

## WAVES OF CHANGE

### SUNY SULLIVAN LIBRARY ENTERS THE VIRTUAL AGE

Officials Say New Design Will Serve Students Better

by Heather Gibson

**LOCH SHELDRAKE** – When Sullivan County native Grover Hermann gave the initial monetary gift to build the library at SUNY Sullivan, it is unlikely he envisioned a future where books would no longer be held and leafed through, imagined a virtual librarian or search engines like Google.

Fact finding, information gathering, and quick searches have come a long way from the days of the men who sold encyclopedias door to door, and sets were built one volume at a time.

So the Hermann Memorial Library is receiving a much needed face lift, creating a new space that is meant to be user friendly. Financial Aid, Registration and Admissions offices are all now located in the former library space.

“The creation of the One Stop Center will allow SUNY Sullivan to be a more student-centered campus,” Jay Quaintance, college president, explains. “We will be better able to serve our students by allowing them to take care of all of their business tasks in one centralized location, rather than having them scattered across



PHOTO BY HEATHER GIBSON

Administration officials say the changes involving the campus library will bring the college into the 21st century.



PHOTO BY HEATHER GIBSON

The Admissions office, along with Financial Aid and Registration, are now located where the library used to be.

### LET'S TALK SULLIVAN COUNTY

by Luis Alvarez, Chairman Sullivan County Legislature

#### THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

“I believe in the United States of America, as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed...” – preamble to “The American’s Creed” by William Tyler Page (1918).

As one of nine legislators, I am elected to serve the people. The nine of us no longer belong to ourselves – we are part of this government of the people, and our lives belong to the people. We serve with pride, with honor, and with gratitude for the right to represent the people.

We aren’t born with that right, nor can we inherit such a right in America. We are given that right through election by the people, as a sign that they trust us to represent their interests.

I take that seriously, as should you. And if I am your representative, then I ask you to figuratively “walk with me” – guide me in what I should and shouldn’t do for you. What goals should I pursue? What future do you seek me to deliver? What in government helps and hurts you?



PHOTO PROVIDED

**Luis Alvarez is the Chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature. He represents District 6, which includes Hurleyville.**

We must walk together on this. I cannot fulfill this mandate from the people any other way. No matter our backgrounds, no matter our different faiths and ethnicities, no matter our socioeconomic status, we share a common future, as will our children and their children. Thus I rely on you as much as you rely on me.

I am proud to serve on a Legislature where the distinctions of Republican and Democrat are not basis for strife and division. All nine of us recognize we are serving Sullivan County’s people. If we disagree, we do so honestly – and we seek workable solutions.

But we don’t do that in a vacuum, so again I ask that you provide us with your in-

put. You can attend a Legislature meeting (they are open to the public), write a letter or email, make a phone call, or, yes, stop us on the street or in the grocery store! We’re here to listen.

Without the people, the Sullivan County Legislature is nothing, a governmental body full of nobodies. With the people, however, we are unified in our desire for a brighter future for this County and our families. Share your thoughts with us, so that we may serve you better.

Ways to reach the Sullivan County Legislature:

By phone: 845-807-0435

By email: luis.alvarez@co.sullivan.ny.us (or substitute your preferred legislator’s name for mine)

By mail: Sullivan County Government, 100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701

In person: Meetings of the Legislature are typically held the first and second weeks of the month on the second floor of the Government Center – exact dates are listed at [www.sullivanny.us](http://www.sullivanny.us)

*Legislature Chairman Luis Alvarez keeps readers up to date on what is happening in county government with his regular column in the Hurleyville Sentinel.*

campus.”

As part of SUNY Sullivan’s commitment to ensuring that all constituents, faculty, students, staff and community members have access to high quality library services, they created a design and made decisions based on data collected over a number of years about how the library is used, Mr. Quaintance says. Some of the findings include:

- In 2007, the library’s collection included approximately 72,000 print volumes, 358 journals, 26 microfilm collections, and 56 electronic databases. By 2016, the collection had changed significantly: the print collection had declined by 26% to 53,000 volumes, microfilm is no longer housed at the library, journal subscriptions have plummeted over 75% to 120, but digital databases have almost doubled to 96, and the library now boasts over 143,000 eBooks.

• Print circulation has declined dramatically. In 2007 the library loaned 2247 books to SCCC students; by 2016, this category of circulation had fallen to 543. Circulation continued to fall into the 2017-2018 academic year, with only 429 books loaned to students.

• Over the last two years, fewer than 1100 books in the main circulating collection have been checked out.

• Reference desk use has seen a similar marked decrease from nearly 12,000 reference desk interactions in 2007 to approximately 3,000 in 2014, and 1,364 in the 2016-2017 academic year.

“The way people receive information is changing, and therefore the SUNY Sullivan library will need to adapt a new model to meet the changing needs of the 21st century,” Mr. Quaintance explains.

The new vision for the library includes a circulating collection of 26,000 print volumes, increased

inter-library loan services, and greater access to eBook collections. Additionally, the reserve collection, one of the most popular services provided by the library, is being maintained, and the college will now invest in a textbook collection for student use. Mr. Quaintance says this will save students money on text books and make it easier for their professors to offer digital copies of text books.

So while the circulating collection of books will go down, the number of eBooks will increase from 150,000 to 700,000, making many publications accessible by cell phone, laptop, and tablets.

A sneak peek at the renovations taking place reveals that every aspect of the space has been well thought out. The quiet study and tutoring spaces have been increased by 10 percent, student furniture and computer stations have been upgraded, and eight charging stations installed. There will be virtual librarian kiosks throughout the college, so that a student can interact with a librarian without visiting the library. Everything is about saving the student time.

The collage hopes to use the library space for meetings, book readings, and as a place to highlight new publications. There will possibly be grand re-opening event in September, to which the community will be invited. Information about this will be posted on social media and on the college website under the library page and campus events.

Most importantly, the college wants everyone to know that the library is an open access library, open to the public, and library cards are not required. Any member of the community can access the library as often as they like, and they are encouraged to take advantage of this new and exciting space.

### FALLSBURG SUPERVISOR NOW LEADING SULLIVAN COUNTY DEMS

Assumed Chairmanship Aug. 1

**SOUTH FALLSBURG** – Five-term Fallsburg Supervisor Steve Vegliante is the new chairman of the Sullivan County Democrats. Mr. Vegliante replaces Donna Schick, who resigned unexpectedly late last month, citing personal reasons.

In her resignation to the members of the Sullivan County Democratic Committee, a copy of which was obtained by The Hurleyville Sentinel, Ms. Schick noted that the “difficult decision” to resign was made with “both relief and regret.”

“I have always said that when the work no longer feels productive or enjoyable, I would step away from the project,” she wrote. “Thus, I am making this decision.”

In her resignation letter, Ms. Schick pointed to a number of accomplishments, including increasing attendance at the Committee’s annual Jeffersonian Dinner from 75 to 150 peo-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Donna Schick



PHOTO PROVIDED

Steve Vegliante

ple and increasing community outreach.

When contacted by The Sentinel, she declined fur-

ther comment.

Mr. Vegliante commented Ms. Schick on her tenure as the party’s leader.

“It is my hope that [Ms. Schick] continues to stay involved in our committee, as her knowledge and commitment are invaluable resources,” he told The Sentinel. “The political dialogue nationally and locally is fraught with misinformation. If, as Americans we want to improve this condition, it must start on a local basis. I implore our committee, its members, and our friends to commit to staying true to our principles and together we can work to improve our condition. We will claim the moral high ground and on the issues we will win.”

Mr. Vegliante, who is an attorney, was first elected Fallsburg Supervisor in 2009. He was elected to his current two-year term in November of 2017.

### NO FEMALE TEACHERS Old School Board Minutes to Be Revealed

by John Conway

**HURLEYVILLE** – “The teacher is to be a male teacher, it is so voted.”

That entry from the minutes of the October 14, 1863 meeting of the Trustees for the Columbia Hill School, District #17 of the Town of Thompson school system is just one historical tidbit uncovered by Hurleyville native Paul Lounsbury during this past year.

“Things sure have changed since then,” he says.

Mr. Lounsbury is a member of the committee headed by Gordon MacAdam of Monticello and his brother Henry, which has researched 20 one-room schoolhouses that once existed in the Town of Thompson. Mr. Lounsbury’s family used to own the Columbia Hill school building in Hurleyville and leased it to the school district. His grandfather, and later his father retained and preserved many of the records of the district’s existence, including the minutes of some of the trustees’ meetings.

Together with Gordon MacAdam, Mr. Lounsbury will be part of a presentation entitled, “The One-Room Schoolhouses of the Town of Thompson” to be delivered at the Sullivan County



PHOTO BY JOHN CONWAY

Gordon MacAdam (center) poses with some of the members of his committee at the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville, where he will present the findings about one-room schoolhouses on Thursday, August 9. Also pictured are (left to right) Paul Lounsbury, Historical Society president Suzanne Cecil, Mr. MacAdam, Thompson Town Historian Allan Wolkoff, and Judy Wolkoff.

Museum at 6 p.m. on Thursday, August 9.

The museum is located at 265 Main St in Hurleyville.

“I will be sharing other interesting excerpts from the minutes over the 115 years of the school’s operation, including tax records, teachers’ names, the annual cost of firewood, supplies, etc.,” Mr. Lounsbury says. “One year, for example, they approved an expenditure of 50 cents for chalk.”

