

ELEVATED AND ALIVE

Catskill Film Festival at HPAC

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE—The sixth annual Catskill International Film Festival will be coming to Hurleyville this month, and organizers are promising a “carefully curated lineup” that will provide attendees with an experience “that feels both elevated and alive.”

“In 2026, CIFF is doubling down on what makes a film festival unforgettable: not just the films on screen, but the atmosphere, energy, and sense of discovery that surrounds them,” organizers said. “Set against the backdrop of the beautiful Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre, this year’s festival is being shaped as a fully immersive three-day experience—one designed with intention, depth, and the kind of momentum that keeps audiences, artists, and industry guests en-

gaged from opening night to final curtain.”

Film festival organizers say that “guided by attendee feedback and filmmaker priorities, the 2026 edition places its focus where it matters most: meaningful connection, dynamic conversation, artistic celebration, and bold contemporary cinema.”

According to the festival’s website, “guests can expect red carpet premieres, screening programs, filmmaker Q&As, panel discussions, workshops, and industry networking events—all designed to create not just a schedule, but a true festival ecosystem. Each official selection is chosen through a competitive review process led by CIFF’s programming team, with selected works presented to engaged audiences and film industry representatives in an environment

built to champion discovery and conversation.

“At its core, CIFF remains committed to creating a space where emerging voices and established filmmakers can meet on equal creative ground: a platform that celebrates artistic excellence, invites meaningful audience engagement, and opens the door to real professional opportunity.

“In 2026, CIFF isn’t simply presenting films—it’s creating the kind of festival experience that stays with you long after the credits roll.”

The weekend will feature 45 movies, including the world premiere of Charles Marinaro’s “Where the High Ends,” and the acclaimed Catskills boxing documentary, “Ringside in the Mountains.”

Mr. Molinaro’s feature film is his seventh, coming on the heels of his ac-



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

claimed “Mantra,” which took viewers to outer space.

“I wanted to create something much more grounded—something where audiences could connect deeply with the characters and their experiences,” he says of his new feature. “Where the High Ends takes you on a crazy journey. It will make you laugh, break your heart, and, ultimately, give you hope.

“The story was inspired by people in my life who have struggled with addiction. However, the film isn’t only about those who are addicted; it is also about the innocent people around them who are ultimately affected by their decisions. Growing up, drugs were present in my household, and many of my close friends have spent time in jail because of drug-related crimes. I

often think about how different life might have been if I had taken a different path. Those experiences deeply influenced the story I wanted to tell.”

Among the other movies being promoted as part of the festival are, “Mob to the Movies,” “The Last Rooster,” “Something Pointless,” and “The Picture.”

The festival runs from October 9 thru October 11, and the opening night is already sold out. More information is available at the website, catskillinternationalfilmfestival.com.

The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre will close on October 31, ending more than a decade of culturally significant programming from films and family events to educational classes. In a statement announcing the closing last month, HPAC founder Janet Carrus em-

phasized ““We are grateful to all those who came through our doors.”

The Center for Discovery has announced that it will take over some aspects of HPAC’s operation and continue some of its programs. But the film festival’s future is not ensured.

“As far as wherever the future takes us, we are always open to suggestions and new possibilities,” Mr. Marinaro said. “Over the years, the festival has been held at various venues throughout the county, including the Rivoli Theatre, the Seelig Theatre, the Paramount Theatre in Middletown, as well as online. Our goal has always been to find venues that share and complement the values of our festival.

“For me, HPAC is a match made in cinematic heaven.”

Republican Election Inspectors Needed

Board of Elections Has Full Complement of Democratic Inspectors



DEMOCRACY NEEDS YOU

BECOME A PAID ELECTION INSPECTOR

Visit the Sullivan County Board of Elections or call 845-807-0400 for details



MONTICELLO – The Sullivan County Board of Elections is encouraging local registered Republican voters to serve as paid election inspectors on Election Day, November 3.

“State law requires every poll site to have a sufficient number of inspectors from the major political parties,” explained Pamela Murrin, the Republican Commissioner of the Board of Elections. “We have the necessary number of Democratic voters signed up – we need more Republicans in order to properly staff our 33 polling locations in November.”

More Republican elections inspectors are specifically sought in the townships of Callicoon, Fallsburg, Freemont, Neversink, Thompson and Tusten.

“Election inspectors are a vital part of the democr-

atic process,” added Deanna Senyk, the Democratic Commissioner of the Board of Elections. “They prepare the polling place for voting, set up the voting equipment, sign in and process voters, close the polling place, canvass and report the results, and assist voters, if requested.”

Inspectors must be at least 17 years old and registered to vote in Sullivan County as either a Democrat or Republican. The County Board of Elections provides training and support, including paying inspectors \$40 to take the half-day class and \$300 to serve a full day at their assigned polling location.

To ask questions or sign up to become an election inspector, contact the Sullivan County Board of Elections at 845-807-0400 or SCBOE@sullivanny.gov.

MONITORING MEASLES *A Word from Public Health*

LIBERTY – With 540 reported cases of measles across 36 counties in neighboring Pennsylvania, the Sullivan County Department of Public Health is closely and actively monitoring the spread of this contagious disease.

“Our Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance team maintains ongoing surveillance and is in regular communication with the NYS Department of Health regarding emerging risks, guidance, and any activity that may impact Sullivan County,” says Public Health Director Dr. Jessie Moore. “Our clinical and outreach teams also mon-

itor local measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine coverage and maintain vaccination access.”

Measles is not just a concern for children. Adults who are unsure of their immunity status should speak with their healthcare provider about whether immunity testing (titers) or MMR vaccination is appropriate.

Should a suspected case or exposure occur in Sullivan County, Public Health stands ready to immediately investigate, conduct contact tracing, coordinate testing, provide treatment and vaccinations, and notify the community.

“Public health emergency



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO
Sullivan County Public Health Director Dr. Jessie Moore

preparedness is intentionally integrated across our programs rather than operating

as a stand-alone function,” adds Dr. Moore. “This allows epidemiology, nursing, clinical services, outreach, communications, and leadership to respond collectively and immediately based on the needs of an event, with continued coordination and guidance from the NYS Department of Health.”

For more information on measles in New York State, visit www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/measles. To learn more about Public Health and the services it offers, visit www.sullivanny.gov/Departments/PublicHealth.

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, 4795 children. The current number of infant / toddler childcare

spots available in Sullivan County is 1129. 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/Tod-

dlar 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 in-

quiries 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: [scchildcare.com](https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/childcare.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.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER OCTOBER 18

HURLEYVILLE—The Sullivan County Historical Society will hold its annual dinner at the Rockland House in Roscoe this year, on Sunday, October 18. The event begins with a social hour at 2 p.m.

In addition to the customary election and installation of officers for the upcoming year, the SCHS will be presenting its annual History Maker and History Preserver awards at the dinner.

The Beaverkill Chapter of the National Society

Daughters of the American Revolution will receive this year’s History Maker award. The Beaverkill chapter was founded in 1917, and that first year busied itself by providing food and supplies to the soldiers guarding the railroad bridges in Sullivan County against sabotage as World War I raged in Europe. The chapter has been actively involved ever since in carrying out the National Society’s three-pronged approach of historical, educational and patriotic advo-

cacy.

Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg, NY, a living history museum founded by former Sullivan County Historian James W. Burbank in 1957 and currently operated by the Barryville based nonprofit history education group, The Delaware Company, has been named this year’s recipient of the History Preserver Award. Fort Delaware, featured last fall in the Ken Burns PBS six-part documentary, The

American Revolution, wraps up its 2026 season on October 11.

The Sullivan County Historical Society was founded in 1886 “in order to preserve the history of Sullivan County for the enlightenment of future generations.” It is based at the Sullivan County Museum at 265 Main Street in Hurleyville. Ticket reservations for the dinner must be made by October 8. Contact SCHS president Suzanne Cecil at cecil@scnyhistory.org for more information.

Second Local Bat Tests Positive for Rabies

LIBERTY-- The Sullivan County Department of Public Health is reminding residents to use caution around bats and other wildlife after a bat from the Grahamsville area in the Town of Neversink tested positive for rabies.

This marks the second laboratory-confirmed rabid animal associated with a potential human exposure in Sullivan County this year. (These numbers represent only animals that were available for laboratory testing following an incident involving a person and should not be interpreted as the total amount of rabies circulating among wildlife in the County.)

