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Robert Dufour

Superintendent of Sullivan BOCES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Robert Dufour

BY DEREK KIRK

Age: 64**Education:**

BA – St. John's University
MA & CAS – SUNY New Paltz
EdD. – Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Place of employment: Sullivan BOCES

Current title and duties:

District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer. I serve as the representative of the Commissioner of Education and the New York State Education Department in Sullivan County, and I am responsible for the administration of Sullivan BOCES.

Sullivan BOCES offers a wide range of instructional programs, educational supports, and managerial services to our eight school districts and several other schools across the state. Collaborating with school districts and parents, we aim to create solutions for educational challenges, enhance operational efficiencies, and reduce costs. Sullivan BOCES prioritizes student success by providing quality educational experiences that aid in achieving their goals

and preparing them for the global economy. Our Career & Technical Education Center equips high school juniors and seniors with essential career or trade skills, preparing them for college, the workforce, or the military, while our Alternative and Special Education programs focus on developing each student's potential through innovative educational practices and technology, thereby preparing them for the workforce or college.

Years of experience: 14**Why did you choose this career:**

I always wanted to be a teacher. I took a 25-year detour in the private sector before actually starting in public education when I turned 40. I started as a \$55.00 a day substitute teacher, and I am now the District Superintendent.

Favorite part of your job:

It's never boring. Each day is different. Knowing that everything you do somehow positively impacts the life of one of our students makes it worthwhile.

Most challenging part of your job:

Developing programs to serve students whose current level of need exceeds the capabilities of

our current programming and doing so with limited resources.

Favorite on-the-job memory:

Each year at graduation is my favorite on-the-job memory. To think that somehow in some way I contributed to those young men and women walking down the aisle and getting their diplomas is gratifying.

How do you manage your time:

I keep a very thorough calendar and use digital reminder apps on my phone. My executive assistant keeps me on time and on track. I am good at going where I am told when I am told.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field:

You may get frustrated from time to time, and you may never know it, but in the end, everything you do impacts the life of a child. Sometimes you are that child's last best hope.

Who inspires you:

I get inspiration from many sources. Historical figures, colleagues, my husband, friends, and people that I meet and work within the community.

Favorite movie or TV show: MASH – always.

How do you spend your spare time: Travel, read, play golf, spending time with my husband and our furry family.

Favorite vacation spot: The Caribbean

Family: My husband Charles and I have been together for 31 years.

If you could have any job, what would it be: I recently started working as a part time Adjunct Lecturer at SUNY New Paltz. I enjoy it and hope that this continues to be part of the next act of my life.

Men at Work

'Featuring 10 professionals in a three-county region'

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Noah Henwood

Jeff Bank BSA Analyst

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Age: 24

Education: Bachelors in Business Administration from SUNY Oswego
Masters in Human-Computer Interaction from SUNY Oswego (in progress)

Place of employment: Jeff Bank

Current title and duties: BSA Analyst – As a BSA Analyst I investigate personal and business accounts for suspicious activity (money laundering, terrorist financing, structuring, fraud, etc.). I ensure that Jeff Bank meets federal reporting requirements by filing BSA-AML reports with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. I also create training tools and conduct training sessions with bank staff for use of our Anti-money laundering software.

Years of experience: One year as a

BSA Analyst, 4 years as a teller

Why did you choose this career?:

I chose to work in banking starting when I was 19 years old because when I was younger and went into my local credit union, I always had a lot of respect for the bankers working there due to their kind demeanor, impeccable attire, and high level of professionalism. When I first started in banking, I aimed to emulate the characteristics I saw in the bankers I met and interacted with from my youth. Now that I am in the BSA department, I am able to use all of my banking knowledge to investigate and diagnose suspicious financial activity. In my current position I can make a real difference by helping to stop financial crime.

Favorite part of your job: The satisfaction of completing an investigation and knowing that it could be a key part in assisting law en-

forcement.

Most challenging part of your job: The most challenging part of

my job is combing through hundreds and thousands of transaction data entries. Then I have to make sense of the source and purpose of each transaction and how it relates to the larger picture of an account relationship. It is a long process, but being able to see the full picture of what is happening in an account is the key to understanding the account.

Favorite on-the-job memory:

My favorite on-the-job memory is when I was promoted to the BSA Analyst position after working as a teller with Jeff Bank for only three months!

