

**HOME STYLE:** Ideas and inspiration. **INSIDE**

**IN THE SCHOOLS:** News and pictures galore. **1B**

**BEER LEAGUE:** Darder's Stone Works cruise in rout. **12B**

# Get ready for a spectacular Fourth

BY FRANK RIZZO

For those who are staying, and for those who are visiting, the Fourth of July weekend here in Sullivan County will provide three days of family fun and entertainment – not to mention patriotic-themed parades and programs. Of course, don't forget all the other entertainment, culinary, cultural and shopping opportunities afforded by our downtowns and other places.

Here's a roundup of what you can expect (fireworks are listed in sidebar):

## BETHEL WOODS

On Sunday, July 3, it welcomes the New York Philharmonic for its sixth consecutive season. The orchestra will be conducted by Bramwell Tovey and will take the stage with award-winning pianist Kirill Gerstein and the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps with Major Brian Dix, director and commanding officer.

Performance begins at 8 p.m. Special lawn seating family prices available. For info visit [www.BethelWoods-Center.org](http://www.BethelWoods-Center.org), the Bethel Woods Box Office, Ticketmaster, or by phone 1-800-745-3000.

## NARROWSBURG

Saturday, July 2 through Monday, July 4 – Main Street and surroundings will feature an Old Fashioned Family Fair with midway games, inflatables and prizes.

Saturday July 2 – Sock Hop at 7 p.m. at the former Narrowsburg Central School featuring noted girl group The Shirelles.

Monday, July 4 – Firemen's Parade at 3 p.m. presented by the Narrowsburg Fire

Department, followed by Chicken BBQ from 4:30-6 p.m. Info: Narrowsburg Chamber of Commerce, 252-7234.

## LIBERTY

The 18th annual Liberty Festival will take place on July 4, with the following schedule of events in and around Main St. and LaPolk Park:

- 10:30 a.m. – Classic car, motorcycle and tractor show (to participate, please contact Joel at 295-0300)
- 11 a.m. – Walter Moylan, the Keyboard Wizard
- Noon – Liberty's Poet Laureate, Walter Keller,
- 12:05 p.m. – Fourth of July Parade
- 12:30 p.m. – Kim Verderame
- 1 p.m. – Hot Dog Eating Contest sponsored by Garry's Great American
- 1:15 p.m. – Liberty Festival Talent Show with MC Jackie Horner, the inspiration behind the movie "Dirty Dancing"
- 4 p.m. – The John Wombacher Band

PLEASE SEE **FOURTH, 2A**



DAN HUST | DEMOCRAT

The Villa Roma Resort Hotel, nestled in the hills between Jeffersonville and Callicoon, will have many prime viewing spots for its Independence Day fireworks show. Try out County Route 164, Villa Roma Road, Beechwoods Road, Reum Road, Bauernfeind Road, Radio Tower Road, Katz Road, Tonjes Road or Polster Road.

## Fireworks this weekend

**Bethel** – Sunday, July 3 at dusk, overlooking Kauneonga Lake.

**Villa Roma**, Callicoon Beechwoods – Sunday, July 3 at dusk.

**Bethel Woods** – Sunday, July 3 at the conclusion of New York Philharmonic concert (see main article).

**Narrowsburg** – Sunday, July 3 at dusk, as part of the Narrowsburg Celebrates America weekend.

**Monticello** – In conjunction with rare Saturday evening race card beginning at 7:30 p.m., the 42nd annual Fireworks Extravaganza will be begin 15 minutes after the end of the last race. Free admission to the races.



COURTESY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Sen. Thomas Duane, second from right, looks on as Governor Cuomo signs the Marriage Equality bill into law last Friday. A similar photo on the front page of the New York Times last Sunday showed the governor handing one of the pens to Duane, the only other person in the group identified by the Times. The cutline noted he was the NYS Senate's only openly gay member. Sen. Duane is a familiar figure in Callicoon.

## Callicoon resident at heart of equality law

BY KATHY DALEY

CALLICOON — Last Sunday, State Sen. Thomas Duane and his partner Louis Webre strolled Greenwich Village with family, soaking in the happy atmosphere.

