pats on the back, hugged and shook hands
Regardless of country or event
When coaches have said, "Be a good loser!"
This is what they most likely meant

Mimi
March 2026



WEATHER FORECASTING



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

An early television weather forecaster

People have been attempting to predict the weather for almost as long as there have been people. As NASA points out, "the art of weather forecasting began with early civilizations using reoccurring astronomical and meteorological events to help them monitor seasonal changes in the weather." According to Wikipedia, weather forecasting, or weather prediction is "the application of science and technology to predict the conditions of the atmosphere for a given location." People have attempted to predict the weather informally for thousands of years and formally since at least the 19th century. The inaccuracy of forecasting is due to the chaotic nature of the atmo-

sphere, the massive computational power required to solve the equations that describe the atmosphere, the land, and the ocean, the error involved in measuring the initial conditions, and an incomplete understanding of atmospheric and related processes. Hence, forecasts become less accurate as the difference increases between the current time and the time for which the forecast is being made. The use of ensembles and model consensus helps narrow the error and provide confidence in the forecast. Still, nobody is perfect, least of all the weather forecaster. John "the Weatherman" Simon writes a regular column on weather for *The Sentinel*. He lives in Hurleyville.

SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION UNDERWAY



MONTICELLO— Sullivan County's Semiquincentennial Commission, charged with coordinating the local celebration of the nation's 250th birthday this year, has released a preliminary schedule of events.

This year's commemorative events actually began in January, when the Semiquincentennial Commission, in collaboration with the non-profit history education group, The Delaware Company and Bold Gold Media, began airing a series of 2-1/2 minute programs on Catskills News Talk radio entitled "250 Years: A Look Back." The program is narrated by Sullivan County Historian John Conway, who is also a co-chair of the Semiquincentennial Commission (as well as the Editor of this newspaper).

"250 Years: A Look Back" airs during Ciliberto & Friends, weekdays at 7:45 a.m., with a new vignette every week. The program will air through July. Catskills News Talk can be heard on

92.5 and 94.9 FM and 1240 and 1270 AM.

The Commission has also announced plans for a Revolutionary War film festival to be held at the Narrowsburg Union on the weekend of April 24-26. The film festival will feature three different movies with Revolutionary War themes, as well as a social hour and an introduction by local colonial era re-enactors. Details are still being finalized, but the films—yet to be named—will be shown on Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday afternoon.

Another highlight of the celebration is a huge history weekend being planned for the Minisink Battleground Park in Barryville for July

17-19. The event will include music and food in addition to encampments, demonstrations, exhibits and displays, and the annual commemoration of the Battle of Minisink, which will take place at 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 18. New York State Historian Devin Lander will be the keynote speaker this year.

On August 1, also At the Narrowsburg Union, Judith Kalaora of the Boston based group, History at Play, will reprise her one-woman play, "A Revolution of Her Own," the true story of Deborah Sampson, a woman who assumed the identity of a man to fight in the Revolutionary War.

Ms. Kalaora previously performed the play—to rave reviews-- at Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg in 2024. Last April, she starred in "Rendezvous with Rachel Revere" at the Seminary Hill Cidery in Callicoon.

The full schedule of events for the year will be released this month.

Time and the Valleys Presents Revolutionary Women A Talk by Phyllis (Penny) Coombe

GRAHAMSVILLE— Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville hosts an in-person and virtual program by Phyllis (Penny) Coombe in honor of National Woman's Month and the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. at the Museum.

Meet some of the many mothers, wives and daughters of their more famous fathers, husbands and sons who made significant contributions to the successful conclusion of the American Revolution. Learn about the girl who dressed as a man and served in the army, the wife who took over firing her husband's cannon, the slave who was a published poet, and more.

Admission to this program is FREE for Museum Members and \$5 for non-members. Admission to the program also includes light refreshments and Museum admission. The Museum Shop will also be open. In case of inclement weather, please check our website: www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org.

To join the program virtually, please register by email at info@timeandthevalleysmuseum.org and put Revolutionary Women in the subject line, or call 845 985-7700. A link will be sent to you. Non-members are asked to

please first make a donation on the Museum's website: www.timeandthevalleysmuseum.org/support/donate.

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WELCOME TO THE CATSKILLS AGRIHOOD!



by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE-- "What is an agrihood? An agrihood is a type of planned community that integrates agriculture into a residential neighborhood. The purpose is to facilitate food production as well as provide green space, recreation, aesthetics and value for community."

-Copied from catskillsagrihood.com.
Hurleyville is lucky to have one of their very own, sitting on four acres with a water view. Two bungalows, both duplexes, are available for Airbnb rentals. The first one has two lofts. It gets rented out the most along with the farmhouse. The second one has two bedrooms. The three-bedroom, handi-

cap accessible, farmhouse has a beautiful deck in the back that overlooks the water. Guests can sit in the swings on the property and enjoy the panoramic views.
Everyone receives a bundle of wood when they arrive. There is a fire pit on site, and each unit has its own grill. Another grill sits in the main area. During spring and summer,



PHOTOS PROVIDED

guests are invited to try anything in the garden.
"We want to give a peaceful, farm country experience," said Jena Young, the property manager.
Open all year long, March and April are when bookings start to pick up. During the winter, the Agrihood bungalows are mostly occupied around holidays. Guests can

book for whatever time limit they like. Pet-friendly, they frequently have repeat guests. Convenient for concertgoers at Bethel Woods, it's a spot with a wide appeal.
With lots of room for expansion, two foundations exist from bungalows that burned down a while ago. One option is to build tiny homes there.
"It's rewarding, especially

when you see the five-star review that says they came for the weekend and it was exactly what they needed; they felt at home. You know you did it right. Look for collaborations coming soon with Forage & Gather and surrounding local businesses," Ms. Young said.
Check out their website for more information. catskillsagrihood.com



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

The daily flow of dreadful news takes a toll. Some nights, I wake up and check my phone to see if anything worse has happened since I lay down to sleep. Some days, a jittery impatience sets in that makes it hard to read beyond a page or two, or listen to music, or do much more than observe the changing light of day through the window.

