

DEALING WITH THE CRISIS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC HITS HOME

by John Conway

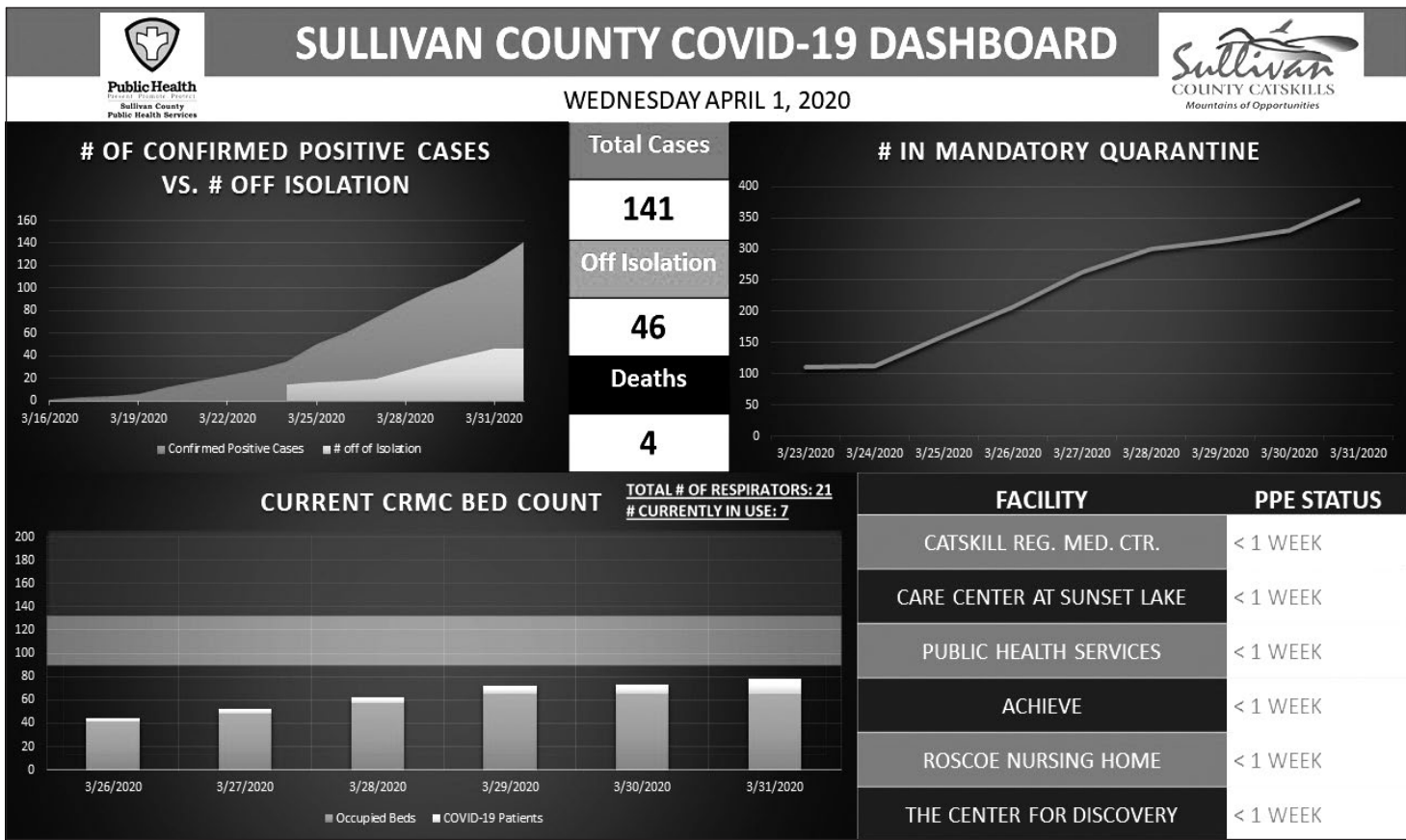
MONTICELLO – As the month of April began last Wednesday, Sullivan County officials confirmed that the number of COVID-19 cases in the County had grown to 141 and the number of deaths had risen to four.

Officials also said that the number of people in the County under mandatory quarantine had risen to more than 300, up from 100 cases just one week before. On the brighter side, there were 46 local cases that had come off isolation. Catskill Regional Medical Center in Harris currently has 21 ventilators on premises, and 11 of them were being used as of April 1.

In order to keep residents informed as the COVID-19

situation continues in flux, county officials have been conducting video Town Hall sessions three times a week, answering questions submitted ahead of time. District 3 Legislator Mike Brooks, the Vice Chairman of the Sullivan County Legislature, has been moderating the sessions, while County Manager Josh Potossek, Public Health Director Nancy McGraw, and Sheriff Mike Schiff have been handling the questions.

While the lives of most county residents have changed dramatically in the past two weeks, most people appear to be heeding the guidelines established by authorities. Those guidelines include the prohibition of public meetings and group gatherings, and the shuttering of many businesses.



The latest statistics from Sullivan County officials as of April 1.

PHOTO PROVIDED

EARLY INTERVENTION, PRE-K IN-HOME SERVICES SUSPENDED;

WIC APPOINTMENTS BY PHONE ONLY

LIBERTY – After careful deliberation, Sullivan County Public Health Services has notified providers that all Early Intervention (EI) and Committee for Pre-school Special Education (CPSE) direct/face-to-face services are suspended until further notice. Families will be notified as well.