How do you manage your time:

I keep an activity log and schedule using Microsoft outlook. I plan and record exactly what task I am

completing during every hour of the day. This helps me to ensure I have adequate time to complete tasks and projects, while also making sure nothing falls through the cracks.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? To

anyone who wants to enter the BSA field, I would say definitely do it! As far as the banking industry goes, BSA gets to do the most interesting work in the industry! Learning about how different types of businesses work and the red flags for crime means that we are constantly expanding our knowledge. If you want to enter a field where you can learn a ton of practical financial knowledge while also making a difference in preventing crimes, BSA is it.

Who inspires you? My inspiration is my fiancé. She is an incred-

Congratulations

to all the hard working men of
Sullivan and Wayne Counties and a
special congratulations to our very own
Noah Henwood!



Noah Henwood
BSA Analyst



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ibly hard worker and ambitious when it comes to her career. She is the opposite of a procrastinator and is extremely smart. Being around her every day make me want to be as ambitious and driven as her. She's the reason I try to work hard every day.

Favorite movie or TV show: My favorite movie is Interstellar. My favorite TV show is Black Mirror.

Favorite actor and/or actress: My favorite actor is Robert Pattinson. My favorite actress is Kathy Bates.

How do you spend your spare time? I spend most of my spare time researching and playing newly released board games, as well as watching horror movies and reading horror novels.

Favorite vacation spot: My favorite vacation spot is Lake Harris in the Adirondacks.

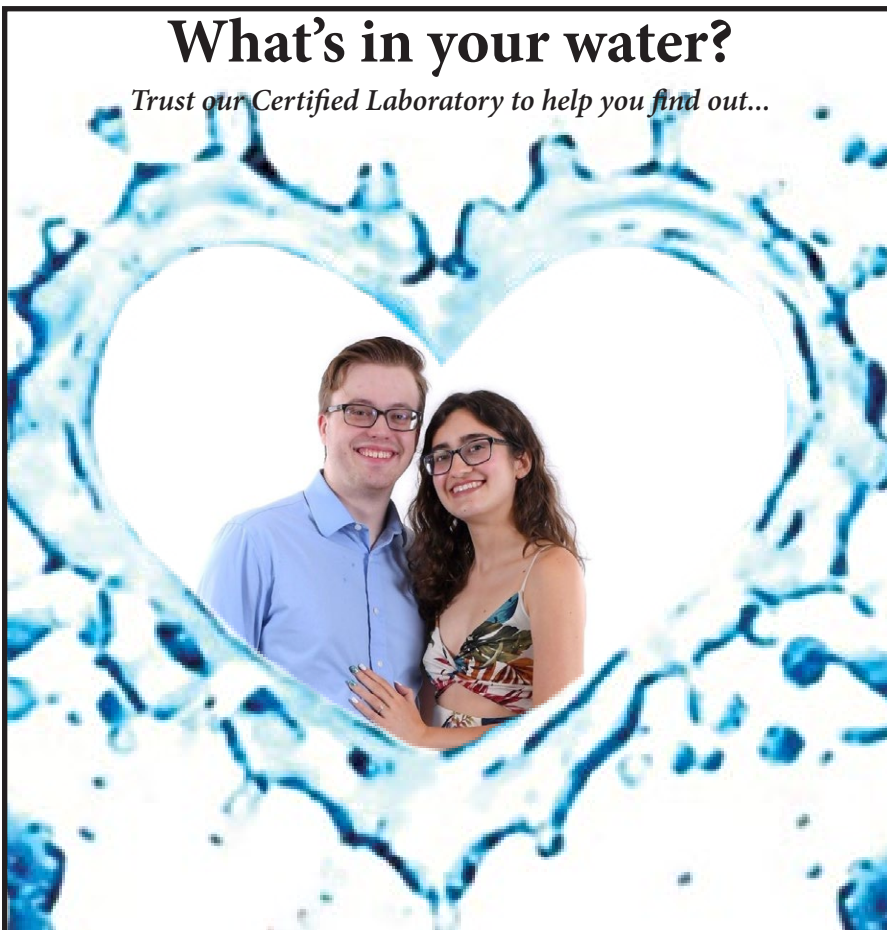
Family: My parents and sister currently live in the Rochester, NY area. My fiancé and I both live here in Sullivan County.

