

LOVE OUR LAND PARADE FOR A CAUSE DRAWS CROWD

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – The “Love Our Land” parade and protest in Hurleyville on September 21 was a huge success according to Mountain Dale farmer Brett Budde, one of the organizers of the event.

The parade, which Mr. Budde estimated drew about 350 people to the hamlet, was sponsored by the Fallsburg Coalition for Sustainable Growth, “a grassroots movement of concerned citizens working to protect the rural nature of Fallsburg and [its] water.”



A Haunted Carnival Cabaret Comes to HPAC



PHOTO PROVIDED

HURLEYVILLE – This October, the Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) invites you to enter a world of dark decadence and surreal spectacle with Carlirium: A Haunted Carnival Cabaret.

At 8 p.m. on Friday, October 10, the Grand Ballroom at HPAC will transform into the fever dream of an abandoned antique carnival, where desire and illusion teeter on a knife's edge.

Featuring the world-class talents of Diiotima Arts, Carlirium is not your average burlesque. This high-art, theatrically macabre production combines burlesque, circus sideshows, daring stunts, and spine-tingling performances in a lush, immersive setting. Expect sultry silhouettes, shimmering costumes, and a tantalizing descent into the surreal.

“This is a one-of-a-kind

experience that pushes the boundaries of performance art,” said Lourdesa Hunt, Director of Development at HPAC. “Carlirium is a feast for the senses, blending the eerie and the elegant in a way that will leave audiences spellbound.”

Carlirium is a must-see for fans of the macabre, the theatrical, and the extraordinary. Don't miss your chance to step into this haunted carnival and experience a night of unforgettable performances.

Event Details:

- Date: Friday, October 10
- Time: 8 p.m.
- Location: The Grand Ballroom at HPAC, 219 Main Street, Hurleyville
- Tickets: \$30 (Available now at HPACNY.org)
- Age Restriction: 18+
- Additional Info: Cash bar and bar bites available. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Mr. Budde called the afternoon “an opportunity to demonstrate our community's strength.”

Following a brief but spirited parade, replete with banners, drum music and stilt walkers, Mr. Budde addressed the crowd, which had assembled at the entrance to the municipal parking lot on the east side of Main Street.

“I'm here because I want to show our community that we have agency—the agency to change the future,” he an-

nouncing their projects.”

Mr. Budde credited the success of the parade to the efforts of “volunteers and community members who came forward to make it possible.” He said the strong turnout for the event was a “sign we're saying yes to our community, our residents, visitors and first responders.”

Mr. Budde said that while the town of Fallsburg was the Coalition's main concern, many other communities in Sullivan County are



nounced. “As I go around in this community talking about public safety, water and overdevelopment, I feel a plague of hopelessness. People think we need to move mountains, but we don't. All we need is for our town to prioritize the well-being of residents and visitors, to make sure that developers pay their fair way and that we're not subsid-

izing the same problems overdevelopment and lack of accountability have caused here.

“The environment and public health—that's what we're out here for,” he told the assembly. “Some would like to make it about something else, but these are simple requests that any government body should say yes to.

Say yes to our environment. Say yes to public health. Say yes to our future.”

For more information about the Fallsburg Coalition for Sustainable Growth and future events, visit the organization's website, fallsburgcoalition.org. Accompanying photos by Drue Pennella of Pure Motion Pictures, provided to The Hurleyville Sentinel by Brett Budde.



SEARCH & RESCUE TCFD Hosts First-of-Its-Kind Drill

HARRIS – The Center for Discovery (TCFD) hosted a large-scale, multi-agency search and rescue drill on Saturday, September 20, bringing together first responders and law enforcement representatives from across Sullivan County and New York State. The training, the first of its kind in the region, focused on the dangers of, and response to, elopement, particularly among vulnerable populations such as individuals with Autism Spectrum Dis-

order (ASD) and other complex medical needs.

Participating agencies included the Hurleyville and Monticello Fire Departments; Sullivan County Bureau of Fire; Sullivan County Bureau of EMS; New York State Police, with drone and K-9 units; Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, with drone and K-9 “Country”; Sullivan County Office of Emergency Management and Commissioner of Public Safety; Sullivan County 911 Dispatch; and TCFD's

own security and emergency teams.

The drill simulated three separate elopement scenarios in which “Max,” a fictional individual, left a campus location. Responders deployed multiple resources to locate him, including drones, K-9s, foot search teams, and Project Lifesaver technology. In one scenario, a drone broadcast a recorded message from “Max's” mother encouraging him to return to rescuers - testing innovative ways to engage

individuals in real-world situations.

“This exercise showcased an unparalleled collaboration amongst stakeholders from all disciplines with a singular focus: public safety,” said Scott F. Schulte, CEM, Sullivan County's Commissioner of Public Safety. “The coordinated work by local, County, State, and private partners utilized first-hand experience, professional first responders, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, police K-9s, Project Lifesaver, off-grid mesh radios, and situational awareness technology to test and stress our capabilities to ensure this County is at the forefront of high-risk elopement response. Certainly this could not have happened without the advocacy and support from The Center for Discovery, and all of the participants have expressed interest in seeing this type of exercise become a regular occurrence.”

To strengthen realism, role players included “Max's

mother,” who arrived on scene to provide information and interact with the command post. This added dimension allowed agencies to practice both field operations and sensitive family communications under pressure.

“This was an incredible collaboration between our staff and first responders at the town, county, and state level,” said Dr. Terry Hamlin, TCFD President & CEO. “Together, we tested

critical strategies that will help save lives in real-world emergencies. Everyone involved walked away having learned something valuable.”

The exercise was spearheaded by Co-Assistant Chief of Operations for The Center for Discovery, Devin Brust, Sullivan County Commissioner of Public Safety, Scott F. Schulte, and Corporal Charles Stackhouse of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Participants gather following the first-of-its-kind search and rescue drill at The Center for Discovery.



PHOTO PROVIDED

TCFD President and CEO, Dr. Terry Hamlin addresses the participants at the Michael Ritchie Big Barn in Hurleyville.

LOCAL ARTIST GOES TO WAR

Halloween Wars on the Food Network

Q&A with Kim Simons



PHOTO PROVIDED



PHOTO PROVIDED

HURLEYVILLE— Award winning artist Kim Simons grew up in Liberty and attended SUNY Sullivan. Although her Sullivan County roots are deep, and she has long been known locally as a talented artist, her fame has been spreading far and wide for some time now. Sentinel correspondent Lily Barrish Levner sat down with Ms. Simons for a Q&A last month...

LBL: We’ve seen you on the Food Network before, and on Hulu’s Cake Toppers last year. How many cooking shows have you been on to date?

KS: I have been on 11 different cake competitions so far. Sugar Dome, Outrageous Wedding Cakes 2, Duff till Dawn, Cake Wars Star Wars, Cake Wars

Christmas, Holiday Wars, Cakealikes, Halloween Wars, Big Bake, Cake Toppers and again on Halloween Wars.

LBL: Congratulations on winning first place two times! Which shows were those?

KS: Cake Wars Star Wars (2016) and Holiday Wars (2019).

LBL: You were on Halloween Wars, Season 11; how did it feel to be invited back?

KS: I was so happy to be asked back ...this is my favorite show to complete in. I love Halloween Wars!

LBL: How does the pressure from the cameras and the clock affect your cooking?

KS: When you first start the challenge, the pressure feels crazy but as I get into the piece the pressure helps me focus more.

LBL: The three-member team you compete with on the show calls itself Oven Coven. How do the producers of the show determine the teams?