The Thompson one-room schoolhouses were in operation between 1830 and 1950. The committee researching them also includes Town of Thompson Historian Al Wolkoff, Judy Wolkoff, Mary Ann Drobysh Berens,

and Jack Spangenberg.

Some of the committee’s research was completed in the archives of the Sullivan County Historical Society, and it was through the Historical Society that Mr. MacAdam learned about the Pomeroy Foundation, which provides grants for historical markers. The Town of Thompson Schoolhouse Project has been awarded such a grant to place historical markers at each of the 20 identified sites.

Call the Sullivan County Historical Society for more information about the presentation at 845-434-8044 or visit their website at [www.scnyhistory.org](http://www.scnyhistory.org).

# The Inquiring Photographer

by Heather Gibson



Q. Abraham Lincoln said, "The best way to predict your future is to create it." What is on your bucket list?



Heather Ryder

"Travel is on my bucket list. No one place in particular. I just love exploring new places with my family. It's about experiencing new things and making new memories."

Monique Taylor

"I would love to go sky diving. I think the adrenaline rush would be amazing. I also would love to go to Qatar; which I learned about a long time ago in an economics class. My desire to go there has always stuck with me."



Shoshana Conlon



"I would like to work for the NYS Justice Center to advocate further for children with developmental disabilities. I would also really like to visit Israel one day."

# FROM THE FARM

by Eve Springwood Minson



It's high summer and the eating is good! The issue now is how to save all of the amazing food and other goodies coming into your kitchen from the garden and local farmer's markets.

There are many options for food preservation based on what you have time and space for. My favorite and easiest go-to solution is freezing, which I do with just about everything. I use ice cube trays for pestos and cooked fruit, sliced fresh peppers get stored in zip-lock bags, oven-dried tomatoes get stashed in storage containers and veggie soups get ladled into mason jars and frozen as well. Most vegetables have a limit to how long they taste good in the freezer so take heed to not leave them for much longer than a few months.

Some ovens have dehydrating options which is nice for drying tomatoes, peppers, apples, and even garlic. I dry culinary and medicinal herbs and flowers by hanging them in a dark, warm place like my attic, though the trunk of a car on a hot summer day works wonders as well and

is cheaper than buying a solar or electric dehydrator. In the fall I can strip the dried leaves and store them.

Canning is a bit more complicated and you will need specific supplies, but it's satisfying to look in the cupboard in winter and see everything you've stocked up on. One of the easiest projects to start with for beginners is simple jam or jelly from freshly picked fruit. There's nothing quite like it in midwinter to have on your homemade muffins or pancakes. Or try a red pepper jelly which is a scrumptious condiment that also makes a great Christmas present!

Another fun way to preserve is pickling veggies like cucumbers or dilly beans, but lacto-fermented products are also becoming wildly popular and are super healthy for us. Sauerkraut is the most obvious ferment to make at home, but spicy Korean kimchi and healthy brews like kombucha are easy as well. Recipes for all of these abound on the Web.

Most importantly be creative, have fun and Bon Appetit!

# FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



Last month we explored thunder storms and microbursts. August temperatures in New York are typically in the mid 80s and humid. Now that August is here, the peak of tornado season is behind us, but we still could get some big ones.

A tornado is a damaging column of air that has a center of circulation in the middle and clouds around it. The Enhanced Fujita scale or EF scale, which was started February 1, 2007, is used to assign a tornado rating based on estimated wind speeds and related damage. A tornado has a EF scale 1-5. A tornado forms inland in thunder storm clouds. A tornado has 6 forms-dust; known as a dust devil, snow, fire; known as fire whirl, steam; known as a steam devil, cloud, and water, known as water spout.

A gustnado is a short lived, ground-based swirling wind that

can form on the leading edge of a severe thunderstorm. The name comes from the gust front of a tornado. The gustnado lasts a few seconds to a few minutes. The gustnado spins upward from the ground, extending between 30 to 300 feet above the surface. The gustnado is classified as a type of thunderstorm wind damage. There is some rotation involved in a gustnado however they do not connect to any cloud base so is technically not a tornado.

A hurricane is a large circulation that forms in warm open waters of the ocean. Hurricanes can also form tornados and water spouts.

As seasons change, violent, deadly tornados hit the US, but so far this year, there has been a lull in tornado activity. Stay tuned to see what crazy weather this month brings.

# Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



PHOTO PROVIDED

Baseball team photos from local high school yearbooks are on display at the Sullivan County Museum. This is the 1968 Monticello High School varsity team.

tribute to some of the best Major League Baseball players of the past, can be found on the second floor of the museum.

Please contact the Historical Society if you have local high school yearbooks you'd like to donate to the museum's digitized collection. The Society can be reached at 845-434-8044 or at genealogy@snyhistory.org.

The museum's collection of the Republican Watchman for the years 1909 and 1910 has been scanned and digitized. The searchable and indexed collection is available for viewing at the museum.

A gift shop offering a collection of Sullivan County-related books, maps, posters, postcards and memorabilia is open at the museum.

Volunteers are always needed at the museum. They operate the museum through numerous activities including working on research, creating exhibits, caring for artifacts and helping visitors.

Anyone interested in exploring genealogy and the history of life in Sullivan County can contact the museum.

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

Please visit [www.snyhistory.org](http://www.snyhistory.org) for more information on the Sullivan County Historical Society and the Sullivan County Museum. You can also visit the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum on Facebook.

The volunteers at the Hurleyville United Methodist Church are collecting donations of diapers to swap with other local missions for school supplies for Hurleyville.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry at the church is open each Thursday (except the first Thursday of each month) from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Free clothing is available for families in need on the last Thursday of each month.

The church hosts a "Community Dinner" on the first Thursday of each month through November. Doors for the potluck dinner open at 4 p.m. Admission is free, and the dinner is open to everyone.

Services are held at the church

each Sunday from 9 until 10 a.m.

The church holds prayer meetings every Monday from 10 a.m. until noon.

A Bible study group meets at the church every Tuesday from 7 until 8 p.m.

Volunteers at the church host the Community Lunch Program. Dates for the program will be announced on the church's page on Facebook.

Young people are invited to join the Youth Group hosted by the church. There are fun activities indoors and out all summer! Please call Katrina at 845-436-7942 for more information or if you can help with any of these activities.

The members of Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance (CHNA) continue to follow developments in the lawsuit filed by Gan Eden Estates against the Town of Thompson and the Town of Thompson Planning Board.

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) held a public hearing in May to review 28 applications, including Gan Eden Estate's application to draw 4.6 million gallons a month from the aquifer for use as the public water supply for the development. The DRBC met again in June, 2018 and unanimously approved 27 of the 28 applications. A decision on Gan Eden Estate's application was postponed by the DRBC to allow for additional review.

Visit CHNA at [www.columbiabiahill.org](http://www.columbiabiahill.org) or on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your community.

# The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

Is it me? Or does it seem like everything summer related is doing double time and trying to catch up?

Heartbeat, The Grahamsville Music Hall is proving to be exactly what everyone hoped. It's still early in its first year, but Dave and Teresa Trestyn are doing it all right. After a big, star-studded Opening Night, then Southern Fried Soul featuring Grahamsville's own Laura Garone, they pulled back, promoting their Open Mic nights on Wednesdays, which has been attracting some of the finest talent in the area. Bravo! They also have their own website to keep you apprised of all new shows: [heartbeatmusical-hall.com](http://heartbeatmusical-hall.com). And now, on Saturday, August 10, Heartbeat will be bringing none other than icon Slam Allen to its stage. Tickets are \$20, and are being sold in advance at the Music Hall and at Catskill Hudson Bank directly across the street. Seating is limited, so make sure you get your tickets early. I have mine.

The week prior, on Sunday, August 5, thanks to our own Carol Smith, Slam Allen will make an appearance in our area from 2 - 3 p.m. at the Hurleyville Museum. This will be another interesting combination of music and talk that has made these Sunday afternoons so popular. For more information, please contact the Museum at (845) 434-8044.

If you are in New York City on Saturday, August 4, stop on by Groove at 125 McDougal St, between 2 and 9 p.m., and be part of the 6th International Bluesday. My friend Johnny Childs, an amazing Blues man in his own right, was instrumental in bringing about this annual day of honor with some of the most noted Blues players from around the world.

Hurleyville's own David Bloch and his writing partner/songstress Celeste Aldridge will be gracing the stage at the Port Jervis Farmer's Market on Saturday, August 25. If you have not heard these two, let me just say it's magical and well worth the short trip!

And let's put in a good word for the festivals in August:

Saturday, August 11 is the Blueberry Festival in Ellenville from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The village has in past years blocked off part of Canal Street allowing one to wander from table or booth without having to dodge cars. I'm looking forward to the blueberry goodies that somehow just jump into my market bag, begging me to take them home. This year's Fest is sponsored by Tony and Nick's Italian Kitchen, 1 Hermance Street.

Part of Broadway is usually blocked off in Monticello for the annual Bagel Fest on Sunday, August 12 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Be sure to stop in at DeFillipi's for their "Music Where You Least Expect It" that's held from 11 a.m. to 2-ish for some great music and a chance to sit for a bit. Two food festivals back to back; that is heaven!

And who doesn't like a good old fashioned county fair! The Grahamsville Little World's Fair opens Friday, August 17 at the Neversink

Park in Grahamsville. It is just the ticket, with everything one looks for in a rural county fair. It was the name that got me to the gates a few years after I moved here, and it was so reminiscent of the fairs in Wisconsin where I grew up. I'll see you there!