Bat Encounters Require Special Attention

Bat exposures can sometimes be difficult to recognize because their teeth are very small, and a bite or scratch may not be readily apparent. Anyone who has had direct contact with a bat, wakes up to find a bat in the room where they were sleeping, or discovers a bat in a situation where contact cannot be reliably ruled out should contact Sullivan County Department of Public Health for guidance.

Do not attempt to catch a bat with your bare hands. If the bat can be safely contained without direct contact, do not release it until you have spoken with Public Health. Testing the animal may help determine whether rabies post-exposure treatment is necessary.

Anyone who has been bitten, scratched, or may have had contact with a bat or other potentially rabid animal should wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water and contact Sullivan County Department of Public Health for guidance: 845-292-5910.

Rabies is Present in New York Wildlife

Rabies occurs throughout New York State and is most commonly identified in wild

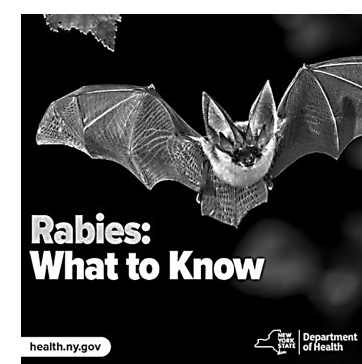


PHOTO PROVIDED

mammals such as bats, raccoons, skunks and foxes. An animal infected with rabies may behave aggressively or unusually, lose its normal fear of people, stagger or have difficulty walking, become partially paralyzed, have difficulty swallowing, or drool excessively. However, an animal does not need to appear sick or aggressive to have rabies.

Residents should avoid unnecessary contact with wildlife and teach children never to touch or approach wild or unfamiliar animals.

Protect Your Pets

Keeping pets vaccinated against rabies protects both animals and the people who live with them.

Residents should:

- Keep dogs, cats and ferrets current on their rabies vaccinations.

- Keep pets indoors or supervised, particularly at night.

- Do not allow pets to roam freely or interact with wildlife.

- Do not attempt to separate fighting animals with your bare hands.

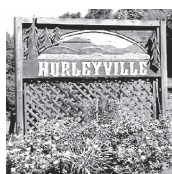
- Contact a veterinarian and Public Health if a pet has contact with a potentially rabid animal.

Free Rabies Vaccination Clinics Coming

Watch for announcements regarding Sullivan County Department of Public Health’s free rabies vaccination clinics. For more information, please contact the Sullivan County Department of Public Health at 845-292-5910.

Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



HURLEYVILLE-SULLIVAN FIRST (HSF)
The volunteers in Hurleyville-Sullivan First continue to work on the maintenance of the group's projects. They also work with local community groups and businesses on the ongoing revitalization and beautification of "the liveliest little hamlet in the mountains".

Please visit www.hurleyvil-leny.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 at the church will be open on Thursday, October 22 and on Thursday, October 29 from 3 until 4:45 p.m. Visitors to the food pantry are asked to please bring their own bags or boxes.

The Regional Food Bank will hold a mass distribution "Thanksgiving Give-away" at the Sullivan County Government Center on Saturday, November 21.

Visitors to the food pantry will have to provide proof of their address and proof of residency for the members of their household...leases, shelter forms, mail addressed to the visitor and children's school records.

The food pantry has been serving the community since September, 2000. The need is much greater today and the cost of providing food for the food pantry has increased significantly. More than 70 families are served each week.

The volunteers at the food pantry always appreciate the support of the community. Anyone interested in donating, volunteering or holding a food drive to support the food pantry can contact Lonnie at 845-798-4809.

The church is holding an "All You Can Eat Buffet" on Saturday, October 24 from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children aged 5-12. There is no charge for children 4 and under.

The whole family is invited to come join the fun at "Messy Church" on Saturday, October 10 from 12:30 until 2:30 p.m. The family-friendly event will feature pumpkin painting and a pizza party.

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

The church members welcome Pastor Bette Sohm and Assistant Pastor Riot Mueller. Sermons are delivered on Facebook at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

You can pray with oth-

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFETT
(3 PLATE MAXIMUM)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

HURLEYVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
263 MAIN ST. HURLEYVILLE, NY 12747

FROM 4:30PM - 6:30PM

ADULTS = \$15.00

KIDS 5 - 12 = \$10.00

KIDS 4 & UNDER = FREE

ers over the phone on the church's prayer line on Sundays from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. 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.

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 2026 Sullivan County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner will be held on October 16 at the Rockland House in Roscoe. The annual dinner is the major fundraiser for the society.

Each year the society honors individuals or groups that symbolize the stated mission of the society...the preserving of Sullivan County history for future generations. This year Fort Delaware Museum will be honored as "2026 History Preserver" at the dinner. The Beaverkill Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will be honored as "2026 History Maker".

A drawing for a basket raffle, "Catskill's Best: Provisions, Pours, and Lucky Draws" will be held at the dinner. The basket has been beautifully designed and donated by Elsie Kopcha.

Please call 845-434-8044 or email seecil@scnyhistory.org for information on placing an ad in the dinner journal or purchasing a raffle ticket.

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.

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 p.m. - 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 members of CHNA are committed to their mission of demanding responsible and sustainable development. The group has met regularly since 2012 in order to be prepared for when the developer of the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill appears again before the Town of Thompson Planning Board. The group meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Tues-

day of each month at the Hurleyville Firehouse. The meeting is open to all residents of the community.

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
 - 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.
 - 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
 - Electric capacity
 - Threat to air quality
 - Hazards of increased traffic
 - Potential dangers of entrances to the development
- Visit CHNA on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your environment and your community.

HAVE FOOD, FUN, AND BE TRIVIAL

HURLEYVILLE - Get ready for a fun afternoon at Casa Mia Restaurant, 205 Main Street in Hurleyville, for the Kiwanis of Woodridge's annual "Trivia for a Cause."

The date is October 17 from 1 - 4 p.m. Doors open at Noon.

Experience the fun and frivolity! Harness that brain power! There will be a Door Prize, a 50/50, and great Raffles to partake in. tickets are \$30 per person, including a wonderful lunch and delicious dessert, as well as entry for the Door Prize. Space is limited, so please get signed up no later than October 5 to

be assured a seat.

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to assist students and families throughout the Fallsburg Central School District, which includes portions of the towns of Liberty, Neversink, and Thompson, as well as Fallsburg.

Registration for the event may be made by sending your check for \$30 each, along with each person's name(s), address, and phone #'s, to: Kiwanis of Woodridge, P.O. Box 722, Woodridge, New York 12789.

Questions may be directed to Dawn at dawnkpln@yahoo.com, or Diane at dsenn10151@aol.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

The following is an opinion piece, and does 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.

Dear Friends
and Neighbors

For nearly three years, the properties at 40 and 44 Church Road in Mountaindale have been the subject of public meetings, neighborhood concerns, code enforcement questions, zoning hearings, and Planning Board review. What began as questions about illegal construction at a former bungalow colony eventually evolved into an application to merge the two parcels and convert the property into a seasonal religious school with dormitories, classrooms, and related facilities.

Throughout this process, residents attended meeting after meeting, raising concerns about traffic, water and sewer capacity, emergency access, neighborhood character, noise, lighting, and compliance with local zoning requirements. The project generated extensive public discussion, with both supporters and opponents expressing their views.

On June 29, 2026, the Town of Fallsburg Planning Board approved the project's site plan, special use permit, and lot merger. Shortly afterward, students arrived at the property for the summer season.

Now, this approval is being challenged in New York State Supreme Court. Fallsburg's Future along a neighboring property owner Opal Hoyt, have filed a proceeding under Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules, asking the court to review whether the Town followed state law and its own local code before approving the project.

What Is an Article 78 Proceeding?

An Article 78 proceeding is a legal process that allows

a court to review decisions made by government agencies and determine whether those decisions were made according to law. The court examines whether an agency followed the required procedures, acted within its authority, considered the appropriate evidence, and reached a decision that was not arbitrary or capricious. In this case, the petition does not ask the court to decide whether a religious school should exist at Church Road. Rather, it asks whether the Planning Board and Building Department followed the legal procedures required before approving the project. The respondents named in the proceeding will have an opportunity to respond to these allegations, and the court will ultimately determine whether the approvals complied with the law.

The Petition's Main Claims

1. Alleged Failure to Comply with SEQRA

The largest portion of the petition focuses on New York's State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the law that governs environmental review before government agencies approve projects. The petition alleges that the Planning Board did not take the legally required "hard look" at the potential environmental impacts before issuing a Negative Declaration, a determination that the project would not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts requiring a more extensive environmental review. According to the petition, the Planning Board approved the project without adequately evaluating issues such as: traffic impacts, water supply capacity, sewer system capacity, noise, community character and the intensity of the change in land use.