On one of those days, while driving to work, I hear a song that makes me pull over and listen closely. The melody and words are familiar: "I've got a secret / I should not tell..." It's a contemporary version of "Shake Sugaree," a song first recorded by Elizabeth "Libby" Cotton in 1965. Her version is chipper; this one is mournful, with a slower tempo and a rue-soaked vocal that has the force of gravity behind it. This is the song I've been waiting to hear; this is music that sounds equal to our dire moment. It's the blues, and it is cathartic.

Libby Cotton's original has a jaunty rhythm and, with a vocal by her twelve-year-old granddaughter, it sounds like a nursery rhyme, one with infinitely extendable lyrics à la "This Old Man." Each verse adds to an inventory of all the objects the singer has had to pawn in order to survive: her chair, her bed, her farm, her plough — "everything I had." It could go on forever, and perhaps it has.

"Shake Sugaree" is a truly harrowing song, an epic of radical dispossession, the singer's world in pawn to unnamed predatory forces, with her life itself as the final forfeit: "I'm going to heaven / in a brown pea shell." It's devastating, even more so for the ironic contrast between the nursery-rhyme surface and the bones of the blues beneath. Yet the singer retains the strength to sing it, to chronicle her losses. "I've got a secret," she sings, and yes, she does, and she shares it by performing the song. But you need to lean in and listen to hear it.

Perhaps Libby Cotton's secret is nothing other than the blues itself. "Shake Sugaree" is as pure a distillation of the blues as the canonical songs of Robert Johnson or Son House. This is music that arose out of the most extreme circumstances: slavery, Jim

Crow, generational immiseration, the fundamental denial of one's human status and dignity. It arose to meet that extremity and to survive it. James Baldwin found in blues an "ironic tenacity," a tough-mindedness that co-exists with the music's extreme vulnerability, its baring of the heart.

And Baldwin found something else in it, too: compassion. The compassion arises from the clear-eyed recognition of the universality of suffering, the fact that no one is exempt — a recognition that restores some measure of empathy to a landscape parched of it. This makes the blues both harrowing and enlivening, enlivening because harrowing. These qualities are as inextricable in the blues as they are in Sophocles, and for the same reason; both look upon the primary datum of human suffering without delusion or sentimental evasion. This makes the blues adequate to what Baldwin calls "Facts of Life." That's why "Shake Sugaree" can be both heartbreaking and consoling at the same time. Its story is not just the singer's story; it relates to all of us. And it's true.

In 1927, Blind Willie Johnson recorded "Dark Was the Night, Cold Was the Ground," one of the most haunting blues on record. The vocal is comprised of inarticulate humming and moaning over various guitar figurations; a single word emerges into clarity out of the stream of sound: "alone." Fifty years later, in 1977, the Voyager space probe was launched carrying a golden disc of encoded artifacts meant to represent human culture, what life on Earth is (or was) like, what it means (or meant) to be human. One of those artifacts was Blind Willie Johnson's blues. His song is now sixteen billion miles away, representing humanity across the infinite spaces with its own ironic tenacity, singing about aloneness in ways that can yet alleviate our own.

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

Sullivan County Visitors Association Announces Grant Awards

LIBERTY - The Sullivan County Visitors Association (SCVA) proudly announces the recipients of its new Tourism Event Grants, an initiative designed to spark fresh ideas, elevate signature events and drive year-round visitation throughout the Sullivan Catskills.

The Tourism Event Grant Program supports festivals, cultural gatherings, outdoor experiences and community celebrations to attract visitors, generate overnight stays and deepen the authentic sense of real, rooted place that defines Sullivan County. By investing in locally led events, SCVA continues to strengthen the region's tourism economy while ensuring the Sullivan Catskills remains vibrant in every season.

"Tourism in the Sullivan Catskills is powered by the people who live and create here," said Michael Martelon, President & CEO of the SCVA. "These grant recipients embody the independent spirit of our region. Their events invite visitors to truly experience the Catskills — its creativity, its culture and its heart."

The selected recipients, representing communities from Sullivan County's river towns to mountain hamlets, will receive funding to enhance and expand events that reflect the region's creative undercurrent, natural beauty and welcoming spirit.

Celebrating This Year's Grant Recipients

Roomnight Focused:

1. Eddie Adams Workshop Org, Inc.: Offers tuition-free, intensive workshops that mentor emerging photojournalists and visual storytellers.
2. Forestburgh Playhouse: Produces Broadway-quality musicals, plays and youth programming each season in a historic Catskills theatre.
3. Arts & Culture: Operates as a nonprofit cultural campus at the historic 1969 Woodstock site, presenting concerts, arts education and museum programming that celebrate music history and inspire creativity
4. Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project: Preserves and commemorates the legacy of the Borscht Belt era through historical markers and educa-

tional storytelling across Sullivan County.

5. Delaware Highlands Conservancy: Protects farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and scenic landscapes throughout the Upper Delaware River region through land conservation and community partnerships.
6. Weekend of Chamber Music: Presents world-class chamber music performances and educational outreach programs throughout Sullivan County.
7. Delaware Youth Center: Provides educational, recreational and leadership programs that support the growth and well-being of local youth and families.
8. Shandeele Music Festival: Hosts an annual summer chamber music festival featuring internationally acclaimed classical musicians in an intimate Catskills setting.
9. Sullivan Public: Delivers digital news coverage focused on community, culture and current events across Sullivan County.
10. Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce: Advocates for local businesses while promoting

economic development, tourism and networking opportunities throughout the county.

11. The Delaware Company of New York, Inc.: Strengthens the hamlet of Narrowsburg through community development, beautification projects and local economic initiatives.
12. Town of Mamakating: Provides municipal services, planning oversight and governance for town residents.
13. Wurtsboro Board of Trade: Promotes local businesses, organizes community events and supports economic vitality in the village of Wurtsboro. Hamlet & Micro-Brand:
14. Gael Roots Community Farm: Advances regenerative agriculture while providing fresh food access, agricultural education and community programming throughout the Catskills.
15. Upper Delaware Council, Inc.: Brings together local, state and federal partners to coordinate river management, conservation efforts and stakeholder collaboration along the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River corridor.
16. Wurtsboro Board of

Trade: Promotes local businesses, organizes community events and supports economic vitality in the village of Wurtsboro.