**Every Monday:**  
Dutch's Open Mic: 205 Rock Hill Dr, Rock Hill, 7 p.m.  
Slam Allen at the Double Top; Resorts World Catskills Casino and Hotel. 6 p.m.

**Tuesdays:**  
Every Tuesday: Odd Tuesday with The Greater Sullivan County Search and Rescue Orchestra (Joanna Gass, Steve Schwartz, Kenny Windheim, and Eric Neis), Brew, 280 Rock Hill Dr, Rock Hill, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Wednesdays:**  
Cab'aroke at Cabernet Franks; 38 Main St, (Exit 98 off Rte 17W) Parksville; 6 - 11 p.m. Come in costume!

Open Mic at Heartbeat, The Grahamsville Music Hall; 30 Main Street, Grahamsville; 7 p.m.

Rock Hill Summer Music Concert Series; all starting at 6:30 p.m.

August 1: Third Degree  
August 8: Glass House  
August 15: Sommersville  
August 22: Papa J + Mo  
Soul with Jason Rosen  
August 29: Cruise Control

**Thursdays:**  
Open Mic every Thursday at Cabernet Frank's; Parksville

**Fridays:**  
Every Friday: Sorella: Jazz Standards with Defino and Ravdin, and great Italian food! 6 - 9 p.m., 3562 State Rte 55, Kauneonga Lake

Cabernet Frank's, 38 Main St, (Exit 98 off Rte 17W) Parksville

Live music beginning between 7 and 8 p.m.

The Pickled Owl, 218 Main St, Hurleyville

Live music from 6 - 9 p.m. August 17: The Grahamsville Little World's Fair opens; Neversink Park; Grahamsville

**Saturdays:**  
Every Saturday: Sorella: Jazz Standards with Defino and Ravdin, 3562 State Rte 55, Kauneonga Lake; 6 - 9 p.m.

Cabernet Frank's, 38 Main St, (Exit 98 off Rte 17W) Parksville

Live music beginning at 8 p.m.

The Pickled Owl, 218 Main St, Hurleyville

Live music from 6 - 9 p.m.

August 4: Marc Delgado at the Pickled Owl, Hurleyville NY 6 - 9 p.m.

August 11: The Blueberry Festival; Canal Street; Ellenville

August 25: Must Be Dreaming; Port Jervis Farmer's Market; Elizabeth Street, Port Jervis

Sundays:  
August 12: Bagel Fest; Broadway; Monticello; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Music Where You Least Expect It: 11 a.m. - 1:30-ish, DeFillipi's Bakery, 506 Broadway, Monticello  
The Dancing Cat Saloon: #ShineOn, Jazz Brunch, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 2037 State Rte 17B, Bethel

# New Thriller Opens at 50th Woodstock Anniversary

by Gray Basnight

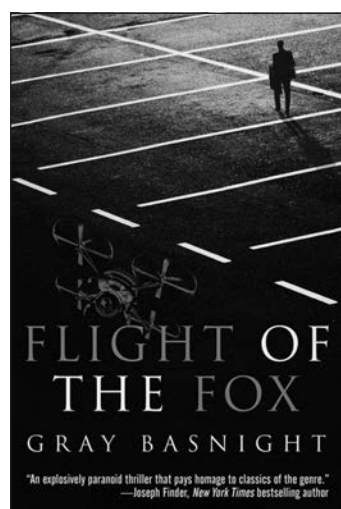


PHOTO PROVIDED

BETHEL - There are plenty of good reasons to begin a run-for-your-life thriller novel in Bethel, New York.

First, there's the natural beauty of undisturbed rolling hills overlaid with thick woods embedded with blue stone and teaming with wildlife. Placing an opening scene here supplies the writer with rich pastoral imagery for a fugitive fleeing for his life. He stumbles through virgin terrain, sending whitetail deer scattering. He tumbles down a hillside, rests beside a flowing creek, bends to sip from a pool of spring water occupied by a foot-long trout, passes a mysteriously dilapidated farmhouse, then veers off to avoid challenging a black bear with her cub.

Second, there's Route 17B. The curving, mostly two-lane highway cuts through undulating historic real estate from Monticello to the Delaware River. Here, should the fugitive be so lucky as to hitch a ride with a passing motorist, his view from the window yields a cinematic course in American development. There is boundless timberland, bucolic grazing pastures, abandoned houses, Hasidic bungalows, small towns, roadside diners, junkyards, and the ever-present assortment of used car dealers.

Third, there's the array of homes and the people who live in them. Here, too, is a lesson in the evolution of American life and lifestyle choices. From campers and mobile homes, to classic suburban ranches and luxurious country homes—they're all there. As with the variety of dwelling styles, they're occupied by an even wider variety of men and women

who were born into, or who came to the area from all walks of life in the U.S. and elsewhere. And each of them has a novel-worthy story of their own.

Finally, if the novel is set in the near future, let's say in August of 2019, there are 50 additional good reasons to begin a story in Bethel. Those 50 reasons are all the years leading up to the forthcoming golden anniversary of the Woodstock Music Festival.

Well, there is such a novel. I wrote it. It's called "Flight of the Fox" released in late July by Down & Out Books. The central character is a Columbia University math professor named Sam Teagarden who not only owns a pied-à-terre in Bethel, but was born during the Woodstock Music Festival.

My opening scene takes advantage of all of the above: the wooded terrain, the highway, the homes, the people. It's all there.

In reality of course, it's only the 49th anniversary that looms this August. Oddly, when it comes to celebrating anniversaries with gifts, there's no official gemstone for the 49th. The 45th is sapphire, and the 50th, of course, is gold. But the lowly 49th gets no respect. That's understandable. When you're breathing on the big one, why fuss with commemorating a date that's one measly year shy of

half-a-century? The same is true for momentous events in history. We tend to commit greater passion to our memories in multiples of five.

And so it is with Sullivan County. The big one looms in August of 2019. I've read where some are making blowout plans to commemorate the time when 400,000 turned Bethel into a metropolis for three days of music that was also a passionate cry for peace in the face of a grievously divisive war.

In my novel, it's August of 2019 and (no spoiler alert necessary) my characters attend a massive celebration remembering those peaceful days when Sullivan County hosted an event that put Bethel on the map of world history.

But a novel, of course, is only fiction.

Gray Basnight is deeply immersed in his third career -- fiction writing, after almost three decades in broadcast news, preceded by a few years pursuing an acting career. Prior to Flight of the Fox, his other published novels are The Cop with the Pink Pistol, a modern NYC-detective mystery with some scenes in the Catskills; and Shadows in the Fire, a Civil War historical novel. Gray and his wife split their time between Sullivan County and New York City. For more information, visit [www.Gray-Basnight.com](http://www.Gray-Basnight.com), follow him on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/gray.basnight>) or Twitter (@GrayBasnight).

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# Hurleyville Firefighter Is Distinguished Citizen

MONTICELLO – Sixty-one years into fighting fires, one would think that Nelson Durland would take a break from the active roster of his beloved Hurleyville Volunteer Fire Department.

Not a chance. “I still answer daytime fire calls,” the 79-year-old affirms, the deep sense of pride and obligation so very evident in his eyes. “I have a desire to try to always keep going in the right direction.”

That direction has always been aimed toward this community – not just Hurleyville, but Sullivan County and the Hudson Valley. It’s a lifelong commitment that has earned him the Sullivan County Legislature’s Distinguished Citizen Award.

“Nelson Durland is a legend in the fire service throughout Sullivan County, and I am in awe of him as a fellow firefighter,” says Legislature Chairman Luis Alvarez, a Liberty firefighter. “Few have reached his length of service, and even fewer have kept going as passionately and reliably as he does.”

“I really enjoy it,” Mr. Durland relates matter-of-factly. “I joined the fire department in 1957, where my grandfather and father also served.”

In those days, “we just grabbed a hose and ran,” he recalls – often with no more than a raincoat, boots and a helmet for protection.

Yet departments had a

larger supply of members then, and that vexes Mr. Durland.

“I’d say about 20% of the fire departments in the County are doing well with young recruits,” he estimates. “The rest of them are just hanging on, doing the best they can with what they have.”

Mr. Durland has long been a role model to younger generations, not only in firefighting, but in leadership. Indeed, his proudest moments were being elected chief of the Hurleyville FD and named president of the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firefighters Association.

In fact, he’s held some sort of office in every organization in which he’s been involved – and there are plenty: Town of Fallsburg Fire Chiefs Association, Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board, Sullivan County Arson Task Force (charter member), Loch Sheldrake Fire District Board of Commissioners, Firefighters Association of the State of New York, Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters Association (overseeing multiple annual parades), the Eastern Sullivan Fireman’s Softball League, Hudson Valley Royal Order of the Red Vests, the Liberty Presbyterian Church, the Liberty Lodge No. 521 of Free & Accepted Masons, and the local chapter of AmVets.

Since 1995, he’s hosted West Point cadets at his



Gathered to honor Nelson Durland at the July Legislature meeting were, from the left, Deputy County Manager Dan Depew, Legislature Chairman (and Liberty firefighter) Luis Alvarez, District 3 Legislator Mark McCarthy, District 9 Legislator Alan Sorensen, District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello, District 8 Legislator Ira Steingart, Distinguished Citizen Awardee Nelson Durland, District 5 Legislator Terri Ward, District 4 Legislator Catherine Owens, District 1 Legislator Scott Samuelson and County Manager Josh Potosek.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and wife Joan’s home for a meal and relaxing afternoon, where they are treated to his “parlor” – a room full of awards, plaques and numerous references to Army-Navy games (Mr. Durland served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1957-1964). A few years back, he was honored at one of those games for his hospitality to the cadets.