The petition also alleges that the Short Environmental Assessment Form (SEAF) submitted by the applicant was incomplete and contained unanswered or inaccurate sections. It further states that Fallsburg's Future submitted Freedom of Infor-

mation Law (FOIL) requests seeking SEQRA documents, including Parts 2 and 3 of the environmental review process, and that, at the time the petition was filed, those documents had not been produced or confirmed to exist. The petition argues that if those documents were never completed, the Planning Board could not have fully complied with SEQRA before issuing its Negative Declaration.

2. Alleged Failure to Follow the Town Code

The second claim focuses on the Town of Fallsburg's own zoning and planning regulations. The petition argues that the Planning Board is required to ensure that approved developments promote the health, safety, and welfare of the community and maintain a harmonious relationship with surrounding land uses. According to the petition, that standard was not met. It points to concerns discussed during Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings involving traffic, roadway safety, water and sewer infrastructure, emergency access, and neighborhood character.

The petition also references findings previously made by the Town's Zoning Board of Appeals during the area variance process, in which the Zoning Board concluded that the project would create an undesirable change in neighborhood character and have an adverse impact on the surrounding area. Fallsburg's Future argues that these findings should have been carefully addressed be-

fore the project received final approval.

3. Alleged Improper Issuance of Building Permits

The third claim concerns the Building Department. According to the petition, multiple building permits were issued before the Planning Board approved the required site plan.

The petition argues that the Town Code does not permit building permits to be issued for projects requiring site plan approval until that approval has been granted. Because of this, the petition asks the court to invalidate those permits if it determines that the Planning Board's approval itself was unlawful.

Why Water and Sewer Capacity Play Such a Large Role

A recurring theme throughout the petition is the Town's water and wastewater infrastructure. The petition cites Planning Board meeting discussions, engineering reports, the Town's 2018 Comprehensive Plan, the recent Sullivan County assessment of potable water and wastewater infrastructure, and prior reports concerning seasonal water shortages and wastewater capacity. According to the petition, these materials raise questions about whether sufficient capacity exists to accommodate additional demand and whether those questions should have been evaluated more thoroughly during the environmental review process. The petition also notes statements made

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



APPLE CIDER IS A FALL DRINK BECAUSE OF THE WEATHER



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

What would the month of October be without a jug of fresh pressed apple cider and maybe an apple cider doughnut or two (or more)?

But did you ever stop to think why apple cider is so much associated with Autumn, and October in particular?

It is all about the weather.

According to the website, MountainCider.com, hot apple cider is one of the most popular drinks in the country and it has a deeper history than you might expect. And as noted by another website, summerstirs.com, cider is best made in the fall because of peak apple availability, and that is dictated, at least in part, by the weather.

Cool temperatures and a rich soil help create a bountiful harvest of apples in the fall. The season's more stable weather patterns also support efficient production. Because of that, the tradition of making and sharing cider is deeply woven into the fabric of Autumn celebrations throughout the world.

Since we are celebrating America's 250th birthday this

year, it might be interesting to add that in 18th-century America, apple cider was the most popular everyday beverage, consumed by people of all ages and social classes as a safer alternative to water, which was often deemed unsafe.

Founding figures like John Adams started each day with a tankard of cider, Thomas Jefferson grew specialized cider apples at Monticello, and George Washington famously used 144 gallons of hard cider to win over voters during his campaign for the Virginia House of Burgesses.

As immigration from Germany and Eastern Europe to the U.S. increased in the 19th century, cider's popularity began to wane, as the new citizens' taste for beer began to take hold. Nonetheless, cider, both hard and non-alcoholic, remains a popular drink, especially in October!

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

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH - MAMAKATING HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2 PM

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

Covering Main Street and Beyond

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THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE CHALLENGE

Q&A with Author Bart Charlow

by Lily Barrish Levner

FALLSBURG—Bart Charlow grew up in Fallsburg—his family owned the Hotel Irvington in South Fallsburg—and after a successful career in the business world has drawn upon his experiences here to build a second career as a writer. With two new fiction titles just released, he recently discussed the writing life with us...

LB: What Borscht Belt hotel are you connected to?

BC: Our family owned the Hotel Irvington in South Fallsburg, dead center to "Hotel Row" from the late 1920s through early 1970s. That's after renting rooms on their farm in Woodridge - my grandparents were among the Borscht Belt founders - and operating the Hotel Glass (later the Saxony). Connected isn't the half of it. I was conceived on the third floor of the main building where my newly married par-

ents and their family lived.

LB: What was it like growing up inside a Borscht Belt hotel?

BC: It was both magical and maniacal, to be honest. I wrote it all up in my memoirs: "A Catskill Carnival, My Borscht Belt Life Lived, Lost and Loved" and the sequel "Pickle Barrel Tales, More Borscht Belt BS". We lived two lives, actually. That short sweet and sweaty business of 10 weeks in the summer season, then as ordinary country kids the rest of the year. People have no real idea of what goes on behind the scenes in a resort. I worked in quite a few as I grew up, not just our own hotel. Did everything there was: shined shoes, delivered mail, busboy, waiter, carhop, lifeguard, photographer at several of them. Part of one summer I worked with "the blouse man" among the bungalow colonies. You name it we did it as kids. We were celebrities at our own hotel, same for

my classmates who owned their family places. I had an ambivalent attitude towards it in my teens, later came to treasure it.

LB: How did that experience eventually find its way into your fiction?

BC: After two non-fiction books I thought my well of stories was running dry, but it really wasn't. If you ask about the Catskills anywhere in the US people know about the entertainers, even if they don't realize it was the Borscht Belt. If you ask actual guests at the hotels, they will regale you with tales of the food. But what they don't want to talk about is the third pillar of the business and the culture: the mating game. I decided I was going to take that on because dating and sex was so integral to the real Borscht Belt, but didn't want to "kiss and tell" exactly. So, it seemed that sometimes the truth is better told in fiction. My first novel, "That Catskill Summer" is totally true to the rhythm of a

vacation season in the golden age, and all the places are true as well, so it's a rich description, only the characters are made up to protect the innocent. It's honest about relationships on many levels, about the changing rules in the first flowering of the sexual revolution - the Summer of Love. It's a coming-of-age saga in two stages of life. The sequel "This Never Should Have Happened" takes the same characters into the modern era, but still very much in the Catskills.

LB: Have you always wanted to write novels?

BC: Actually, yes. During high school (Fallsburg Central) I wrote poetry and finished one novella, with three more in the works. College and making a living pushed my writing ambitions aside for decades, but retirement gave me the opportunity and the challenge. Of my four books now out and my weekly newspaper art review column, the impetus was Patti Posner Daboosh's book about

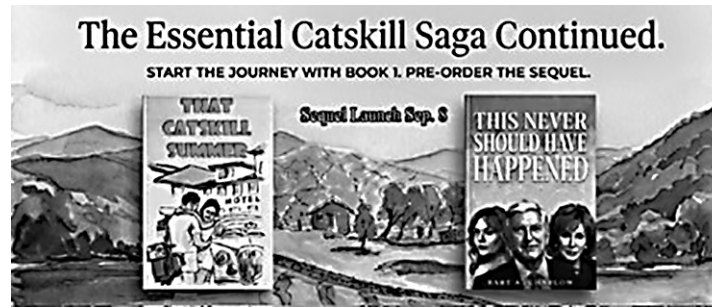


PHOTO PROVIDED

her life in the Brickman Hotel. Patti pushed me to write my own and I haven't been able to stop.

LB: Do you have a writing routine?

BC: Not for books. For me it's the same compulsion to write day and night from an idea that I've had all my life. A thought has to come out on the computer screen or I won't be able to sleep. Makes my wife nuts! For my newspaper columns it's a more disciplined approach. For that I have a spreadsheet of ideas and contacts planned out months in advance. The writing is the easier part; the logistics take the time.

LB: Are you working on another book?

BC: Yes, the third in my

"Lived-In Love Series." Same characters as the first two novels, but in the present. I hadn't planned to write any of this; it's that same compulsion.

LB: When you aren't writing, what are you doing?

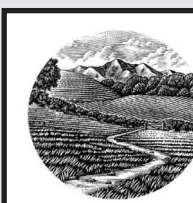
BC: Technically I'm retired from over 50 years as a CEO and a practicing Therapist, but nobody will believe me, because I still have a small consulting/coaching business, and I am also an artist, like all the Charlows. I'm a plein air painter and I organize a painting group. That comes in part from as a teen watching my Uncle Julie Charlow, former Town Clerk of S. Fallsburg, paint landscapes on his front porch behind the Rivoli Theater.