Looking Ahead: Phase II Applications Open Soon

With this first round of awards setting the tone for a dynamic year ahead, SCVA now turns its focus to inviting more organizations, creatives and event organizers to take part in shaping the next chapter of tourism in the Sullivan Catskills.

"Our goal is simple," Martelon said. "We're investing in events that inspire travel, create meaningful economic impact and turn first-time visitors into repeat guests. A thriving destination is rooted in the communities that give it life."

- Phase II Timeline:
- Application Opens: March 9, 2026
 - Due Date: April 14, 2026
 - Review Period: April 14 – May 11, 2026
 - Awards Announced: May 15, 2026
 - Funds Distributed: June 2026
 - Reports Due: Within 60 days post-project Phase II

continues SCVA's commitment to supporting high-quality tourism events that demonstrate measurable impact and strong promotional plans. Eligible Uses of Grant Funds Tourism Event Grant funds may be used for event marketing, advertising, promotional materials and visitor-facing enhancements designed to attract out-of-market audiences. Grant funds may not be used for:

- Operational or administrative overhead unrelated to event marketing
- Capital improvements or permanent infrastructure
- Equipment purchases not directly tied to marketing efforts
- Salaries or payroll expenses
- Debt repayment
- Political or lobbying activities
- Alcohol purchases
- Reimbursement for expenses incurred prior to grant approval Applicants are encouraged to review full eligibility requirements and program guidelines online.

Applications Now Open at DVAA

Arts & Heritage Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

NARROWSBURG-- Sullivan County nonprofit arts and community groups are invited to apply for the 2026 Sullivan County Arts & Heritage Grants (SCAHG) program, administered by the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA).

Grants can assist artists and nonprofit organizations in producing and presenting cultural or heritage programming in Sullivan County, NY. Eligible projects must take place prior to December 31, 2026. The application portal is now open and the deadline for applications is Friday, April 3, 2026, at midnight.

SCAHG is made possible through a grant from the Sullivan County Legislature. The funding supports projects that focus on visual, performing, literary, media and folk arts; culture; architecture; regional history; and environmental arts. Groups that may apply include literary groups, libraries, theaters, music groups, historical societies, museums, community development groups, environmental groups, and the

like. The minimum grant request is \$500 and the maximum request is \$2,500.

Attendance at one of our upcoming grant info seminars is required for new applicants. The seminar will cover a range of information including conceptualizing your project, effective grant writing tips and tools, and contractual obligations for grantees.

INFO SESSION DETAILS:
Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 6 – 7 p.m.

ZOOM Registration required.
Friday, March 13, 2026, 4 – 5 p.m.

Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, 219 Main St, Hurleyville, NY 12747.

Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 12 – 1 p.m.

ZOOM. Registration required.
Potential applicants may also schedule a meeting to discuss their application with Grants Manager, Tanner Simon, by emailing grants@delawarevalleyartsalliance.org.

For complete guidelines and to access the online application form, visit delawarevalleyartsalliance.org/scahg/

2026 Scholarship Opportunities

Each year, DVAA offers two scholarships to graduating seniors in our region. The Dr. Barry & Jane Bodenstein Music Scholarship is a \$500 scholarship for a high school senior in the Sullivan West School District who has a demonstrated high level of aptitude in music, and may be considering (but not required to consider) further formal music education on the college

level. The Stanley J. Segal Scholarship for Visual Art is a \$500 scholarship to assist a graduating high school senior in Sullivan County, NY or Wayne County, PA who wishes to pursue advanced studies in the visual arts.

Applications for both of these opportunities are now open and the deadline for both applications is Friday, April 10.

For complete guidelines and to access the online application form, visit delawarevalleyartsalliance.org/scholarships



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decanthurleyville@gmail.com

From the Firehouse

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



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.

By the time you read this it will be March, hard to believe. February was a brutal month, weather wise and for the fire service.

Various fire departments responded to a number of structure fires in single degree temperatures.

One fire consumed the home of a Loch Sheldrake fire department member, another three people had to bail out a window into the waiting arms of a Town of Liberty Highway worker, and a Liberty firefighter, still another fire took the lives of two civilians.

There were also a few others in the extreme weather that tested our skills. In addition to the structure fires there were a number of responses to furnace malfunctions and then there were the activated alarms. All in all, no firefighters were injured and all calls were covered in some very harsh conditions.

Remember we are all volunteers. Thank a firefighter when you see one.

Should you ever have a fire in your home, get OUT, close the door, and call 911. Whatever order you can do this. DO IT.

By closing the door as you are leaving, you are cutting off the air (oxygen) to the fire.

In previous years, one of the fire prevention slogans was "Plan Your Escape,

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE WANTS TO KEEP YOU SAFE

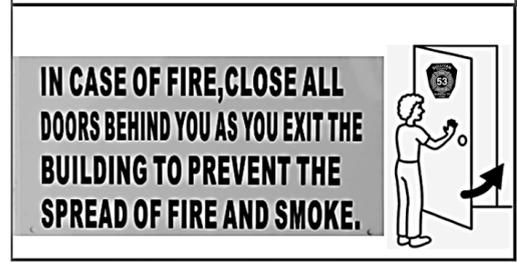


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

IN CASE OF FIRE, CLOSE ALL DOORS BEHIND YOU AS YOU EXIT THE BUILDING TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FIRE AND SMOKE.

Have Two Ways Out." Both Town Departments Keep your second way out clear of clutter and shovel it out if it is blocked with snow or anything else. It may save your life.

Also especially important, NEVER EVER GO BACK IN. Once out stay out! When the Incident Commander (IC) is told everybody is out (lifesaving is a priority) the IC will focus on fire suppression.

A seasonal reminder is March 8 is daylight savings; change your clocks, change the batteries in your battery-operated Smoke and Carbon monoxide detectors. Remember Smoke Detectors Save Lives.