If you could have any job, what would it be? If I could have any job, I would be a board game designer. I love playing and designing new board games.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Noah Henwood



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Alan Carroll

CCE Food Systems Program Manager

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Age: 40

Education: BFA from School of Visual Arts

Certificate of Horticulture from The Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Permaculture Design Certificate from Common Circle Education

Place of employment: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County

Current title and duties: I am the Food Systems Program Manager, heading the Sullivan Fresh program including a series of Mobile Farmers Markets, the Monticello Farmers Market, and our Mobile Community Cupboard. I coordinate the Sullivan Catskills Farmers Market Association, a marketing

campaign to promote all the independently run farmers markets in Sullivan County. I also work on a Farm to School program in cooperation with the Catskills Food Hub and Sullivan 180, the FreshRx program in cooperation with Garnet Health.

Years of experience: I have been working connecting people with locally grown food for the past decade.

Why did you choose this career? I have a strong passion for helping people. I believe that when one person goes hungry, the community is going hungry. If you hurt, I hurt.

Favorite part of your job: My favorite part of working for CCE is the supportive environment,

not just interpersonal (which the people are amazing) but our programs prop each other up.

Most challenging part of your job: Finding funding to support our Sullivan Fresh Community Cupboard. Much of the funding for the Sullivan Fresh Community Cupboard was awarded in response to the Covid 19 pandemic, but the need was there all along, and we are now looking for ways to keep the program going, especially the farm to family aspect of buying from local farmers to provide nutritious food to the people who need it most. It is a door-to-door food distribution and nutrition outreach program, created to combat hunger and food insecurity. If your readers are interested in supporting the program, please consider a generous contribution to help sustain the Sullivan Fresh Community Cupboard by mail, phone at 845-292-6180 online at www.sullivanccce.org/donate. Please make checks payable to CCE Sullivan and write "Community Cupboard" in the Memo. All contributions are tax deductible.

Favorite on-the-job memory: My favorite memory of working at CCE so far was last summer working at the farmers markets and see what centers of community they are. You can meet your friends at the market, your family and learn where your food comes from by meeting your farmer.

How do you manage your time: I am running many programs, so I like to use calendars to organize my time. I make one for each program and make one for my overall duties. I also make checklists of tasks that need to be done on a weekly basis. It always feels good to be crossing things off a list.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field?



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alan Carroll

Patience is a virtue. Always spend the time to listen to the people you serve, and the people you work alongside.

Who inspires you? I am inspired by my supportive family and friends. Having people in my life who also work hard to make a better world drives me to do the same.

Favorite movie or TV show: My favorite TV show right now is Twin Peaks. I love the surreal mellow drama.

Favorite actor and/or actress: Amy Sedaris always makes me laugh.

How do you spend your spare time? I like to spend time with friends, swim in the Delaware river and play in the dirt.

Favorite vacation spot: My favorite place to be is the Thousand Islands in Canada.

Family: I have two cats named Bobby and LeRoy, my mother lives in Wayne county, PA, my father is in Tuxedo, NY, and my sister, nephew and brother-in-law live in Atlanta, GA.

If you could have any job, what would it be? If I could have any job it would be the one I have.

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Kane Davis

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY ALEX KIELAR

Age: 35

Education: Liberty High School

Place of employment: Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility, Liberty

Current title and duties: Assistant Director of Environmental Services (EVS).

Years of experience: 6 months at Achieve and 6 years in industry.

Why did you choose this career? I enjoy cleaning and making everything look good.

Favorite part of your job: Interacting with the residents and making them smile as well as tak-

ing care of anything that I can for them.

Most challenging part of your job: There is not enough time in the day to get everything done.

How do you manage your time: I work hard and make sure I am where I am supposed to be. I move faster to get stuff done if I have to.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Sometimes it can be rough, but you just have to put your head down and keep going.

Who inspires you? My uncle who passed away about four years ago. He was a father-like figure to me and he taught me everything I know.

Favorite movie or TV show: Avengers

Favorite actor and/or actress: Don't have one

How do you spend your spare time? Firepits, barbecuing, playing RPG video games on my PS4.

Favorite vacation spot: I don't really have a favorite but I want to visit Ireland as my family is from there.

Family: Mother, father, younger sister who lives here and older brother who lives in Portugal.

If you could have any job, what would it be? What I am doing now because I enjoy doing it.

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Zachary Malek

Heavy Equipment Operator

BY VINCENT KURZROCK

Education: I started in the Duggan Elementary School until it closed then went to St. Peters in Liberty, was home schooled for middle school, and then attended high school at Harmony Christian School in Orange County. I had 2 years of heavy equipment operation at OU C-Tech and 5+ years of experience in the trades from home construction to working in the quarry.