LB: When was the last time

you visited the Catskills?

BC: In 2019, just before COVID made travel dicey, I took my youngest son back to see my old stomping grounds. My sister and brother-in-law drove us around for 4 days visiting favorite places, what's left of the Hotel Irvington, the graveyard in Glen Wild, Crossways and Old Falls. Then we toured what is starting to be a revival of recreation in the Catskills: fly fishing in Roscoe, Villa Roma (which never left),

Callicoon, Bethel Art Center, the Hurleyville Museum, etc. It was nice to see something coming back to life again. The mountains are always beautiful; it's the loss of all that was the Borscht Belt that is bittersweet. I write my books to keep that alive for those who were there as well as for those who will never get to experience it first hand. It's a way of life that never was before and will never be again.



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

"Consider the turtle. Perchance you have worried yourself — despaired of the world — meditated the end of life — & all things seemed rushing to destruction — But nature has steadily & serenely advanced at a turtle's pace —"
- From Thoreau's Journal, August 26, 1856

Early in September, baby turtles the size of quarters scatter along Hurleyville's Rail Trail like loose change. They're right on schedule. It's been three months since the spring migrations, when the female turtles lay their eggs.

Back in June, I encountered a mother turtle down a side path, nestled among the willow branches. She didn't stir as I drew near. Our local turtles will move with surprising alacrity when they sense our approach, disappearing into the brush or, if they're afloat on the pond, diving into the depths when we gaze at them too intently from the shore. But this one only pulled further into her shell and held her ground, which she had scooped out to make a concave nest for the eggs. I withdrew and left her to her task.

When I went back a few days later, she was gone and the spot was indistinguishable from the surrounding ground. She'd covered the eggs with soil, tamped it down to form a protective layer, and headed back to the pond. Her maternal labor was over; she wouldn't return.

The eggs incubate for three months. When they hatch, the babies are on their own.

"June — July — August — the tortoise eggs are hatching — a few inches below the surface in the sandy fields... What events have transpired on the lit & airy surface 3 inches above them! They underlie this turmoil — You go to India and back & the turtle eggs in your field are still unhatched." — Thoreau, Ibid.

To make their exit, the hatchlings engage in an exceptional bout of teamwork. They form two tiers; the upper scrapes away at the dirt above; the lower packs down the loosened soil, raising the ground level so they can dig higher. It can take as long as a week till they finally emerge. Their little underground

chamber is evocative of both a womb and a tomb. It's an untended nest, yet the turtles' exit reminds me of nothing so much as Buffy the Vampire Slayer digging herself out of her grave. And what do they experience when they finally encounter the world? Is the air sweet to them? Do they relish their first glimpse of sun or moon? Or is their exclusive focus on returning to the pond?

"How many worthy men have died and had their funeral sermons preached — since I saw the mother turtle bury her eggs here. They contained liquid then, they are now turtles... What's a summer? time for a turtle's eggs to hatch." — Thoreau, Ibid.

Once loosed in the pond, should they paddle past their parents, they won't recognize or be recognized by them. D. H. Lawrence, in his series of tortoise poems, was bemused by the looseness of tortoise family connections, the mutual indifference of parents and offspring: "It's no use my saying to him in an emotional voice: / 'This is your Mother, she laid you when you were an egg.'" Perhaps Lawrence admired them in this!

Observing the tiny turtles making their way toward the water is heartening. They're guided by magnetoreception, an internal GPS that aligns with the earth's magnetic field and orients them in space. It's a trait they share with migratory birds. That these smallest and most vulnerable creatures are woven into the fabric of the largest planetary forces, in one continuous proprioceptive loop, gives one a measure of hope. Their sensory spectrum extends beyond ours; their sense of time is deeper than ours; they open us to the prospect of a world that lies outside human control, and there's hope to be derived from that.

"Has not the tortoise also learned the true value of time? So is the turtle developed — fitted to endure... Has not the great world existed for them as much as for you?" — Thoreau, Ibid.

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

BORSCHT BELT HISTORICAL MARKER PROJECT TO CELEBRATE 20TH MARKER

Honoring Wurtsboro, Spring Glen, High View

WURTSBORO — The Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project will close its 2026 season with the dedication of its 20th historic marker on Sunday, October 18, celebrating the histories of Wurtsboro, Spring Glen, and Highview.

The celebration begins at 2 p.m., at the Mamakating Historical Society, 136 Summitville Road in Wurtsboro, where the newest marker will join a growing trail of permanent historical markers stretching across the Catskills.

The afternoon will celebrate the people, places, hotels and communities that shaped tourism in this part of Sullivan County, and helped build the Catskills into one of the country's great resort regions.

The dedication will feature remarks from Judi Kirschenbaum, daughter of legendary Borscht Belt comedian Freddie Roman, and Gary Dan, historian and family descendant connected to the Shawanga Lodge.

At 3 p.m., historian Alex Prizgintas will present "A Look at Sullivan County Before the Borscht Belt,"



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Homowack hotel in Spring Glen, one of the larger Mamakating hotels.

an illustrated look at the area's early tourism history and the evolution of its resort culture.

Following the lecture, selections from Peter Davis's rare 1986 documentary film, "The Rise and Fall of the Borscht Belt," will screen, offering a visual window into the people and places that defined the Catskills resort era.

Visitors can also explore

the Mamakating Historical Society's exhibits and archival materials, with a hot dog cart, drinks, and light bites available for purchase. A raffle will also be held during the afternoon.

A Milestone for the Marker Project

With 20 markers now installed across the Catskills, the project has created a large-scale public history trail connecting communities, places, and stories that otherwise would have little or no visible presence in the landscape. Each marker focuses on a particular town

or place, but the histories extend far beyond a single site, encompassing the people, families, hotels, bungalow colonies, businesses, and institutions that shaped these communities over generations.

The October 18 dedication marks the culmination of a busy 2026 season, during which the project installed five new markers and curated public programs in communities across Sullivan County. Together, the markers have made it possible to encounter this history across the Catskills, town by town and

place by place. The work has also brought the project into closer contact with local historians, families, municipalities, cultural organizations, and people with personal connections to these places, many of whom have contributed photographs, documents, and stories.

"Twenty markers is a remarkable thing to look back on," said Marisa Scheinfeld, co-founder and project director of the Borscht Belt Historical Marker Project. "Each one represents a story that might otherwise disappear. Now, 20 places across the Catskills have something permanent in the landscape, something people can encounter and

learn from."

"Wurtsboro, Spring Glen and Highview felt like the right place for our 20th marker because the history of tourism here goes back well before the Borscht Belt," said Isaac Jeffreys, co-founder and Visual Coordinator of the Marker Project. "You can drive through these places today and have no idea how much was here before. The marker gives people a chance to see that history in the landscape, and that felt like the right way to mark twenty and close out the season."

The project will continue beyond its twentieth marker, with plans for additional markers and new ways for people to encounter the trail, including guided architectural tours, bus tours, public programs, and a forthcoming guidebook.

Event Details

Wurtsboro, Spring Glen & Highview — 20th Historic Marker Dedication Sunday, October 18, 2026

Mamakating Historical Society, 136 Summitville Road, Wurtsboro, NY

2 p.m. — Historic Marker Dedication featuring Judy Kirschenbaum, daughter of Freddie Roman and Gary Dan, historian and Shawanga Lodge family descendant.

3 p.m. — Illustrated Historical Lecture: Alex Prizgintas — "A Look at Sullivan County Before the Borscht Belt

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July 1st – August 26th
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Fallsburg Town Hall
19 Railroad Plaza • South Fallsburg, NY
July 1st – October 28th
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Loch Sheldrake Public Parking Lot
Corner of Hasbrouck Rd. & Route 52
Loch Sheldrake, NY
July 1st – October 28th
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

EVERY THURSDAY
June 25th – September 24th
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
10 Jefferson St.,
Monticello, NY
Behind the Ted Stroebele
Recreation Center

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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.

At the Fire Department's September meeting, Mary Ann Geary-Halchak and Jamie Decker were made Honorary Members of the Hurleyville Fire Department. This is a great honor for both ladies and we welcome them with open arms.