He also maintains the Doris Durland Playground (named after his mother) at the Hurleyville Firehouse.

“Nelson loves where he lives more than anyone

I know, and he’s given his whole life to serving his hometown and home County,” notes District 7 Legislator Joe Perrello, in whose district the Durlands reside. “He represents the kind of citizen you want as a neighbor, as a friend, and as a leader, and I am proud to recognize him with our Distinguished Citizen Award.”

Mr. Durland retired in

1995 from nearly 30 years with the Sullivan County Department of Social Services, assisting more than 1,000 citizens every year, first as a caseworker and ultimately as supervisor of Adult Protective Services.

These days, his chief love is getting together with his firefighting crew, new and old.

“It’s always great to go to the meetings and see every-

body,” he acknowledges. “I have a lot of respect for firefighters, here and across the state.”

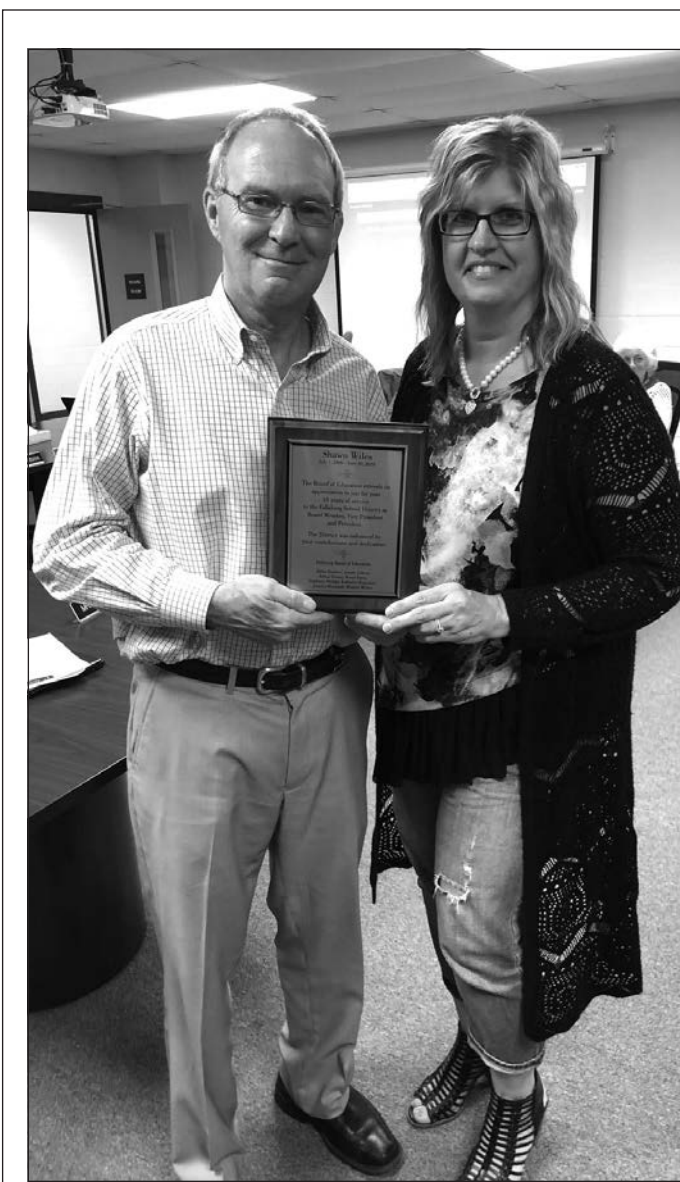


PHOTO PROVIDED

Shawn Wiles, longtime member of the Fallsburg Central School District Board of Education, was recognized for his service during his final Board meeting on June 20. Mr. Wiles, left, is shown accepting a plaque in appreciation of his six terms of service from School Board President Debra Barbiani.

## SUPER STORIES RETURNS TO HURLEYVILLE ARTS CENTRE

HURLEYVILLE – The best story-telling you’ve ever experienced is returning to the Hurleyville Arts Centre this month, as Super Stories, featuring 20-time MOTH champion Adam Wade, NPR’s Ophira Eisenberg, and MOTH host Peter Aguero will perform on Saturday, August 11 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The show is expected to sell out, so everyone is advised to get their tickets early.

Adam Wade is a 20-time Moth champion. He’s been featured on The Moth Radio Hour and NPR’s “All Things Considered,” has appeared on RISK!, Hot Tub, and Night Train with Wyatt Cenac, among many other live shows. His monthly solo show, “The Adam Wade Show,” has been featured in Time Out New York and the New York Times. He gave a talk at TEDx PennQuarter on re-inventing storytelling, and he most recently



PHOTO PROVIDED

Story teller extraordinaire Adam Wade headlines Super Stories at the Hurleyville Arts Centre on Saturday, August 11.

appeared in an episode of “Inside Amy Schumer.”

Ophira Eisenberg is a comedian, writer, and host of NPR’s hit trivia comedy show, “Ask Me Another,” where she has interviewed and played silly games with the likes of John Turturro, Justin Long, Elizabeth Gilbert, Cristin Milioti, Doug Limon, Dr Ruth, Lewis Black, Hannibal Buress and more. She has appeared on The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson, The Today

Show, Comedy Central, and VH-1. Selected as one of New York Magazine’s Top 10 Comics that Funny People Find Funny, and featured in the New York Times as a skilled comedian and storyteller with a “bleakly stylish” sense of humor, Ophira’s debut memoir, Screw Everyone: Sleeping My Way to Monogamy was recently optioned for a feature film with Zucker Productions.

Peter Aguero is a regular host and instructor for The Moth. His newest show, “Daddy Issues,” has played

across the country and will be a part of The 2015 Winnipeg Fringe Festival. Peter is a writer for Double Take Comics and his books based in the world of “Night of The Living Dead” will be published this June.

For outdated information, go to peteraguero.com.

Visit hurleyvilleartscentre.org or call 845-707-8047 for tickets and other information.

## Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Teachers Update Fallsburg BOE

FALLSBURG – At the final Fallsburg Central School District (FCSD) Board of Education meeting for the 2017-2018 school year, Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Teachers (TSTT) gave a short presentation on their progress during the year. Regional Program Manager for Sullivan County, Laura Burrell was very pleased with the large number of students from FCSD, and how active they were in all the workshops that were offered by the organization.

At the group’s Brunch of Recognition in May, three Fallsburg graduates of the TSTT received awards for coming back to the school as teachers and aides in the high school. Ms. Burrell was particularly proud of the leadership roles taken by the youngest members of TSTT in ninth grade. She

introduced one of these students, Tamia Caston, who spoke about how much she learned in the past year.

Ms. Caston improved her interview skills to the point where she earned a summer job by answering some tough questions she had prepared for. She said she felt like she had become more mature and responsible during the several TSTT classes and training opportunities. Her poise in front of the Board was evident, and everyone applauded her enthusiastically.

The Fallsburg TSTT Program will begin its eleventh year in September. Superintendent Dr. Ivan Katz and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Matthew Evans have been instrumental in bringing the program to the District and strongly supporting it.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Second grade teacher Dianne Martinez works with second and third grade students doing writing assignments prior to filling up trail mix bags with goodies on 10 different tables in the FHS cafeteria.

## A NIGHT FOR BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AND AWARDS AT FALLSBURG HIGH SCHOOL

FALLSBURG – Fallsburg’s Benjamin Cosor Elementary School (BCES) Students are busy this summer at Fallsburg High School because of construction at BCES. On Friday, July 20, a couple of classes were involved in special activities at the Computer Lab in the Library and in the Cafeteria.

On the computers were several fourth, fifth and sixth graders using Fast ForWord, a scientifically based language and reading intervention program to support struggling readers and English Language Learners. Teacher Brittany

Davis and aide Helen Jordy were working with some of the students. Special Needs teacher Schuyler Rappo was working alongside aides Cynthia Swinden and Lionel White.

In the Cafeteria, a combined second and third grade class taught by Dianne Martinez and Ashley Hoag-Irwin were creating bags of trail mix as part of the theme of the summer—CAMP COSOR. In groups of three or four, the children rotated between tables that had 10 different ingredients to support struggling readers and English Language Learners. Teacher Brittany

On each table was a sheet of paper with a different language arts assignment, such as “write a complete sentence with a subject and a predicate;” “write three adjectives to describe summer camp;” and “give two characteristics of fiction.” Once they completed the writing requested, they were allowed to place some food into their plastic trail mix bag.

Once the learning was complete, everyone went on a hike around the outside of the building. The aides supporting the second and third grade group were Christine Blakesley and Tina Cosh.



PHOTO PROVIDED

TSTT Regional Program Manager for Sullivan County, Laura Burrell (left) and Fallsburg High School ninth grader Tamia Caston, who is enrolled in TSTT.

