

TEN YEARS AND COUNTING!

The Hurleyville Sentinel Launched Ten Years Ago

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE – It was the 1880s, and the arrival of the railroad had dramatically changed the hamlet of Hurleyville from just a few houses to a bustling, self-sufficient community. Part of that change, that growth, was the debut of The Hurleyville Sentinel newspaper. Published until newsprint got rationed in 1942, the paper's doors were shuttered for decades.

Fast forward to 2015, and after working at The Center for Discovery (TCFD) for 15 years, John Conway proposed the idea of bringing the Sentinel back as part of an overall plan to revitalize Hurleyville. The idea was that the paper would bring the community together by giving residents a sense of

place, while also setting the town apart from other small towns in the area.

"It's so improbable that we are here," Mr. Conway said last week. "How many towns have print newspapers these days?"

Mr. Conway found a willing collaborator in Patrick Dollard, then President and CEO of The Center for Discovery, and the visionary who had conceived the idea of bringing Hurleyville back to life. Mr. Dollard took some time to think about it-- it was after all a radical, perhaps even a whimsical idea—but ended up asking what it would take to get the revival going.

"Patrick Dollard was the single most important factor in the Sentinel's revival," Mr. Conway acknowledged. "And years later he said to

me, 'I really love the paper.'"

In March 2016, planning started in earnest. Mr. Conway and Jesse Wall, multimedia specialist at TCFD, tried to emulate the entire vintage look of the previous newspaper. The masthead was copied from the original publication. People brought in old copies of the newspaper that they had saved. That's why the latest version remains in black and white, not printed in color, and is the same large broadsheet size as always—they were intentionally channeling the Sentinel of the past.

That's why serialized fiction is still prominent among the newspaper's pages, as well. In the early days, a lot of newspapers did that, but now it's more of a lost art, a throwback that the Sentinel continues. It's a fan favorite



Ten years of intriguing headlines from the June issues of The Hurleyville Sentinel

with readers.

Because resurrecting the paper was part of a bigger plan to revitalize Hurleyville, the original version of the paper included regular columns from Fallsburg town govern-

ment, the library, firehouse news, and a farm column. The Center's Stonewall Preserve farm was a big part of Hurleyville and its revitalization.

At first, there were plans to

eventually turn the Sentinel into a weekly newspaper. After considering it and almost going bi-weekly, it has remained a monthly. Only four pages when it started in June 2016, in October of that year it became six pages. A dedicated sports page was added at that same time. In 2020, volunteer Brian Dennis, an avid sports fan, started doing a regular sports column called "Ball Game Bafflers by Brian."

Mr. Conway is quick to point out that the paper survives because of its volunteers, and has been fortunate over the years to have a dedicated and talented group.

In fact, from day one, most of the writing in the Sentinel has been done by volunteers. Since its return, many people have asked how they can help. Some volunteers write a monthly column, while others drive the paper to drop-off spots every month. Some do both. The community pitches in where they can.

Hurleyville resident John "the Weatherman" Simon is an example. He started writing his monthly weather column in February of 2018. It is now nearly a decade later, and he's never missed

a month. Now, he also assists in delivering papers to Main Street businesses each month.

Jack Halchack, a longtime volunteer firefighter, is also a longtime volunteer columnist, regularly penning, "From the Firehouse." Kathleen Sullivan has written the "Hamlet Happenings" column since the very first issue 10 years ago, and now she also maintains the Sentinel's website. Denise Sullivan writes feature stories when her interest is piqued. The late Elaine Corrington, a longtime employee of TCFD and an active member of the Hurleyville community, started as a volunteer reporter focusing on human interest stories, then wrote her monthly "Paper Clips" column for years after that.

For many years, beginning early on, Hurleyville resident Jane Harrison kept readers apprised of what was going on in the entertainment world around the county, visiting musical venues and writing about them. "The Scene" proved to be one of the paper's most popular regular columns. Heather Gibson provided most of the actual reporting in the early days, and her byline was a main-

stay in the paper for years. The talented Jonathan Shimkin has lent his considerable literary skills to the paper since "Out Divine Corners Way" debuted in November of 2018.

Those are just some of the volunteers— which have also included students from both Fallsburg High School and Hurleyville's own Collaborative College High School-- that have kept the paper going over the years along with the astute editor-in-chief. More volunteers are always welcome.

Unquestionably, the community looks forward to the Sentinel hitting newsstands each month. It has become an important part of the hamlet's history. In addition to the local distribution, it is also snail-mailed and emailed to Hurleyville natives around and across the country.

"If people don't get their paper, I often get an email asking if I forgot about them. They give me a good-natured push," Mr. Conway said.

Dedicated from the very first edition to the readers it serves, The Hurleyville Sentinel remains of the community, by the community, and for the community, covering Main Street and beyond.

TCFD TO RECEIVE \$10 MILLION

For Transitional Living Community

ALBANY – The fiscal year 2027 New York State budget includes a \$10 Million Capital Funding Grant for The Center for Discovery to construct their Transitional Living Community. This transformative project will directly address one of New York's most pressing healthcare challenges: ensuring access to high-quality, advanced medical care for aging adults with complex disabilities and medical fragility and will be located right in the heart of Assembly District 100.



PHOTO PROVIDED Assemblywoman Paula Kay

The goal of the Transitional Living Community is to provide small, highly supportive medical care neighborhoods for forty aging adults to reduce the frequency and duration of acute hospitalizations, prevent unnecessary discharges to traditional nursing facilities and promote stability, dignity, and quality of life for residents, while giving families peace of mind. This investment will also yield savings for the State by avoiding prolonged hospitalizations and inappropriate nursing home placements, reduce pressure on hospitals ensuring safer transitions for medically complex patients out of acute care, advance care coordination across the health care continuum, strengthen workforce exper-

tise in complex care, and create 200 new jobs in Sullivan County.

Assembly Member Kay said, "The Center for Discovery continues to be an invaluable asset to Sullivan County and New York as a whole. Their work pushes the limits and redefines areas of care for individuals with developmental disabilities and this new project is a testament to their consistency and their compassion. This facility will save many lives and will serve as a shining example for health care agencies all around the state to follow. I want to thank Center for Discovery President and CEO, Dr. Terry Hamlin, and the team at the Center for Discovery for their vision and determination get-

ting this done, and as always, their continued commitment to The IDD community and their home of Sullivan County."

President and CEO of The Center for Discovery, Dr. Theresa Hamlin, said, "This investment represents hope and peace of mind for families who have too often struggled to find the right level of care for aging loved ones with complex disabilities. As this population lives longer, a critical gap remains in the healthcare system for individuals whose needs are too medically complex for traditional facilities. We are deeply grateful to Governor Hochul, Assemblymember Kay, and our agency partners for supporting a more proactive and coordinated model of care focused on improving quality of life, reducing unnecessary hospitalizations, and helping individuals live with greater stability and dignity across their lifespan. Through this demonstration project, New York continues to lead the way in healthcare innovation and the advancement of complex care, while the people of Sullivan County benefit from the commitment of Assemblymember Kay and The Center for Discovery to improving lives across the region."

HPAC HOSTS DVAA

Grant Awardees Cited in Cinema

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – The Delaware Valley Arts Alliance—incidentally celebrating its 50th anniversary this year—was in Hurleyville last month to honor its 2026 grant recipients at the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre Cinema.

DVAA honored the community groups and individual artists selected to receive funding through its 2026 regrant programs, which are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts and the Sullivan County Legislature. Grantees were presented with their grant awards at the ceremony.

In announcing the event, DVAA noted that "since 1984, DVAA has worked with the New York State Committee of the Arts (NYSCA) as the Statewide Community Regrants (SCR) site

for the purpose of administering Arts for Sullivan funding to artists, art organizations, cultural and heritage groups. The Arts for Sullivan SCR Program is largely credited for establishing Sullivan County's cultural life as we know it today - relevant, vibrant, and healthy. In accordance with its mandate from the State Legislature to encourage participation in the grants decision-making process at the county and regional level, NYSCA inaugurated the program in 1977 for the redistribution of public funds. This program enables selected local arts councils, county governments, or regional advisory boards to regrant state funds for arts events and cultural development in their communities."

Established by DVAA in 2000, the Sullivan Coun-

ty Arts & Heritage Grants (SCAHG) Program is made possible with support from the Sullivan County Legislature, and provides funding to assist non-profit organizations to present or produce cultural programming in Sullivan County during 2026.

2026 GRANT RECIPIENTS:

The Art Garden (Fiscal Sponsor: Waste For Life); Barryville Area Arts Association; Bethel Local Development Corp; Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project (Fiscal Sponsor: Sullivan County Historical Society); The Callicoon Business Association, Inc.; Catskill Art Space; Conflux/ New Memories (Fiscal Sponsor: Callicoon Depot Inc.); Deep Water Projects, Inc.; Delaware Company of New York, Inc.; Delaware Youth Center; Ethelbert B.Crawford Public Library; Farm Arts Collective,



PHOTOS BY JOHN CONWAY DVAA Board of Directors President Dan Hust addresses those in attendance.