At the end of August, the fire department traveled to Hortonville for the Hortonville Fire Department Parade and Field Day. Our pumper 11-11 came away with the Judge's Choice Award. Then it was on to the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighter's Association's annual Parade in Grahamsville. What a magnificent day for a parade. At the awards ceremony, the Hurleyville Fire Department came away with the coveted Blue-Ribbon trophy representing the best overall fire department in the parade. What a day!

Coming up on Halloween (10/31) is our annual pancake breakfast serving our famous buckwheat pancakes. Serving from 7 a.m. to noon. Then, later on is the annual Halloween parade through town. Line up is at the Mobile Medic building at 5:30 p.m., and we march to the firehouse for cider, hot chocolate and doughnuts.

The fire department will be attending Woodbourne's Veteran's Day parade on Saturday, November 7. Come out and support our Veterans.

Also, October 4 – 10 is fire prevention week. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: **Safe Charging Is a Superpower**," focusing on lithium-ion battery charging safety.

The following are key messages that support this year's Fire Prevention Week theme:

- Use the cord and charger that came with your device or ones approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.

- Charge devices on a table, desk, or other hard, flat surface. Do not charge them on beds, couches, or under pillows. Devices and chargers produce heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause the battery to overheat.

- Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell. These are warning signs that the battery may be damaged or failing.

- Unplug your device when it is fully charged. Do not leave it plugged in longer than needed. Leaving a device plugged in too long can increase heat and stress on the battery.

- Charge larger items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside and

THE SULLIVAN COUNTY BUREAU OF FIRE

WANTS YOU TO BE SAFE

THIS HEATING SEASON

CLEAN YOUR CHIMNEY NOW

WHY RISK A CHIMNEY FIRE?

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

away from exits. These batteries are larger and store more energy. If they fail, fires can grow quickly and spread.

- When on a plane, keep your device where you can see it while charging. Do not charge devices in overhead compartments. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane. If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to respond quickly.

Lithium-ion batteries are very safe if taken care of.

Fall is in the air. We had a few cool nights and al-

ready had two **chimney fires**.

With the cost of electric and heating oil going up you want your heating devices to be working at their peak capacity and efficient as possible.

NOW is the time to get ALL your heating devices serviced. This includes any portable heaters that you plan to use. Especially if you have not used them in the last few years.

Get ready for winter **NOW!** Not when the first storm hits.

Be Safe Out There!

PRIMETIMERS WELCOME NEW PRESIDENT

by Lily Barrish Levner

MONTICELLO—The PrimeTimers of Temple Sholom in Monticello have installed a new president, as Ellen Nesin steps into the role.

In mid-September at Casa Mia restaurant in Hurleyville, the torch was passed from Paula Schroeder, who held the role of president for 19 years, to Ms. Nessin. Fifty people were in attendance. Before the luncheon, the active group of seniors met up for a tour of the Sullivan County Museum.

"My parents were Founders of the PrimeTimers," Ms. Nesin noted. "When I was asked by Paula to take on the position of President there was no hesitation. I look forward to an exciting year ahead. The best thing is hav-

ing Paula's help whenever it's needed."

Enthusiasm is high for Ms. Nesin, who taught elementary school in Monticello. The PrimeTimers will continue to have interesting speakers, exciting programs, occasional outings, and fundraising opportunities.

"They are such a wonderful group, and Paula has been a gem all these years," said Janice, a waitress at Casa Mia.

Ms. Schroeder reciprocated the sentiment, "As always, Janice was our wonderful party planner and server."

If you'd like to become a member of PrimeTimers, an active social and fundraising group primarily for older adults, reach out to Temple Sholom in Monticello.



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER

New Prime Timers president Ellen Nesin (left) with outgoing president Paul Schroeder.



PHOTO PROVIDED

FALL IS A GREAT TIME FOR A FIELD TRIPS

Time and the Valleys Museum and 1930s Catskill Farm!

GRAHAMSVILLE-- Fall is a great time to visit the Time and the Valleys Museum and Depression era Catskill Farm with 15 historic buildings where students can have fun working together to explore an earlier time and uncover secrets of the past!

The Time and the Valleys Museum on St. Rt. 55 in Grahamsville, Sullivan County is a great place to connect students with history and the environment through three different interactive inquiry-based K-12 field trips (aligned with New York State learning standards):

1. Water Through History (all ages): Students identify fossils, handle Native American artifacts and explore how waterwheels powered 19th century industry.

2. 1930s Catskill Farm (all ages): Forget pumpkin picking! Bring them to an educational Depression Era Farm to run around outdoors between 15 historic farm buildings and experience farm life, explore the farm family and discover the differences between life then and now.

3. Upstate Water and NYC (great for grades 4-9): Students explore an interactive exhibit on NYC's Catskill water system, learn about watersheds, the importance of clean water, land takings and eminent domain.

Guided by trained Muse-

um educators, students handle million year old fossils and Native American artifacts, build tunnels, visit an outdoor 1930s farm with a farm house, barn, milk house and working waterwheel, experience an interactive exhibition on NYC's water supply system, and more. "Students enjoy our field trips and have fun while working together to explore important historical and environmental concepts," according to Donna Steffens, Museum Director.

Each of the 2 ½ hour programs provide in-depth information in fun and exciting ways to stimulates student's learning. Comprehensive pre-visit information packets and fun activity sheets are also included. Lunch area is provided. The programs are available year-round, Monday through Friday, for k to 12th grade students (minimum 15, maximum 100 students per day). The cost is \$5 per student with teachers and chaperones FREE. Admission and transportation grants are available – please inquire!

For more information on the Museum's field trips, please go to www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org. For questions or to book a field trip, please call Debbie Scanlon, Museum Educator at 845 985-7700 or email info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org.

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FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallburgh

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

October 4, 1916 Dairymen Meet Tonight

The Dairymen are to hold a meeting tonight in the Grange Hall at eight o'clock to organize a Dairymen's League. The farmers are making a brave fight for their rights, and in Jeffersonville, Liberty, Stevensville and White Sulphur Springs they have held their milk out almost as a unit, but in spite of the fact that many have stayed out, milk is being brought in from Hasbrouck and this creamery is shipping as usual, but we hear very strong talk against those who have not struck and the sentiment of ill feeling is waxing stronger every minute. What the outcome will be, time alone will tell. At any event if the farmers unite they can have anything they want. Right is might but sometimes might makes right.

October 11, 1916 Farmers Organize

On Friday evening a meeting of the farmers was held in the Grange Hall in this place to talk over the milk question and organize a Dairymen's League. Mr. Richardson of the Farm Bureau and Mr. Schrieber of Chester, Orange County, spoke. Nearly all the farmers in this vicinity were present and were not disappointed as the meeting proved to be very interesting. The principal point brought out was that "in unity there was strength" and that if all would stick together they were sure to win out. On Saturday evening at the same place a Hurleyville branch of the Dairymen's League was formed and there was a large attendance, but there was a few farmers here who have not yet joined. The following officers were elected; President, J S Kile; Secretary, Fred W Mitteer; Treasurer, George LeRoy.

Hebrews Meet

The Hebrews of Hurleyville held a mass meeting at the synagogue Sunday evening for the purpose of reorganizing the Talmud Torah here. There was a large attendance and the difficulties which surmounted them in the past were all very amicably settled and it was decided to reopen the Hurleyville Hebrew School on Sunday October 15 with Ellis Gardner from Mountaindale as teacher.

October 18, 1916 Grocery Sale

On account of the building in which I am located having been purchased by another party, I am forced to move and therefore will sacrifice my entire stock of groceries, dry goods, crockery, notions, etc., at prices 25 percent below cost. The sale will open next Monday, October 23d. This is your opportunity to secure your winter's supply far below prevailing prices. These goods are strictly fresh, first class and not purchased for any such sale.

- David Ness, Hurleyville



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre founder Janet Carrus addresses those gathered for the soft opening of the building

For Sale

1914 automobile equipped with demountable rims, crown fenders, extra rim and tire, slip covers, Prest-o-lite tank, electric horn and all in first class running order. Also one double barrel hammerless Ithaca shotgun as good as new. one Marlin rifle as good as new. Apply Dr. W. H. DeKay, Hurleyville.

October 25, 1916 Barn Burns

Nancy Lawrence was awakened twenty minutes to five Thursday morning by the sound of crackling, burning boards and discovered Floyd Durland's barn in flames. She gave the alarm and called up central for help, many going from here in autos. Lawrence succeeded in getting out the cattle but Floyd could not get the fine team of grays out as that part was all aflame. Everything in the barn went including 50 tons of hay, 27 barrels apples, 200 bushels oats, potatoes, all farming machinery, silo, etc., and it was only through diligent hard work that they were enabled to save the other buildings. There was but \$1,175 insurance and \$4,000 would not begin to replace it. He is to have an auction of the 18 cattle and

50 leghorn hens tomorrow, rain or shine.