KS: I’m not totally sure how they picked the teams ...it is always fun to get to work with new people though.

LBL: We know you grew up locally in Liberty. How long have you been making your master-level designed cakes?

KS: I have been working with cake and decorating for about 15 years now!

LBL: Did you have any schooling for cake design?

KS: No, I just wanted to try so one day I said I can do that and taught myself. By freeze framing the cake show on TV to see what products they were using and then went out and bought the products and I started play with the products. A year and a half later I became a master level cake artist

LBL: How many doves have you hand-painted around the county?

KS: I have painted and designed 16 and a half of the Sullivan County Doves.

LBL: Are you working on any more local doves?

KS: I may have one more coming to me.

LBL: How long does it take you to paint a dove?

KS: It can take me about a month to finish a Dove, depending on details ... some take longer and some slightly shorter. The Parksville Dove took me about 3 months, but that one had so many details on it.

LBL: A few months back, John Conway, the editor of the Hurleyville Sentinel, hired you to design a cake for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War’s start. Mr. Conway was thrilled with how it turned out! Can you tell us a little bit about that cake?

KS: The cake was about Paul Revere’s last ride. I had to take some creative licenses with this Cake because I needed to establish some perspective to tell the story.

LBL: If people would like to contact you about making a custom cake, how do they reach you?

KS: They can go to my website www.cakesbykim-simons.com or text me @ 201-655-1158

Ms. Simons was at the Sullivan County Museum’s book fair in Hurleyville last June with her cookbook. Copies of it are available for sale there.

Halloween Wars, Season 15 premiered on the Food Network on Sunday, September 21. If you didn’t catch it then, there’s plenty of time to catch up on demand before the finale. Good luck to the team Oven Coven!

Monticello Kiwanis Annual Fundraising Dinner

MONTICELLO-- The Kiwanis Club of Monticello is once more making their Annual Bernie Shore/Rose Raimond Fundraising Dinner available at a time of one’s choosing from Yanni’s Café on Pleasant Street in Monticello. Tickets are \$30 each, which entitles the buyer to dinner choices of Roast Beef or Hot Turkey Platter, Grilled Tilapia Filet, Grilled Chicken Platter, Gyro or Falafel Platter or Vegetarian Platter. Included are choices of soup or salad as well as two side dishes. Dinners can be socially distant “eat in” or “take out” at the window by ordering ahead at 845-794-2044.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are valid currently until December 31, 2025. They

are available by contacting a Monticello Kiwanis member or by mailing a check made out to Kiwanis Club of Monticello, P.O. Box 413, Monticello, NY 12701.

All proceeds benefit local charitable projects helping the Kiwanis Club fulfill their mission of “serving the children of the world, one child and one community at a time”, including aiding foster children, working with United Way to collect food baskets for holiday distribution, providing books for second graders and sponsoring scholarships for Monticello High School seniors .

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

Fallsburg Hosts SGA and National Honor Society Ceremonies

FALLSBURG – On September 18, Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School hosted its annual induction ceremony for the National Honor Society (NHS) and National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), along with the swearing-in of the newly elected Student Government Association (SGA) officers.

The newly elected SGA Executive Officers are: President Jacob Espinoza, Vice President Carmen Montes, Treasurer Jaxon Ingber, Secretary Sophia Jacobs, and Chief Justice Andrew Bensimon.

Class Officers for 2025–2026 are as follows:

Class of 2026: President Azon Laurel, Vice President Brian Ingber, Treasurer Angelina Alvarado, Secretary Jaxon Ingber.

Class of 2027: President Nahomy Castro Moreno, Vice President Nataly Reyes, Treasurer Abigail Toledo, Secretary Fatoumata Gai.

Class of 2028: President Shiv Patel, Vice President Layla Hermann, Treasurer Dayana Mendoza Gallo, Secretary Camdyn Hoefling.

Class of 2029: President Jack Bensimon, Vice President Maria Nardi, Treasurer Katherine Juarez Cadena, Secretary Samuel Vega Rosales.

Class of 2030: President Holly Surerus, Vice President Khloe Jordy, Treasurer Claudia Smith, Secretary Ervin Ponce Hernandez.

Class of 2031: President Arayaah-Laurice Irby, Vice President Annabella Vence-Urquiza, Treasurer Hayden Atkins, Secretary Awa Gai.

The 2025 National Junior Honor Society inductees: Yasmina Aquil, Brianny Argueta Hernandez, Yasmina Bache-Seraphin, Jack Bensimon, Nyona Bolding, Franco DiCostanzo, George Di Napoli, Nyilah Emptage, Janary Fuentes Ardon, Leily Garcia Menjivar, Charlie Giron Saravia, Genesis Gonzales Alvarez, Sonja Henry, David Hernandez Martinez, Carsyn Hoefling, Khloe Jordy, Emily Mackerley, Margie Madrid Castro, Carlos Mazariego Pena, Reja Meer,

Nelcy Orellana Mejia, Ariel Payne, Alexandra Reyes Lopez, Genesis Reyes-Robles, Malika Rivers, Leon Rodriguez-Morales, Leonardo Rojas, Jessica Saciolo, Anthony Santos Morales, Daylin Sierra Lizama, Claudia Smith, Zhara Snead, Holly Surerus, Ambar Vasquez, Joshua Velazquez, Jaylisa Williams, Heaven Wilson, and Allison Yautentzi Reyes.

The 2025 National Honor Society inductees: Juliana Barreto, Edison Bastidas Avendano, Emina Cenovic, Jordyn Cerone, Carissa Ciorciari, Jonathan Dias Paredes, Ashleigh Fuentes Ardon, Fatoumata Gai, Riley Gorr, Alison Granados-Fuentes, Hennis Gutierrez-Padilla, Chanel Han, Adryana Kozachuk, John Landaverde Rodriguez, Tiffany Maccagli, Conner McManus, Jozyr McNeil, Heysel Mejia Corcio, Eric Moocz, Alisson Moreno Rocha, Dayana Murillo Madrid, Robert Perrera, Efrain Rodriguez, Allison Rojas, Abigail Toledo, Alisha Tremper, and Peyton Varner.

Monticello’s Cooke and Rutherford Schools Win Awards Empowering a Healthier Generation Celebration and Awards Ceremony

LIBERTY-- Sullivan 180 hosted the Empowering a Healthier Generation (EHG) Celebration last month at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The event recognized the health and wellness accomplishments of Sullivan County public schools and marked the conclusion of this round of EHG Competition. The evening also featured a special recognition of Dr. Robert Dufour, Sullivan BOCES Superintendent, on the occasion of his upcoming retirement.

George L. Cooke Elementary (Monticello) received the First Place \$75,000 Healthier Generation Competition Award. The Second Place \$50,000 Award to Kenneth L. Rutherford Elementary (Monticello). Judge’s Choice Awards in the amount of \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively, went to Eldred Junior Senior High and Rockland Middle/ High School, formerly Livingston Manor. In addition, Turtle Awards of \$500 each were presented to schools and staff advancing wellness in several areas

- Connection to Nature: George L. Cooke Elementary (Monticello) and Rockland Middle High School in Livingston Manor
- Mental Health: Fallsburg JSHS and Kenneth L. Rutherford Elementary (Monticello)
- Nutrition: Liberty Elementary and Rockland CSD, formerly Livingston Manor CSD
- Physical Activity: Sullivan BOCES and Sullivan West Elementary

Special honors included: Both Grant Project of the Year and Committee of the Year to Liberty Elementary (Alicia Houghtaling and Mayer Bayer), HG Advisor of the Year to Kelly Pratschler (Eldred JSHS). New this year, Champion for Wellness awards went to Jan LeMyre (Rockland CSD), Monticello and Rockland Facilities teams, Fallsburg JHSH Hope Squad, Monticello’s Robert J. Kaiser Middle School’s Spartan Club, and Monticello High School student Celeste D’Andrea.