Place of employment: I have a full time job currently at E. Tetz and I run my own small business - Malek Property Maintenance, and do landscape work, hardscape, driveways and property maintenance.

Current title and duties: Heavy Equipment operator. I run many different machines from haul trucks to bulldozers.

Years of experience: 5+ years
Why did you choose this career? I was born to move earth. All I wanted to do was to dig, be outdoors, drive a machine - any machine - and work with the land. I am a digger at heart. It all started when I was very little. Every chance I could get I was on some sort of digging machine or in a dump truck.

Favorite part of your job: The diversity of every day. I can count on every day being something different. This job is not boring and every day is an adventure. I love working outside. I could never be inside.

Most challenging part of your job: I would say working in the winter months is challenging due to the cold temperatures and the snow and rain that can make it dangerous and even the really hot days in the summer.

Favorite on-the-job memory:

There are so many good memories but the best are when a project is all done and being able to see what I accomplished and built with my hands.

How do you manage your time: Well, I work full time Monday through Friday and then work my business after those hours and on weekends, but I still carve out time to spend with my friends and family. My girlfriend and I love to hunt, fish and go camping.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Go out there and get a little shook up and get dirt on your hands and make sure this is what you want to do. I started when I was really young - and I guess I still am really young - but my family and friends encouraged me to do this as much as possible to make sure it is what I want. Equipment is expensive and

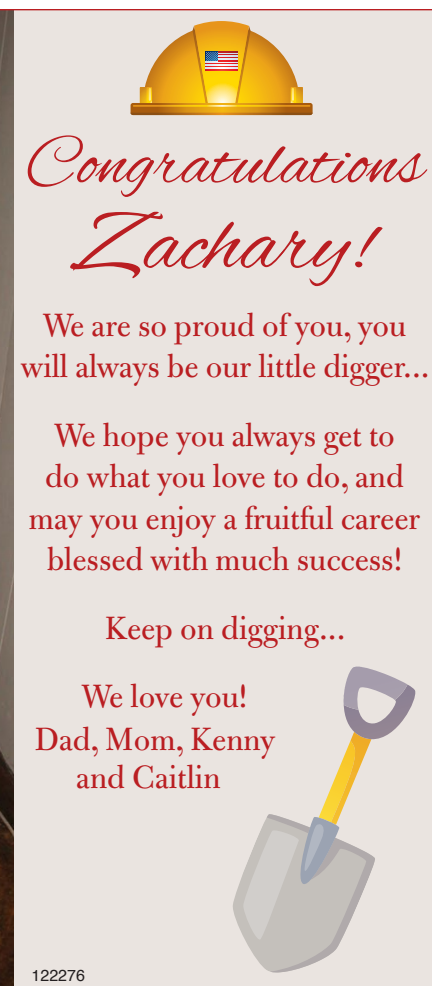
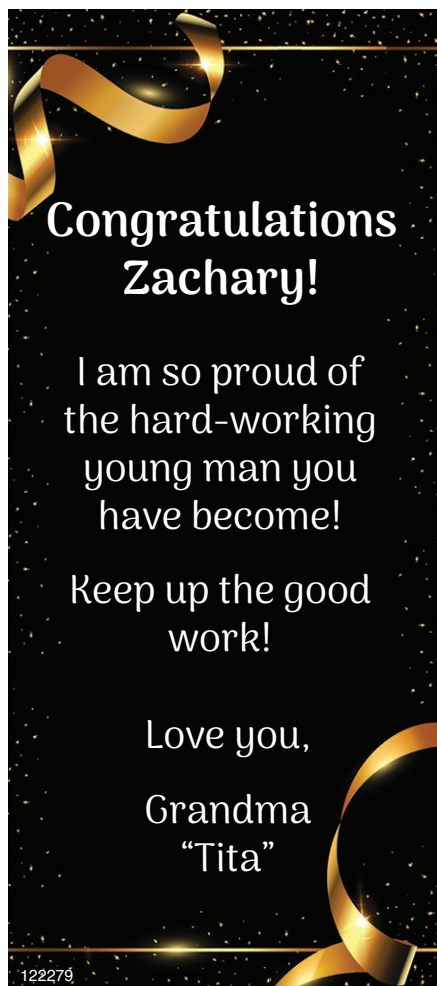


Zachary Malek

needs constant maintenance, and you should know how to fix your own equipment when you do this type of work.