Again, remember we are all volunteers. Thank a firefighter when you see one.

A real big "thank you" must go out to the Town of Fallsburg Water Department and the Town of Fallsburg Highway Department for their assistance in some of these fires. They were able to dig out a hydrant for us to use that was crucial for fire suppression operation in short order. Thanks, guys.

Village Youth Treated to Monster Jam at UBS Arena

MONTICELLO – On Saturday, February 14, Mayor Rochelle Massey and Trustee Gordon Jenkins proudly accompanied more than 40 children from the Village of Monticello to an unforgettable Monster Jam experience at UBS Arena.

The exciting event provided Village youth with an opportunity to enjoy world-class entertainment, build friendships, and create lasting memories outside of their everyday routines.

The trip was part of the Village's continued commitment to youth engagement, enrichment, and positive community-building opportunities.

For many of the children in attendance, this marked their first visit to UBS Arena and their first live Monster Jam event—an experience filled with high-energy performances, roaring engines, and moments of awe and excitement.

Following the event, Mayor Massey hosted lunch for all attendees, ensuring the day was not only fun but also well-rounded and inclusive. The shared meal offered an opportunity for youth, elected officials, and volunteers to connect, reflect on the experience, and strengthen community bonds.

"Our children deserve opportunities to experience new environments, dream bigger, and feel supported by their community," said



PHOTO PROVIDED

Mayor Rochelle Massey. "Saturday was about more than Monster Jam—it was about showing our youth that the Village of Monticello believes in them and is committed to investing in their happiness and growth."

Trustee Gordon Jenkins echoed that sentiment, noting that creating safe, structured, and uplifting activities for young residents remains a priority for Village leadership.

The Village extends special thanks to A Single Bite for the donation of apples for the trip, Mayor Massey's Mother, who covered the cost of lunch at McDonald's for the youth attending, Dara Perlman, Stacey Walker, Jimmy Crawley, and Dr.

Sean Wall-Carty for their instrumental roles in organizing and supporting this impactful youth initiative. Their dedication to community collaboration and youth empowerment helped make the day a tremendous success.

The Village of Monticello remains committed to developing and supporting programs that provide meaningful experiences for children and families.

Additional youth-centered activities and community events are being planned throughout the year.

For more information about upcoming Village youth initiatives, please contact the Village of Monticello.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Meals on Wheels presentation (left to right) Nutrition Services Coordinator Jane Bozan, Cathie Paci, Kiwanian Sheila Lashinsky, Aging Services Director Lise-Anne Deoul, Sherri Roth and Teresa Bortree.

Kiwanis Clubs Remember Veterans & Seniors on Valentine's Day

MONTICELLO-- The Kiwanis Clubs of Monticello and Woodridge partnered once more with the Sullivan County Aktion Club and the Fallsburg High School Key Club to bring a smile to the faces of our local veterans and recipients of the Office for the Aging Meals on Wheels Program. They presented cards and gifts for distribution on time for Valentine's Day.

This has become a traditional annual event to assure local veterans and homebound residents that they are being thought of—thereby making their day a little more enjoyable.

For more information about Kiwanis activities, visit the Facebook pages for Monticello, NY Kiwanis Club or Kiwanis of Woodridge.

Forestburgh Playhouse Reveals "Mystery Show" Landmark 80th Anniversary Season

FORESTBURGH-- The Forestburgh Playhouse has officially unveiled its highly anticipated "Mystery Show" for the 2026 Season and landmark 80th Anniversary Celebration: the international Broadway hit, "Come From Away."

The critically acclaimed musical will run August 25 – September 6, 2026, serving as a major highlight of the Playhouse's historic anniversary season.

"Come From Away" tells the inspiring true story of 7,000 stranded airline passengers and the extraordinary small town of Gander, Newfoundland, that welcomed them after the events of September 11, 2001. When 38 planes were unexpectedly diverted, an incredible display of kindness, resilience, and human connection unfolded. With its soaring and unforgettable score, the production has captivated audiences worldwide with its uplifting message.

"Revealing Come From

Away as our Mystery Show feels especially meaningful during our 80th Anniversary Season," said producer Franklin Trapp. "This musical celebrates compassion, community, and the very best of humanity — values that have defined the Forestburgh Playhouse for eight decades."

Since its Broadway debut, Come From Away has earned widespread acclaim, including multiple Tony Award nominations, and has become a global theatrical phenomenon.

The production is expected to be one of the most in-demand titles of the 2026 summer season. The 2026 Season marks 80 years of "Broadway in the Catskills" for the Forestburgh Playhouse, continuing its legacy as New York State's oldest continuously operating summer theatre.

For more information or to purchase a Flex Six Pack or Season Pass, visit www.fbplayhouse.org or call 845-794-1194.



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FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

COMPILED BY Sullivan County Historian John Conway

March 12, 1937 Fire in South Fallsburg Causes Heavy Loss

A fire in South Fallsburg which resulted in the injury of a member of the village fire department and in property damage estimated at from \$15,000 to \$18,000 ruined the upper floor of the Stein Building Monday.

Mrs. Zira Resnick, who occupies an apartment on the second floor of the building, which is situated in the center of So. Fallsburg, smelled smoke shortly after three o'clock Monday morning and screamed the alarm from her window. Her cries awakened her son, Harry Resnick, who lives across the street. He telephoned the fire department.

When the firemen arrived, they had considerable difficulty in finding the source of the blaze in the many rooms on the top floor of the building which was filled with smoke. When the fire burned through the roof a few minutes later it provided a starting point for their operations. For three hours they directed streams of water on the building until they were certain that the last spark was definitely out.

Several firemen suffered smoke inhalation, but none was seriously injured by it. The fireman injured was Nat Steingart, who was struck in the eye by a hose nozzle.

Entire School Faculty To Return Here Next Year

By unanimous approval of the school board at a meeting held on Tuesday evening, all the members of the school faculty here were awarded contracts for the ensuing year.