Inc.; Forestburgh Playhouse; Friends of New Hope, Inc.; Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre; Jeffersonville Area Chamber of Commerce; Liberty Public Library; Livingston Manor - Roscoe Public Library; Mamakating Library; Mildred's Lane Inc.; Nesin Cultural Arts; North American Cultural Laboratory; Parksville Arts Center / Conflux; Geor-

gia Pellegrini (Fiscal Sponsor: Western Sullivan Public Library; Jeffersonville Branch); Phillipsport Community Center; Radio Catskill; River Theatre; Rock Hill Business and Community Association; The Rock Valley Schoolhouse (Fiscal Sponsor: ENGN); Roscoe Collective (Fiscal Sponsor: Livingston Manor Roscoe Public Library); Shan-delee Music Festival; Sullivan County Community Chorus, Inc.; Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop; Sullivan Public Library Alliance (SUPLA); Teresa Tulipano (Fiscal Sponsor: Livingston Manor Roscoe Public Library); Tusten Social, Inc.; Visual & Performing Arts of Sullivan County; Waste for Life; Weekend of Chamber Music; Western Sullivan Public Library; Wurtsboro Art Alliance; Wurtsboro Board of Trade; Yarnslingers (Fiscal Sponsor: Western Sullivan Public Library).

INDIVIDUAL ARTS FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Kazzrie Jaxen; Liza Bennet; Kelly O'Brien.

TCFD NURSE HONORED

HARRIS – Susan Sayers, Executive Chief of Health Services at The Center for Discovery, was nominated for Hudson Valley Magazine's 2026 Excellence in Nursing honor as a Top Nursing Administrator.

An announcement about the recognition issued by TCFD officials noted that "from beginning her journey at TCFD as a staff nurse to now leading a multidisciplinary Health Services division, Susan's compassion, leadership, and dedication continue to



PHOTO PROVIDED Susan Sayers

make a meaningful impact on the lives of so many. Her commitment to supporting children and adults with complex conditions - and the families who trust us with their care - makes this recognition incredibly well deserved."

The Excellence in Nursing Awards by Hudson Valley Magazine is an annual celebration recognizing the dedication and achievements of outstanding nurses in the region. The magazine began the tradition in 2008.



Isaac Jeffreys and Marisa Scheinfeld of the Borscht Belt Historic Marker Project accept their grant from DVAA Grants Manager Tanner Simon (left) and DVAA Executive Director Ariel Shanberg (right).



HPAC Director of Development Lourdesa Hunt (center) accepts a grant award from DVAA Grants Manager Tanner Simon (left) and DVAA Executive Director Ariel Shanberg (right).

Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)

The members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First are getting the barrels on Main Street and the stone planters at the entrances to Hurleyville and at the Hurleyville Firehouse ready for planting. Hurleyville-Sullivan First continues to work with local community groups and businesses on the ongoing revitalization of "the liveliest little hamlet in the mountains". 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

Youngsters are invited to take part in "Messy Church" on July 11. The creative and fun activities will be held from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. at Morningside Park. The rain date is July 25. Lunch and snacks will be provided. All children participating in the fun activities must be accompanied by an adult.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry at the church will be open on Thursday, June 18 and on Thursday, June 25 from 3 until 4:45 p.m. Visitors to the food pantry are asked to please bring a bag. The volunteers at the food pantry always appreciate the support of the community.

The church will be holding a yard sale on July 18 from 1 - 4 p.m.

Everyone is invited to participate in "Prayers in Person" at the church every Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon, and from 5:30 to 7 p.m. 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 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.

Volunteers at the church are collecting socks, gloves, hats, underwear and diapers for children in foster care. They are also gathering paper goods for Preventive Services. This county program supports parents in their efforts to keep their children safe and healthy in their own homes. Please contact Cookie at 845-428-5871 or Goldie at 845-467-1641 for more information.

Anyone who needs community service hours can call 845-434-5097 for information.

You can visit the church's

page on Facebook for more information on services and activities at the church.

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The museum is hosting a book fair at the Museum on Saturday, July 11 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Authors and illustrators with a connection to Sullivan County are invited to participate.

Sullivan County Museum Weekend is July 25 - July 26. The Professional Women of Sullivan County will hold a White Elephant Sale at the Museum on Saturday, July 25.

Big Sky Productions will present an original play written by William Duncan at the Museum on August 1 at 2 p.m. and on August 2 at 2 p.m.

The Sullivan County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 18.

The volunteers at the Museum work on a variety of activities including research, archives, historical exhibits and special events. Anyone interested in exploring genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can contact the museum for information on volunteering...info@scnyhistory.org.

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.

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

Members of CHNA were joined by a number of lo-

cal residents at their regular meeting on May 26. Participants in the meeting were able to express their concerns over the detrimental effects of the proposed Gan Eden project on the Columbia Drive neighborhood and other sections of Hurleyville.

The group met with the Fallsburg Town engineer on April 30. The meeting focused on three major concerns with the proposed Gan Eden project during the meeting:

- Does the proposed project have a sufficient potable water supply as claimed by the developer and how will the drawing of 5.7 million gallons/ month affect neighboring homeowners' wells and the nearby downstream Town of Fallsburg well?

- The potential for flooding in Hurleyville due to increased storm water runoff due to vast increase of impermeable surfaces uphill at the proposed Gan Eden project?

- The so far unaddressed problem of a "package plant" WWTP discharging treated 150,000 gallons/day into an essentially dry streambed feeding into the adjacent wetlands. Will such a system function long-term?

The group plans to follow up on these concerns with the town engineer and the Fallsburg Supervisor.

The proposed project will endanger the community and the environment in so many ways including:

- Scope of the project - 534 townhouses, 89 buildings, community center, pool, athletic courts and fields, 400,000-gallon water tank, over 2 miles of interior roads

- Threat to municipal and private water supply - primary wells for Gan Eden are in the Town of Fallsburg

- Harmful effect on neighboring wells as far away as Mongaup Road

- Adverse effect on neighboring wetlands and wildlife

- Dangerous effect on fire-fighting needs

- Destructive effects of runoff - flooding on Main Street, Columbia Drive and Mongaup Road, danger to downhill wells, flooding of Congregation Anschei Cemetery

- Wastewater treatment plant discharge via a ditch, not a pipe - a threat to residences, Fallsburg town wells, Congregation Anschei Cemetery, the Hurleyville Rod and Gun Club

- Wastewater treatment plant failure - a threat to residences, Fallsburg town wells, Congregation Anschei Cemetery, the Hurleyville Rod and Gun Club

- Questionable structural integrity of on-site dam with 3-acre pond

- Hazards of increased traffic

- Hazards of entrances to the development

Members of CHNA continue to meet monthly to focus on the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill. The meetings are open to all in the community concerned with the protection of our environment and with responsible and sustainable development. The meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Hurleyville Firehouse.



THE SCHOOL'S END (The phones, your health and life)

Another school year has come to an end
You've had a quite a bit to learn
Did you listen carefully to the instructions?
Or was scrolling more your concern

In recent years our schools were asked
To remove your phones and store them
Allowing students to concentrate
On solving the subject's problem

Some people believed that the plan wouldn't work...
taking the phones away
Some parents and students were very upset
And they voiced it the very first day
But, there was a good reason that decision was made
It turns out it might be the right one
That perhaps saved your daughter or son

The mental social and physical health of our youth
has been put in harm's way
There are experts who found there's an addictive
nature to scrolling hours and hours each day
Platforms where bullying is frequent leave
many kids feeling so low
That they don't want to live as the unbearable pain
starts to grow

Remember how long it took us to believe
that tobacco was bad for our health?
And now we're being told that the bottles of wine
need to stay up on the shelf!

Maintaining good health is important
I'm not saying you should be a bore
Remember the word "moderation"
It will show that life is worth living much more

Mimi
June 2026



FROM THE WEATHER CENTER by John Simon

A SULLIVAN COUNTY TORNADO

People from all over Sullivan County came to view the destruction, and many of those who witnessed it still talk about it decades after the fact.

It was a sudden storm, described as a tornado, that swept across a narrow belt in Liberty in May, 1961. The path of destruction was estimated to be five miles long and less than a mile in width.

In the aftermath, there were questions as to whether it was a tornado or not. A tornado is a column of colder and more violent air whose circular motion leaves destroyed buildings and scattered debris in its path. The Sullivan County storm uprooted trees and stripped tree limbs. It moved small buildings and tore roofs off the upper stories of taller buildings.

