**Victims remembered**
Event planned for survivors [LOCAL PAGE A3]

**Hometown column**
Family visits trampoline park, celebrates boy’s fight with Perthes [LOCAL PAGE A1]

**Former supervisor runs**
Bruce Ferguson on ballot [LOCAL PAGE A3]

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**SGF to digitize records**
Employee handbook confusion sparked update decision

**SOUTHGLENS FALLS** — The Village is looking for help to enter the 21st Century.

After searching minutes by hand to try to figure out if the village had ever received an employee handbook, Mayor Duane Oothwal wants a better way.

"I think we need to digitize our records, so they can be searched easier," he said.

He’s hoping the New York State Archives will help. He also plans to apply for grants to get digitized. Records might be available sooner if the cabinets filled with documents.

The village’s records system has not been able to keep up with Oothwal’s demands. Most recently, on Wednesday, village officials could not immediately figure out how many local laws had been passed in 2013. The law would allow grandfathers to..."
History faces future

KATHLEEN MOORE
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SCHUYLKILLVALE - As David Ballard gets older, his historic house weighs on him more and more.

Ballard, 86, can take care of the Revolutionary War structure right now, his family owns the Marshall House in Schuylkillvale for nearly one hundred years, and open their doors to every tourist who knows.

But someday, he won’t be around. What will happen to the house that still has artifacts from the battle that became the turning point in the Revolutionary War?

The weekend of Schuylkillvale’s annual Turning Point Parade, Ballard hosted a family reunion at the Marshall House. It wasn’t his family, but the Marshalls, who owned the house until 1930. About 40 of them came back to seriously discuss what to do with the property when its ancestors owned it.

“We have an old family involved, first generation, ethnically, good people. The level of interest and enthusiasm is very high,” Ballard said. “I think all of this Marshall tribe are interested in preserving this.”

They are leaning toward cutting a trust, to which the Marshalls could donate and help run. After Ballard dies, his wife might sell the house to the trust. If she can’t, or if she wants to keep it, she might rent it out.

He’s thinking of his wife and how her presence might make the house more like her. “I think it’s more the people who were here than the structure itself,” he said.

Actually, it had been occupied by the site’s 2nd-century mayor, General Joseph Adair, before it became the house of the 3rd-century mayor, George Washington. Ballard’s great-grandfather, David Ballard, was one of the mayor’s most prominent citizens.

“We don’t have a museum in Schuylkillvale, and this is where it all happened,” he said. “I’ve been told by various sources that there were a place in Schuylkillvale where things could be discovered and enjoyed by people.”

Goodness knows he’s had no trouble finding things. He walks the grounds with a metal detector every few years, after trust board members accept the offers.

He’s found coins, old items from the era, and old items from the era. His finds include cannon balls, which he does dig out of the ground.

“They’re 12 pounds. They’re unusual — there’s no record of 12-pound cannon balls at Schuylkillvale,” he said, referring to the battle.

Those who joined his collection, which includes three other cannonballs that struck the house during the closing days of the battles of Saratoga. The Americans attacked the house for days, believing it to be the opposing army’s headquarters.

China boosts pressure on North Korea

JOHN LINDGREN
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A smoldering conflict between North Korea and the United States could lead to war, as North Korea continues to test its long-range missiles.

Washington has grown increasingly concerned about North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, which it says poses a threat to the United States.

The Trump administration has taken a tough line against North Korea, threatening to use military force if necessary to denuclearize the country.

The South Korean government has been closely monitoring the situation, with officials saying they are keeping a close eye on North Korea’s nuclear program.

China has traditionally been a friend to North Korea, providing support and economic aid.

However, China has recently been distancing itself from its ally, with officials saying they are not willing to mediate the dispute.

The diplomatic wrangling has led to a new wave of sanctions against North Korea, with the United States imposing new sanctions on North Korea.

The sanctions include a freeze on North Korean assets and a ban on the export of technology to North Korea.

The United States has also increased its military presence in the region, with officials saying they are ready to use force if necessary to prevent North Korea from developing nuclear weapons.

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House

From A1

She lives three hours away, in Massachusetts, but she wants to help ensure the house is preserved after Bullard’s death.

“Most importantly, to make sure this house is never sold to someone who guts it and turns it into something modern,” she said. “This is the reality. It’s happening all over America with historic houses.”

She also doesn’t want the house to sit vacant as a sterile museum.

“All houses, I think, need someone living in them,” she said. “I’ve been to historic houses where no one’s living in them. They have a dusty, static feel to them.”

While no decision as to a trust or other arrangement has been made yet, Bullard and Gardella are confident that plans are moving forward.

“Nothing definitive, but the conversations were good,” Bullard said. “We’ll be around for awhile and I hope in this period, we can work something out.”

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