October 2016 Large Crowd Tours Arts Centre for Soft Opening

Janet Carrus says it all starts with the arts.

The woman behind the magnificent new Hurleyville Arts Centre believes the arts, especially dance, is a sure way to bring a community together.

And that is exactly what happened last month when Ms. Carrus and Arts Centre Creative Director Erin Dudley hosted a large crowd for an introductory tour of the new facility, including a number of dance routines.

Community members and local dignitaries got their first look at the state-of-the-art, 130-seat cinema, the expansive ballroom and performance space, and the first-floor studios that are already occupied by outside businesses, such as Main Street Dance, which relocated this summer from Liberty.

Sullivan County Legislature Chairman Luis Alvarez, whose District 6 includes Hurleyville, was among those in attendance at the opening, and he came away impressed.

"It is a remarkable building," he said. "And it promises to be a real asset to the community."

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THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO PART I

by Edgar Allan Poe

This classic tale of horror by one of America's great writers was originally published in 1846 and is in the public domain. It is offered here in two parts, in the spirit of Halloween...

The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult, I vowed revenge. You, who so well know the nature of my soul, will not suppose, however, that I gave utterance to a threat. At length I would be avenged; this was a point definitely settled—but the very definitiveness with which it was resolved, precluded the idea of risk. I must not only punish, but punish with impunity. A wrong is unredressed when retribution overtakes its redresser. It is equally unredressed when the avenger fails to make himself felt as such to him who has done the wrong.

It must be understood that neither by word nor deed had I given Fortunato cause to doubt my good will. I continued, as was my wont, to smile in his face, and he did not perceive that my smile now was at the thought of his immolation. He had a weak point—

this Fortunato—although in other regards he was a man to be respected and even feared. He prided himself on his connoisseurship in wine. Few Italians have the true virtuoso spirit. For the most part their enthusiasm is adopted to suit the time and opportunity—to practise imposture upon the British and Austrian millionaires. In painting and gemmary, Fortunato, like his countrymen, was a quack—but in the matter of old wines he was sincere. In this respect I did not differ from him materially: I was skillful in the Italian vintages myself, and bought largely whenever I could.

It was about dusk, one evening during the supreme madness of the carnival season, that I encountered my friend. He accosted me with excessive warmth, for he had been drinking much. The man wore motley. He had on a tight-fitting parti-striped dress, and his head was surmounted by the conical cap and bells. I was so pleased to see him, that I thought I should never have done wringing his hand.

I said to him—"My dear Fortunato, you are luckily met. How remarkably well

you are looking to-day! But I have received a pipe of what passes for Amontillado, and I have my doubts."

"How?" said he. "Amontillado? A pipe? Impossible! And in the middle of the carnival!"

"I have my doubts," I replied; "and I was silly enough to pay the full Amontillado price without consulting you in the matter. You were not to be found, and I was fearful of losing a bargain."

"Amontillado!"
"I have my doubts."
"Amontillado!"
"And I must satisfy them."

"Amontillado!"
"As you are engaged, I am on my way to Luchesi. If any one has a critical turn, it is he. He will tell me—"

"Luchesi cannot tell Amontillado from Sherry."

"And yet some fools will have it that his taste is a match for your own."

"Come, let us go."

"Whither?"

"To your vaults."

"My friend, no; I will not impose upon your good nature. I perceive you have an engagement. Luchesi—"

"I have no engagement;—come."

"My friend, no. It is not



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

the engagement, but the severe cold with which I perceive you are afflicted. The vaults are insufferably damp. They are encrusted with nitre."

"Let us go, nevertheless. The cold is merely nothing. Amontillado! You have been imposed upon. And as for Luchesi, he cannot distinguish Sherry from Amontillado."

Thus speaking, Fortunato possessed himself of my arm. Putting on a mask of black silk, and drawing a roquelaire closely about my person, I suffered him to hurry me to my palazzo.

There were no attendants at home; they had absconded to make merry in honour

of the time. I had told them that I should not return until the morning, and had given them explicit orders not to stir from the house. These orders were sufficient, I well knew, to insure their immediate disappearance, one and all, as soon as my back was turned.

I took from their sconces two flambeaux, and giving one to Fortunato, and bowing him through several suites of rooms to the archway that led into the vaults. I passed down a long and winding staircase, requesting him to be cautious as he followed. We came at length to the foot of the descent, and stood together on the damp ground of the catacombs of

the Montresors.

The gait of my friend was unsteady, and the bells upon his cap jingled as he strode. "The pipe," said he.

"It is farther on," said I; "but observe the white web-work which gleams from these cavern walls."

He turned towards me, and looked into my eyes with two filmy orbs that distilled the rheum of intoxication.

"Nitre?" he asked, at length.

"Nitre," I replied. "How long have you had that cough?"

"Ugh! ugh! ugh!—ugh! ugh! ugh!—ugh! ugh! ugh! ugh!—ugh! ugh! ugh!"

My poor friend found it impossible to reply for many minutes.

"It is nothing," he said, at last.

"Come," I said, with decision, "we will go back; your health is precious. You are rich, respected, admired, beloved; you are happy, as once I was. You are a man to be missed. For me it is no matter. We will go back; you will be ill, and I cannot be responsible. Besides, there is Luchesi—"

"Enough," he said; "the cough is a mere nothing; it

will not kill me. I shall not die of a cough."

"True—true," I replied; "and, indeed, I had no intention of alarming you unnecessarily—but you should use all proper caution. A draught of this Medoc will defend us from the damp."

Here I knocked off the neck of a bottle which I drew from a long row of its fellows that lay upon the mould.

"Drink," I said, presenting him the wine.

He raised it to his lips with a leer. He paused and nodded to me familiarly, while his bells jingled.

"I drink," he said, "to the buried that repose around us."

"And I to your long life."

He again took my arm, and we proceeded.

"These vaults," he said, "are extensive."

"The Montresors," I replied, "were a great and numerous family."

"I forget your arms."

"A huge human foot d'or, in a field azure; the foot crushes a serpent rampant whose fangs are imbedded in the heel."

"And the motto?"

"Nemo me impune lacessit."

"Good!" he said.

The wine sparkled in his eyes and the bells jingled. My own fancy grew warm with the Medoc. We had passed through walls of piled bones, with casks and puncheons intermingling, into the inmost recesses of the catacombs. I paused again, and this time I made bold to seize Fortunato by an arm above the elbow.

"The nitre!" I said; "see it increases. It hangs like moss upon the vaults. We are below the river's bed. The drops of moisture trickles among the bones. Come, we will go back ere it is too late. Your cough—"

"It is nothing," he said; "let us go on. But first, another draught of the Medoc."

I broke and reached him a flagon of De Grave. He emptied it at a breath. His eyes flashed with a fierce light. He laughed and threw the bottle upwards with a gesticulation I did not understand...

We hope you are enjoying our story... Here, we must leave you now, but the conclusion of this Halloween horror tale will be featured in the November edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Another Planning Board meetings indicating that portions of the sewer system were already nearing capacity and argues that no formal studies were presented demonstrating how the project would affect the system.

Traffic and Community Character

Another major issue raised in the petition involves Church Road itself. The petition describes Church Road as a narrow rural roadway with hills, curves, limited shoulders, and visibility challenges. It references comments made by residents during public meetings expressing concerns about increased bus traffic, deliveries, visitors, and emergency access. The petition also argues that the project represents a significant change from the previous use of the property and that its effect on the surrounding neighborhood should have been more thoroughly evaluated under both SEQRA and the Town Code.

What the Fallsburg's Future Petition Asks the Court to Do

1. Annul the Planning Board's SEQRA Negative Declaration.
2. Vacate the approved Site Plan.
3. Vacate the Special Use Permit.
4. Annul the related building permits.
5. Require the Town to complete the environmental review process in accordance with SEQRA before the project could proceed.

At this stage, these are requests made by the petitioners. The respondents, including the Town of Fallsburg Planning Board, the Town of Fallsburg Building Department, and

40-44 Church Road LLC will have the opportunity to file legal responses, after which the court will determine whether the approvals complied with applicable law.

Why This Case Matters

Although this case centers on one project at 40 and 44 Church Road, its significance reaches beyond a single property. The issues raised in the petition touch on broader questions that affect every resident of the Town of Fallsburg:

- How should environmental impacts be evaluated?
- When should traffic or infrastructure studies be required?
- What role should the Comprehensive Plan play in development decisions?
- And, how closely must local boards follow both state law and their own zoning code before granting approvals?