Ernest Johnson, chief of the Weather Bureau in Albany, made an on-site investigation of the storm's devastation and decided that in spite of the fact that no one actually spotted a funnel cloud, it was indeed a tornado.

"But I did find people who heard the tornado's roar, and that is not like the noise of an ordinary storm," he told the Liberty Register newspaper. "The clincher, though, was the way the debris was left scattered, showing the circular motion of the wind, and the evidence of force that is only present in a tornado."

Mr. Johnson also cited the path of the storm as an indication it was a tornado, noting that the "funnel was swinging like an elephant's trunk."

The tornado caused over \$1 million in damages. Seventeen thousand chickens were lost on poultry farms. Milk houses were destroyed.

Fortunately, no one was killed by the tornado. Powder was lost for 45 minutes in Liberty, Jeffersonville, Fendale, Woodbourne, Livingston Manor, and Roscoe. The cost of the power outage was estimated to be at least \$10,000.

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

Monticello Kiwanis Hosts Community Leaders

MONTICELLO - Over the past few months, the Kiwanis Club of Monticello has hosted a very interesting lineup of Community leaders and officials, including -

Hon. Jacqueline Ricciani was sworn in as Sullivan County Family Court Judge on December 29, 2025. Judge Ricciani described how she has been working to assist vulnerable children in our community through the legal system.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The following letters represent opinion pieces written by the public, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper, its publisher or its staff. The Hurleyville Sentinel will happily print opposing or supporting views as they are received.

Bulldozing Local Control: Religious Land-Use Laws and State Housing Mandates Threaten Small Towns

Dear Friends and Neighbors

In small towns across New York, residents are increasingly concerned that a combination of federal and state laws is steadily stripping communities of their ability to control development, protect the environment, and preserve local infrastructure. At the center of this debate is the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), a federal law originally intended to prevent discrimination against religious institutions in zoning decisions. While protecting religious freedom is important, many residents now believe the law is being used far beyond its original purpose - allowing large religiously affiliated developments to pressure municipalities into approving projects regardless of legitimate concerns involving water capacity, sewage treatment, traffic, storm water runoff, wildlife impact, school overcrowding, and environmental degradation.

The concern is no longer limited to RLUIPA alone. New York State is now considering additional legislation that many local officials and residents fear would further weaken municipal authority. One proposal, the Faith-Based Affordable Housing Act (Bills S3397/A3647), would allow religious institutions to build dense multifamily housing projects on their properties while bypassing significant portions of local zoning laws. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and other religious entities could potentially construct housing at densities that towns could otherwise prohibit under their own comprehensive plans and zoning codes. Although supporters say the bill is designed to address New York's housing shortage, critics argue it gives religious organizations special development privileges unavailable to secular landowners, local nonprofits, or ordinary residents.

Governor Kathy Hochul has also proposed changes to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) under her "Let Them Build" housing initiative. The proposal would streamline environmental review for certain housing developments and impose strict deadlines on environmental impact studies. While intended to accelerate construction, opponents fear these changes could significantly reduce the time municipalities have to fully study impacts on aquifers, flooding, road systems, emergency services, and fragile ecosystems, particularly in rural communities where infrastructure is already strained.

For many small towns, the combined effect of these policies is alarming. Residents worry that religiously affiliated developers will increasingly use the threat of costly federal lawsuits under RLUIPA, combined with weakened zoning and environmental review laws at the state level, to force approvals that local governments would otherwise deny based on legitimate public health and environmental concerns. Town boards and planning boards often operate with limited budgets and volunteer officials, while large development inter-

ests have access to extensive legal teams, engineers, and financial backing. Faced with the possibility of expensive litigation, some municipalities will feel pressured to approve projects even when serious environmental risks remain unresolved.

This debate is not about opposing religion or affordable housing. Most residents understand the need for housing solutions and respect religious freedom. The core issue is whether any organization, religious or secular, should receive special legal pathways that allow them to bypass local protections. Communities are increasingly asking why environmental standards, zoning rules, and planning requirements should apply differently depending on who the developer is.

Ultimately, the growing conflict over RLUIPA, faith-based housing legislation, and weakened environmental review laws reflects a larger question facing New York: who should control the future of small towns, the communities themselves, or outside development interests empowered by state and federal laws? For many residents, the answer is clear: growth should never come at the expense of environmental protection, public safety, or a community's right to shape its own future.

Submitted by: Fallsburg's Future

New Yorkers Diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease Deserve Access to Treatment

Editor:

Scientific breakthroughs have changed what is possible for New Yorkers. New therapies can slow cognitive and functional decline in the early stages of Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association has led the fight to expand access to these FDA-approved treatments.

Although these treatments do not offer a cure, they do offer something equally precious - time. Time for families to hold onto memories a little longer; time for loved ones to remain independent; and time for more birthdays, conversations and milestones together.

As a volunteer for the Alzheimer's Association for the past thirty years as well as an Alzheimer's Advocate and Caregiver Support Group Facilitator, I've seen firsthand how Alzheimer's affects Alzheimer patients, their family members and caregivers and how important it is for the New York State Legislature to support the Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act and pass S.9523 and A.10748.

This legislation would remove unnecessary barriers by requiring State insurers to cover medically necessary diagnostic testing, including routine blood-based tests, to diagnose early stage or pre-symptomatic Alzheimer's Disease and FDA-approved treatment. It would also explicitly ban insurance companies requiring cheaper, less effective drugs for Alzheimer's patients, thereby ensuring that every New Yorker diagnosed with this devastating disease has access to the care, treatment and dignity they deserve.

Please reach out to your Senate and Assembly representatives to support this very important legislation.

Thank you.
Sheila Lashinsky, Monticello, NY
Alzheimer's Association Volunteer/Advocate/Caregiver Support Group Facilitator



PHOTO PROVIDED
Matthew Sush, President and CEO of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce (center) with Linda Barriger (left) and Marvin Rappaport (right) of Monticello Kiwanis.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Sullivan County Treasurer Kathleen Lara (center) with Linda Barriger (left) and Marvin Rappaport of Monticello Kiwanis.

Hon. Kathleen Lara was elected County Treasurer in November 2025, after serving as Deputy Treasurer for eleven years. She discussed

the numerous responsibilities as County Treasurer, including disbursing funds, collecting property taxes, revenue collection, finan-

cial reports, etc.

Matthew Sush was appointed as the President and CEO of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce

on February 2, 2026. From Day One, he has been busy directing the organization's efforts to promote, support

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.
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SIPPING AND TIPPING AT THE TANGO CAFÉ

Thunder 102's Country Cares Radiothon

PHOTOS BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin



Far left: Cris Spinner (left) with Bold Gold New York General Manager Dawn Ciorciari

Above left: Fallsburg Supervisor Nate Steingart (left) and Legislator Joey Perrello were guest bartenders.

At left: Entertainers Joanna Gass and Mike Henry were among the performers.

Above right: Bold Gold New York's Paul Ciliberto (left) with Greg Goldstein.

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE – The community showed up at Tango Café ready to sip, support and give back as part of the Thunder 102 radio fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Research

Hospital. All tips from the night went to St. Jude's.

Guest bartenders for the evening included Fallsburg Town Supervisor Nate Steingart, District Seven Legislator, Joe Perrello, Fallsburg Town Clerk Paula Grogan, Jenn Edwards

from the Fallsburg Supervisor's office, and Executive Director of ARC Greater Hudson Valley, Regina McKenny Snead.

It wasn't Mr. Perrello's first time pouring drinks.

"I've done this a few times," he said. "We go from town to

town."

Musicians Laura Garone, Mike Henry, Joanna Gass, Steve Schwartz, Kenny Windheim and Tom Hanley entertained with live music.

"Thank you to the good people who came out to support

the good cause," Joanna Gass said.

Paul Ciliberto, the originator of the Thunder 102 Country Cares for St. Jude Kids Radiothon and Senior Advisor of Bold Gold, said the evening generated "a little over \$1100,

and that's \$1100 more than we had yesterday," he said.

St. Jude Committee member Cris Spinner commented on the turnout.

"It was a great crowd," she said.

I was saddened to see Margaret Renkl's column vanish from the pages of The New York Times. Her byline read: "Flora, fauna, politics and culture in the American South." Her focus was her backyard, all that grew and flew and thrived there — the naturalist's beat.

Apparently, The Times no longer provided a congenial place for her work. "In a burning world like this," she stated, after retracting her last article, "there is less and less room for the voice of a generalist." Her column ran for nine years. Preceding hers, Verlyn Klinkenborg's "The Rural Life" covered the naturalist's beat in the paper for sixteen years.