**SULLIVAN RENAISSANCE**  
*2018 Awards Ceremony*

**Join Sullivan Renaissance to Celebrate the 2018 Community Volunteers and Award Winners!**

**Monday, August 6, 2018**  
Event Gallery at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

**Doors open at 5:00 PM**  
**Program begins at 6:30 PM**

BE OUR GUEST! Music by Somerville. Refreshments.  
*Está invitado a unirse a nosotros en Bethel Woods para la Ceremonia de Premios Sullivan Renaissance. Música. Refrescos ¡Celebración!*

**Cheer on your communities!**  
**MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**  
Town of Fallsburg, Town of Liberty, Town of Thompson, Town of Tusten, Village of Woodridge

**COMMUNITY GRANTS**  
Caticoon Business Association, Jeffersonville JEMS, Hurleyville-Sullivan First, Liberty Central School District, Livingston Manor Renaissance, Lumberland Parks & Recreation, Neversink Renaissance, Swan Lake Renaissance, Town of Forestburgh, White Sulphur Springs Sullivan First

**GARDEN GRANTS**  
Barnville Chamber of Commerce, Catskill Fly Fishing Museum, Dynamite Youth Center, Hebrew Day School, Hudson River Healthcare, Kenosha Lake 4-H Hummingbirds, Monticello Elks Club #5344, Monticello United Methodist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, St. Peter's

**MAINTENANCE GRANTS**  
B.A.T.S. for Veterans, Eldred Central School, Ethelbert B. Crawford Library, Forestburgh Playhouse, Kenosha Lake United Methodist Church, Liberty United Methodist Church, Literacy Volunteers of Sullivan County, Livingston Manor United Methodist Church, Loomis Area Neighborhood Watch, Mileses Cemetery, St. John's Episcopal Church Monticello, Church of St. Peter's Monticello, St. Peter's Regional School Library

**COMMUNITY MITZVAH**  
American Theological, Camp Bros Ahavas Israel, Camp HASC, Camp Silver Lake, Green Acres, Ohni Branch, Pine Tree Bangladeshi

# 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 of the gear and provide all of the training needed, for free. Stop by any Monday night and find out how you can help.

At the start of the summer the fire department was invited to the Fourth Battalion Parade and Drill in Rockville Center, NY. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Hurleyville Fire Department was deployed to Rockville Center for a week to give their members a break from their duties. Ever since then a close knit friendship has developed between the two departments. Many of their members come to the Annual Ice Fishing Contest each year. So, they extended an invitation to their parade. At the parade the Hurleyville members receive a trophy for the company traveling the farthest.

With summer here, it has been very busy county-wide; weekends have shown a huge increase in calls. At times good Samaritans have called in a number of incidents. Sometimes they didn't know exactly where they were and could not provide the exact location of the incident. Sometimes they saw flames or smoke and reported it. Some of the problems that have been encountered were that they then left before the fire department showed up and the fire department had difficulty finding the problem. Sometimes it was a controlled burn of a brush pile--the Burn Ban is over-- and by the time the fire department got there the flames and smoke had died down, and it was hard to find. Sometimes it is the angle at which you see the flames that makes it look like a



PHOTO PROVIDED

Hurleyville firefighters join Nelson Durland following his being honored by the Sullivan County Legislature.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Hurleyville's new Rescue Truck #1161.

huge structure fire when in fact it is a small campfire. Please stick around until the fire department arrives and point out the location to them. This is important

especially when the 911 Center only gets one call on the incident. When reporting an accident on State Route 17 see if you can get a mile marker from the side of the road. They are small green rectangular signs on a post alongside the highway.

Speaking of incidents, since May coming from Loch Sheldrake to Hurleyville many times I have NOT made the light at Morningside Four Corners. During that timeframe, Hurleyville has had only one call at the intersection. Not too bad. Be on the alert at that light and all traffic lights.

The Hurleyville Fire District just took delivery of a 2000 American LaFrance rescue truck. This is to replace the 1985 rescue. The newly acquired rescue is in great shape and at about \$100,000 is a lot cheaper than a new one that would cost in the neighborhood of \$450,000. The new-to-us rescue (11-61) has plenty of compartment space, a light tower, cascade system (to fill

air tanks), a hydraulic pump with the jaws attached, and a spacious passenger compartment.

Let's not forget the Hurleyville Fire Department will host the 8th Annual Bill Carlson Golf Classic. This event was weathered out in May and will be held on the Tarry Brae golf course in the Town of Fallsburg on Saturday, August 18 with a 1 p.m. shotgun start. There is still time for your business to help by becoming a Tee Box Sponsor or make a donation that can be used for the raffle. It can be prizes, gift cards, cash or checks. For more information, contact John Jaycox at (845) 866-6421.

One of our own was honored by Sullivan County with the "Distinguished Citizen Award." Nelson Durland a 60-plus year member of the Hurleyville Fire Department was honored by the Sullivan County Legislatures on Thursday, July 19 at the full board meeting in front of many friends, fellow firefighters and family. The award highlighted Nelson's firematic accomplishments and those as neighbor and distinguished citizen. Well done, Nelson. (Also see separate story elsewhere in this edition.)

## FROM THE FILES OF...

# THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburg

COMPILED BY FRED FRIES FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE Sullivan County Historical Society

August 12, 1938

### Cloudburst Wipes Out Seven Bridges In Liberty Section

A cloudburst which lasted less than an hour Saturday night left the area around Liberty with seven fewer bridges - six of them had spanned the Neversink. One automobile was swept 400 feet down stream after its driver had waded to safety through water up to his chest. Guardposts saved another car which its occupants had abandoned in the flood. A seventh bridge was reported out at Ulster Heights.

The motorists escaped the peril of the swollen east branch of the Mongaup at the first Route Seventeen bridge south of Liberty.

A 1937 sedan, owned by Abraham Steckler, of the Bronx, and operated by his son, David, twenty-eight, was swept away as a section of the approach was washed out and was carried about 400 feet downstream. Sunday morning it was found bottom-side up in a depression about fifty feet from the normal riverbed.

Steckler had left his parents at the Hotel Grossinger at about nine o'clock. It had rained heavily between Ferndale and Parkville for about forty-five minutes, ending at eight o'clock. The rain had come too late, however, to prevent Sullivan hotels from having the best week end business thus far this season, and the younger Steckler, when he found accommodations lacking at the Grossinger, started toward Liberty. He drove the car through the rising water on the bridge but when the torrent reached the battery the motor stalled.

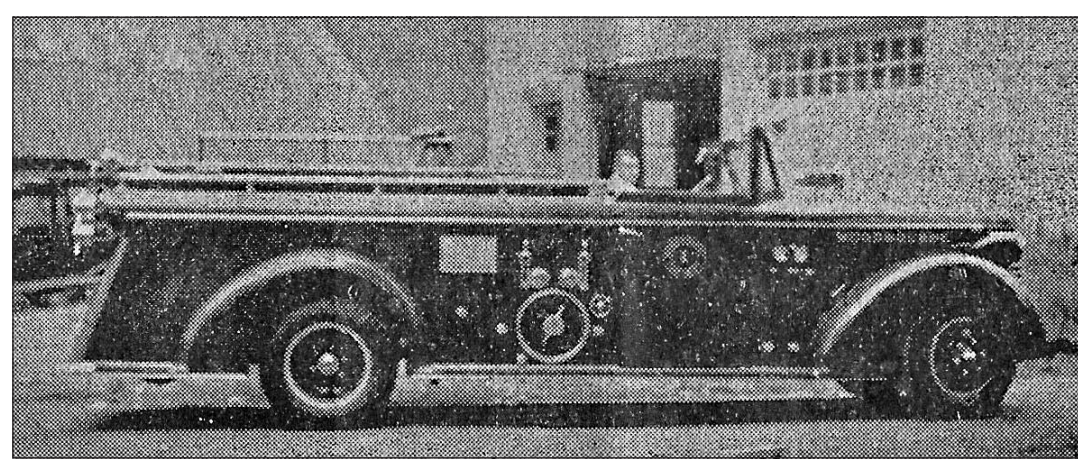


PHOTO PROVIDED

Woodbourne's new American LaFrance fire truck with Fire Chief William Walter at the wheel.

When he realized his position was unsafe, he got out of the car and waded, chest-high, to safety. The water soon afterward came within a foot of the top of the car and carried it off downstream over loosened highway posts. Four occupants of another car also abandoned theirs for safety and saw it about to be swept after the other auto until it caught on the dangling highway post. It was saved by a tow-truck when the water receded a few hours afterwards. Sergeant Thomas J Mangan and Trooper William Elliott of Harris substation patrolled highway traffic at this point until the State Highway Department crew had made the bridge passable early Sunday. The bridge itself was slightly damaged. Neversink roads were closed by highway workers for emergency repairs. Disrupted telephone service, caused by falling poles, was restored in some measure by noon on Sunday.

The Town of Neversink several days ago advertised a vote on a \$14,000 bond issue to repair damage of two weeks ago, but what the new loss will be has not been calculated yet.

Extensive damage to its roadbed was suffered by the O & W road along a two-

mile reach between Young's Gap and Parkville, as a result of the cloudburst. Both main line tracks were washed out in several places. A northbound passenger train was halted near the Gap at midnight, Saturday, and a dozen passengers transferred to automobiles for continuation of their trips to vacation centers.

Railroad repair crews attacked the damage promptly, however, and early Sunday morning one track was restored through the flood belt. Until late in the afternoon all passenger trains used the single track and maintained schedules satisfactorily. Both tracks were restored during the afternoon. The damage was caused by surface water.

The train stopped Saturday night was northbound Number Five which proceeded slowly from Liberty after having been warned of insecure trackage. A short distance north of Liberty the train was stopped by trackmen. Passengers continued by autos.