The teachers, headed by Principal Joseph Willis, include Miss Ruth Horne, 1st and 2nd grades and music; Mrs. Howard Wood, 3rd and 4th grades; Mrs. Peter LaBagh, 5th and 6th grades; Mrs. George Bertholoff, 7th and 8th grades; Miss Lois

that he could tell the absolute truth for twenty-four hours, was the hit of the show.

P.O. Site Here Leased For Next Ten Years

The lease for the present post office site in Hurleyville has been renewed by the government for a ten year period. There are a number of specified changes and alterations to be made to the building, which is owned by W.D. LaBagh of Hurleyville.

Child Care Providers Needed

LIBERTY – If you have considered working with or teaching young children, there is no better time to start! Sullivan County needs childcare throughout the county!

According to The U.S. Census Bureau, the population estimate as of July 1, 2023, is 79,920 people in Sullivan County. 6.1% of the county's population are children under the age of 5 (US Census Bureau, 2010). Making the under 5 population in Sullivan County, 4,795 children. The current number of infant / toddler childcare spots available in Sullivan County is 1,129. The bottom line is Sullivan County children and current providers NEED your assistance as childcare is filled with waiting lists.

Consider working from home and teaching children. You can run your own small business from home while contributing to and supporting the working families in Sullivan County!

If you're worried about start-up cost, we may be able to assist in supply costs through our Infant/Toddler program. Most training

courses through our agency are FREE for Sullivan County providers!!! Please contact the Sullivan County Child Care Council for step-by-step assistance with the application process, business aspect of your program, as well as the programs and resources available when your program is established.

The Sullivan County Child Care Council, Inc. has determined an immediate need for Infant and Toddler childcare based on our referral services:

- County wide - of 44 inquiries 31 were for Infant and Toddler care
- Requests for Infant and Toddler care through our agency have been made mainly for Fallsburg, Liberty and Monticello
- Most of our providers have no infant or toddler spots available

For more information please visit our website: sccchildcare.com, The Office of Children and Family Services at <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare/becomeaprovider.asp>, or give our office a call at (845) 292-7166.

Plane Shuttle is Considered

An airline operating company has shown interest in the proposed Sullivan County airport, it has been learned, with a view to establishment of a daily shuttle service between Sullivan County and the metropolitan area.

Leon S. Miroff, who operates a ticket brokerage business in Monticello, said he had received inquiries from one of the three major airlines which he represents, regarding prospects for construction of the field. This company, according to Mr. Miroff, is prepared to institute a daily plane service between New York City and the Swan Lake field.

It has been pointed out that such a passenger service would yield considerable revenue to the County. In other counties where such publicly owned fields are used by commercial operators, revenue is based either on a fee for each passenger handled or a fee for each plane landed.

Airline representatives expressed approval of the site, selected a year ago by members of the County Board of Supervisors.

March 26, 1937 "Nothing But The Truth" Scores A Record Hit

Acclaimed one of the best plays ever given here, the Hurleyville faculty play, "Nothing But The Truth," was presented to a large and enthusiastic audience at the school auditorium on last Thursday evening, March 18. The play, given for the benefit of the Senior Class, netted over one hundred dollars profit.

Joseph Willis, as the young stock broker who bet \$10,000

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THE LOVER AND THE TELLTALE PART I

A Whilomville Story by Stephen Crane

The Lover and the Telltale is a short story by the great American author Stephen Crane (1871-1900), who spent much of his life in Sullivan County. The story, originally published in Harper's New Monthly Magazine in October, 1899, is one of Crane's so-called Whilomville stories, fiction set in a thinly disguised city of Port Jervis, where Crane's family lived when he was a boy. The story is in the public domain. Here is the first of two parts...

When the angel child returned with her parents to New York, the fond heart of Jimmie Trescott felt its bruise greatly. For two days he simply moped, becoming a stranger to all former joys. When his old comrades yelled invitation, as they swept off on some interesting quest, he replied with mournful gestures of disillusion.

He thought often of writing to her, but of course the shame of it made him pause. Write a letter to a girl? The mere enormity of the idea caused him shudders. Persons of his quality never wrote letters to girls. Such was the occupation of mollycoddles and snivellers. He

knew that if his acquaintances and friends found in him evidences of such weakness and general milkiness, they would fling themselves upon him like so many wolves, and bait him beyond the borders of sanity.

However, one day at school, in that time of the morning session when children of his age were allowed fifteen minutes of play in the school-grounds, he did not as usual rush forth ferociously to his games. Commonly he was of the worst hoodlums, preying upon his weaker brethren with all the cruel disregard of a grown man. On this particular morning he stayed in the school-room, and with his tongue stuck from the corner of his mouth, and his head twisting in a painful way, he wrote to little Cora, pouring out to her all the poetry of his hungry soul, as follows: "My dear Cora I love thee with all my hart oh come bac again, bac, bac gain for I love thee best of all oh come bac again When the spring come again we'l fly and we'l fly like a brid."

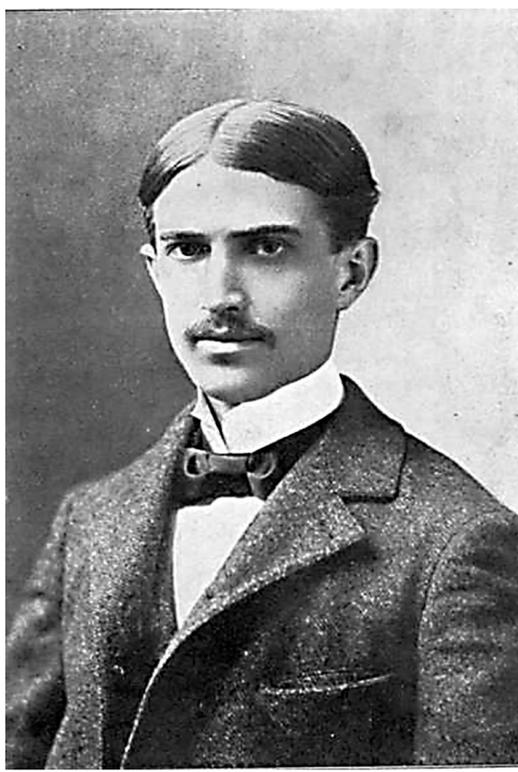
As for the last word, he knew under normal circumstances perfectly well how to spell "bird," but in this case he had transposed two

of the letters through excitement, supreme agitation.