I remember discovering "The Rural Life," at the bottom of the lead-editorial page. On the right half of the page were the letters to the editor; on the left, a stacked column of the paper's official positions. The layout on July 26, 1998 was typical: the top-most editorial was "Republican Infighting," followed by "Famine: The Man-Made Disaster," weighty topics, then as now. A black border ran beneath the editorials and below that, in smaller font, as if it were some sort of footnote, four short paragraphs that began: "In late April a neighbor harrowed and seeded our pasture with a mixture of orchard grass, bird's-foot trefoil, clover, and rye." It went on about the growth of pasture in spring; it quoted Thoreau. What, I wondered, was it doing there? What, for that matter, was bird's-eye trefoil?

Welcome to the rural life! The black border separated the macrocosm of global concerns from the microcosm of the very local, where clover and rye mattered. What "The Rural Life" was doing there was delivering news of a different order, "news that stayed news." It was preserving a space, amidst the clamor of opinion, for quiet observation of the proximate world — backyard, woods, pond, field, or wherever you happened to be at the moment. Crossing the black border was like downshifting into another mode of consciousness. Whatever the ostensible topic, floral or faunal, the true subject was always the quality of attention being paid to it. That quality, a compound of curiosity, precision and tenderness, was so quietly potent it took on moral as well as sensory dimensions.

A long lineage of exemplary noticers stood behind the attentiveness shared by Renkl and Klinkenborg. It ran from their immediate predecessor, E. B. White, all the way back to Thoreau and Emerson. This school of writers modeled habits of attention that were restorative, that aimed to preserve a human faculty in danger of being compromised by the pressures — social, political, commercial — of the given day.

The faculty of attention is itself a topic of editorial concern these days. Our ability to pay attention is disordered, the site of a crisis. There is alarm over the commodification of attention by the algorithms of social media, and the extent to which this has proven deleterious for individual and civic health. We're in bondage to our very devices: computers and tablets, smart phones, smart wrist-watches, smart eyeglasses. There's even an "Attention Liberation Front" issuing manifestos about our attentional deficits.

We know all too well what it feels like to have our attention sliced into twitchy commodified segments: the sense of overwhelm and breathlessness induced by constant distraction and interruption; the painful dispersal of consciousness that longs to reconstitute itself in its wholeness, like our lungs long for air.

Attention is too big to flail. We need the full and free exercise of our faculty of attention for the health of our minds just as we need physical exercise for the health of our bodies. Attention enlivens what it alights upon, and is, in turn, enlivened; when that power contracts or is squandered, we become less curious, less acute, less tender; the wellsprings of empathy dry up. With the ebbing of attention, one can slip into a dangerous realm of disregard.

The quality of regard, in all its senses, is nourished by the voice of quiet unpolished observation. That voice counters the forces laying siege to our attention. It invites us to collect our scattered wits. It reconnects attention to the senses and the natural world. It reminds us of where we find ourselves, one element in a larger landscape of which we are a part, alongside flora and fauna, weather and seasons, moon and stars.

"Flora, fauna, politics and culture" — these things are all connected. The type of attention we pay to one has implications for the type of attention we are able to pay to the others. In Verlyn Klinkenborg's final "Rural Life" column, he summed up the most important thing he learned writing it: "to look up from my work in the sure knowledge that there was always something worth noticing and that there were nearly always words to suit it," words as clear as *orchard grass*, *bird's-foot trefoil*, *clover*, and *rye*. The simple act of naming, voiced aright, can sound like a benediction. In this burning world, we need such voices more than ever.

As for bird's-eye trefoil: it's a member of the pea family, bears a bright yellow flower and seedpods that resemble a bird's foot, and is known colloquially as "butter and eggs," "hen and chickens," and "Granny's toenails."

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

Sullivan 180 Announces Community Development Grant Recipients

LIBERTY – Sullivan 180 has announced the first round of 2026 Community Development Grants to support community-driven projects that align with Sullivan 180's mission to build a healthy community. Grant amounts range up to \$5,000 depending on the scope of the project.

"From public art and com-

munity events to nutrition programming and cooking workshops, these projects reflect the many ways local organizations are creating opportunities for people to connect, learn, and lead healthier lives," said Shannon Cilento, Sullivan 180 Director of Community Development & Communications. "Funds will go to support ini-

tiatives that activate public spaces, strengthen community ties, and make healthy experiences more accessible across Sullivan County."

To date, the 2026 Community Development Grant recipients are:

Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County: Free, weekly interactive cooking demonstrations at the Sullivan Fresh Monticello Farmers Market, along with periodic demonstrations at Sullivan

Fresh Mobile Markets throughout the 2026 season.

Delaware Youth Center: A seven-week family and youth cooking class series led by Chef Dayna Halprin, focused on healthy, budget-friendly meals using local ingredients.

Hope's Compass Fund: Support for the Community Arts Café at the Liberty Mall on Sullivan Avenue, including artists, performers and the installation of a public window art display.

Narrowsburg Farmers Market: Launch of the Taste the Market: A Community Food Experience Series, featuring 12 curated food and nutrition events held twice monthly from May through October.

Tusten Social: Where We Grow youth arts programming culminating in three public art installations throughout Narrowsburg this summer.

Western Sullivan Public Library: A three-part cooking workshop series focused on

healthy, affordable eating for adults in the community.

Wurtsboro Board of Trade: Creation of a three-part mural series at the newly constructed Canal Park, inspired by the seasons and natural environment of Wurtsboro.

Applications are still being accepted for Community Development Grants. For more information or to request an application, contact Shannon Cilento at 845-295-2434 or Shannon@Sullivan180.org.

KIWANIS: Hosts community leaders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and advocate for the local businesses in the community. His past experience as a business relations officer at Jeff Bank is definitely beneficial with his new duties.

Hon. Scott Mace was elected Town of Thompson Supervisor in November 2025. He delivered an informative power point presentation focusing on long-term

comprehensive plan covering zoning developments, housing, recreation, parks, youth programs, etc.

It was easy to determine that the above presentations were a hub for learning about the inner workings of our community since club members and guests were intrigued with the subject matters and lingered buzz-

ing with many questions.

The Kiwanis Club of Monticello meets on the first Monday of the month at Albella's Restaurant at 6 p.m. Their focused mission

is dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. Please check out their Facebook page at Monticello, NY Kiwanis Club.

Cornell Cooperative Extension Awards Fallsburg \$2,500 Grant Prize

FALLSBURG – On May 20, 2026, Cornell Cooperative Extension held their 10-Year Celebration of their Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) program.

The goal of the program, which is facilitated by the New York State Department of Health, is to reduce severe health risks in high-need communities throughout the state. THE NYSDOH has awarded grants to Cornell Cooperative Extension for the past decade to ensure the community has access to healthy food and space for physical activity.

The Fallsburg Central School District was accompanied by several school districts, local organizations, and town officials to

commemorate the many health and wellness initiatives that have been implemented throughout Sullivan County. They were the recipient of not only a certificate of achievement, but also a check for \$2,500 for their exceptional commitment to health and wellness. The funds will go directly toward sustainable wellness policies that will greatly improve the school community for years to come.

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Ivan Katz, said, "Cornell Cooperative Extension has been an essential partner for the Fallsburg Central School District for decades and we are proud to have them as an integral part of our Health and Wellness initiatives. They make a difference!"

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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.

For whatever reason, the fire service has had rash of CO (carbon monoxide) calls recently. This is usually a winter, cold weather call. Carbon monoxide, often called "the silent killer," is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that can quickly become deadly. Sometimes you may think it smells because you are smelling exhaust from a device that is not burning its fuel efficiently. It is produced when fuels such as oil, gasoline, propane, natural gas, wood, or coal do not burn completely. Common household sources include furnaces, boilers, water heaters, fireplaces, generators, gas stoves and vehicles left running in attached garages.

Because carbon monoxide cannot be seen or smelled, many victims do not realize they are being exposed until symptoms begin. Early signs of carbon monoxide poisoning can include headaches, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, confusion and shortness of breath. High levels of exposure can cause unconsciousness and death within minutes.

A carbon monoxide detector just like a smoke detector can save your life.

- Never use generators inside homes, garages, or enclosed spaces.
- Have heating systems, chimneys and vents inspected annually.
- Never use ovens or grills to heat a home.
- Keep vehicle exhaust pipes clear of snow and never idle a vehicle in a garage.
- Ensure all fuel-burning appliances are properly vented.

If you see a yellow flame on your gas stove, or there is black soot on your pots your stove is not burning correctly and giving off excess CO. Your stove should have a bluish white colored flame.

If a carbon monoxide alarm sounds, immediately move outside to fresh air and call 911. Do not re-enter the building until emergency personnel determine it is safe.

Please make sure you have a WORKING CO and Smoke Detector in your home.

Coming up is the 25th Annual Morningside Fishing classic. Saturday, June 20, it starts at 5 a.m., and ends at 1 p.m. on the beautiful Morningside Lake in Hurleyville.

Save the date for the 15th Annual Bill Carlson Golf Tournament Saturday, August 15 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start at the Terry Brae golf course.