Who inspires you? I would say the people that have been in the industry that I've learned from. They taught me what I know now, and they have been true teachers in this industry.

Favorite movie or TV show: I love to watch a lot of shows and movies but right now I would have to say the Irishman is my favorite movie, PLEASE SEE MALEK, PAGE 9M



BY DEREK KIRK

Patrick Miller

Bethel Woods Operations and Festivals Manager

Age: 33
Education: Bachelors in Sports Management
Place of employment: Bethel Woods Center for the Arts
Current title and duties: Operations and Festivals Manager
Years of experience: 9 years of Operations and Event Management Experience
Why did you choose this career? I was lucky enough to intern with the Events Department at Beaver Creek Resort in Colorado directly following college. Through this internship, I fell in love with the fast-paced environment of bringing live enter-

MALEK:

Continued from page 8M

and I've been getting a kick out of the show Young Sheldon.

How do you spend your spare time? What spare time? LOL! I love to be with my girlfriend of 2 years whenever I can, and I am not working. We love to hunt, fish, and go camping. We recently remodeled a 40 foot camper together. I also love to do all sorts of outdoor projects, and I am constantly doing things to stay busy. I can't stand still.

Favorite vacation spot: Thousand Islands

Family: Dad: Jerry Malek, Mother: Carol Malek. Brother: Ken Cuttita and his wife, Caitlin. My parents are entrepreneurs. They have very successful businesses and have been guiding me along my way. I owe them everything. My father was in the antique business for years, and I used to sit on his shoulders when he did the auctions in Monticello. He now runs Malek Discount Furniture and Malek Gold Buyers. My mother has a successful real estate company, Malek Properties, and used to take me with her showing houses when I was a kid. She tells me I am destined to do development. Both have been great encouragement to me.

If you could have any job, what would it be? I am young - I know I will probably always move earth, and I love earth-moving machines. The world is wide open but I am doing what I love to do now.

tainment to the masses.

Favorite part of your job: The festivals and concerts that I help produce are avenues for people to decompress and enjoy time with friends and family while seeing the highest quality performances and experiences possible.

Most challenging part of your job: The most challenging part of my job is staying on the cutting edge of a rapidly evolving and growing industry. Since COVID-19, people have changed their perception of what they see value in at live entertainment venues.

Favorite on-the-job memory: There have been many incredible moments in my career, but I think producing a New Year's Eve Block Party for the City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado was near the top. From conceptualization to implementation, I was responsible for it all.

How do you manage your time: I constantly remind myself that there is an ebb and flow to the event seasons. During the summer and fall months, we're moving at 100 miles per hour, 70+ hours per week, producing these amazing festivals and concerts. During the winter and spring months, we're conceptualizing and thinking of the next great opportunity for Bethel Woods and our guests.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? I have two recommendations for people entering the event industry. 1) Always be willing to learn and grow, even if you've operated in a certain way for years. 2) Show up. I classify "showing up" as: arriving early, asking people if they need help, predicting future issues or outcomes, constantly moving, and staying until the job is finished.

Who inspires you? My family inspires me in every facet of life. My wife supports me every day while pursuing a career of her own. My mother, father, step mother and step father are all incredible inspirations.



Patrick Miller

Favorite movie or TV show: We don't watch a lot of TV but I do enjoy Premier League Soccer (Go Manchester City!)

Favorite actor and/or actress: My

favorite actor is the late, great Chris Farley.

How do you spend your spare time? I'm an avid fly fisherman and love exploring the world with my wife and two dogs.

Favorite vacation spot: We just returned from an incredible honeymoon in New Zealand. That will be hard to top!

Family: My wife, Sierra and two dogs; an eight-year-old Golden Retriever (Lola) and a 6-month-old rescue puppy (River).

If you could have any job, what would it be? I would enjoy working on a project that touches an international audience like the World Cup or Olympics. If not that, I would really enjoy working in the fly-fishing conservation industry to help preserve the natural resources that we have for future generations to experience.

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PAT MILLER:

You're the first to lend a helping hand and are never without a cheerful demeanor and can-do attitude. Every day we consider ourselves so lucky to have you on the Bethel Woods team.

Congratulations to you and the other distinguished honorees for making this special region a great place to live.

Andrew Knauer, DO

Garnet Health General Surgeon

BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Place of employment: Garnet Health Doctors, Department of Surgery and Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills, Chair of the Department of Surgery

Primary location: Garnet Health Medical Center - Catskills

Age: 33

Education: I completed my undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. I then went on to Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine where I earned my Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. I completed my post-graduate training in General Surgery at Garnet Health Medical Center.