“What we are seeing now is so much more than programs and projects, it’s transformation,” said Meghan Mullally-Gorr, Sullivan 180 Director of Health & Wellness. “Over the past two years, our Healthier Generation Advisors and school communities have gone deeper, embedding wellness into the culture of their schools. This work is

not only changing policies and practices, but also creating real, lasting change for students, families, and by extension the entire Sullivan County community.”

Each school district presented on their work, highlighting projects such as outdoor classrooms, composting, expanded physical activity, healthy food access, and social-emotional learning initiatives.

“This is an ongoing effort, slow and steady, not unlike the turtle winning the race,” said Sandra Gerry, Founding Chair of Sullivan 180. “Celebrations such as this evening remind us of the progress we are making, together, on behalf of our children and their future.”

Turtle Awards were sponsored by local businesses

and organizations including Hudson Valley Credit Union; John H. Eschenberg, Inc.; M & T Bank; Poley Paving & Construction Corporation; Rourke Law; Sullivan County Democrat; 98.3 WSUL Heart-A-Thon. Donations received during the 2025 “Hudson Valley Gives” campaign also contributed to the Turtle Awards.

Empowering a Healthier Generation is a school-based initiative offered by Sullivan 180 in partnership with Sullivan County public schools. The goal is to create a grassroots movement that will change policy and environments, while demonstrating that individuals and families have an important role to play in building a culture of health for themselves and the next generation.

FROM THE WEATHER CENTER

by John Simon



DERECHO



PHOTO PROVIDED

Typical damage from a Derecho storm.

Derechos are rare but powerful storms that according to AccuWeather can “unleash straight-line winds, flooding rain, and damage across hundreds of miles in just hours.”

According to Wikipedia, “a derecho is a widespread, long-lived, straight line wind storm that is associated with a fast-moving complex of severe thunderstorms referred to as a mesoscale convective system.”

The word derecho comes from the Spanish word for straight or direct.

Derechos are not your average storm. They can occur any time of the year, although they are mostly a warm weather phenomenon, primarily developing in June, July and August in the Northern Hemisphere and in March, April and may in the Southern Hemisphere. They are equally likely to occur during the day or the night.

Derechos can cause hurricane force winds, heavy rains, and flash floods.

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

Fallsburg CSD to Host Fall Family Engagement Day

FALLSBURG – The Fallsburg Central School District is excited to announce that they will be hosting their Fall Family Engagement Day on Saturday, November 15, 2025 from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Fallsburg Junior-Senior High School. All are welcome to attend the free-of-charge event, which will include live music, fun games for the children, food, and raffle prizes! There will also be a clothing drive and community organizations providing informa-

tional resources.

Free transportation by Rolling V Transportation Services will be provided for this event. Here are the following pick-up times and locations:

Bus One

10:15 a.m.: Mountindale Post Office

10:30 a.m.: Woodridge Town Hall

10:45 a.m.: Woodbourne Fireman’s Parking Lot

2:00 p.m.: Drop-Off – Return in opposite direction

Bus Two

10:00 a.m.: Loch Sheldrake Municipal Parking Lot

10:15 a.m.: Hurleyville Post Office

10:30 a.m.: Laurel Avenue by Apartments

10:40 a.m.: Griff Court

10:50 a.m.: Main Street Houses in South Fallsburg

2:00 p.m.: Drop-Off – Return in opposite direction

For more information about the event, please visit the district’s website at www.fallsburgcsd.net.

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PRIMETIMERS HONOR PAULA SCHROEDER

40th Anniversary Luncheon

by Lily Barrish Levner

HURLEYVILLE – Last month the PrimeTimers packed Casa Mia restaurant in Hurleyville to celebrate their 40th anniversary and recognized the hard work of their long-standing president, Paula Schroeder.

Only the second president of the group has ever had, Ms. Schroeder has been in charge of the PrimeTimers for the past 18 years. Current member, Judy Cutler's mother started PrimeTimers in October of 1985. Martha Cutler approached Rabbi Polanski, the Temple's rabbi at the time, about planning something for seniors who didn't drive at night. From there, PrimeTimers began.

Today, there are currently about 150 members, and the dues have never increased from the original \$10 annual price. Meetings and programs are held during

the summer on weekdays at Temple Shalom in Monticello.

"PrimeTimers is a good thing, and keeps the temple going. Without PrimeTimers, the temple would have a real hard time staying alive. People can't imagine the work Paula puts into it," said her husband, Phil Schroeder.

"PrimeTimers certainly keeps the temple afloat," said Howie Perlman, a trustee of Temple Shalom.

The first bus trip went to a Jewish museum in New York City. With the profits from that trip, the PrimeTimers were able to fix up the kitchen and buy a microwave for the temple. Now there are three bus trips offered each year. In July, Ms. Schroeder organizes a card/mahjong party at Camelot Woods in Sackett Lake. It's always a well-attended fundraiser.



PrimeTimers President Paula Schroeder give a speech during the luncheon.

Ms. Schroeder told the crowd, "with all your help, we've raised over \$10,000 this year." She explained that they will pay the rabbi

for High Holidays using some of that money. Then they'll donate a significant portion to three local charities that they support:

The Monticello Homeless Federation, Hospice of Orange & Sullivan, and the Nesin Culture Arts. (Ellen Nesin's parents Ruth and

Jesse Wolfson were also instrumental in starting the PrimeTimers.) What is left over, they hope to spend on fixing the parking lot at the temple.

"I've been a member for several years. It's a nice social welcoming group. I know Paula since Queens College," said Lee Vogel.

Ms. Schroeder wanted to give a shout out to the members who assisted her in making the day at Casa Mia such a success: Linda Kleinman for organizing; Marcy Glatstein for working the door; Lois Weinstein for facilitating the music by Cris Spinner and Steve Schwartz; and Debbie Katz for registration.

After the High Holidays, Ms. Schroeder will head down to Florida. She'll continue her work for the temple from afar and be back in the Spring to continue the fun here.

PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER

Honoring Congressman Matt McHugh For His Upper Delaware River Legislation

NARROWSBURG – The Upper Delaware Council (UDC) publicly dedicated a first-ever plaque to honor former U.S. Congressman Matt McHugh that now overlooks the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River that his visionary legislation protected 47 years ago.

The September 26 unveiling ceremony held at the Big Eddy Observation Deck on Main Street in Narrowsburg may be viewed at <https://bit.ly/McHughPlaque> (approximately 26 minutes.)

The 16" by 22" bronze and gold-etched plaque includes a period photo of The Honorable Matthew F. McHugh, United States House of Representatives, with an inscription that reads, "In 1978, Congressman McHugh (NY) exhibited foresight and leadership to sponsor the federal legislation to designate the Upper Delaware River in New York and Pennsylvania as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System to ensure its protection in perpetuity through a cooperative management partnership, dedicated by the Upper

Delaware Council, Inc."

UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie introduced Marvin Rappaport, who served as Chief of Staff to Rep. McHugh from 1975 to 1979, during the time that the 18-year Member of Congress authored the carefully crafted legislation to add 73.4-miles of the Upper Delaware River from Hancock, NY to Mill Rift, PA to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

It was Mr. Rappaport's oral history interview with McHugh, 86, who currently resides in northern Virginia, that he presented at the UDC's April 3, 2025 monthly meeting (watch at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSUPEIOP2o-qo07I_1AdJgXg) which inspired this project.

In a letter read by Mr. Rappaport, Rep. McHugh said in part, "From the outset, my bill was blessed with invaluable support [mentioning federal and state agency staff, Sullivan County native Mr. Rappaport, Congressmen Ben Gilman (NY) and Joe McDade (PA), and the relevant House subcommittee]. Prior to our bill, the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Participating in the Upper Delaware Council's Sept. 26 ceremony to dedicate an honorary plaque to Congressman Matt McHugh at the Big Eddy Observation Deck in Narrowsburg were, from the left, Town of Tusten Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger and Councilwoman Cass Collins; National Park Service Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River Natural and Cultural Resources Program Manager Tom Kearns; Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter President Andy Boyar; Sullivan County Legislature Chairperson, project donor, and Town of Lumberland UDC Representative Nadia Rajs; Marvin Rappaport, former Chief of Staff to Rep. McHugh; UDC Executive Director Laurie Ramie; and project donor Devin Corrigan of Narrowsburg.

National Park Service had exclusive authority for managing protected river corridors, an arrangement strongly opposed by many of my constituents. Today, almost 50 years after passage of the legislation, we can truly celebrate the success of our precedent setting, cooperative effort. The special qualities of our Upper Delaware River corridor have been protected, and will continue to be protected, because

of the close cooperation of the National Park Service with our local and regional interests in implementing our legislation. I am hopeful that the success of our joint effort will be a template for national legislation going forward. Thank you again for recognizing my contributions. It means a great deal to me and my family."

Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

sources Program Manager Tom Kearns spoke on behalf of the National Park Service (NPS), pointing out that "the Upper Delaware is distinguished by its cooperative management model ... [working] in partnership with local communities, private landowners, the Upper Delaware Council, and state and federal agencies to steward these resources together."

Mr. Kearns referred to the river's protection as "a shared passion and a shared responsibility", adding that the NPS is humbled to be part of the legacy created by Congressman McHugh to safeguard this remarkable river.

Due to the UDC non-profit organization's financial deficit challenges caused by flat federal funding and no state operating aid allocations since 1988, Ms. Ramie said that fundraising was critical to making this project possible.

"Fortunately, we have a steadfast champion in Nadia Rajs, chairperson of the Sullivan County Leg-

islature and the UDC's delegate for the Town of Lumberland; and received a gracious private donation from Narrowsburg resident Devin Corrigan as facilitated by UDC Town of Tusten Alternate Cathleen Breen," Ms. Ramie said.

Ms. Rajs remarked, "Congressman McHugh was truly ahead of his time, a real visionary. Today we have a thriving recreational area and benefit from its economy. The river is a gem. Thank you to Marvin for helping to memorialize the Congressman's initiative."

Observing the contributor's recognition nameplate, Mr. Corrigan said, "Having my name next to this Congressman on this plaque actually brings a tear to my eye. I'm very happy to be a part of this legacy that's going on. Good things are coming!"

The Tusten Town Board had approved the plaque's installation on a planter at the Big Eddy Observation Deck, as facilitated by Supervisor Ben Johnson and on-site project liaisons Deputy Supervisor Jane Luchsinger and Councilwoman Cass Collins, who each spoke, along with Trout Unlimited Upper Delaware Chapter President and former Town of Highland Supervisor and UDC Representative Andy Boyar.

The Sept. 26 ceremony ended with a round of applause to share with Congressman McHugh on the video recorded by NPS Upper Delaware Visual Information Specialist Jasmine Leung, as participants took a photo with the plaques designed by Dorene Warner from W Design in Barryville and installed without charge by general contractor Tom Coacci, before everyone was invited to a celebratory luncheon at the UDC office.

Visit www.upperdelawarecouncil.org, its Facebook and Instagram pages and YouTube channel to learn more about the Council's history and activities.



Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

I.

Radio signals have a challenging time with the dips and rises of our local landscape. Call signs vie for dominance along Divine Corners Road, which falls into distinct zones around the broadcast signal for 98.1. On the upside of a hill, there's WKZE, out of Red Hook — eclectic, but with a default setting of reliably lachrymose indie pop. On the downside, there's WHWK, "The Hawk," out of Kingston, offering Nashville-centric country music. Both stations identify as 98.1. They fade into and out of one another in ways that can be more interesting than the songs they play. When the two stations swap places, there's often a moment of transition in which one voice is superimposed upon another, making for some piquant contrasts. Weepy tenors, going uphill, give way to beefy baritones on the downslope; they combine at the top in improbable duets. Then they fade back in the opposite direction — two voices contending for the ear, or the heart, of a nation.

Some mornings, the transmission breaks up into a stream of static, which often sounds more compelling than the playlists, and I'll listen to that for a while, subsiding into the peace of white noise. Or I'll turn, for as long as I can bear it, to the news. Or, with increasing frequency, I simply turn off the radio. These days, driving in the pre-dawn darkness, I'm finding a more companionable presence in silence.

II.

For the second time in three years our local orchard has announced "No apples this season," a consequence of a series of cold spells heading into summer. The increasingly scrambled seasons compromise more than the apple harvest. The leaves of our great maple tree shriveled, turned brown, and started dropping in great clusters in early September. By mid-month, the branches were bare. So much for autumn! The ideal calendar in one's head, with its stately succession of seasons, each illustrated by a folksy woodcut, is out of date. A new calendar is in effect, globally as well as locally, though it receives scant attention in the news.

The global, from a sufficiently distant perspective, is the local; the Earth, our hamlet. We live embedded in immensities of time and space that remain unaffected by our terrestrial doings. There's a certain cold consolation in this. Planets spin; stars transmit their light across the millions of years; Earth tilts on its axis vis-à-vis the Sun, shifting the ratio of dark to light in steady increments, whatever the weather on the ground. And so, we arrive at the autumn equinox: the days shorten; the morning commute darkens. That all this happens according to a schedule we haven't the means to disrupt is one of the small mercies of our age.

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

Fearless! Honors the Anniversary of the Clothesline Project

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

MONTICELLO – October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and Fearless! Hudson Valley invites the community to experience the powerful impact of the Clothesline Project on Thursday, October 9th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sullivan County Government Center in Monticello.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Clothesline Project, which began in 1990 when a small group of women in Cape Cod transformed statistics into stories by creating a visual display of t-shirts designed by survivors of intimate partner violence or their loved ones. What began with just 31 shirts has grown into a powerful international movement, with more than 500 projects and tens of thousands of shirts displayed worldwide. Here in the Hudson Valley, Fearless! has been hosting the Clothesline Project for 20 years, and over that time, our agency has collected and displayed more than 600 shirts, each representing the voice and story of a survivor or their loved one.

The Clothesline Project provides a space where survivors and families can break the silence, honor

victims, and transform pain into resilience and hope. Each shirt is a testament to survival, remembrance, and the urgent need for change.

"Every shirt on the line represents a life impacted by violence," said Kellyann Kostyal-Larrier, Executive Director of Fearless! Hudson Valley. "When we walk the line together, we bear witness, raise awareness, and recommit ourselves to building a future free from violence."