It is hard to believe that I have been writing this column for ten years. I have tried to give updates and information about the Hurleyville Fire Department and expand into incidents around Sullivan County

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE
WANTS TO KEEP YOU SAFE
SIGNS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Fatigue
Dizziness
Headache
Tightness in Chest
Nausea

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

that have made impacts on our citizens. I have also tried to give some timely fire prevention hints that may save a life.

As a firefighter for many years, I have come to realize that many citizens are not exposed to fire prevention and or life safety hints. For example, I would

think everybody should know about CO poisoning and not burn charcoal inside a home. Most recently I responded to a possible CO poisoning call where a charcoal briquet stove was used inside an apartment. No CO detector and a young child with CO poisoning. Be Safe Out there.

Letters From The Holocaust At Temple Shalom

MONTICELLO—On June 15, Temple Shalom will present "Legacies Through Letters," a selection of long-hidden letters from the time of the Holocaust.

Inspired by Sullivan County native Alan Barrish, and translated from Yiddish, the selected letters represent correspondence of survivors, rescuers, and Government officials. They introduced the Barrish family to surviving relatives who now live in Israel.

The letters will stimu-

late a panel discussion by Lily Barish Levner, Jeremy Levner, Lea Wolinetz, and Dr. Peter A. Chester, all of whom have intimate knowledge of the Holocaust. Hope Blecher Cronley will moderate a discussion by the panelists and the audience.

The presentation will take place at 1 p.m., June 15 at Temple Shalom, and tickets are \$10 per person. Reserve a place by calling 845-794-8731 or 845-428-8106 and send your check to Temple Shalom, P.O. Box 664, Monticello, NY 12701.



Alan Barrish

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Saturday July 11th 12:30pm - 2:30pm

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Rain Date - July 25th



Albert White

PHOTOS PROVIDED



Eileen Minarsky accepted on behalf of her late husband, James



Joseph Goldstein

FCSD Honors Inductees at Hall of Fame Ceremony

FALLSBURG – On May 27, 2026, the Fallsburg Central School District honored their Class of 2026 Hall of Fame inductees, Joseph Goldstein, James Minarsky, and Albert White.

Following his 1961 graduation from Fallsburg High School and his subsequent philosophy studies at Columbia University, Joseph Goldstein took an interest in Buddhism while serving in the Peace Corps in Thailand. This initiated a lifelong dedication to mindfulness, leading him to spend seven years studying Buddhist meditation in India under esteemed teachers like Anagarika Sri Munindra and S. N. Goenka.

Upon returning to the United States in 1974, Mr. Goldstein became one of the first instructors at the Naropa Institute. He then co-founded the internationally renowned Insight Meditation Society (IMS) in Barre, Massachusetts, alongside fellow Naropa instructors, Jack Kornfield and Sharon Salzberg. He later helped establish the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies and the Forest Refuge. Today, Goldstein is widely revered as a pioneering and highly respected teacher who helped introduce insight meditation to the West through his foundational books, clarity, and humility.

James Minarsky, a 1958 graduate of Fallsburg High School, left a lasting legacy as a dedicated community member. Over his decades-long career, he transitioned from a volunteer firefighter in Fallsburg to Chief of the Grahamsville Fire Department, and was later appointed Deputy Fire Coordinator for the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire. In this leadership role, Mr. Minarsky spearhead-

ed critical advancements, including consolidating county emergency services into a single dispatch center, upgrading radio systems and firefighter gear, and standardizing state reporting.

Additionally, he served as a highly respected propane mechanic at the Fallsburg Gas Company for several decades. He earned the moniker of "Master Propane Mechanic" as people looked to him for his expertise on propane safety and propane-related fire emergencies.

Albert White stands out as one of Fallsburg's legendary sports figures. During his high school career, he was crowned New York State champion in the 100m in 1997 and the 200m in 1998, alongside earning two State Runner-Up titles and eight Section IX championships. He continues to hold school records in the 100m, 200m, and high jump.

Mr. White also led Fallsburg's basketball team to an OCL Championship and earned All-Star honors. Upon graduating from Fallsburg in 1998, he attended the University of Rhode Island on a track and field scholarship, where he achieved Atlantic-10 All-Conference and All-New England distinctions.

Following his athletic career, Mr. White transitioned into a community leader, working as a Staffing Specialist for New Hope Community since 2005 to provide employment and mentorship in Sullivan County, while continuing to coach youth sports.

The Fallsburg Central School District wishes to congratulate their Class of 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY FRED FRIES FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE SULLIVAN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 9, 1931 32 Room Boarding House Burned

On Tuesday afternoon at about 5 o'clock a 32-room house belonging to I. Meyerhoff at Hilldale near Hurleyville was burned to the ground by a fire which originated in the roof.

The house was one of the pioneer boarding houses of this vicinity and was known years ago as the William Hodge farm. The loss is estimated at around \$25,000 only about \$6,000 of which is covered by insurance.

Notice of Town Ordinances

At a meeting of the Town Board of Health, Town of Fallsburgh, County of Sullivan, New York held at the Town Clerk's Office at South Fallsburgh, N.Y., on April 23, 1931 the following Health Ordinances were adopted;

Ordinance No. 1
Garbage and other Refuse No garbage, dead animals or other organic waste matters shall be thrown or allowed to remain upon the ground within 200 feet of any store or boarding house, rooming house or any other building used as a dwelling in the Town of Fallsburg.

All garbage or kitchen waste shall be deposited in water tight containers, provided with tight covers, which shall prevent access of flies. These containers shall be of such size and number as to provide storage for at least one day's accumulation and during the summer months shall be emptied and cleaned at least once daily. The contents of these containers and other organic waste matters shall be properly disposed of by burial in trenches, feeding of swine or chickens, incineration or other approved manner at isolated points not less than 200 feet from any dwelling or other inhabited house, well or public road, nor within 25 feet of any water course. All refuse matter from meat and fish markets shall be thoroughly lined before removal from premises.

Fallsburg High School Senior Earns 2026 Salon Memorial Scholarship

FALLSBURG-- Emmabella Ferreira, a graduating senior at Fallsburg High School, has been named the 2026 recipient of the Marion and Philip Salon Memorial Scholarship Award.

Emmabella is the daughter of Lily and Armenio Ferreira of Loch Sheldrake, N.Y. She will receive \$1,000 toward her first year of post-secondary studies in animal science at SUNY Agriculture and Technical College at Cobleskill this fall.

She was selected for her commitment to volunteer service, notably in leadership roles in the Key Club, art club and student government. She finished 8th in her graduating class and earned an associate's degree from SUNY Sullivan while still in high school.

In a letter of recommendation for Emmabella, Jonathan Gose, an English language arts teacher, said: "Her academic performance is complemented by her kindness and empathy, qualities that make her not only an exceptional student but also a valued member of

dwelling or other inhabited house, well or public road, nor within 25 feet of any water course. All refuse matter from meat and fish markets shall be thoroughly lined before removal from premises.

Ordinance No. 2
Fly Screens
The doors, windows and other openings of kitchens, dining rooms, stores, markets or other compartments where food is prepared, Served, store and in stores, markets and restaurants where food is exposed or offered for sale, shall be furnished with durable, close-fitting and effective fly screens, which shall during the period from June 1st to October 1st, of each year, of every year, be so placed and used as to effectively exclude flies.

Proceedings for elimination of the Fallsburg crossing of the O & W Railroad in South Fallsburg, were closed by the Public Service Commission Thursday of last week.

Proceedings were closed on the ground that public welfare does not require elimination of the crossing at this time. The Commission, however, ordered the railroad company forthwith erect gates at this crossing and that a guard be stationed at the crossing to open and close the gates when an engine or train approaches throughout the entire twenty-four hours of each day. After the installation of the gates the crossing alarm bell will be removed.

Traffic counts show that both the railroad and highway traffic is heavy in the summer but comparatively light through the rest of the year. There are nearly twice as many trains in summer as in winter.

Coroner Goldberg of South Fallsburg was notified and an examination failed to disclose anything except that the man was a polish laborer of about 30 to 35 years of age. He had one five cent piece in his pocket and a scrap of newspaper on which was written the name of John Szyperski. He is believed to have been employed in this vicinity during the winter but is unidentified as yet. The remains were taken to Laidlaw's Burial Parlors in Hurleyville.

County and town opposed elimination on the ground that the crossing was not dangerous. The Department of Public Works, however, favors an elimination if it can be economically accomplished. A proposed plan of elimination would take a considerable area of property and cost around \$150,000.

May 23, 1931 Unknown Polish Laborer Killed at Smith Cut Near Hurleyville By Fast Freight Thursday Three Cars Pass Over Body Before Halted

An unknown man about 35 years of age was killed in Smith Hill Cut about one fourth mile east of Hurleyville by a fast west bound freight on the O. & W. R. R. at about 3:45 Thursday afternoon.