Nor had this letter been composed without fear and furtive glancing. There was always a number of children who, for the time, cared more for the quiet of the school-room than for the tempest of the play-ground, and there was always that dismal company who were being forcibly deprived of their recess—who were being "kept in." More than one curious eye was turned upon the desperate and lawless Jimmie Trescott suddenly taken to ways of peace, and as he felt these eyes he flushed guiltily, with felonious glances from side to side.

It happened that a certain vigilant little girl had a seat directly across the aisle from Jimmie's seat, and she had remained in the room during the intermission, because of her interest in some absurd domestic details concerning her desk. Parenthetically it might be stated that she was in the habit of imagining this desk to be a house, and at this time, with an important little frown, indicative of a proper matron, she was engaged in dramatizing her ideas of a household.

But this small Rose Gol-



Stephen Crane

PHOTO PROVIDED

dege happened to be of a family which numbered few males. It was, in fact, one of those curious middle-class families that hold much of their ground, retain most of their position, after all their visible means of sup-

port have been dropped in the grave. It contained now only a collection of women who existed submissively, defiantly, securely, mysteriously, in a pretentious and often exasperating virtue. It was often too triumphantly

clear that they were free of bad habits. However, bad habits is a term here used in a commoner meaning, because it is certainly true that the principal and indeed solitary joy which entered their lonely lives was the joy of talking wickedly and busily about their neighbors. It was all done without dream of its being of the vulgarity of the alleys. Indeed it was simply a constitutional but not incredible chastity and honesty expressing itself in its ordinary superior way of the whirling circles of life, and the vehemence of the criticism was not lessened by a further infusion of an acid of worldly defeat, worldly suffering, and worldly hopelessness.

Out of this family circle had sprung the typical little girl who discovered Jimmie Trescott agonizingly writing a letter to his sweetheart. Of course all the children were the most abandoned gossips, but she was peculiarly adapted to the purpose of making Jimmie miserable over this particular point. It was her life to sit of evenings about the stove and hearken to her mother and a lot of spinsters talk of many things. During these evenings she was never licensed to utter

an opinion either one way or the other way. She was then simply a very little girl sitting open-eyed in the gloom, and listening to many things which she often interpreted wrongly. They on their part kept up a kind of a smug-faced pretence of concealing from her information in detail of the widespread crime, which pretence may have been more elaborately dangerous than no pretence at all. Thus all her home-teaching fitted her to recognize at once in Jimmie Trescott's manner that he was concealing something that would properly interest the world. She set up a scream. "Oh! Oh! Oh! Jimmie Trescott's writing to his girl! Oh! Oh!"

Jimmie cast a miserable glance upon her—a glance in which hatred mingled with despair. Through the open window he could hear the boisterous cries of his friends—his hoodlum friends—who would no more understand the utter poetry of his position than they would understand an ancient tribal sign-language. His face was set in a truer expression of horror than any of the romances describe upon the features of a man flung into a moat, a man shot in the breast with an arrow, a

man cleft in the neck with a battle-axe. He was supped-up with the fullest power of childish pain. His one course was to rush upon her and attempt, by an impossible means of strangulation, to keep her important news from the public.

The teacher, a thoughtful young woman at her desk upon the platform, saw a little scuffle which informed her that two of her scholars were larking. She called out sharply. The command penetrated to the middle of an early world struggle. In Jimmie's age there was no particular scruple in the minds of the male sex against laying warrior hands upon their weaker sisters. But, of course, this voice from the throne hindered Jimmie in what might have been a berserk attack.

Even the little girl was retarded by the voice, but, without being unlawful, she managed soon to shy through the door and out upon the play-ground, yelling, "Oh, Jimmie Trescott's been writing to his girl!"

Watch for the conclusion of Stephen Crane's The Lover and the Telltale in the April edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.

Mylene Ortiz of Sullivan 180 Named Region Leader By Suicide Prevention Center of New York (SPCNY)

LIBERTY – Mylene Ortiz, Youth Mental Health Program Manager for Sullivan 180, has been invited by to serve as a Region Leader with the Suicide Prevention Center of New York (SPCNY). The Center is a specialized branch within New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH).

As part of the SPCNY Region Leader Network, Ms. Ortiz will support school communities through training, advocacy, and collaboration to strengthen suicide prevention, mental health, wellness, and social-emotional learning efforts across the region. Region Leaders are selected based on their expertise in school mental health, professional development, and crisis response, and play a critical role in en-



Mylene Ortiz

PHOTO PROVIDED

suring that best-practice, evidence-based resources reach communities statewide.

"I'm honored to serve as Regional Leader for Sullivan County and committed to strengthening mental health support through collaboration, compassion, and action," she said.

As Youth Mental Health

Program Manager at Sullivan 180, Ms. Ortiz has been instrumental in expanding access to youth mental health supports, professional development for educators, and community-based resources that promote safer, healthier school environments.

"We are incredibly proud of Mylene and the leader-

ship she brings to youth mental health," said Meghan Mullally-Gorr, Director of Health and Wellness at Sullivan 180. "This opportunity recognizes the meaningful impact of her work and the high-quality training and resources she has helped bring to Sullivan County schools and communities."

Ms. Ortiz's appointment strengthens regional collaboration and reinforces Sullivan 180's ongoing commitment to advancing youth mental health, prevention, and wellness throughout Sullivan County.

To learn more about Sullivan 180's work in the area of youth mental health contact Mylene Ortiz at 845-295-2692 or Mylene@Sullivan180.org.

SWAN LAKE – January marked Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, and the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire continued its County-wide commitment to protecting firefighter health through education, prevention, and proactive safety measures.