Event Details:

What: Clothesline Project Display

When: Thursday, October 9th, 2025, from 10 AM – 3 PM

Where: Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North St, Monticello, NY

Why: To raise awareness, celebrate survivors, and unite against domestic violence during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Fearless! encourages community members to visit the display, reflect on the stories represented, and stand in solidarity with survivors across Sullivan County and beyond. For more information about any of our seven Clothesline Projects or education workshops happening in October, please visit: fearlesshv.org/dvam

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This project is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature and administered by Delaware Valley Arts Alliance.

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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.

It is hard to believe that I am writing the October column. The weather is still great, but we are extremely dry just like last fall. The last few weeks, Sullivan County has been at high risk for brush fires. Be careful out there.

September was a very busy month. I started out with the Hurleyville Fire Department traveling to Monticello to help them celebrate their 150th Anniversary by hosting the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighter's parade. Our unit took home "Best Appearing" regulation small company.

I attended a couple of 9/11 services. One in Smallwood, hosted by the Smallwood/Mongaup Valley Fire Department at 8:30 a.m.. The weather was sunny, crisp, with a morning chill and a clear blue sky, about like it was 24 years ago, as I remember. As my friend Albee Bockman sang the national anthem to end the ceremony, two eagles flew overhead to give an even deeper meaning to the service.

In the evening, I went to Wurtsboro for their Patriot Day Service. We marched from the firehouse to the park in town for a heart-

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- Follow manufacturer's guidelines on charging
- Keep away from hot surfaces and flammable materials
- Provide air flow (e.g., don't wrap in blanket or under pillow)
- Don't use cords that show damage
- Look for UL-certified products
- Feels hot enough to hurt? Stop using/charging immediately
- Call 9-1-1 if you see smoke or flames

ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

warming ceremony. Last call was made for the lost firefighters and the Veterans fired off a salute.

The common theme for both events was "Never Forget."

Next up was some training on what is called an elopement of a person from The Center for Discovery. An elopement is a person that ran away from the confines of the Center Complex. Several Sullivan County Emergency Services agencies went to The Center's new hospital in Rock Hill for a presentation on an elopement of a person with autism. Retired Fire Captain William Cannaba Jr. and retired Police Lieutenant Jimmy Donahoe gave us some insights into the elopement of a person with autism. Both speakers spoke from experience as they both have sons with autism. A search for a person with autism is treated differently than a typical search for a lost or missing person. One

great take away is to find out "What Does He Like." It could be as simple as an object or a key word phrase that the searchers could use to calm the eloper down and connect with them.

Then, as it so happened, The Center hosted Emergency Services for a drill on elopement on the Hurleyville complex. We did three different scenarios. The first used drones from the Sullivan County Sheriff's Department. The second was, as we would say, "Boots On the Ground," teams made up of the Hurleyville and Monticello Fire Departments and the Sullivan County Bureau of Fire walked a search pattern from the "point of last seen."

Some of the residents at The Center that are at most high risk to elope wear a bracelet that can be tracked. So, the third scenario was the use of a transponder by the Hurleyville and Monticello Fire Departments, the Sheriff's drones and the NY State Police K-9 unit. The two teams of searchers tried to triangulate the eloper's position.

This was some great classroom training and then "Boots On the Ground" training. All the Emergency Services involved gained a great deal of insight into how we can have a unified command and search for an eloper.

Coming up October 5 thru October 11 is Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is "Charge Into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home." I could write a whole column on this subject and will in the future. Here are some key points about Lithium-Ion batteries:

Buy only UL listed products (not cheap knock-offs).

Use only the original charger that came with the product.

STOP using your device if it gets too hot, starts to smoke or the battery starts to smell weird.

DO NOT charge an e-bike (or any other device) between you and a way out of your house.

Now is the time to service your heating devices and clean that chimney!

Be Smart & Be Safe Out There



PHOTO PROVIDED

Village of Monticello Takes 45 Kids to Dorney Park

More Youth Activities Planned for 2026

MONTICELLO – Monticello Mayor Rochelle Massey and Village Trustee Gordon Jenkins proudly led a group of 45 local children on a free trip to Dorney Park, providing a full day of fun, learning, and community building.

The trip was made possible in part by funding from the Sullivan County Legislature Youth Bureau, highlighting a strong collaboration between the Village and County to create opportunities for Monticello youth.

"This trip was more than just a day at an amusement park — it was about giving our kids new experiences, building relationships, and showing them that their community cares about them," said Mayor Rochelle Massey. "We are committed to continuing this tradition and making sure that Monticello youth

have access to enriching and exciting opportunities."

The Village of Monticello has already made plans to return to Dorney Park in 2026.

Additionally, Mayor Massey announced that the Village is planning an expanded slate of youth-focused activities for next year, including trips to Monster Jam, SplashDown Beach, and the legendary Ringling Brothers Circus.

Trustee Gordon Jenkins shared, "We believe in investing in our young people. When we create positive experiences for kids, we strengthen families and our entire community."

The Village of Monticello remains committed to engaging youth, supporting parents, and creating safe, fun, and educational programs that encourage growth and community pride.

Radio Catskill Revamps

New Lineup Launched October 4

LIBERTY – Radio Catskill is updating its programming and consolidating operations in response to the permanent elimination of federal funding for public media. The changes take effect October 4, 2025, and aim to maintain the station's award-winning local, regional, and national coverage while introducing new voices and timely stories.

These changes are part of a careful plan to focus on content that delivers the most impact and relevance for the community in an era of reduced federal support. The new lineup will bring listeners even more stories that spark curiosity, challenge assumptions, and celebrate what makes the Catskills, Northeast Pennsylvania, and beyond so vibrant.

Highlights of the new schedule include:

Kaatscast with Brett Barry: the award-winning podcast becomes a weekly radio show. Host/Producer Brett Barry brings listeners stories and conversations rooted in the heart of the Catskills --culture, history, sustainability, literature, the arts, and more.

Despite the closure, Radio Catskill will continue to serve listeners in Wayne and Pike counties with local news, culture, and community voices.

"Although we'll no longer have a physical studio in Honesdale, our commitment to Northeast Pennsylvania remains unwavering," said Radio Catskill General Manager Tim Bruno. "Listeners there will continue to hear stories and programming that reflect their communities."

The following shows will be retired from the schedule: Fresh Air, The TED Radio Hour, Jazz Night in America, Living Jazz, Le Show, Bioneers, New Urban Jazz Lounge, and Upfront Soul.

FROM THE FILES OF...

THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburg

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

October 11, 1917 To be Voted on November 6

The 96 names of voters in the Town of Fallsburg necessary to have the Local Option Questions submitted at the coming elections November 6 have been secured and the following four propositions will be voted on at that time.

Question 1 – Selling liquor to be drunk on the premises where sold

Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquor under the provision of Sub-division One of Section Eight of the Liquor Tax Law, namely by selling liquor to be drunk on the premises where sold, in the Town of Fallsburg?

Question 2 – Selling liquor not to be drunk on the premises where sold

Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquor under the provision of Sub-division Two of Section Eight of the Liquor Tax Law, namely selling liquor not to be drunk on the premises where sold, in the Town of Fallsburg?

Question 3 – Selling liquor as a pharmacist on physician's prescription

Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquor under the provision of Subdivision Three of Section Eight of The Liquor Tax law, namely, by selling liquor as a pharmacist on a physician's prescription in the Town of Fallsburg?

Question 4 – Selling liquor by hotel keepers only

Shall any person be authorized to traffic in liquor under the provision of Sub-division One of Section Eight of The Liquor Law, but only in connection with the business of keeping a hotel in the Town of Fallsburg, if the majority of voters cast on the first question submitted are in the negative?