The man was walking on the tracks and as the train rounded the curve the engineer saw him and blew the whistle and applied the brakes and according to train men who saw the accident the man kept on apparently oblivious [sic] of the on-coming train. Three cars passed over his body before coming to a halt. The wheels passing over the abdomen just above the hips cutting the body completely in two, the legs being under the car and the trunk and head outside the rails.

Coroner Goldberg of South Fallsburg was notified and an examination failed to disclose anything except that the man was a polish laborer of about 30 to 35 years of age. He had one five cent piece in his pocket and a scrap of newspaper on which was written the name of John Szyperski. He is believed to have been employed in this vicinity during the winter but is unidentified as yet. The remains were taken to Laidlaw's Burial Parlors in Hurleyville.

our school community." The scholarship, which is named in memory of two lifelong Hurleyville residents, is designated annually for at least one graduating senior at Fallsburg Central School who has made a serious commitment to service in ways that benefit the community and its citizens or has overcome a significant personal challenge.

The annual Salon scholarship is funded by the chil-

dren and relatives of Marion and Phil Salon, whose two children, Shep and Rebecca, graduated from Fallsburg Central High School in the 1960s.

Marion and Phil Salon were the owners and operators of a bungalow colony and Salon's Corners, a convenience store, over a 40-year period. Mr. Salon served for 24 years on the board of education of the Fallsburg Central Schools.

BREAD OF LIFE
FOOD PANTRY

Thursday, June 18th
Thursday, June 25th
3:00pm - 4:45pm

Hurleyville United Methodist Church
263 Main Street
Hurleyville

PATRIOTS ARE BORN PART II

An Original Story by John Conway

To commemorate America's 250th birthday, *The Hurleyville Sentinel* is re-running an original story that first appeared in our paper in 2020. In Part One of the story, readers were introduced to young brothers Andrew and Morgan Worth, timber rafters who lived along the Delaware River in the region that would later become Sullivan County. It was May of 1775, and they were preparing to take a raft of timber to Philadelphia when they were paid a late night visit by Alexander McDougall, a New York politician, who asks them for a ride to Philadelphia on their raft. Revealing himself to be a long time seaman, he offers to pay for the ride and to help with the raft. He also reveals that there are men pursuing him. We now pick up the story...

I could see right away that Morgan was not happy with my decision to allow McDougall to hitch a ride downriver on our raft, and I knew my little brother was not one to hold his tongue for very long when he had something to say.

"Look, Andrew, we've got a tough trip ahead of us," he finally said. "Do you really want to be responsible for someone who's never been on a raft before? And besides, he just told us he is being chased by someone, and he hasn't really said why. Does this mean they are going to be chasing us? I don't think we need that kind of trouble."

I wanted to tell Morgan that we could really use the money, since we had no idea when we might be able to take another raft downriver, but McDougall piped up before I could formulate an answer.

"You don't want trouble?" he said loudly. "Then you'd better leave this continent, because what is happening now is going to be more trouble than you can possibly imagine, and for a long, long time."

"How about letting us in on just what it is that you're talking about?" Morgan retorted, clearly not backing down.

"Calm down, Morgan." I interjected, but McDougall was quick with an answer.

"As I told you, fighting has already started in Mas-

sachusetts, at Lexington and Concord, and it is likely to get much worse before it gets better. Congress will be assembling in Philadelphia in a few days, and I intend to be there to urge our New York representatives to push for total independence."

"Independence from England?" Morgan asked. "Are you serious?"

"Have you ever heard of the Sons of Liberty?" McDougall asked.

In our travels to Philadelphia over the past few years, we had heard of the agitators for separation from England who called themselves the Sons of Liberty, had heard Charles Thomson speak to small gatherings in the city, and had even met some of the men who were members, but I wasn't sure we should admit that to McDougall. But as usual, Morgan was much less cautious.

"Of course we've heard of them," he said. "We even know some."

I found myself shaking my head, almost imperceptibly, as much for my own benefit as for Morgan's, and I wasn't sure he even noticed.



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED
"You don't want trouble?" McDougall said loudly. "Then you'd better leave this continent, because what is happening now is going to be more trouble than you can possibly imagine, and for a long, long time."

"I'm going to trust you, and admit that I was one of the organizers in New York City, where it is a fairly unpopular group," McDougall said.

"Is that why people are chasing you?"

"Yes," McDougall confided. "There are men who would do almost anything

to keep me from reaching Philadelphia. As I told you, they almost caught me several miles back, but I was able to elude them by sliding down a steep embankment to a rushing creek below. I'm telling you this because if you allow me to ride down river on your raft, you could be in danger, too."

"We cut and raft timber for a living," Morgan said defiantly. "We don't back down from danger."

He looked at me for the first time during the discussion, apparently seeking my agreement.

"Like I said before, McDougall. If you can pay, you can ride. Getting the raft to Philadelphia is always a challenge, I don't think whoever is following you will be too much trouble."

"I admire your spirit," McDougall said, addressing both of us. "We need more good men like you to join our cause."

"We didn't say anything about joining any cause," I advised. "We're not choosing up sides, we're just giving you a ride."

"And you're paying us for it," Morgan added.

"True enough," McDougall said, smiling. "But remember, I was told about you boys by some of your neighbors. From what I have heard, you are not Loyalists. That's one of the reasons I am here."

"Truth is, we are not much of anything," I said. "We like living our lives

on our own terms, without anyone telling us what we have to do. But we've spent enough time in Philadelphia the past few years to know very well what's going on there."

I saw Morgan suppress a yawn, and realized how late it was. We had plans to be on the river as soon as dawn broke in the morning, and we needed to be at our best, so I suggested we all get some sleep.

"Do you think one of us should stand guard?" Morgan asked. "I mean, if people are after him, they might pay us a visit."

"That's probably not a bad idea," McDougall said. "I could take the first watch."

"No, I will," Morgan said emphatically, hoisting his musket. "You get some sleep; dawn will be here before you know it."

I noticed that Boson decided to keep Morgan company while he acted as sentry, and I tried to fall asleep, but thoughts of the trip and what we might be getting ourselves into by offering to help McDougall kept me awake. Eventually, I began mentally checking

off things we typically did before heading downriver, such as packing food into our buckets, drawing fresh water from the well, shutting the house, and soon I was sleeping, although fitfully.

It seemed as if I had been sleeping for just a few minutes when Morgan shook me awake.

"It's your turn to keep watch, brother," he said wearily.

And so I did.

Rafting timber to Philadelphia was the first great industry in the upper Delaware region, beginning in 1764, but because of the mounting tensions and open hostilities, it largely ceased when the Revolutionary War broke out. Our fictional brothers, Andrew and Morgan Worth, along with their big black dog, Boson, and a passenger, real life historical figure Alexander McDougall, launch their raft for Philadelphia in the next chapter of Patriots Are Born. Don't miss it in the July edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.

Benjamin Cosor Elementary School Announces Third Marking Period Honors

FALLSBURG—Benjamin Cosor Elementary School is excited to announce their Honor Roll and Superintendent's Honor Roll recipients for the third marking period of the 2025-2026 school year. Students who made the Honor Roll list earned an overall grade-point average of 3.0-3.5, and students who made the Superintendent's Honor Roll list earned an overall grade-point average of 3.6-4.0.

Doolittle, Annabella Fisher, James Geagley, Jaime Giron Paredes, Emanuel Hilerio Calderon, Alessio Hugo Alvarez, Maydelin Jacobo Lopez, David Jimenez-Castillo, Elias Lopez, Giavanna Mack, Sofia Madera, Ashton Mahodil, Zoe Murry, Benjamin Levi Odom, Gabriel Ortiz, Zoe Otero Deras, Dove Picciotti, Kenneth Reyes Sierra, and Ashley Ruano Lopez. Superintendent's Honor Roll: Mila Anthony and Eliana Montenegro Sandoval.

Grade 6 Honor Roll: Genesis Anderson, Johan Blandon Salinas, Santiago Brito Garcia, Amore Brown, Anpol Caguana, Jonathan Castro Moreno, Kewin Choj Ramirez, Keila Coj Tambriz, Elijah Cruz, Samantha Darcy, Kadence Duncan, Brooklyn Fisher, Nayelye Fuentes-Canales, Yadiel Fuentes Hernandez, Katherine Giron Cabrera, Alina Guillen, Chloe Hadden, Hudson Healy, Ivan Hernandez Cortes, Olivia Hilliard, Jackson Hockenberry, Sydney Johnson, Faith Kehlenbeck, Mason Li, Madison Maldonado, Bryan Maldonado Alvarado, Lilliana Martinez, Anthony Mora Ceron, Camila Navarrete, Alayna Phitts, Jax Pillius, Jean Carlos Pineda Reyes, Daniela Rios Nunez, Carlos Robles Santos, Taylor Simms, Diana Toriz Jimenez, Queenie Wang, and Jazmyne Ward.