On Cold Spring Road, southeast of Liberty, 800 chickens belonging to Henry Horstman, employed by the State Highway Department, were drowned when a nearby brook rose. High waters were also reported in Ferndale, where part of

an old mill was washed away. Although Monticello experienced some heavy rain earlier in the afternoon, there was no damage.

August 19, 1938

### New Fire Truck Delivered to the Woodbourne Fire District

The huge new American LaFrance fire truck was delivered on Tuesday to the Woodbourne Fire District which had voted approval of the purchase at a special meeting last month. The truck, which is the largest and most modern of any fire company in Sullivan County, is fully equipped and delivers at a cost of about \$7,500. It has an eight cylinder, one hundred and forty horsepower motor. The truck will pump five hundred gallons per minute at one hundred and twenty pound pressure; has twelve hundred feet of hose and carries two hundred gallon booster tanks.

Commissioners of the Woodbourne Fire District are Alfred Prince, Charles Jones, Charles Stangel, Floyd Hill and John Hamilton; Fire Chief - William Walter; Secretary and Treasurer - John Eidel and Chief Engineer - Basil Evans.

## FROM THE FALLSBURG LIBRARY

by Kelly Wells & Amanda Letohic



We can't believe half of the summer is gone already. As we enter August, things are still 'rocking' here at the library for Summer Reading. Our Summer Reading Program runs through August 16, with raffle drawings being done the evening of Wednesday August 15. Remember, the more you read, the more tickets you earn to 'buy' prizes and/or enter a raffle to win one of our awesome prizes, including a signed Odell Beckham Jr. (NY Giants) poster, a signed Leonard Williams (NY Jets) poster, a pair of tickets to a Red Bulls soccer game, and a pair of Sunday passes to New York Comic Con 2018. It's not too late sign up. Don't miss out on all the

fun and prizes we have this year, and be sure to check out these great programs coming up to wrap up Summer Reading:

On Wednesday August 8 at 6 p.m., teens and preteens ages 11+ are welcome to come to the Library for a "Throwable Paintball" fight! We'll be using "Goblins", paintballs that don't require a gun. Come get colorful! (And remember to wear older clothes as you WILL get colorful!)

Teens and adults can join us Thursday, August 9 at 5 p.m. as we'll be learning about reducing food waste with representatives from Sullivan County Public Health. On Wednesday, August 15 at 6 p.m. we have "Mineral Mania" presented by Mad Science, where kids ages 6+ can explore the process of rock formation and break open geodes to find and keep amazing crystals. Registration is required for this program, so please call or stop in.

"Woodstock Stories: The Summer of 1969 in Sullivan County" on Thursday, August 16 at 7 p.m., just in time to celebrate the 49th anniversary of the festival.

Our Children's Craft Night will continue on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. through August 13, and our Preschool & Toddler Story Time will continue on Tuesday mornings through August 14. Don't forget our Drop-In Craft Night on Tuesdays from 4 - 6 p.m. through August 14, and be sure to stop by our table at National Night Out in Brian Ingber Park on August 7.

Be sure to check back next month for our special promotion for Library Card Sign Up month. It really is the most valuable card in your wallet!

As you can see, we have many great things coming up at the Fallsburg Library. Some programs have limited spots, so please call, email, or stop in to sign up. Here's a reminder of our contact information, call: 845-436-6067, email: fbr@rcsl.org, stop in: 12 Rail-

road Plaza, South Fallsburg, or follow us on social media!



A Fiber Arts Studio hosting workshops for everyone, expanding the Makers Movement on Main Street.

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# LIKE A LION PART VI

An Original Short Story by Jack Robbin  
Illustration by Carol Smith

Constable Bronco Kelly has gone undercover in an attempt to find "the Claw Man," suspected of killing three men along the O&W tracks. Now, aboard a freight car on a train rumbling northward along the O&W tracks just above Wurtsboro, he finds himself face to face with the man. Here is Part VI of our story...

I was standing unsteadily in a moving freight car, facing a hobo named Ralphie, who was backed up by his less than enthusiastic sidekick, Bookie. Ralphie had just reached over his shoulder and drawn out from behind him something that looked like a short handled corn broom, about three feet long, with a handle about as big around as the handle of a baseball bat. Affixed to the end, where a broom's sweeping end would normally be, was a set of claws that looked just like they had been removed from a mountain lion. I suddenly realized I was now standing face to face with the Claw Man.

"Whoa, now," I said cautiously, holding out my hands, palms outward. "I'm not looking for any trouble. I didn't know anyone was in

this car." "Too late for that," Ralphie said through clenched teeth. Bookie looked like he was ready to head for the door and jump from the moving train. He clearly wanted no part of Ralphie's plan, whatever that was.

"Let's just go, Ralphie," he said timidly. "C'mon. Let's just go."

"That's not happening, Bookie boy," Ralphie responded without taking his eyes off me.

"You should be happy, Bookie," I said, acting on a sudden impulse. "I just saved your life."

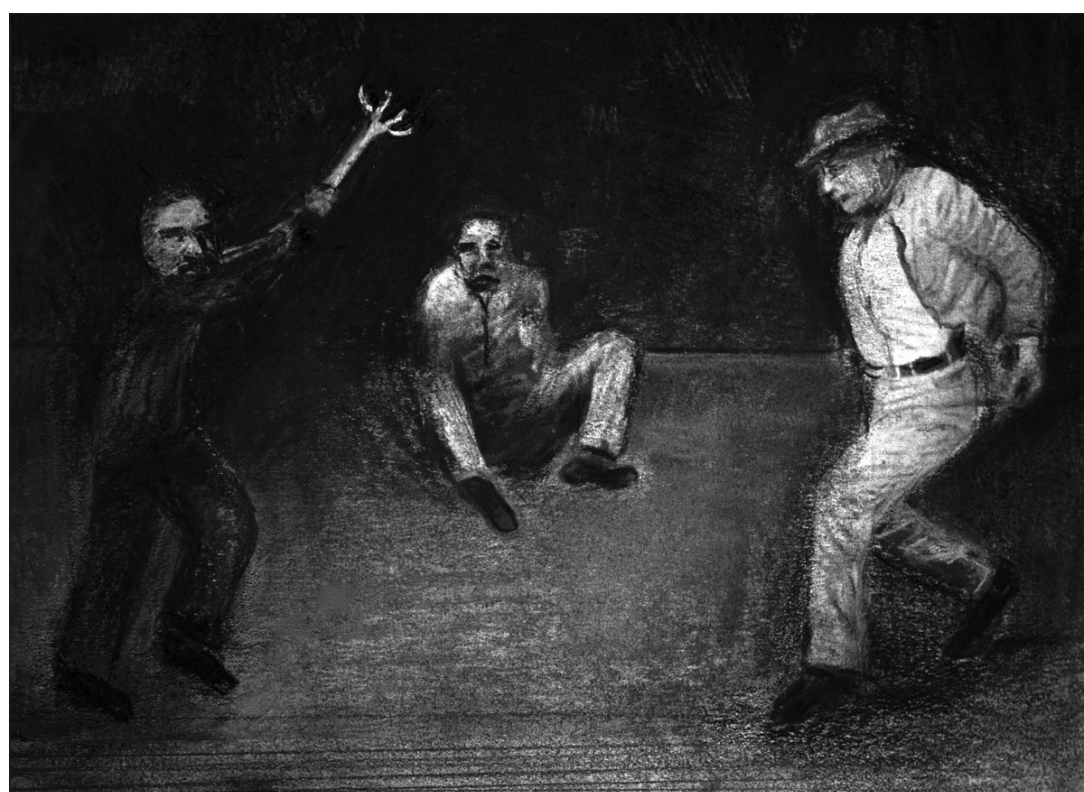
"Saved my life? What you talking about? What's he talking about, Ralphie?"

I didn't give Ralphie a chance to answer, my mind racing now, and my mouth struggling to keep up.

"Ralphie here had plans for you, Bookie. And now here I am interfering with those plans. You were going to be the latest of his companions to be sliced up and left along the tracks. Isn't that right, Ralphie?"

"Ralphie? What's he talking about, Ralphie?"

"Shut up, Bookie." "What's he talking about, Ralphie?"



Bronco stood face to face with the Claw Man and his lethal weapon.

"I have no idea. And I said shut up."

"I'm talking about the fact that Ralphie here has been using that contraption in his hands to cut people up and leave their bodies lying along the tracks. At least three of them so far, and unless I miss my guess, you were going to be next."

"Ralphie?" Bookie seemed agitated, which is exactly what I was hoping for.

"I told you to shut up, Bookie. Let me handle this

guy and then we'll talk."

Bookie was not appeased. "Handle him? Ralphie, I want to know what he's talking about."

With that, Bookie reached out and placed his hand on Ralphie's shoulder, pulling the other man toward him, and upsetting his balance just enough to distract him. That was all I needed. As Ralphie's body swiveled slightly to his left in response to Bookie's tug, I sprang forward, hitting him with all

my weight, tackling him to the ground. I knew that once I got closer than an arm's length to him he would have no room to swing the weapon and it would be mostly neutralized.

Sure enough, he went down under the force of the collision, and the clawed weapon was sandwiched between us. Being careful to avoid the claws, I pinned his arms close to his body and tried to kick the weapon loose. Bookie came around

from behind us and grabbed the weapon, jerking it free, and enabling me to turn Ralphie around, with his right arm in a hammer lock behind his back. I pulled a length of twine from my shirt pocket and quickly tied his wrists together.