This is simply giving the voters the right to decide whether they want or do

not want liquor sold in this town. If you want it vote "Yes." If you don't vote "No." There will be special ballots for these propositions.

October 25, 1917 Money Out of Your Pocket; Facts – Not Fallacies

The business side of the liquor question is, strangely enough, the side upon which the wets are arguing and also the side which has decided many towns, counties and states to go dry. To get down to the facts right near home, we call attention to the Town of Montgomery, Orange County, where the business men have signed a petition asking the voters to keep the town dry. Two years of no-license have been so pleasing in better business, paying of old bills, buying of homes and the lowering of taxes, that hard-headed businessmen do not want a return to former conditions. On the list are the names of big manufacturers of Walden and other towns as well as business and professional men.

Sidney was dry for two

years but the cry "it hurts business to remove the saloons" was heard and they went back to the wet column. After two years, they got so sick they voted it dry by an overwhelming majority.

Voters and taxpayers of the Town of Fallsburg, this matter affects your pocket-books, as well as the character of your boys and girls.

Vote NO LICENSE!

As evidenced by the above front page article, Ralph Northrup, the editor and publisher of the Hurleyville Sentinel and no doubt a teetotaler, strongly supported the proposed temperance propositions placed before Town of Fallsburg voters on November 6, 1917. However, Northrup's Sentinel had little to say following the vote. The November 8th edition simply noted local results in a proposition-related headline "The Town of Fallsburg went dry on all four propositions." Sentinel readers would need to turn to the Liberty Register for more detailed results.

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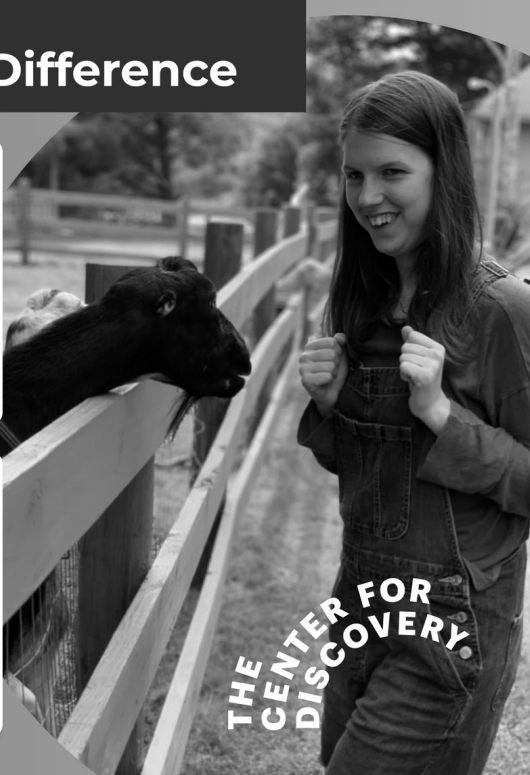
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THE HONEYMOON MURDER PART III

An original Bronco Kelly Adventure
by Jack Robbin

In August of 1936, Sol Goldstein, a young gangster trying to go straight, was on his honeymoon in Sullivan County when he disappeared, never to be seen or heard from again. This short story, by local author Jack Robbin, is based on that real life incident. In Part I of our story, Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly was visited by Sol Goldstein's mother, who asked for his help in locating her son, who had disappeared. Bronco agreed, and made a trip to the Sheriff's office in Monticello, where he encountered his old friend, Deputy Sheriff Jay Lass. The two men discuss the case over breakfast, and that's where we resume the story...

Jay Lass had just dropped a bombshell while presiding over a rapidly disappearing plate of blueberry pancakes served up by Johnny Scheuren. In between large bites of the syrup covered cakes he had mentioned that the man who had beaten Sol Goldstein nearly to death in a Brooklyn pool hall a few years back was Harry Strauss.

While not much was

known about Harry Strauss, he was considered a very bad man. He ran with a group of toughs from the Brownsville section of Brooklyn who were closely aligned with organized crime.

"So Goldstein has ties to some pretty bad people," I said, as much to myself as to Jay.

"It seems so."

"Well, be that as it may, I need to start by talking to his wife. His mother told me she is still living up here in Gen Wild."

"Are you going to go over there now?" Jay asked. "Do you want some company?"

"You want to come?"

"If I go home now, Tilly will have me mowing the lawn, so yeah, I do."

Jay told me that he had determined where the newlywed Goldstein couple had been staying in Glen Wild prior to the husband's disappearance, so we climbed into my old Ford, and after I fiddled with the choke for a minute, we were on our way.

From the Sheriff's Office, we headed down Bank Street, and turned left onto Broadway. We drove the five miles to Rock Hill

in silence, and made the turn onto Glen Wild Road, avoiding several groups of walkers along the way. A couple of minutes later, Jay finally spoke.

"Slow down a bit through here," he said, craning his neck to look to our left. "It should be right in here somewhere."

We hadn't gone another hundred yards when he grabbed my arm.

"There it is..." he proclaimed, pointing to a small white bungalow with fading red trim back off the road. "That must be it."

We pulled off the road onto the grass in front of the bungalow and I shut off the car. I could hear music playing from inside the house, and noticed that just the screen door was closed. We knocked on the door, and a moment later a young woman with very blond hair, dressed in a robe, came to the door.

"Yes?" she said.

"Good morning, ma'am," Jay said. "We're with the Sheriff's department, and we are hoping to speak with Mrs. Goldstein. Would you be her?"

The woman pushed the screen door open and we



ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED

"Don't you get it? Sol is dead," she said.

walked inside.

"I am Mrs. Goldstein," she said in a heavy Brooklyn accent. "What do you want to talk about?"

Jay looked surprised.

"Are you serious?" he asked. "We'd like to talk to you about your missing husband."

"Who told you he was missing?"

"His mother filed a report," Jay said.

"That old busy body? She should mind her own business."

"I don't understand ma'am," I interjected.

"Your husband is missing, isn't he? Has been for several days? Yet, you never reported it."

The woman sat down

in one of the living room chairs, took a cigarette from a pack on the table next to it, and lit it with a gold lighter. After a long drag, she chuckled a bit.

"Do you men have any idea what you're getting into here? Do you have any idea who my husband was?"

In all the years I had known Jay Lass, I have seldom seen him annoyed. But he clearly had already lost his patience with this woman, and his tone of voice showed it.

"I notice you said 'was,'" he said. "I find that interesting. So why don't you tell us who he 'was'?"

"He was no angel," she said quickly, and took another long drag on her cigarette.

"Look, Mrs. Goldstein," I said. "We are just trying to find your husband. We need your help to do that. You do want to find your husband, don't you?"

Oddly, she laughed. It seemed ironic and out of place.

"You are a couple of country dolts," she said derisively. "You're not going to 'find' him. Sol was dumped in a lake. He's gone. Forever."

"What? How do you know that?" Jay asked.

"Well, I don't 'know' that," she answered. "But I'm sure of it. As well as I'm sure of my own name. I'm sure of it."

"Why don't you tell us about the last time you saw your husband," I said.

She crushed the cigarette into the glass ashtray on the table and took another one out of the pack, lit it and inhaled deeply.

"You wanna know the last time I saw him?" she said.

"It was a Saturday night, a week ago. We were getting dressed to go dancing when the phone rang. Sol answered it, and didn't say much. He mostly listened and then hung up. He said he was sorry, but he had to take care of some business before we went out."