Superintendent's Honor Roll: Mila Arroyo, Jacob Boynton Torres, Giada Evangelista, Jax Frunzi, Esther Grande Lagos, Gianna Guerrero, Ravyn Henry, Jase Hermann, Josiah Hinton, Brianna Johnson, Muhammed Kassama, Eliza Lagos Guardado, Enina Lulanaj, Braylee Maitland, Elizabeth McManus, Zoya Meer, Levi Nicanor Perez, Lincoln Oneal, Leslie Peralta Rosa, Skyla Restrepo, Madax Simpson, Mirey'ah Steele, and Elijah Torres.

ROCK HILL – Music, romance, and a touch of jazz magic are coming to El Sombrero Restaurant, 227 Lake Louise Marie Rd, Rock Hill, NY 12775 on July 24, as acclaimed vocalist Donna Singer and her husband, Roy Singer, take the stage for an unforgettable evening that blends live performance with a heartfelt celebration of love.

The couple will perform a lively jazz concert from 6 – 8 p.m. before transitioning into a renewal of vows celebrating both their marriage and the music that first connected them.

Prospective guests are encouraged to make reservations early at 845-513-4219. The ceremony will be officiated by First Lady Vernice Collins of Shiloh Baptist Church and will include special musical appearances by Pedro Tweed and Crystal Tweed.

Donna Singer, an internationally traveled vocalist, pianist, educator, and entertainer, has a life story that reads like the soundtrack to a classic American jazz film. Warm, energetic, and delightfully funny, Dr. Singer shared memories spanning from childhood singalongs in Upstate New York to

performances on some of the world's most celebrated stages.

Her career has taken her across the globe, with performances in London, Paris, Rome, Switzerland, Ireland, and Wales. In the United States, she has appeared at legendary venues including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She even performed the National Anthem at a Miami Dolphins game—proof that her voice can handle both jazz standards and football fans before kickoff.

With 12 CDs and nine singles to her credit, Dr. Singer's music has reached listeners throughout North America, South America, Europe, Australia, and Africa. When asked about her upbringing, she smiled as she reflected on growing up in Sullivan County with her twin sister, older sister, and brother in a household filled with the music of jazz legends: Nancy Wilson, Count Basie, Sammy Davis Jr., and Duke Ellington became the soundtrack of her childhood and inspired the artist she would eventually become.

"As a little girl, I was always singing," she recalled. "In third grade I sang for

ACCLAIMED VOCALIST TO PERFORM



PHOTO PROVIDED
Donna Singer

my favorite teacher, Mrs. Jurachek, and by fourth grade my classmates were requesting songs in art class. I think they were my first audience—and thankfully my toughest critics arrived later."

By high school, she was performing in musicals, cheerleading, serving as a soccer timekeeper, and singing "I Sing the Body Electric" from Fame at graduation.

At just 17 years old, she moved to New York City to pursue music professionally. She earned her degree from the prestigious New York Academy of Theatrical Arts

and continued her studies at Juilliard School. She later returned to Sullivan County, where she hosted the gospel radio program "Down by the River" on WJFF-FM from 1998 to 2004. She also spent 15 years performing as lead vocalist for the Swing Shift Orchestra, a 17-piece big band dedicated to the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, and other legends of the swing era.

Dr. Singer's passion for mentoring led her to establish Dr. Donna's School of Song, where she trained aspiring vocalists and pianists of all ages. In 2006, she joined National Guild of Piano Teachers, continuing her lifelong commitment to music education. In 2013, along with her husband Roy, and their son Christopher, she relocated from Monticello to West Palm Beach, FL, where she formed her own ensemble, The Diamond Jazz Orchestra.

As the July 25 celebration approaches, Dr. Singer says the evening is about more than music—it's about gratitude, love, and sharing joy with the community that has

supported her throughout the years.

"Music has taken me around the world," she said, "but the greatest part of the journey has been sharing it with the people I love."

Guests attending the concert can expect an eve-

ning filled with laughter, romance, classic jazz, and heartfelt moments. And if there's one thing Dr. Singer promises, it's this: nobody leaves without smiling—although a few may leave humming jazz standards all the way home.

RAIL TRAIL BRIDGE IN PLACE Project Nearing Completion



PHOTO PROVIDED

WOODRIDGE – The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance said last month that there has been a major step forward in the work on the Neversink Crossing in Woodridge. The Alliance posted on its Facebook page that the new pedestrian bridge has arrived on site and work to install it began immediately.

At press time, the bridge had been put in place, and finish work was being completed.

The project involves reinstating the bridge over the Neversink River to link two sections of trail and provide a continuous hiking path from

Ferndale to Mountindale.

The Rail Trail Alliance had previously announced that the crane pads had been installed, the abutments had been prepped for concrete, and the blocks for the retaining wall were starting to arrive on site.

The bridge was manufactured by Pioneer Bridges in Fort Payne, Alabama, and transported to Sullivan County by Mike Martin Trucking of Manchester, Tennessee. It arrived on site on May 19.

The project is now in its final phase, and completion by the end of summer 2026 is expected.

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SENTINEL SPORTS



WALK BACK IN TIME

NEW HISTORY TRAIL OPENS

by John Conway

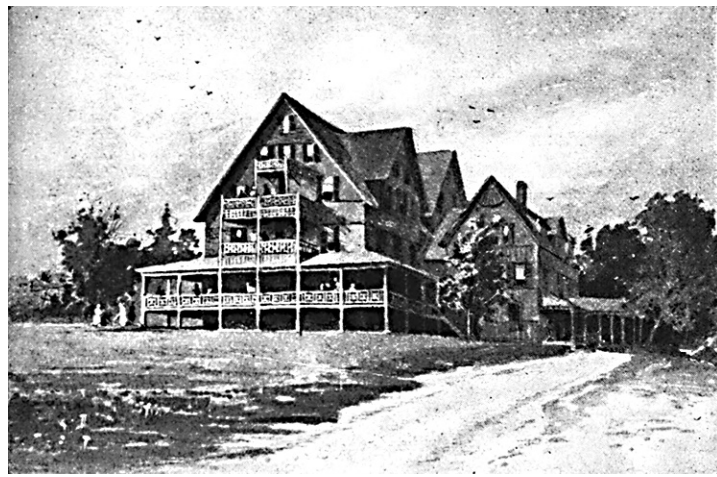
LIBERTY – The grand opening of a new historic hiking trail will take place in Liberty on Saturday, June 6. The scenic Walnut Mountain House History Trail will officially open with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10 a.m. at the trail head in Walnut Mountain Park.

The new trail is a mile-long, self-guided walking trail that its creators describe as “blending local history, nature, and education.” The trail follows the old carriage road that once brought visitors to the Walnut Mountain House hotel at the summit, where the hotel’s old foundation is still visible. Interpretive

panels have been erected along the way to help hikers learn about the mountain’s past.

W.T. Holmes opened the Walnut Mountain House in June of 1887, and it quickly became one of the iconic resorts of Sullivan County’s Silver Age, offering guests “a modern style of architecture, with 70 sleeping rooms, and supplied with gas, hot and cold water, etc.” Built at “2450 feet above tide-water,” the Walnut Mountain House boasted it was “the highest summer house in the state of New York—not excepting any in the Catskills,” with magnificent views of up to 75 miles in any direction.

“It is said by those who



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The Walnut Mountain House in Liberty as it appeared shortly after completion in 1888.

have spent years of travel both in this country and Europe, that for extensive and varied scenery the view from Walnut Mountain cannot be excelled,” the O&W Railway’s “Sum-

mer Homes” vacation guide claimed in 1888.

The view from the hotel was apparently matched only by that from nearby Witch Rock, or Witch Head Rock, which became one of

the most visited—and most photographed—locations in the region. The rock, like the spectacular views, is still extant.

The trail is seen as a major addition to the 279-acre town park that is already popular with visitors. It is largely the culmination of years of hard work by Lisa Lyons and Ruth Huggler.

“Lisa has led numerous hikes on Walnut Mountain because it’s such a great spot for recreation,” Ms. Huggler said recently. “It

was October 2021 that I mentioned my family photo of the workers who had built the [Walnut Mountain House] hotel. Lisa had already thought of adding interpretive panels to the

trails by then, and she was eager to connect more history with the location. We agreed that a project describing the Walnut Mountain House and its era in Liberty would add interest to the park’s trails. Liberty Parks & Recreation was already aware of Lisa leading successful hikes there, so naturally adding them and the town to the concept of a project was the next step.”

The Walnut Mountain House History Trail is the result.