As part of its ongoing Health and Wellness Program, the Bureau hosted a specialized training, Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention, at the County training center in Swan Lake. The class focused on increasing awareness about occupational cancer risks and equipping firefighters with practical strategies to reduce exposure both on scene and back at the firehouse.

"I am proud to support our Cancer Awareness Initiative through our Health and Wellness Program," said John Hauschild, Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety/Fire Coordinator.

In addition to training efforts, Deputy Fire Coordinators and County Fire Investigators participated in a Cancer Decontamination Bag Program funded through New York State Office of Mental Health



PHOTO PROVIDED

CARES UP grant. These decontamination bags contain essential tools designed to reduce exposure to harmful contaminants and support long-term health and safety practices. Jill Holland, Sullivan County Division of Public Safety Health & Wellness Coordinator, emphasized the importance of moving beyond awareness.

"Awareness matters. It can't stop there. We have to turn awareness into action by building preven-

tion into everyday practice. Decon early, handle gear correctly, and make clean habits part of the culture we pass down," said Holland.

The Sullivan County Bureau of Fire extends sincere thanks to Environmental Decon Services, Detect Together, and Fire Protection Specialist Tim Graves for their continued

support and commitment to firefighter health and safety.

Through training, equipment support, and partnerships, the Bureau remains dedicated to reducing occupational cancer risks and ensuring firefighters have the tools and knowledge necessary to protect themselves throughout their careers.

DVAA HAS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

NARROWSBURG – Celebrating its 50th anniversary serving all of Sullivan County's artists and arts & culture organizations, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) is pleased to announce its new slate of officers and the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors.

The DVAA's officers for 2026 are Dan Hust, President; Leif Johansen and Kim Martin, Co-Vice

Presidents; Wendy Prince, Secretary; and Fabiana Lotito, Treasurer.

Mr. Hust joined the Board in 2014, and was first elected President in 2021. He serves as Sullivan County's Communications Director, and lives in Damascus, Pennsylvania. Mr. Johansen joined the Board in 2022 and works as a Speechwriter and Program Advisor at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva,

Switzerland. Ms. Martin joined the Board in 2024 and brings experience from her work in arts development at Lincoln Center and in organizational leadership roles in the private sector. Ms. Prince is a practicing attorney mediator in New York and Connecticut with longstanding ties to Sullivan County.

The Board also recently welcomed two new members, Alessandra Iavarone and Fabiana Lotito. Ms. Iavarone is a Narrowsburg-based model, actress, songwriter, and business owner. She is the founder of The Velvet Maple. Ms. Lotito also resides in Narrowsburg and brings a background in institutional real estate investment and extensive volunteerism in her local community.

The DVAA also thanks departing Board members, including former board secretary Jane Roth, Ken Sable, and former board treasurer Heinrich Strauch for their years of dedicated service. All three will remain involved with the organization as volunteers and supporters.

The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance serves as the Arts Council for Sullivan County, New York, presenting year-round programs in the visual, performing, and community arts and providing resources for artists and arts organizations throughout the region, on both sides of the Delaware River. A series of 50th anniversary-related events is planned for the remainder of this year, including a Gala in May.

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Sullivan County Bureau of Fire Marks Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month

BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY



Thursday, March 19th
Thursday, March 26th

3:00pm - 4:45pm

Hurleyville United Methodist Church
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SENTINEL SPORTS



BELOVED AND LEGENDARY

LEGISLATURE CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONORS LONGTIME RESIDENT PETE TWEED

MONTICELLO – Sullivan County legislators gathered with the community on February 26 to recognize Black History Month in a truly local fashion.

“Black history is not a side story to American history,” wrote Sullivan County Human Rights Commission Executive Director Ramone Wilson in words shared by District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward. “It is American history. It is a story of a people who survived slavery, segregation, disenfranchisement, racial terror, exclusion from opportunity and generations of systemic injustice, yet still gave this country some of its greatest moral leadership, its most transformative civic moments and some of its deepest expressions of hope.”

“Black history is often remembered through landmark moments: emancipation, constitutional amendments, civil rights legislation,” remarked Kayshawn Macharie, licensed administrator of the County’s Care Center at Sunset Lake. “But what sustains a people is not only legislation. It is resolve, it is faith, it is the willingness to

stand, even when standing comes at a cost.”

Remarks were also given by Thompson Town Historian Al Dumas, My Brother’s Keeper, and the office of Assemblymember Paula Kay, interspersed with soulful tunes by Monticello High School’s “Garage Band.” But the focus of the day was squarely on one outstanding member of the Sullivan County community.

“As Sullivan County’s first African-American legislator, I feel strongly that we should acknowledge and celebrate our history here in the County, and inspire the next generation to strive to make a difference – because they certainly can!” Legislator Ward noted.

Like thousands of others, she’s found such inspiration in Monticello resident Pedro “Pete” Tweed.

“He’s known – on a first-name basis – by all of Sullivan County and far beyond,” Ms. Ward acknowledged. “His name is synonymous with athleticism (particularly gymnastics), compassion, entrepreneurship and positivity. He is truly a beloved and legendary figure in our

midst!”

Born in the Dominican Republic, Mr. Tweed spent the first 12 years of his life living with his grandmother Altagracia in the small Caribbean country. His mother, Cleopatra, had moved to America shortly after giving birth, though the two stayed in touch throughout Tweed’s childhood.

“There was definitely a bond,” he said. “I had been writing letters to her since I was 5.”

As his teenage years approached, both son and mother wanted to be together, and he traveled to live with her in the Bronx, where she worked at a bank. They grew close, but the transition was still challenging.

“I didn’t speak English, so the kids in school treated me differently,” Mr. Tweed recalled.

That was the beginning of his understanding that fellow human beings could be discriminatory, if not outright racist. Yet this did not dim his outlook or ambition.