Two days before, Albany lawmakers had taken the historic step of legalizing same-sex marriage, and New York City celebrated in style at a gay pride event in Harlem, the Gay Pride Parade down Fifth Avenue on Sunday and street parties in various Manhattan neighborhoods.

"Now New York State can join five other states (Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Iowa) as well as Washington, D.C., in providing full equality for all families," Duane said this week.

The state senator from the 29th District in New York City, a Democrat who owns homes in Manhattan and Callicoon, lauded Governor Andrew Cuomo for making marriage equality a key issue, and he also praised local efforts to get the Marriage Equality bill enacted into law.

To gays, "Sullivan County is a very welcoming place," he said, "and there has been an active and hard-working LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisex-

ual and Transgendered) community here."

"I salute all the people who worked so hard," he said, singling out Kathy Reiser of North Branch. Reiser is the host/producer of "Out, Loud, and Queer" on WJFF Radio and founder and producer of Day to be Gay in the Catskills.

On his website, Duane pointed out the historical significance of the marriage bill's passage. But he added "the paradoxical truth is that what already exists and will not change – but for true legal recognition – is the commitment and love that is already the reality in so many of New York's families."

The bill passed by a final vote of 33 to 29, with some Republicans holding out for stronger legal protections for religious organizations that object to same-sex marriages.

Sen. Duane said the final bill spelled out the existing New York State human rights law, which says that neither religious organizations nor benevolent organizations are required to provide access to their facilities "as a public accommodation."

In hailing the passage of the Marriage Equality Act, Governor Cuomo lauded

PLEASE SEE **DUANE, 3A**



DAN HUST | DEMOCRAT

Hurleyville Medal of Honor recipient Francis Currey, right, enjoys last year's ceremony with former Town of Fallsburg Councilman Neil Gilberg, one of the prime movers behind Francis Currey Day. In background is Councilman Arnold Seletsky.



DEMOCRAT FILE PHOTO

At last year's Liberty Festival, Charlie Barbuti rode his 1917 Model T Ford as part of the parade.

## College adopts budget with tuition hikes and layoffs

BY DAN HUST

LOCH SHELDRAKE — Sullivan County Community College's board approved a near-\$16 million operating budget (not counting \$450,000 in restricted-use grants) on Monday.

In the public portion of a meeting that was mostly private to deal with controversial personnel issues, the board voted 9-1 – with member Josephine Finn dissenting – to adopt the \$15.8 million budget for 2011-2012.

It comes with a 7.5 percent tuition hike and seven layoffs, but thanks to a deal college officials worked out with Sullivan County, the county's \$4 million contribution to the college's budget remained intact.

Still, the state's refusal to fund SCCC (like all community colleges) at the legally required 33 percent of its operating budget means the college faces ongoing hurdles.

Some of that may be mitigated by SUNY's plan to send down a consulting team, at

SCCC's request, to research and suggest "best practices" the college leadership can apply.

SCCC Board Chair Phyllis Coombe said the team is not remedial in nature but is there to aid SCCC in maximizing its efficiencies.

"They expect to be on campus next week," she confirmed, "... looking at our various fiscal processes."

This year's budget is about \$300,000 less than last year's and includes seven layoffs, plus the elimination of one health insurance plan (affecting about eight employees, said Coombe).

Six vacant positions will not be filled, while four employees will go from full-time to part-time hours.

Coombe said the college is anticipating 30 more full-time-equivalent students this coming semester than last, though they'll be paying 7.5 percent more in tuition. That translates to \$163 per credit for county residents, instead of \$152 (higher for out-of-county and out-of-state residents).

ABOUT BOOKS	7B
ALMANAC	9A
CLASSIFIED	3B
COMING UP	8A
CROSSWORD	3B
DEALS ON WHEELS	10B
DINING/ENTERTAINMENT	10B
EDITORIAL	6A
LETTERS	7A
LIFELINES	6A
OBITUARIES	2B
REAL ESTATE	7B
RELIGIOUS SERVICES	4A
RETROSPECT	10A
SPORTS	12B
SPORTSMAN OUTDOORS	11B
WILD GARDENER	7B



## Monticello's new superintendent arrives August 1

BY DAN HUST

MONTICELLO — Monticello's school board unanimously hired Daniel Teplesky on Tuesday as the district's new superintendent.