I stood up, and dragged him to his feet.

"Thanks, Bookie," I said, turning toward the other man.

I was caught totally by surprise when the handle of the broomstick struck me across the face, sending me reeling backward. The blow was just enough to cause me to lose my balance on the swaying car, and I fell on my backside.

"You are not quite as clever as you think, mister," Bookie said, his voice now taking on a completely different tone. "You think Ralphie was smart enough to kill those other men? Not even close."

"You?"

Bookie turned toward Ralphie and wielding the weapon like a golf club, swiped upward along the front of his body. Ralphie, his hands tied behind his back, had no way of defending himself. He stood there, stunned, watching as blood began to drench his tattered shirt. Bookie followed the initial blow with another, downward swipe, which brought even more blood.

It took me a second to realize what was happening, but once I did, I sprang into action, tackling Bookie in much

the same manner as I had Ralphie just a few minutes before. We crashed together to the ground, just a few feet away from Ralphie, who was now screaming as the bleeding continued. I grabbed the weapon from Bookie, and when he grabbed hold of it in an attempt to wrest it from me, I spun around violently, throwing him against the wall of the freight car. He sprang to his feet almost immediately, but was unsteady. I tossed the clawed weapon into a far corner of the car and squared off against him. He swung wildly a couple of times and I planted a straight right hand on his cheek, knowing from the sound that it had connected squarely. Bookie slumped to the floor.

I rushed over to Ralphie, whose screams were now reduced to sporadic moans, and I used my shirt to try to stop the bleeding. It was no use. I untied the rope from his wrists and tied Bookie's hands behind his back. A moment later, the train lurched to a stop and I knew we had arrived in Summitville.

I threw open the door of

the freight car, tossed Bookie roughly to the ground, and jumped off behind him. I literally dragged him to the station, and once inside threw him to the floor again. I asked the station agent to phone the Sheriff's office for me, and when Jay Lass got on the line I told him what had happened. He said he would send an ambulance for Ralphie and he and Flynn would be there shortly to escort Bookie to the Sullivan County Jail.

Jay also assured me that the Sheriff would contact the railroad to make sure the train stayed put until any belongings Bookie and Ralphie might have had in the railcar could be examined and cataloged.

Only after hanging up the phone did I allow myself a sigh of relief. I next asked the station master to place a call to my home, and I let Irene know I was all right. As always, her soothing voice made me feel instantly better. And she uttered a fitting conclusion to the entire episode.

"The Claw Man has been declawed."

## EMS Beat

by Albee Bockman, AEMT-P



## "THE ABC'S OF CHF"

Perhaps one of the most common - - but misunderstood - - conditions we face is

Congestive Heart Failure, commonly known as "CHF". This condition is not a heart attack; but it carries a host of symptoms that must be addressed.

Congestive Heart Failure is a condition in which the heart's function as a pump is inadequate to meet the needs of organs and tissues for oxygen and nutrients. This decrease in cardiac output, the amount of blood that the heart pumps, is not adequate to circulate the blood returning to the heart from the body and lungs.

This causes fluid - - mainly water - - to leak from the capillary blood vessels. When this happens, symptoms such as shortness of breath, weakness, and swelling occur.

When you go to the doctor for your regular bi-yearly visit (you do go for regular check-ups, don't you?), have you ever noticed that the doctor checks your ankles? One of the signs we, as Professional Health Care providers, look for is fluid retention. This occurs most prominently in your ankles.

As we progress in our years, it is not unusual for our heart to weaken and work harder to maintain homeostasis. Coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, alcohol abuse, and thyroid disorders

are some of the precursors to CHF. Also, certain medications can lead to the development or worsening of CHF such as Ibuprofen, Motrin, and Aleve. Always share with your physician over-the-counter medications you may be taking along with your prescribed meds.

Three very important and noticeable symptoms of Congestive Heart Failure are hypertension (high blood pressure), shortness of breath, and wheezing when you breathe. This wheezing can be so severe that they develop into "rales" - - a crackling sound easily heard by the naked ear. I can't stress enough the seriousness of this condition. Within minutes of this onset, one can experience severe respiratory distress, possibly leading to respiratory ARREST. This is a true emergency! Do not wait and think this condition will improve in time or by going to an air-conditioned room. Dial 911 and request Paramedics immediately! Again, I can't stress enough the urgency for Paramedic intervention.

Regular visits to your doctor for blood tests, chest x-rays, electrocardiograms, and ultrasound in your best bet in keeping tabs on this condition. Let's not forget our parent's wisdom that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Stay safe and stay well, Hurleyville!

### FORESTS: From Industry to Protection

Trees have historically been used for building materials, food, medicine, and hundreds of important products used in daily life. As settlers moved into the Catskill Mountains, trees were used to build settlements and land was cleared for farming.

The logging industry grew dramatically in the Catskill region primarily because of the abundance of Eastern Hemlock which was used in the tanning process. Over time the significant deforestation and stone quarrying that took place in the 1800's changed the landscape, created massive erosion and negatively impacted local animal populations due to the removal of vegetation that made up their habitats. As logging as tanning was for our rail line at the time, these unregulated logging practices along with deforestation from the tanning process, polluted creeks and streams, and caused fish populations to decline. Logging eventually ended, but the damage to the environment was done. In addition, unregulated hunting and trapping for fur and food by loggers and settlers adversely impacted wild animal populations, considerably reducing the diversity of the Catskills.

Historical habitats have been restored over the past half century as conservation efforts have been put in place by the N.Y. State Department of Conservation, but the damage done over the time such as climate change, extreme weather events, and development has the detrimental impact of forested species. Forest restoration is being completed by Woolly Adegat as Hemlock, Red Spruce, Ash trees, and Gray Sycamores, to name a few.

As proof of our changing landscape, during the last century we lost the historic American Chestnut and American Elm due to deadly fungal diseases. The Chestnut was a stately shade tree, providing nuts and valuable wood for building. Elm were an iconic environmental shade tree, primarily in cities and parks all over the Northeast, and also used in the shipbuilding industry because of the strength and flexibility of this wood. In just over a century we witnessed the complete loss of these species of trees that we counted on. Fortunately researchers are working to find resistant strains of these trees that can survive exposure to the blights, so we can once again enjoy their beauty in the future!

History can help us gain perspective to appreciate the delicate nature of life and encourage us to become nurturing and grateful stewards of our precious resources.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Colorful interpretive signs such as this will soon be erected at a number of locations along both directions of the Milk Train Trail. The signs provide information about history, folklore and the environment.

## RAIL TRAIL TO GET INTERPRETIVE SIGNS

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE - The Milk Train Trail starting from Hurleyville in both directions has become a very popular hiking and biking destination over the past two years, and the visitor experience will soon be greatly enhanced.

According to plans, those using the trail will shortly be able to read about the natural environment as well as some of the history of the former railroad right-of-way and the area around it, as design work is nearly complete on about a dozen interpretive signs that will be permanently installed along the route.

The all-weather signs

are 36" x 24" and are being designed, purchased and installed by The Center for Discovery. There are similar signs already in place on some sections of rail trail in other parts of the county, such as Parksville.

Historical topics covered by the new signs will include the Lenape, the Native American tribe believed to be the first settlers of the region, the railroad and its impact on area farms and resorts, and the 1907 train wreck just outside the Smith Hill Cut that claimed three lives.

There are also two signs dealing with legends and folklore, including one that explains the recent discovery

of the Alvin Stone nearby, which is believed to be a Lenape totem to the manetu, Mesignw, or the protector of the game. The stone is still being authenticated.

Among the subjects covered by the signs explaining the natural environment are the forests, the streams and the wetlands one will encounter along the route, and the natural vegetation that borders the trail.

The signs are expected to be in place by the end of September.



## Career Development Conference at THE CENTER FOR DISCOVERY

**Who:** Guidance Counselors, Superintendents, and Career and Workforce Development Professionals

**What:** An event to learn about career opportunities at The Center for Discovery, Sullivan County's largest employer

**When:** August 22, 2018  
9:00am - 2:00pm

**Where:** The Hurleyville Arts Centre  
219 Main Street, Hurleyville, New York

**RSVP:** By August 3, 2018  
Via Eventbrite Registration

Lunch and refreshments will be served

**About The Center for Discovery**

Designated as a Center of Excellence in New York State, we have become a magnet institution where individuals from around the region and world travel to receive highly advanced care and access to groundbreaking research for a myriad of complex conditions. We offer residential, medical, clinical, and special education programs to over 1,200 children, adults and families annually.

We have over 1,600 employees - many of whom started their careers with us and are now expert farmers, whole-food chefs, teachers, clinicians, doctors, celebrated leaders, and more. Our growing reputation for excellence has attracted talented staff from all over the world. With a variety of employment opportunities ranging from health and wellness to support services and education, the possibilities here are limitless.

For more information, please contact [PeopleOperations@tcfd.org](mailto:PeopleOperations@tcfd.org)

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# SENTINEL SPORTS



## MID-WEEK HORSE SHOWS ADD TO SUMMER FUN

by Adele Berger

JEFFERSONVILLE – Summertime in the Catskills traditionally offers a variety of experiences for locals and seasonal residents.

In the last couple of years, local equestrians Barbara Moran and Katie Rubin have been working hard to add one more activity to that list with their Summer Fun Show Series. With this mid-week horse show, Barb and Katie have come up with an idea for a way to make what could otherwise seem like an elitist sport accessible to busy families and people on the go without all the expense of a full weekend horse show.