An Article 78 proceeding is designed to answer those questions by examining whether the proper legal process was followed, regardless whether people support or oppose a particular project. The court's decision will determine whether the approvals for the Church Road project were lawfully issued or whether portions of the review process must be revisited. Whatever the outcome, the case is likely to shape how future development applications are reviewed in the Town of Fallsburg and may provide important guidance for Planning Boards, applicants, and residents alike.

Signed:
Fallsburg's Future

Cider Making on a 1930s Farm At Time and the Valleys Museum

GRAHAMSVILLE – Cider Making on the 1930s Catskill Farm will be held Sunday, October 11th 1 to 3 p.m. at the Time and the Valleys Museum on St. Rt. 55 (332 Main Street) in Grahamsville.

Turn the crank of an old-time grinder used to grind up the local apples and help make apple cider with a hand-operated cider press – a great old fashioned fall activity! Tours of the Catskill Family Farm with a house, barn, sap house, sawmill and over 10 other historic outbuilding with hands on activities. See a working waterwheel, explore an exhibition of local water powered industry and a display of canning and food preservation.

Held rain or shine, admission to the program is \$10 for adults, children FREE and Members FREE. The afternoon includes the cider making demonstration, light refreshments of cider and cookies, tours of the 1930s Lost Catskill Farm, three floors of interactive

exhibitions including the new exhibition: "The Great Fear: Frontier Life in the Revolution" and a well-stocked museum shop with historical toys and games, gifts and books.

More about cider making: A fall activity on any farm that had an apple orchard, cider making has a long history. Since the safety of drinking water was a concern in early America, cider was a better choice. Early settlers also believed drinking cider aided in the prevention of many illnesses and helped them live a longer life.

About the Time and the Valleys Museum: Connecting Water People and the Catskills, the Museum is currently open by appointment and during programs. Located at 332 Main Street in Grahamsville (St. Rt. 55), admission for adults is a \$10, children under 16 are \$5, and children under six are free.

Museum exhibitions are interactive and both fun and educational for all



PHOTO PROVIDED

ages:

- Water and the Valleys, an exhibit on the history of the Rondout and Neversink watershed area from early geological times to the 20th

century. This exhibition includes interactives such as a Native American artifact guessing game, grinding corn with a mortar and pestle, videos and more.

- Tunnels, Toil and Trouble: New York City's Quest for Water and the Rondout-Neversink Story, an interactive exhibit on NYC water supply system and the towns that were removed to build the system, which includes computer interactives, games, puzzles, videos and building a dam and tunnel.

- NEW! The Great Fear: Frontier Life in the American Revolution an immersive and interactive exhibition on the dangerous frontier life during the Revolution in Orange, Ulster and Sullivan Counties, including native, loyalist attacks and patriot attacks, the hardships of settler life, Native life before and after contact and the Battle of Chestnut Woods. It includes audio, video, games and hands on activities.

- 1930s Catskill Family Farm, farmhouse, out-house, barn, electric plant, milk house, working waterwheel and other historical farm outbuildings help visitors experience life in

the 1930s through displays, videos, games and hands on activities.

The Time and the Valleys Museum is proud to be a Blue Star Museum, a collaboration between the National Endowment of the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and over 1,500 museums across America to provide free admission to active duty military members (with ID) and up to five family members. This free admission for members of the military and their families runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

For more information call 845 985-7700, e-mail info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org or visit www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org. To schedule a group tour for children or adults, please call 845-985-7700. Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TAT-VM.ORG> and Instagram: <https://instagram.com/timeandthevalleymuseum/>

IN MEMORIAM:

Julius Solomon Cohen, 98, of Saline, Michigan, passed away peacefully on August 28 following a brief illness, with family at his side. Born June 18, 1928 in Monticello, New York, Julius was raised and educated in nearby Hurleyville, the only son of Rose (Jacobson) and Abraham Isaac Cohen, the grandson of Max and Bessie Jacobson and Samuel and Freda Dorva Musnikow, and the brother of Phyllis "Doreen" Cohen, all of whom preceded him in death. He was also predeceased by his wife, Loretta. He is survived by his four children: Rose (Rick Silver), parents of Shana, Arianna, and Miriyam; Elizabeth (Brent Bailey), parents of Suzannah and Lillian; Suzanne (David Wak); David (Edith Parker); and five great grandchildren as well as an extended family that claims its roots and gathers annually in Hurleyville, but is now widely dispersed across the country.

Julius graduated from Syracuse University and obtained his master and doctorate degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University in 1962. His career as

an educator began in Harlem, New York City, teaching a junior high school class of boys, then classified as mentally r*tarded. Following a stint in the army during the Korean War, he returned to Sullivan County, New York, where he organized and taught the special education class in the Fallsburg, New York school system. Upon joining the faculty at Syracuse University, Julius developed and administered the Rehabilitation Counselor Training program, the first such program in the nation that prepared students to work with clients who were diagnosed as mentally r*tarded.

He was subsequently recruited by the University of Michigan to help establish the Institute for the Study of Mental R*tardation and Related Disabilities, which positioned him to have national impact in the field of disability rights. Julius served on national committees on disabilities, and his research informed advocacy for the potential of persons with mental disabilities to become productive, contributing citizens, and for ensuring the legal rights of these individuals. He took great pleasure in the role he played as a mentor, continuing to correspond with his former students who became leaders in the field of disabilities. The ripple effects

of his professional cohorts on improving the lives of persons with limited mental abilities and related disabilities, and their families, endure.

In retirement in Saline, Michigan Julius continued to enjoy his passion for Chinese language and cuisine, his membership and board service at Beth Israel Synagogue, the Saline Area Senior Center, and the convenience of electronic communications to stay in touch with his children, family, and friends. He was also an active patron of the Saline Public Library, which unfailingly accommodated his many requests for books. Julius's greatest pride was his four children, each of them, in a variety of ways, became a helping professional. He admired their values, enjoyed their friendship, and felt a collegial connection to their commitment to improve their communities.

In many small ways, Julius left the world a little better than how he found it.

He is buried in Hurleyville, New York, Jewish Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to your local public library or a charity of your choice.

SENTINEL SPORTS



THE MISSING LINK

RIBBON CUTTING OFFICIALLY OPENS NEVERSINK CROSSING

SOUTH FALLSBURG—Celebrating the culmination of decades of persistent effort, Sullivan County, the Town of Fallsburg and the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance today announced the much-anticipated opening of the Neversink Crossing.

“Walk, run, bike, take your dog along a path that was the ‘superhighway’ of its day, bringing thousands of summer visitors to the region for more than 80 years,” stated Sullivan County Legislature Chair Nadia Rajsz at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on the new bridge spanning the Neversink River. “It’s



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Fallsburg Supervisor Nathan Steingart (with scissors) prepares to cut the ribbon officially opening the new Neversink crossing on the O&W rail trail while a host of public officials and others look on.



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Sullivan County Legislature chair Nadia Rajsz (at podium) speaks at the ribbon cutting ceremony, flanked by Fallsburg Supervisor Nathan Steingart (left), Assembly Member Paula Kay (second from right), and District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello (right).

amazing to realize this spot will serve a similar purpose for perhaps much, much longer than the next eight decades.”

“The opening of the Neversink Bridge marks a historic milestone for our community’s trail network,” agreed Town of Fallsburg Supervisor Nathan Steingart. “By restoring this critical link, we are not only preserving our rich regional history but also creating a safe, scenic, and accessible pathway for residents and visitors to enjoy for generations to come. This project is a testament to what we can achieve through shared vision and community collaboration.”

“As beautiful as this completed bridge is, its significance goes far beyond its physical aesthetic,” noted Assembly Member Paula Kay. “The Neversink Crossing, connecting portions of the South Fallsburg and Woodridge sections of the refurbished O&W Rail Trail, accomplishes two important goals. It promotes healthy habits by providing a safe path for individuals to walk

and bike, while also highlighting the rich historical significance these very same trails played in the development of Sullivan County through the mid-20th century.”

“This project is a tremendous example of how investing in the preservation of our past can also create opportunities for future generations,” Kay added. “As the former Town Attorney for the Town of Fallsburg, I know what kind of effort it took to accomplish this lofty goal, and I’d like to commend the Town of Fallsburg, Sullivan County, and the O&W Rail Trail Alliance for their collaboration making this crossing a reality.”