"We think we made a great choice," noted Board President Susan Purcell. "... We just felt he was a good fit."

So did Teplesky. "I believe it's a great match," he affirmed Wednesday. "... Monticello is a wonderful school district, and I truly mean that."

He was particularly impressed by the school's programs (like its Academy of Finance and award-

winning music department) and liked its location, as his wife competes in show dog competitions in New York City.

A native of the Buffalo area and father of two grown children, Teplesky is currently the superintendent of the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk school district just south of Albany.

He resides in Granville on the Vermont border, where he was that district's superintendent from 2004-2009.

He plans to move to Monticello, where he once visited as a teenager competing in the All-State Music Festival then held at the Concord Resort.



Dan Teplesky

Now 62, Teplesky plans to retire from his currently 18-year career in public education in another seven to nine years. He hopes to do that at Monticello, where he's got a four-year contract for \$173,500 a year.

"Monticello is a wonderful school district that presents a lot of opportunities for students," he observed.

Purcell is glad to have him on board, saying his interactions with the board and the staff, his enthusiasm and his experience – including bringing two schools out of in-need-of-improvement lists maintained by the state –

PLEASE SEE **TEPLESKY, 3A**

# County makes half-million-plus on tax auction

BY DAN HUST

SULLIVAN COUNTY — Sullivan County's annual June tax auction netted close to \$600,000 last week, according to County Treasurer Ira Cohen.

"I think the most difficult properties to sell ... were in the Village of Liberty," he remarked of the Wednesday-Thursday auction.

Why? "Taxes," he explained. "The perception from many bidders is that property in the Village of Liberty is not worth buying at this point."

Nevertheless, 321 lots countywide were sold over those two days, and all because of delinquent taxes amounting to \$1,758,287. The hundreds of bidders at the auction, however, promised to pay \$2,350,675, \$592,386 above and beyond the delinquencies.

"We had better parcels [than last year]," said Cohen, "and they brought more money."

The County Legislature will decide whether to accept or reject the bids on July 7.

# Monti budget holds the line

BY DAN HUST

MONTICELLO — Monticello's village board unanimously approved a near-\$12 million budget on Tuesday.

Trustee James Matthews was absent from the vote, though he has participated in most of the worksessions and meetings about the budget.

The budget features no tax increase.

# Forestburgh Town Hall added to national register

FORESTBURGH — The old Forestburgh Town Hall, located on County Road 48, was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to Supervisor James Galligan. he credited Town Historian Mary Ann Toomey's hard work.

# DUANE: Praise for his efforts

FROM FRONT PAGE

Duane's role, saying, "I commend... his lifetime commitment to fighting for equality for all New Yorkers."

In a press release, Senate Democratic Conference Leader John L. Sampson said: "No one in the Senate has done more than Tom Duane to lead the fight for Equality, the fight for Dignity, the fight for GENDA, the HIV Rent Cap, or funding for research and health programs."

"He has truly been our moral compass — the champion of the least, last, and

lost. Anyone who has heard Tom speak knows he doesn't just change votes; he changes hearts and minds. He has changed the way we work together, the way we see each other, and the way we respect and love one another. I am proud to call him my friend, and in the fight for Marriage Equality — my Leader."

An April 2011 Siena College survey found that 58 percent of New York voters supported the legalization of same-sex marriage, 36 percent were opposed and 6 percent either had no opinion or did not know about the issue.

# WRITING: People are listening

FROM PAGE 2A

THANKLESS JOB. In fact, it's often worse than that.

People in public service "stick their necks out." Those who serve on school boards or in county legislatures take positions and work for those positions. And because they do, they're often condemned, criticized and second-guessed — a "great reward" for serving in positions that pay nothing or next-to-nothing!

It's much easier to avoid the scrutiny that public life invites. There's little risk in playing the loud-mouth, the critic, the condemner who stays on the sidelines of life. And loud-mouthed critics always find supporters, others who lack the courage and the integrity that it takes to be an active citizen.

Sadly, it's understandable why so many people choose to stay on the sidelines of life.