"What time was that?" Jay asked.

"About nine. I was not happy, but he finished getting dressed and promised he'd be back before long. A car pulled up outside, and he went out. I never saw him again."

"Did you happen to notice anything about the car? Can you describe it in any way?" Jay asked.

"I was pretty steamed, and didn't really pay much attention to it. All I know is that I looked out the screen door just as Sol was getting in the car, and it looked like there were three guys in there."

"Did you recognize any of them?"

"Didn't get much of a look at any of them. They were young; I could tell that as much from their voices as from anything I could see. Maybe I'd seen one of them around somewhere, it's hard to say."

"And Sol didn't give you any idea who they were, or what they wanted?"

"I told you, he just said he had to take care of some business."

"And you never saw him again?"

"That's right. I never saw him again. I never will see him again. Don't you get it? It's obvious those guys killed him. Sol is dead."

You'll have to read the next chapter of our story to find out more. Don't miss Part III of "The Honeymoon Murder," based on an actual incident in Sullivan County in 1936, in the next edition of The Hurleyville Sentinel.

The Artistry of Voices, Brushes, and Gardens Exhibit Closes at Temple Sholom

by Lily Barrish Levner

MONTICELLO – The exhibit may have ended, but the project continues, a multi-faceted tribute to the survivors of the Holocaust and their rescuers.

On Sunday, September 14, the final public program of "Honoring Survivors and Their Rescuers Through the Generations" took place at Temple Sholom in Monticello. The program featured performances by Allison Luci, an oil painter, and pianist Danielle Strassman with singer Lourdesa Hunt.

"Today is a bittersweet day for me; it's the last public program of this exhibit for 2025," Dr. Hope Blecher Croney told the audience. "Thanks to Temple Sholom for hosting 'Honoring Survivors and Their Rescuers' for the last couple of months."

She started the exhibit as "Voices of Survivors" at the Liberty Museum and Arts Center, then moved it to the Sullivan County Historical Society and Museum in Hurleyville. Finally, it ended at the Temple in the spring of 2025.

The event began with Ms. Hunt, a classically trained vocalist singing, as Ms. Strassman played



PHOTO BY LILY BARRISH LEVNER

Left to right: Allison Luci, Hope Blecher Croney, Lourdesa Hunt, and Elsie Kopcha at Temple Sholom.

the keyboard. Ms. Luci, an artist from Queens, painted while they performed.

Dr. Blecher Croney created "Voices of Survivors" as a companion to the Daffodil Project, with the purpose of raising awareness, bringing something hopeful to the community, and bringing people together. Through artwork, speaking programs and music, she has successfully achieved her goal.

Two and a half years ago, Dr. Blecher Croney became part of the Daffodil Project, which sparked her interest in including Sullivan County in it. The

Daffodil Project's mission is to build a worldwide Living Holocaust Memorial by planting 1.5 million Daffodils in memory of the children who perished in the Holocaust and in support of children suffering in humanitarian crises throughout the world today. The Sullivan County community, in tandem with friends, families, and visitors, have been instrumental in the progress that has been made towards reaching that goal. To date, 1,146,787 bulbs have been planted around the world, linking the county to gardens in other states and countries.

At the end of September, Dr. Blecher Croney and volunteers planted 6,000 daffodil bulbs in two different locations at Morningside Park in Hurleyville.

MONTICELLO – Bold Gold Media Group has reached a deal with Townsquare Media to acquire stations WDLA-AM and WDLA-FM in Walton, New York. The acquisition will extend Bold Gold's broadcast footprint further into Delaware County and the Catskills.

"We have a deep love and connection to the Catskill Mountains and Delaware County and we are very much looking forward to bringing our programming to the wonderful community of Walton," said Bold Gold

President, Vince Benedetto. "For a long time, we have had the privilege serving the neighboring town of Hancock, and very much look forward to extending our local programming to include even more of the residents of Delaware County."

"We're excited to expand into Walton and have the opportunity to provide another community with our unique brand of locally focused radio," said Dawn Ciorciari, General Manager of Bold Gold Media Group NY. "We look forward to serving Walton and Dela-



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

Bold Gold NY General Manager Dawn Ciorciari

ware County with the same local programming and

community connection that Bold Gold is known for."

The deal is expected to close sometime in November 2025, upon approval by the Federal Communications Commission. With this acquisition, Bold Gold will own and operate seventeen full-power radio stations and twenty-seven total broadcast frequencies across New York and Pennsylvania.

The mission of Bold Gold is to provide community focused broadcast and digital media programming for their entire listening area and

contribute positively to the growth and development of the region through the power of local radio and digital media. Veteran owned and locally operated and programmed, Bold Gold was founded in 2005, with the aim of becoming the preeminent radio broadcast group in Northeast Pennsylvania and the Catskill Mountains of New York.

Bold Gold serves three primary regions: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton, The Pocono Lake Region, and Catskill Mountains/Hudson Valley.

HPAC VISITS MONTICELLO KIWANIS



PHOTO PROVIDED

Left to right: Kiwanis Pres. Marvin Rappaport, HPAC reps Lourdesa Hunt and Toni Castillo, and Kiwanis Board member Linda Barriger.

MONTICELLO – The Hurleyville Performing Arts Centre (HPAC) Community Outreach Coordinator Toni Castillo and Director of Development Lourdesa Hunt recently gave a very interesting and informative presentation to the Kiwanis

Club of Monticello. They highlighted their children's and adult activities, family events, sponsorship of various school district events and plans to restore the Luzon Train Station as well as other activities they are involved in.

The Kiwanis Club mission is to improve the world one child and one community at a time. It meets the first Monday of the month at Al-bella's Restaurant at 6 p.m. For more information about the club, call Pres. Marvin Rappaport at 845-701-1655 or visit Monticello, NY Kiwanis Club Facebook Page.

THE HAUNTED THEATRE

SOUTH FALLSBURG-- 'Tis the Season to be afraid. To be very afraid.

If you enjoy a good scare, who needs a lame Haunted House or far-off Haunted Forest when there's a forbidding, foreboding Haunted Theatre right in our own back yard?

Thanks to the denizens of the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop, the Rivoli Theatre in South Fallsburg transforms every October to the creepiest, scariest haunt around. Three floors of frights await you at the Rivoli's Haunted Theatre Tours - bigger, better, more ghostly, ghastly, eerie and spine-tingling each year.

On Friday and Saturday nights, October 3, 4, 10,

11, 17, 18, 24, & 25, the tours begin at 6 p.m. and run consecutively with the last tour starting at 10 p.m. At the helm of the haunting is Dawn Perneszi, who has masterfully created and directed countless spaces and scenarios to delight and thrill, menace and chill the hardest of souls along with the special effects, make-up and props by Felicia

Merillo.

Do you dare complete a tour? Bring a friend or two along, because going it alone is definitely not the best idea! (Not recommended for children under the age of 13). All tickets are \$12 and can be purchased only at the door of the Rivoli Theatre (5243 Route 42, South Fallsburg).

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HO & WL! RAIL TRAIL ALLIANCE'S 4TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN WALK IS IN HURLEYVILLE

by Win Hadley

HURLEYVILLE — The Sullivan O&W Rail Trail Alliance will host its fourth annual HO&WL Halloween trail walk on Friday, October 24, and this year's event is on the Milk Train Trail in Hurleyville.

Sullivan County Historian John Conway, who is also the editor of this newspaper, will be on hand to augment the spooky walk with ghost stories from Sullivan County history.