On the advice of an uncle, he took a summer job at the former Brickman Hotel in South Fallsburg between



Celebrating Pedro “Pete” Tweed were, front row from the left, Care Center Administrator Kayshawn Macharie, District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello, Mr. Tweed, District 5 Legislator Cat Scott and District 8 Legislator Amanda Ward; and back row from the left, County Manager Josh Potosek, District 1 Legislator Matt McPhillips, District 6 Legislator Luis Alvarez, District 3 Legislator Brian McPhillips, District 2 Legislator Nadia Rajsz, District 4 Legislator Nick Salomone and Deputy County Manager Michelle Bowers.

grades in high school.

“I started by folding towels, and soon I was part of the entertainment, with my gymnastics and martial arts skills,” he explained.

Mr. Tweed had long enjoyed the martial arts – so much so that he had repeatedly rejected invitations to join his school’s gymnastics team.

“My father had been a boxer, and I told them I just

wanted to fight,” he shared. “So, I joined the wrestling team.”

School officials saw such promise in Mr. Tweed, however, that they persisted in recruiting him, and soon he was winning gymnastics competitions – and thoroughly enjoying the sport.

“It’s the discipline,” he explained. “It’s something you have to take very, very seriously.”

He quickly began teaching others how to find that same balance, strength, flexibility, agility, coordination, artistry and endurance – a path he remains on today, one that even led him to make his home in Sullivan County.

“I stayed because I fell in love, and then I started working for the Village of Monticello, where I taught gymnastics,” he remembered. “That was in the 1970s.”

SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

PERCH, PICKEREL AND PAN FISH...BUT NO WALLEYES

Perfect Weather for Ice fishing contest



by Jack Halchak

HURLEYVILLE – Everybody is off the ice from the 38th Annual Hurleyville Fire Department Town of Fallsburg Youth Commission Ice Fishing Contest.

For the first time in many years we had nice weather, 18 degrees at the start, rising up to 37 degrees. It was cloudy most of the day, but the sun did poke out for an hour or so and the wind stayed away until late in the contest.

There was 18 – 24 inches of ice to drill through. Parts of the lake had about 4 – 6

inches of snow on it and parts were nothing but slush. Unfortunately, the fish had lock-jaw and not a lot of fish were brought to the scale.

Equally unfortunately, no Walleye were caught.

On the positive side, the Molusky boys Carter and Landon of Damascus, PA went home with six trophies. They were one of the few in the ice that found the honey hole.

In the adult division results are as follows:

Bullhead 1st Bruce Donohue, 2nd Caleb Todd and 3rd Natash Rogers

Pan Fish 1st Mike Ward and 2nd Nick Frangipane

Perch 1st Caitlyn Coacci, 2nd Eric Katz and 3rd Mike Ward

Pickerel 1st Christian Curry 20.75 inches weighing 2.05 lbs. 2nd Jordan Parsons 20.00 inches weighing 1.91 lbs. and 3rd Caitlyn Coacci 18.75 inches weighing 1.16 lbs.

In the Youth division results are as follows:

Bullhead: 1st place - Amelia Posadas

Panfish: 1st place - Landon Molusky, and 2nd place - Carter Mulusky

Perch: 1st place - Landon

Molusky;; 2nd place - Carter Molusky; and 3rd place - Luke Chevalier

Pickerel: 1ST place - Carter Molusky 19.00 inches, weighing 1.32 lbs., 2nd place - Carter Molusky 18.25 inches, weighing 1.64 lbs., and 3rd place - Landon Molusky 18.00 inches, weighing 1.60 lbs.

The fire departments had a hard time bringing fish to the weigh in. The Loch Sheldrake Fire Department won the firemen’s contest with Mike Ward bringing a bucket full to the scale to secure the win.

PHOTOS BY JACK HALCHAK

FORMER SENTINEL REPORTER STARS

Gabriela Almonte Qualifies for State Indoor Track Meet

MONTICELLO – Gabriela Almonte, who was the youngest ever correspondent for this newspaper back in 2018 and is now a student at Monticello High School, has qualified for the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Indoor Track and

Field Championship this month.

With a new personal best time of 7.31 seconds in the 55 meter sprint, Ms. Almonte qualified for the state competition, to be held at Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island on March 6 and 7.



Gabby Almonte has qualified for the NYS Championships

PHOTO PROVIDED

Fallsburg Honors Winter Scholar Athletes

FALLSBURG – The Fallsburg Central School District is proud to recognize its NYSPHSAA scholar-athletes for the 2025-2026 winter season. The NYSPHSAA recognizes teams and individual athletes who excel academically within each sports season. To qualify as a scholar-athlete team, at least three-quarters of the students must maintain a grade point average of 90.00 or above.

Boys Basketball: Xzavier Berrios, Jansel Rosa Gonzalez, Treyvon Hayden, and Xavier Young

Girls Basketball: Marilyn Santos, Joslyn Smith, and Al-

isha Tremper

Cheerleading: Maria Nardi
Boys Indoor Track: Jansel Rosa Gonzalez, Treyvon Hayden, Eric Mooz, Robert Perrera, Efrain Rodriguez, and Zayd Snead

Girls Indoor Track: Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon, Autumn-Rain Atkinson, Kad-dijatou Darboe, Deysi Diaz Hernandez, Isabella Gonzales, Camdyn Hoefling, Zoey Ketcham, Dalila Koljenovic, Alisha Tremper, Helen Vasquez, and Skylar Wright

Girls Alpine Skiing: Madeline Pantel

Wrestling: Eriberto Gonzalez Jr. and Samuel Vega



BALLGAME BAFFLERS
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!

March Questions:

1. In what year did the concept of Spring Training for Major League Baseball originate?
2. In what city were the first spring training games held?
3. What city is generally regarded as “the birthplace of spring training?”
4. How many current spring training venues host more than one team?
5. What innovation is making its debut during spring training games in 2026?

February Answers:

1. In what year did the first Winter Olympic Games take place? (1924)
2. How many countries competed in the first-ever Winter Olympic Games? (16)
3. Where were the very first Winter Olympic Games held? (Chamonix, France)
4. In what years did Lake Placid, NY host the Winter Olympic Games? (1932 and 1980)
5. Who won the first Gold Medal ever awarded in a Winter Olympics event? (Charles Jewtraw of the United States in 500 meter speed skating)

No winner last month

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