The ribbon cutting will be followed by guided hikes along the trail, with options for a slower pace or a faster pace. For more information, email Lisa Lyons at: lisa@morgan-outdoors.com.

WALK Back in Time

JOIN US ON JUNE 6, 2026

73 Walnut Mountain Road Liberty, NY 12754

GRAND OPENING OF THE WALNUT MOUNTAIN HOUSE HISTORY TRAIL

RIBBON CUTTING 10AM

Followed by guided hikes along the trail. Two hike options: Slower pace & faster pace!

This is a mile-long, self-guided walking trail blending local history, nature, and education. The trail follows the old carriage road that once brought visitors to the Walnut Mountain House at the summit, where you can still see the hotel's old foundation. Join us June 6 to experience the beauty of this scenic trail, and learn about its past through interpretive panels along the way.

For details about the trail and to register: Call Lisa at 845-693-4181 or email Lisa@morgan-outdoors.com by June 5th

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

FISHING CLASSIC COMING UP

by Jack Halchak

HURLEYVILLE – The 25th Annual Morningside Fishing Classic sponsored by the Town of Fallsburg Parks and Recreation Program and the Hurleyville Fire Department will be held Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Morningside Lake, 614 Brickman Road in Hurleyville. It will start at 5:00 AM and end at 1:00 PM.

There will be trophies for first, second and third in two different categories: Bass and Pickerel. In addition, there will be a Lunker prize of \$50.00 for the largest single bass, pickerel or walleye caught by weight at the contest.

Registration will take place at the lake and will be \$10.00 per person.

Fishing can be from boats with trolling motors only and everyone in the boat must be registered or you can fish from shore.

To see pictures of winners from previous years visit us at www.hurlevilleny.com.

Last year, for the first time in many years, the weather cooperated. At the 5 a.m. start, it was 58 degrees, and the temperature went up to close to 80 by weigh-in. There was a slight breeze that almost flattened out towards the end of the contest.

The lake was very high after all the rain the last three weeks, with a water temperature of 70 degrees. There were not a lot of lily pads, and the water was tea-stained in color.

Winners last year included Steven Bennett from Port Jervis and Frank Torres from Greenwood Lake.

You can find more information on Facebook, user J.W.Halchak.

For further information: Jack (845) 796-8598 or Woody (845) 434-3103

Or: Jack Halchak P.O. Box 24 Hurleyville, New York 12747

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A SPORTSPLEX FOR LOCH SHELDRAKE? “Play here. Live here. Thrive here.”

by Patricio Robayo

This story originally appeared in the Sullivan County Democrat newspaper. It is reprinted with permission.

FALLSBURG – Dr. Sean Wall-Carty returned to the Fallsburg Town Board, but this time not as the town’s former deputy supervisor or councilmember.

Dr. Wall-Carty came before the board on May 27 as a representative and advocate for a proposed project in Loch Sheldrake that would combine affordable workforce housing with a year-round indoor sports complex.

The project, called The Hub: Miracle Meadows Residences & Sullivan Sportsplex, is being proposed by Loch Sheldrake Property Management, LLC, and would be located near SUNY Sullivan on Leroy Road.

According to Dr. Wall-Carty, the project is still in the concept phase and would depend on infrastructure, water and sewer capacity,

traffic, utilities, zoning and other required reviews before moving forward.

“This is just an initial concept phase,” Dr. Wall-Carty told the board, adding that the developers still need to determine what infrastructure is available and what improvements may be needed. He said the project would not move forward if the infrastructure could not support it.

The proposal includes two major components. The first, Miracle Meadows, would be an income-based housing development with up to 120 apartments. Dr. Wall-Carty said the housing would focus on veterans, seniors, students, staff and local residents, with what he described as a “Sullivan-first” approach.

“We want to focus on people who are really struggling in our area, who live locally,” he said.

The second part of the project would be the Sullivan Sportsplex, a proposed 150,000-square-foot indoor sports facility. Dr. Wall-Carty said the facility could

include an indoor park, indoor track, basketball courts and space for other recreational activities, while also serving as a venue for tournaments and sports-related events.

The project’s slogan, he said, is “Play here. Live here. Thrive here.”

The idea of an indoor sports facility in Fallsburg is not entirely new.

In 2022, while serving on the Fallsburg Town Board, Dr. Wall-Carty presented the idea of an indoor sports dome as a way to promote healthy living and give residents a place to stay active during the colder months. At the time, he said a multi-use sports dome could include soccer, tennis, football and an indoor walking track, while also helping the county address health concerns and preventable diseases.

During the May 27 town board meeting, the prior idea of a sports complex near the college was also raised. Dr. Wall-Carty said that effort was not a town project, but one that had been pursued through the county and tied

to the college budget. He said the money was never used and the project did not happen.

The proposed site is across from SUNY Sullivan, and Dr. Wall-Carty said a partnership with the college could be explored.

Fallsburg Town Supervisor Nathan Steingart asked whether the developers would consider using or partnering with the college’s existing field house instead of building a new sportsplex, and Dr. Wall-Carty said everything remains open at this early stage.

The project would also require zoning consideration. Dr. Wall-Carty said the parcel is currently zoned commercial, and the applicants may seek an overlay tied to low-income housing tax credits if the infrastructure can support the development.

Board members asked whether the sports complex could stand on its own without the housing component. Dr. Wall-Carty said it could, but added that the housing was included after discus-

sions about local needs in Fallsburg. He said Raj Patel, who is financing the project, felt strongly that the development should give back to the community.

Dr. Wall-Carty also said preliminary discussions have taken place with the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council, which expressed excitement about the project’s long-term vision and potential regional economic impact.

He said the developers are looking at a grant opportunity expected later this summer and may return to the town seeking support as a municipal partner in name only, particularly for the housing component and event center.

For now, he said, the proposal remains only a concept.

No final approvals were granted, and the proj-

ect would still need to go through the necessary planning, zoning, environmental, engineering and municipal review processes before any construction could begin. The executive summary submitted to the town lists a possible construction timeline of 2027 to 2028, contingent on approvals, infrastructure capacity, environmental review, financing and municipal coordination.

Dr. Wall-Carty said the larger goal is to create a project that would provide housing, recreation and economic development for Fallsburg and Sullivan County.

“This is something that is desperately needed,” he said of the sports facility. “These things kind of aligned up with what the town wants to do and what the town wants to get done in terms of having things to do and also having an affordable place to live.”

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!

June Questions:

1. What school won the first College Baseball World Series in 1947?
2. The College Baseball World Series has been held in Omaha, Nebraska since 1950. What two cities hosted the Series prior to that?
3. What future President of the United States captained a College Baseball World Series team?
4. Who was the first U.S. President to throw out the first pitch at the College Baseball World Series?
5. What major League Baseball Hall of Fame outfielder was the MVP of the College Baseball World Series as a pitcher?

May Answers:

1. What National Leaguer has the most home runs by a switch hitter in a season? (Chipper Jones, Atlanta Braves, hit 45 in 1999, and Lance Berkman matched that in 2006.)
2. What year did David Wells pitch a perfect game in May? (1998)
3. In May of what year did Nolan Ryan pitch his seventh career no-hitter? (1991)
4. Who got his 3,000 career hits on May 4, 2018? (Albert Pujols)
5. What historic baseball event took place on May 24, 1935? (The first night game in MLB history. The Reds beat the Phillies 2-1.)

Bill Damroth was our winner last month, getting four out of five correct. He will receive a copy of the book, “Trifles & Popycock: Not Just Another Trivia Quizbook” by John Conway.

SULLIVAN COUNTY SOAP BOX DERBY 2026

Winners Crowned in Three Divisions

LIBERTY – The 2026 Sullivan County Soap Box Derby is in the books, with 25 gravity racers having competed in three divisions in Liberty on Saturday, May 30.

Competing cars were impounded prior to the competition, and the opening ceremonies began shortly after 8 a.m. on Saturday. Lunch was provided to all competitors compliments of Butcher Boys and Carmines Meat Market.

The place winners in the three divisions included:

- Stock Division:**
1st-Henry Friedenstein
2nd-Alex Smith
3rd-Wyatt Winters
- Super Stock Division:**
1st-Steven Padin



PHOTO PROVIDED

- 2nd-Rose Olsen
3rd-Finley Blume
- Masters Division:**
1st-Mason Rodriguez
2nd-Karan Seekamp
3rd-Cora Friedenstein
- Local winners advance

to the 88th FirstEnergy All-American Soap Box Derby World Championship in Akron, Ohio July 11 thru 18.

Sponsors for the Sullivan County event included Roll-

ing V, Harris Funeral Home, State Farm Insurance, and Liberty Collision.

25th Annual Morningside Fishing Classic
Sponsored by Town of Fallsburg Parks & Rec & Hurleyville Fire Dept.

TROPHIES

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Saturday, June 20, 2026
5:00 AM * 1:00 PM

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