The walk gets underway at 5:30 p.m. and starts at the O&W Rail Trail Entrance at 212 Main Street. The event is free and the public is invited, as are leashed dogs. Participants are encouraged to come in their Halloween costumes, and a prize will be awarded to one human and one dog for the best costume as chosen by the judges.

Since the walk will likely finish up after dusk, organizers say participants may

want to bring along a flashlight.

Mr. Conway promises to deliver a few tales that are sure to keep attendees on edge throughout the duration of the walk, including one of his favorites: the story of the 1907 train wreck and the resulting reports of paranormal activity around the site of the explosion that caused it.

Late in the afternoon on February 13, 1907 the boiler exploded on an O&W passenger train just before it reached Luzon Station in Hurleyville. Two railroad men were killed instantly in the explosion, the train's engineer was severely injured and would die a few days later, and twelve passengers were hurt when the train careened off the tracks.

The force of the blast sent pieces of the train and the bodies of the dead crew members hurtling through the air, landing hundreds of feet from the scene.



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The rock cut through Smith Hill on the Milk Train Trail east of Main Street in Hurleyville

According to contemporary newspaper accounts, the engine was drawing the No. 3 train, "one of the finest on the road" and was doing about 40 miles per hour when "suddenly there was a terrible roar and the

sound of ripping and tearing of iron. The train of cars rammed the wreck and four of them left the rails. When the steam cleared, there was nothing but scrap iron left of the locomotive."



SENTINEL FILE PHOTO

The 1907 train wreck that killed three O&W workmen occurred just west of the rock cut and has spawned numerous reports of paranormal activity nearby.

The train had originated in Weehawken, N.J. around noon that day, heading for the mountains with about 50 passengers. It had pulled out of Middletown about 3 p.m., and had just emerged from the rock cut known as the Smith Hill Cut when the explosion occurred. The train was within sight of the station at the time, and some accounts of the

day noted that passengers waiting for the train had seen it approaching in the distance and then watched in horror as it was engulfed in smoke and steam.

Some had initially suspected that dynamite had caused the explosion, and stories circulated that either intentionally or by accident the dynamite had been mixed in with the

coal that was being used to feed the boiler. The railroad eventually debunked that theory and suggested instead that the water lines feeding the boiler had frozen, causing the boiler to run low on water and to overheat. That overheating then thawed the lines, allowing cold water into the boiler and causing the explosion.

The body of the train's engineer, William Gadwood of Walton, NY, was discovered more than 100 feet from the wreck. Gadwood was alive but severely injured when found, his skull fractured in several places, and he died shortly afterward. The mangled body of fireman Martin Mullen, who was believed to have been killed instantly in the explosion, was found 100 feet in the opposite direction. A third man, later identified as O&W employee J.D. Vulquette, was also killed in the explosion.

In the years following the train wreck, tales have persisted about supernatural activity in and around the rock cut, and as recent studies reveal that more and more people believe in ghosts these days, they have resulted in the interest of a number of paranormal groups.

Since haunted places are often said to be places that are associated by the ghost with some strong past emotion, such as fear or remorse, or the terror of a violent death, the area around the Smith Hill Cut would certainly qualify, Mr. Conway says.

Other ghost stories he will relate on the walk include that of the Peddler's Ghost, a specter that was said to haunt the area between Kiamasha Lake and Thompsonville in the late 19th century.

For more details on the walk and event updates, visit the Sullivan OandW Facebook page.

GRAHAMSVILLE F.D. IS HEALTHIEST Sullivan 180 Competition



PHOTO PROVIDED

Grahamsville Fire Department wins the Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire Department challenge.

SULLIVAN COUNTY—Winners of the 2025 Sullivan 180 Healthiest Fire

Department Challenge were announced at the 96th annual Sullivan County Volun-

teer Fireman's Parade, held recently in Monticello.

Securing first place with a total of 953 points, the Grahamsville Fire Department will receive a grant of \$15,000. Grahamsville completed 160 healthy meal replacements, 305 physical activities, weight loss check-ins, weekly health-and-wellness podcasts and an eight-month-long water intake challenge. The first-place grant was made possible in part by Resorts World Catskills.

In second place with a total of 673 points, Kauneonga Lake Fire Department will



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kauneonga Lake Fire Department finished second in the competition.

receive a grant of \$10,000. Kauneonga Lake participated in a nutrition course with Ellenville Regional Hospital, organized weekly litter plucks, as well as an eight-month sleep study and department discussions on mental health. The department shared 33 healthy meals and 52 physical activities and participated in several community events.

Turtle Awards of \$500 were given to departments in recognition of their efforts in specific areas related to building a culture of health among their members. These categories in-

clude mental health awareness, improved nutrition, increased physical activity, camaraderie and spirit, and community collaboration. The awards, sponsored by various businesses and organizations, were announced at the parade and will be delivered to individual departments over the coming months.

Smallwood-Mongaup Valley Fire Department received five Turtle Awards with 420 points, recognizing its work to increase physical activity; improve mental health, nutrition, camaraderie and spirit; and community collaboration. In addition, Rebecca Wood received Challenge Captain of the Year, earning the department an additional award. Jeffersonville Fire Department placed fourth in the challenge with 201 points, and received two Turtle Awards for nutrition and a focus on mental health.

Hortonville Fire Department received two Turtle Awards with 109 points, in recognition of its efforts to increase physical activity and nutrition. Livingston Manor Fire Department received one Turtle Award with 83 points for its display of community collaboration. White Lake Fire Department received one

Turtle Award with 64 points for its camaraderie and spirit. Finally, Bloomingburg Fire Department, with 56 points, received a Turtle Award for camaraderie and spirit.

Since January, when the challenge kicked off, 17 departments have engaged in activities (challenges) to enhance the physical and mental health of members. Departments received credit in the form of Turtle Points for each health-focused activity completed. Activities ranged from serving healthier meals during drill and meeting nights, joining as a department family and hiking or walking local trails, attending health-related seminars and becoming trained in suicide prevention. There were also water consumption and weight loss challenges.

The Turtle Award sponsors include 98.3 WSUL Heart-A-Thon; Black Bear Fuel Oil, Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning; Garnet Health Medical Center Catskills; Jeff Bank; Prestige Towing & Recovery; Resorts World Catskills; Rotary Clubs of Liberty & Monticello; Schmidt's Wholesale, Inc.; Sullivan Fire Protection Corp.; and Thompson Sanitation.



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 player hit 3 home runs for the Yankees in game 6 of the 1977 World Series?
2. What player hit the grounder to first base that went through Bill Bruckner's legs to give the Mets a win over the Red Sox in Game 6 of 1986 World Series to tie the Series 3-3?
3. Who is the only pitcher to pitch a perfect game in the World Series?
4. What team has won the most World Series titles?
5. What team has won the most World Series titles for the National League?

September Answers:

1. What major college football team once scored 222 points in a single game, winning 222-0? (**Georgia Tech over Cumberland College in 1916.**)
2. What is the most points scored in a single quarter of a Division I college football game? (**49, by Houston in 1968, Davidson in 1969, and Fresno State in 1991.**)
3. The most points scored by a team in a regular season of Division I college football is 726. What school? (**LSU in 2019.**)
4. What Division I college football team recorded the largest average margin of victory for a season? (**Army, 52.1 points per game in 1944**)
5. Entering the 2025 season, only one Division I college football team has recorded 1000 or more wins in its history. What school? (**Michigan**)

No winner last month.



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