Current title and duties: General Surgeon, diagnose and treat conditions of the gastrointestinal tract, abdominal wall, and soft tissue requiring surgical intervention.

Years of experience: 7 including post graduate training

Why did you choose this career? I always enjoyed working with my hands. Growing up, my dad and I worked on classic cars. Surgery blends the science of medicine along with the ability to use your hands and mind to help people. It was a perfect combination that allows me to make an impact and enjoy what I do.

Favorite part of your job: I enjoy all aspects of my job. From seeing patients in the office coming in with a problem, to fixing that problem in the operating room, and seeing them post-operatively. The continuity of care is special. I get to know my patients extremely well and provide them with the best care possible. It takes an entire team to make this process go well. I am fortunate to work with amazing people in the clinic, hospital, and operating room

that deliver top of line care to our community.

Most challenging part of your job: Unfortunately, medicine is not a perfect science and not all problems have perfect solutions. We try our best to help everyone that comes through our door but sometimes the medicine falls short. This is where it becomes important to treat the whole person and not just the medical problem at hand.

Favorite on-the-job memory: I have a lot of great memories. I especially enjoyed my residency training. Looking back at where I started from to where I am today is incredible. The help and support I received over these years from family, friends, and mentors has made all this possible.

How do you manage your time: This job can be extremely time-consuming. For me, I must find time throughout the days and weeks to



Andrew Knauer, DO

have for myself and spend with my family.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? A career in medicine takes dedication. It is a long road that seemingly never ends and can be intimidating. The key is trying to enjoy the journey and learning as much as possible

PLEASE SEE KNAUER, PAGE 11M

Congratulations, Andrew Knauer, DO.

Garnet Health Doctors, Department of Surgery;
Garnet Health Medical Center – Catskills, Chair of the Department of Surgery

We congratulate Dr. Knauer for being recognized as one of the *Sullivan County Democrat's* Men at Work for 2024. A skilled surgeon and true leader, Dr. Knauer is dedicated to providing exceptional healthcare. We celebrate his continued professional and personal contributions in helping to make our community healthier.



BY ALEX KIELAR

Brian Batten

Owner of Fins and Feathers

Age: 48**Education:** High School**Place of employment:** Fins and Feathers Inc.**Current title and duties:** Owner, President, Chief cook and Bottle washer.

I am an independent owner and operator of my company Fins and Feathers, Inc. I oversee 2-3 employees at any given time, and we all take care of day-to-day feeding, cleaning and overall maintenance for our birds, reptiles, small animals and over 800 gallons of various tropical fish.

Years of experience: 28**Why did you choose this career?**

I fell in love with pets during a high school job and things just took off from there.

Favorite part of your job: Over-

all, I love all parts of my job. Working with animals is very rewarding and helping others with their new pets is great.

Most challenging part of your job: The long hours. We are open seven days a week. With having live animals, I always say it's like being a farmer. The animals need us here at work rain or shine and there's no holiday. They all still want to be clean and have food.

Favorite on-the-job memory: It's not really one memory but my favorite is being here when any of the animals are giving birth. To see that moment happening is just heart warming, new life and new mom taking care of the baby or babies.

How do you manage your time: Routine schedule, everything has to do with the job, and we have a schedule of chores to get done every day. Some weeks this is tough when you get behind on things, but having a great staff we all pull together and get things done.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Be prepared to get dirty. There is far more grime than anyone envisions when they say I'd love to work at the pet shop.

Who inspires you? My parents have always been my inspiration. They were always hardworking. They taught me and my sisters right from the beginning that hard work is the path to the things you enjoy in life, there's no free ride.

Favorite movie or TV show: I really love all Sci-Fi type movies and programs. Love Star Wars, StarTrek, SeaQuest and many others. The thought of exploration is fascinating.

How do you spend your spare time? Work kind of spills over into my home. I have three dogs, two cats, eight parrots and two large aquariums. My love of tropical plants keeps me rather busy as well. Somehow in the mix of all this, I manage to find time to work



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brian Batten

with The Greater Honesdale Partnership in their various activities. That ranges from attending board meetings to event meetings, setting up for and tearing down from an event, helping with banners on Main St. and Central Park, putting up a Christmas Tree in the summer fountain and making sure all the lights on Honesdale's Main St. trees are working. All in all I really don't have "Spare Time" but I always make time for the things I love.