The Summer Fun Series is run on Wednesday afternoons starting at 3 p.m. Unlike most equestrian endeavors, it does not require special show clothes, and charges a nominal fee for classes. The show sets out to make this a place for

people to grow, learn and have fun on these warm summer evenings.

Local horse devotee Lori Misner claims she had been bothering Barbara with the idea for a couple years.

"I told her that people would be interested in having a place to either get started or just have fun without having to worry about all the money they would spend on a weekend showing somewhere else. Something that was laid back and casual," Ms. Misner says.

The show I attended was at The Moran family-owned Stone Wall Farms just outside Jeffersonville and the other shows are held at Rubin Livestock Services near Monticello. It doesn't get more local than that.

Katie Rubin is a Monticello high school graduate and was also in Ms. Moran's 4-H group when she was a kid. The parking lot is filled with familiar faces from around the area as

grandparents and family members set up lawn chairs to support competitors. In a tight knit community this sort of gathering seems even more important now as Sullivan County farms have taken some heavy blows lately.

Ms. Moran has worked hard to stay in the forefront of agricultural education by working with youth in the Animal Science Program, volunteering with Cornell Cooperative Extension and offering equine therapy sessions at her facility. Stone Wall Farms strives to stay community based.

"We want to offer people a place to get started, so the green rider can get more experience and confidence and not only that, but a place where the weekend warrior rider can come and ride to have fun," Ms. Moran said.

"It's a great way for me to check my progress during the show season," explains Maggie Herbert.

Ms. Herbert has been riding at Stone Wall Farms for almost 11 years, and has been showing in this circuit for all three years of its existence. Before her classes she helps some of the younger competitors get ready in the shedrow before she heads out to work on her showmanship pattern. Throughout the barn there is a sense of camaraderie. Almost all the competitors know each other, so they cheer each other on or help one another if the need arises, no matter their home base.

The prize list varies for English and Western classes and there are classes for therapeutic riders from developmental centers in the area, as well. It's a chance for the therapy riders to practice their skills in a public setting and get more experience in the community. At this particular show, there were riders from The Center for Discovery participating. Classes are available for less experi-

enced or "green" horses and riders but there are also classes for a little more advanced riders looking to test the waters at the next level.

Each of the shows also offers a "Show for a Cause" class. These classes donate the entry fees to a charitable organization in the area. Some of the charities that have been helped are Equine Rescue Resource, Ride to Survive, and Burley Strong.

"With 'Show for a Cause,' we want people to learn about giving. Each show has a different charity we donate money to, either through entry fees or donations," Ms. Moran said.

The shows alternate between Stone Wall and Rubin's Farm, and run through early August. Prize lists are available from Barb Moran at (845) 701-2418 or Stonewallfarms93@earthlink.net, or Katie Rubin, Rubin Livestock Services-Horse Division at (845)-798-2509.



Grace Flynn prepares for her first riding class.

PHOTO BY ADELE BERGER

## SUNY Sullivan Adds Grapplers

by Win Hadley

LOCH SHELDRAKE – When Anthony Ng took over the SUNY Sullivan wrestling program three seasons ago, his stated goal was to turn the Generals into a mat power. Inspired by his knowledge of wrestling history and especially by the fact that neighboring Orange County Community College had become a national powerhouse in the 1960s and '70s, Mr. Ng set about constructing a program that could compete with anyone.

"It will take time, but I know it can be done," he said at the time.

It has been a slow build for the Generals so far, but last season Mr. Ng had three of his wrestlers qualify for the national championships. Each of the three returns this season with an additional year of experience, and Mr. Ng has bolstered his roster with the signing of 17 new recruits from three states, including seven all-section wrestlers and two all-state wrestlers from



PHOTO PROVIDED

Former Goshen High School standout Ryan Ellefsen is one of a number of top recruits at SUNY Sullivan this year.

New York.

The three returnees are former Valley Central standout Rob Satriano, who competed as a 133 pounder last year and Mr. Ng has bolstered his roster with the signing of 17 new recruits from three states, including seven all-section wrestlers and two all-state wrestlers from

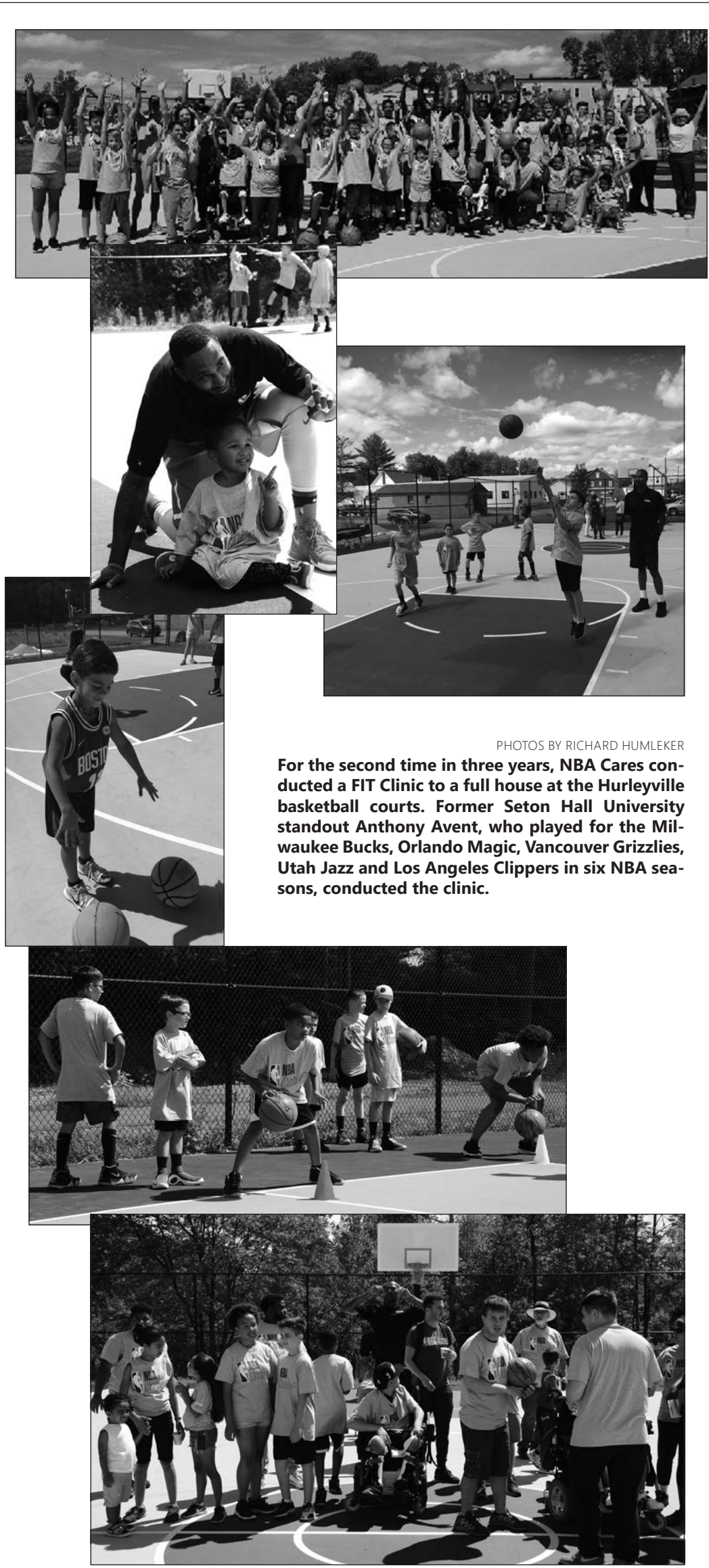
Josh Jean-Baptiste, also formerly from East Ramapo, a national qualifier at 285 in 2018.

Mr. Ng is particularly excited about the signing of two-time NYS place winner Ryan Ellefsen of Goshen High School. Mr. Ellefsen finished second in the State at 220 pounds as a junior in 2016 and third as a senior in 2017. He finished his high school career with 131 wins, 96 of them by pin. He is expected to wrestle at 285 pounds for the Generals.

Another former high school standout expected to suit up for Sullivan this year is Trey Wardlaw, an all-state wrestler from East Ramapo High School. Mr. Wardlaw was a NYS Division One finalist in 2016, and was chosen the Rockland County Wrestler of the Year as a result. He will likely compete at 125 for the Generals.

It's a long season, but Mr. Ng is optimistic.

"When you sign two state finalists in one week, you have to believe things are looking up," he says.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD HUMLEKER

For the second time in three years, NBA Cares conducted a FIT Clinic to a full house at the Hurleyville basketball courts. Former Seton Hall University standout Anthony Avent, who played for the Milwaukee Bucks, Orlando Magic, Vancouver Grizzlies, Utah Jazz and Los Angeles Clippers in six NBA seasons, conducted the clinic.

## HURLEYVILLE MAN COMPLETES FIRST 10K RUN

HURLEYVILLE – Hurleyville resident Brian Dennis, who is fairly new to the realm of road racing, has added a new accomplishment to his ever growing list. Mr. Dennis completed eight 5K runs in 2017 and four so far in 2018, but he had never competed in a 10K race before last month when he finished the 20th Annual River Run in Callicoon. Mr. Dennis says he prefers the 5K format, but expects to compete in additional 10K races from time to time in the future while concentrating on the shorter distance.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Brian Dennis of Hurleyville competed his first-ever 10K race at the River Run in Callicoon in July.

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