Few Americans lived more active public lives than our 26th president, Theodore Roosevelt. And here's what he had to say about active public life — its costs and its benefits.

"It is not the critic who counts; not the person who points out how the strong man [or woman] stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

"The credit belongs to the man [or woman] who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who actually strives

to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms and great devotions; who spends him[self or herself] in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at worst, if he [or she] fails, at least falls while daring greatly, so that his [or her] place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Don't be one of those "cold and timid souls": the critics and naysayers who sit on the sidelines of life. Seek an active public life; be in the arena of democracy; show the courage and integrity that good, active citizenship requires.

The very survival of America depends on this.

# BRIEFS

## Pay tax bill in installments

JEFFERSONVILLE — In an effort to offer options to taxpayers, the Board of Education of the Sullivan West Central School District has initiated the collection of school taxes in three installments (for the Sullivan County towns only).

The installment payments are as follows: 50 percent of total bill due by September 30; 25 percent of total bill due by October 31 with a 2 percent interest penalty; 25 percent of total bill due by November 2 with a 3 percent interest penalty.

For info call the Sullivan Business Office at 482-4610 ext. 3007.

# TEPLESKY: Taking over Aug. 1

FROM FRONT PAGE

gave him the edge over two other finalists.

BOCES District Superintendent Larry Thomas coordinated the search and said the three finalists were winnowed from a field of 25 candidates.

"I think he'll bring an enthusiasm and genuine care for the students," Thomas assessed of Teplesky, also crediting the school board for working diligently and closely with BOCES to find the right person.

Armed with a bachelor's in music education from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and a master's in education from Niagara University, Teplesky began his career as a band director at Cheektowaga Central School and the East Aurora Union Free School in 1975, then left the field in 1981 to become CEO of River Valley Farms Company in Belfast, all in western New York.

He supervised the 75-employee poultry processor for two decades, maintaining ties to public education by serving as a trustee on the Iroquois Central School District's board from 1988-1993.

He then returned full-time to education to earn his administrative certification, becoming the associate principal of the Niagara Catholic Junior-Senior High School in 1999.

A year later, he was named the assistant junior-senior high school principal at Royalton-Hartland Central School in Middleport.

In 2002, he became the junior high school principal at Churchville-Chili Central School near Rochester, then took over the superintendency at Granville on the other side of the state in 2004.

For the past two years, he's

overseen the Ravena-Coymans-Selkirk Central School District in Ravena, along the NYS Thruway between Kingston and Albany.

He said he considers Monticello, with its larger student population, as the next logical step in his career — though he quipped that his love of the Buffalo Bills football team may be a little far afield here.

Teplesky begins his duties on August 1 and, for a time, will be working with current Interim Superintendent Ed

Rhine. Rhine replaced Supt. Pat Michel, who left for an upstate BOCES job earlier this year, and will now temporarily replace Assistant Supt. for Business and Support Services Gladys Baxter, who's leaving today to become the assistant superintendent for business in the Elmsford Union Free School District in Westchester County. Rhine looks forward to working closely with Teplesky. "I had dinner with him," Rhine recalled. "He seems like a really good guy."




**Russ A. Heyman** - Russ began his insurance career in 1992 marketing and servicing individual and group insurance products. Specializing in employee benefits, he has built an impeccable reputation throughout the region. His honesty, integrity, and dedication to his nearly 1,000 clients has forged many gratifying, long-term relationships.