Favorite vacation spot: I love going to Disney World and Sea

World. But also love to go to the islands, anywhere that you can have blue water for scuba diving.

Family: James Batten Father, Patricia Batten Mother, Lori Ann Nicolini Sister, Pj Nicolini Brother-in-Law, Chloe Nicolini Niece (owner of Slate Plate) another Entrepreneur in the family, Aimee Gallagher Sister, Tom Gallagher Brother-in-Law, Connor Gallagher Nephew, Allie Gallagher Niece

If you could have any job, what would it be? Put me in Disney working with the animals at Animal Kingdom, especially the gorillas.

Congratulations,
Brian Batten!

The Greater Honesdale Partnership thanks you for your ongoing dedication and support.



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CONTINUED FROM 10M

every step of the way. Keeping your goal in mind can help motivate you during these tough times. Also, find something that you enjoy doing that is separate from medicine.

Who inspires you? My patients do. The courage and bravery I see in people is incredible, and I feel honored that they trust me with their care.

Favorite movie or TV show: House and Lost have always been two of my favorites.

Favorite actor and/or actress: Robert Downey Jr

How do you spend your spare time? With my family. I also enjoy golfing, watching/going to Cleveland sport events.

Favorite vacation spot: Any place with a beach

Family: Married to my wife Sarah and we have three children who keep us very busy. My Mom and Dad live in Erie, PA where I grew up. I have younger twin sisters who live in Cleveland, OH.

If you could have any job, what would it be? I love the job that I have. I can't imagine doing anything else. I feel blessed that I have been able to find something I enjoy so much that can make such an impact on people's lives.



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Brian McPhillips

Sullivan County Legislator, District 3

BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Age: 42

Education: Graduated from Liberty in 1999. Graduated from Mount Saint Mary College, Cum Laude, in 2003. I Majored in History/Political Science and Minored in Business Administration.

Place of employment: I am employed by New Hope Community. I am also the District 3 representative on the Sullivan County Legislature, and I am a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams

Current title and duties: I am currently the Facility Manager at New Hope Community. All vehicles, grounds and structures are part of our department. We are a support system for the Agency and do whatever we can to assist in the daily lives of people with disabilities.

Years of experience: Over 20 years in the Facilities and Construction trades.

Why did you choose this career? My father was an electrician for Liberty Schools and always worked in the facilities field. I always wanted to be as knowledgeable in all the trades as he was. I have been led by two very important people in my professional life who always went above and beyond for me and my professional growth. Gary Sawyer and Robert Deima, now unfortunately passed, were Facility Managers whom I worked under that were instrumental in shaping me into who I am today. The same can be said for Bill Prince, Bob Milling and Tariq Iqbal, my past and current managers, who were willing to invest in me and allow me learn the lessons I needed to suc-

ceed. They taught me that leading by example, hard work, reliability and working as a team is far more important than personal accolades.

Favorite part of your job: Although it is a career, I feel no difference in my private life vs. my work life. New Hope Community has been deeply rooted in a history of being a large family. I am very lucky to have shared so many great memories with co-workers and those we support. The devotion of the staff for the work they are tasked makes this job very rewarding. Our Facilities Crew is a great group of dedicated people who are committed to our Agency Mission, who do what it takes to get the job done. They are a group I highly respect, and I am forever grateful for them being part of my life.

Most challenging part of your



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Brian McPhillips

job: We hold very high standards in which the Facility is expected to be maintained. We also have a very large footprint across the County so being pulled in many different directions, handling Capital Improvement tasks, working with

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time constraints, preventative maintenance tasks as well as daily work requests while trying to stay on course is very challenging. Managing a 24 hour facility means you need to be ready for any emergency, day or night, weekday or weekend and knowing your actions and decisions can directly impact the lives of others is not taken lightly.

Favorite on-the-job memory: Our department has been part of some great team building excursions as well as supporting each other daily. Being there for each other in times of joy and sorrow, the support we have for each other, will forever stay with me.

How do you manage your time: I don't sleep. I try to maximize the hours in a day to get accomplished what I feel is on my plate. Running a facility and being involved in both Politics and Real Estate you need to make yourself available to others at all times of the day and night. I have worked very hard at always being approachable and being there for those that have issues and concerns.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field? Real Estate – Be honest, treat every sale like it is yours personally. Politics – Be true to yourself, owe nobody, be honest and listen. Facility Management – Do not take short cuts and be reliable. Even if you may not be able to fix something yourself know the avenues of how to get it handled correctly. Working in the field of supporting those with Informational and Intellectual disabilities (IDD) is such a rewarding career to be involved with. If you are looking to be challenged yet care deeply for those you work for, this is the service field for you.