Abandoned in 1957 after more than 85 years in operation, the main line of the former New York, Ontario & Western Railway (NYO&W) ran for over 50 miles through the scenic heart of Sullivan County. Buildout of the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail has been a decades-long effort, spearheaded by multiple individuals, municipal gov-

ernments, and grassroots organizations, all with a common goal of connecting communities along the trail and creating an outdoor recreation destination.

Currently, there are approximately 25 miles of trail open to the public (over half of which are located in the Town of Fallsburg), but these segments are disconnected and in varying condition.

The Town of Fallsburg, in partnership with Sullivan County and the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance, collaborated on the Neversink Crossing project to design and install a prefabricated steel pedestrian bridge over the Neversink River between South Fallsburg and Woodridge, along with trail improvements designed to connect over 13 miles of trail from Mountindale to Ferndale. The \$3.4 million project was funded with \$1.3 million in Federal grants, \$1.2 million in State grants and a \$400,000 private contribution. Sullivan County contributed \$500,000 in local matching funds, and the

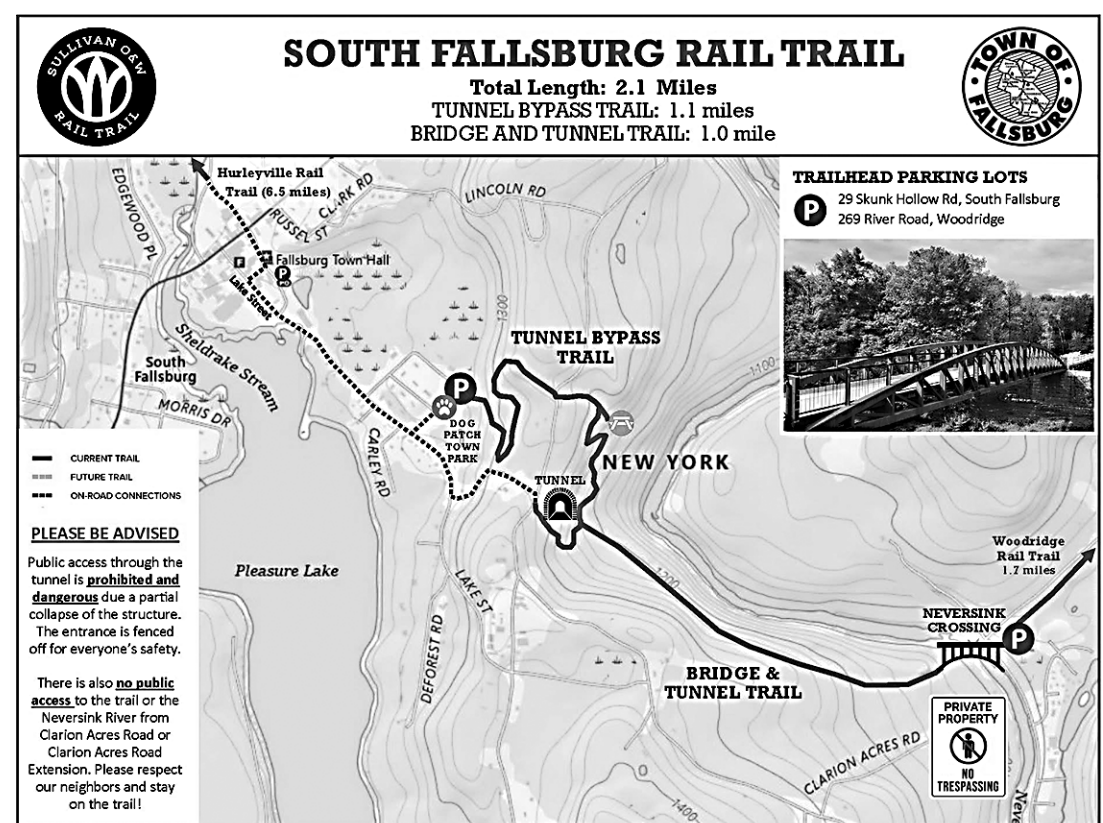


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

Town of Fallsburg provided in-kind services.

Years in the making, the project got an initial boost in August of 2021, when then Congressman Antonio Delgado secured \$1.1 million in federal funding. As reported in the September, 2021 edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel following a news conference in Mountindale announcing the funding, Robert Doherty, then the chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature, lauded Delgado’s efforts, noting that the “joint effort between Democrats and Republicans is an example of how government should work.”

The bridge itself is 12 feet wide and 180 feet long, utilizing the original stone abutments installed in the late 1800s. A boardwalk above the river’s floodplain adds another 50 feet to the western approach to the bridge. From there, approximately a mile of the old railbed has been improved for pedestrian and bicyclist

access leading to the southern portal of the Fallsburgh Tunnel. Though the tunnel is closed due to dangerous interior conditions, trail users can walk right up to the entrance and peer inside the darkened remains. A mile-long bypass trail continues west and connects with a picnic spot, the Town of Fallsburg’s Dogpatch Park and a parking area.

The Rail Trail Alliance

also singled out the O&W Railway Historical Society for its contributions, including providing many of the photos on the interpretive panels along the trail, calling it “an amazing organization” and touting their archives in Middletown as “a treasure trove for those interested in learning more about the railroad’s history.”

Rail Trail Alliance Schedules Hike

Fifth Annual HO&WL Haunted Trail Walk

LIBERTY—The Sullivan County O&W Rail Trail Alliance has announced that their fifth annual HO&WL Haunted Trail Walk will take place on Friday evening, October 23 in Liberty.

The walk will begin at 5:30 p.m. on the rail trail adjacent to the Bridge & Tunnel Brewery at 50 Lake Street in the village. The walk is free and open to the public, and participants are encouraged to bring their families and their leashed dogs. Halloween costumes are also encouraged, and prizes will be awarded to the best human costume and the best dog costume.

Sullivan County Historian John Conway will be among the participants, and will treat his fellow walkers with stories about the historic O&W rail line, and ghost stories centered in and around Liberty.

Walkers are invited to join organizers at the Bridge & Tunnel Brewery after the event for refreshments and merriment. For more details and event updates, visit Facebook.com/SullivanOandW.

Previous HO&WL Haunted Trail Walks have taken place in Hurleyville, Parksville, and Mamakating.



Join us for the 5th Annual HO&WL Haunted Trail Walk
along the historic Sullivan O&W Rail Trail in Liberty

5:30 PM on Friday, October 23, 2026

Bridge & Tunnel Brewery | 50 Lake Street, Liberty
Off-street parking available; leashed dogs welcome

Featuring a guided haunted history hike with Sullivan County Historian John Conway!

Bring your family and your leashed dog, explore the O&W Rail Trail. Costumes encouraged; prizes for best costume will be awarded to one human and one dog! Join us after for merriment at Bridge & Tunnel Brewery!

This free event is brought to you by:



For more details and event updates, visit Facebook.com/SullivanOandW.

CONGRATULATIONS, BRIAN!



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN SULLIVAN

Brian Dennis

The management and staff of The Hurleyville Sentinel would like to extend our congratulations to our esteemed colleague, sports columnist Brian Dennis, who marks his sixth year anniversary with the paper this month. “Ballgame Bafflers by

Brian” debuted on our sports page in October of 2022, and has appeared each month since then.

Thank you for sharing your considerable sports knowledge with us, Brian, and here’s to at least six more years!



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!

October Questions:

1. What two teams played in the 1926 World Series, 100 years ago?
2. One future Hall of Fame pitcher won three games in the 1926 World Series. Who was it?
3. On future Hall of Famer hit three home runs in one game in the 1926 World Series. Who was it?
4. The 1926 World Series ended when a player was thrown out trying to steal second base, the only time a World Series has ever ended that way. Who was the player?
5. What legendary anecdote came about as the result of an incident in Game 4 of the 1926 World Series?

September Answers:

1. What college football duo were known as “Mr. Inside and Mr. Outside”? (Glenn Davis and Felix “Doc” Blanchard of Army in the 1940s)
2. What college football quarterback was given the nickname “the Red Rifle”? (Red headed Andy Dalton when he was playing quarterback at TCU)
3. Who was “the Kansas Comet”? (Gale Sayers)
4. Byron White spent 31 years on the U.S. Supreme Court. What was his nickname when he played football (as well as baseball and basketball) for Colorado? (Whizzer White)
5. What college football star was given the nickname, “the Throwin’ Samoan”? (Jack Thompson, who played at Washington State in the 1970s)

There was no winner last month...