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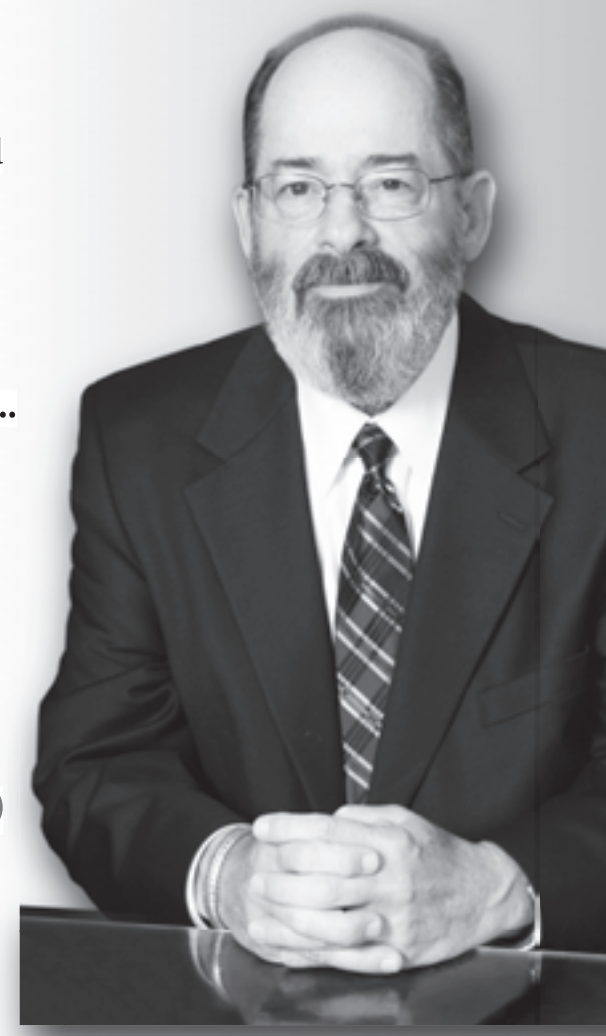
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Political Advertisement

**Here's what State Senator John Bonacic says about Judge Perry Meltzer:**



“...I chair the Senate Judiciary Committee and I want to thank you for the work that you do because you get calls all hours of the night and you have to respond... [Perry] does justice no matter whether you're poor or rich [and] treats everybody the same, and that's why the community appreciates him and always re-elects him.”

**Re-Elect Judge Perry MELTZER**

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**Bethel Woods CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

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<b>SUNDAY JULY 3</b> THIS SUNDAY! NEW YORK THE UNITED STATES MARINE DRUM & BUGLE CORPS BRAMWELL TOVEY, CONDUCTOR	<b>SATURDAY JULY 9</b> NEW YORK DOO WOP EXTRAVAGANZA CHRISTOPHER HENSON	<b>SUNDAY JULY 10</b> tim mcgraw LUKE BRYAN THE GRASS FERRY
<b>TUESDAY JULY 12</b> \$20 LAWN TWO GLOBAL ICONS YES STEVIE NICKS ONE FOR THE AGES	<b>SATURDAY JULY 16</b> FURTHER THE FURTHER SHORE	<b>MONDAY JULY 25</b> GET WITH IT 311 SUMMER ROCK
<b>SATURDAY JULY 30</b> LAWN 4-PACK GOO GOO DOLLS nichelle branch	<b>THURSDAY AUG 4</b> GREAT SEATS FROM \$59.50 JANET JACKSON	<b>FRIDAY AUG 5</b> LAWN ON SALE SELENA & GOMEZ THE SCENE WTFAD
<b>SATURDAY AUG 6</b> \$10 YOUTH BOSTON POPS ESPLANADE ORCHESTRA Robert Bernardi, Conductor Kelli O'Hara, Soloist James Dillingham Beard "You'll Get a Kick out of Cole" Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Cole Porter's Birth	<b>FRIDAY AUG 12</b> IN SHOW & CONCERT DON'T MISS IT! SEE WEBSITE	<b>SUNDAY AUG 14</b> BETHEL WOODS MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL TOMMY JAMES & THE SHONDELLS BLOOD, SWEAT & TEARS THE FAMILY STONE FEATURING ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF SLY & THE FAMILY STONE
<b>WEDNESDAY AUG 17</b> KID ROCK JAMEY JOHNSON Barely There Tour	<b>ADDITIONAL CONCERTS SEE WEB FOR FULL SCHEDULE</b> AUG 19 LYNRYD SKYNYRD AND THE DOOBIE BROTHERS AUG 21 NEIL SEDAKA FEATURING THE NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AUG 27 STEVIE NICKS AUG 28 THE NEW YORK POPS FEATURING JOHN PIZZARELLI	<b>STRANGE ROSE EXPERIENCE</b> The Doors, Janis Joplin, and Jimi Hendrix JULY 16 THRU OCTOBER 30 SPECIAL EXHIBIT

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