Who inspires you? My family. I truly believe in the American dream, I work so they can have a better life. A little over 100 years ago my grandfather came to this county with nothing and each generation has worked as hard as possible to make the future generation that much better off than themselves. I do what I do not for me but so hopefully my daughters won't have to work as hard as I did. I would do

and give them everything I possibly can, for I am nothing without them.

Favorite movie or TV show: Gladiator

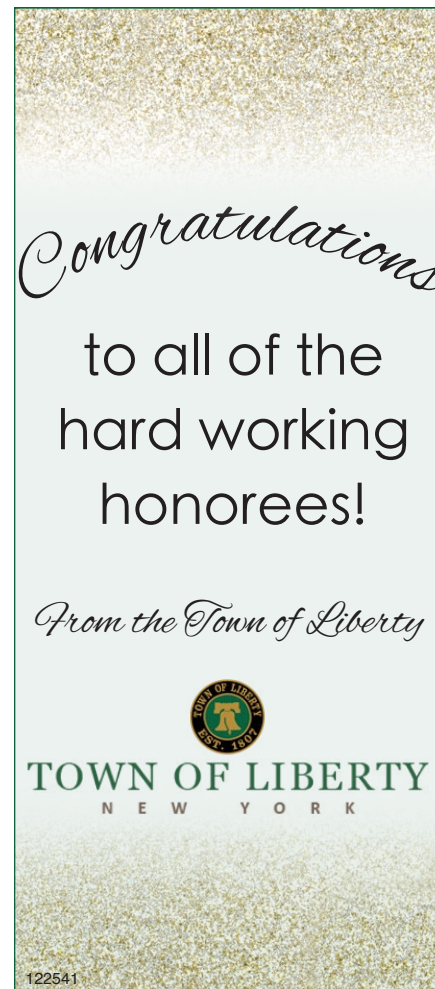
Favorite actor and/or actress: Jim Carrey

How do you spend your spare time? With my family or spending time outdoors, decompressing. I also have a small fortune invested into Legos and collectables, even though my wife refuses to call them anything other than toys.

Favorite vacation spot: Davenport, Florida

Family: I have been married to my beautiful wife, Jennifer, for 14 years. Our daughter Kristen lives in Florida, Emily who lives in Liberty and our baby girl Keira who is 8 going on 16.

If you could have any job, what would it be? A job where the money aspect or health coverage wasn't a necessary component. If I were ever able to become financially independent, I would like to lead a company as CEO or devote more time in government in an Executive capacity.



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Brendon Cunningham

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Brendon Cunningham

Town of Bethel Highway Department Heavy Equipment Operator

BY ANTHONY MORGANO

Age: 34

Education: High School Diploma

Place of employment: Town of Bethel Highway Department

Current title and duties: Heavy Equipment Operator

Years of experience: 13 and a half

Why did you choose this career? It is a great local job doing things outdoors.

Favorite part of your job: Running the Equipment. Most recently I have made a home ditching in the Excavator.

Most challenging part of your job: Dealing with the winter weather. Seems to be more and more unpredictable.

Favorite on-the-job memory:

Working alongside my dad daily.

How do you manage your time: With the highway department, every season brings a new job or opportunities to get things done. We have to do what we can in whatever time we are given. As we all know the seasons around here can change drastically in a matter of hours. Just when you think we can start ditching and preparing roads for paving the temperatures drop and we are back dealing with snow.

What advice do you have for someone entering your field?

Step up, learn everything you can, don't be afraid to try something new!

Who inspires you? My dad. I was lucky enough to work alongside and learn from him before he retired.

Favorite movie or TV show: Current show I am into is Joe Pickett.

Favorite actor and/or actress: Dennis Quaid

How do you spend your spare time? Spending as much time with my family, Camping, and, of course, the firehouse. (White Lake)

Favorite vacation spot: Disney Fort Wilderness Campground

Family: The most amazing, beautiful wife Brittany and 3 amazing children Owen, Brooke, and Gavin.

If you could have any job, what would it be? Career Firefighter

**CONGRATS TO BRENDON
JOB WELL DONE!!**

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