“We realize this is a hardship on our providers and the families they serve, but we believe this decision is in their best interests, given the increasing rate of community transmission of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Sullivan County and surrounding counties,” Public Health Director Nancy McGraw

said.

EI telehealth services can continue until April 6, per State guidance. However, the NYS Education Department indicated that telehealth is not approved for CPSE at this time.

Ms. McGraw has also announced that the Sullivan County WIC (Women, Infants and Children) offices in Liberty and Monticello are no longer open to the public, though they continue to accept calls and emails.

“While we want to protect our staff from COVID-19 transmission, we also want to continue providing benefits and vital nutrition services to families receiving WIC services, including

breastfeeding support which will be conducted by phone,” Ms. McGraw stated. “Families will continue to have access to our staff at their scheduled appointment times via phone and can call the office with questions at 845-513-2233.”

“Please know we appreciate everyone’s efforts to ensure the health and safety of not only our providers and the families they treat but the Sullivan County community as well,” Ms. McGraw added. “For updates and information on the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit [www.health.ny.gov/coronavirus](http://www.health.ny.gov/coronavirus) and [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).”

MONTICELLO-- Sullivan County Manager Joshua Potossek has ordered a two-month extension of the deadline for owners to repurchase their tax-foreclosed properties.

“The State of Emergency will continue in Sullivan County for the foreseeable future, so I am taking this and other actions to preserve the health and welfare of our residents and property owners

as much as possible,” Mr. Potossek explained.

“People are suffering, and while my office can’t resolve the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we can ease the financial pain,” County Treasurer Nancy Buck said. “Therefore, the County’s repurchase deadline will be June 20, 2020, rather than April 20.”

The real property tax auc-

tion, normally held in June, is also being postponed, though a new date has not yet been set.

“We’ve all been affected by this crisis, so we all need to help one another get through it,” Legislature Chairman Robert Doherty said. “That applies more than ever to the people you elected to office. We will be with you every step of the recovery.”

Meanwhile, the County’s

suspension of the collection of 85 per cent of room taxes continues through April 16. The Care Center at Sunset Lake remains closed to visitors, though no new cases of COVID-19 have been detected in the facility. Many County workers continue to telecommute or assist the Public Health Services Call Center (845-292-5910) and the Emergency Community Assistance

Center (845-807-0925), the latter of which has regularly been delivering food to the homebound and coordinating other charitable outreach efforts.

Governor Andrew Cuomo has also announced that schools will remain closed through April 15, which supersedes the County’s order closing schools through April 3.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL EATERY

FALLSBURG – Town of Fallsburg officials are urging residents to support their local businesses in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak and the State of Emergency that has been declared in Sullivan County.

While many of the restaur-

ants in the Town have temporarily closed as the result of the crisis, others remain open for pick-up and/or delivery. Although the list may change depending on conditions, the following chart contains information on what’s open and closed as of March 31.

	Business	Phone	Delivery	Pickup	Hours	Open
Mountain Dale	Sandburgs	845-693-4980			Store Open, Deli Closed	
	The Dale	845-640-2502	No	Yes	5-9PM	Thurs-Sun
	High Voltage	845-693-4115	No	Yes	4-8PM	Thurs-Sun
Hurleyville	Pickled Owl	845-693-5322	Yes	Yes	11AM-3PM	Sat-Sun
	Nardi's	845-434-8051			Temp. Closed	
	Hville Market	845-707-8434			Temp. Closed	
Loch Sheldrake	Bum&Kels	845-434-7427			Temp. Closed	
	New China Restaurant	845-434-3950			Temp. Closed	
Woodridge	Tonys	845-434-4073	No	Yes	12-9PM	all week
Fallsburg	ming moon	845-434-2189			Temp. Closed	
	La Copanina	845-436-8500	Yes	Yes	12-8PM	Mon-Sat
*if you are an open eatery in the Town of Fallsburg contact Melissa Melko to be added to the list. 845-434-8810 x 5 OR <a href="mailto:mmelko@fallsburgny.com">mmelko@fallsburgny.com</a>						

THE SILVER LINING

Experts See Some Positive Takeaways

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – The recent outbreak of COVID-19 has disrupted the lives of billions of people throughout the world, and Sullivan County has not escaped the turmoil. Virtually everyone has had to make adjustments in their everyday routine as the number of confirmed cases continues to grow.

County officials have attempted to provide regular updates, not just on the progression of the disease locally, but on measures being taken to deal with the exponential spread. Nancy McGraw, the County’s Public Health Director, has been

among the most visible officials in dispensing that information, and although she admits that the outbreak has “hit us hard” and is likely to have long term impacts we can’t even begin to predict at this time, she says there are some positive takeaways, as well, so people should remain optimistic.

“While it seems hard to see the positives from this global outbreak, there are some very notable ones,” she says. “We have been reminded how close we are to one another as an entire human race, how much we depend upon one another, and how much we truly value that connection when something like this pandemic af-

fects our daily lives.

“The importance of washing your hands has become a way of life more than ever before, and I think this, and other habits of cleanliness will be remembered for generations to come. And this pandemic has motivated us to rise up to a challenge unlike anything we’ve ever faced, and I’m hopeful that compassion and willingness to come together to solve community problems and crises will continue long after this situation has passed.”

Carol Ryan is Sullivan County’s former Public Health Director, retiring from the post in 2013. She presently is the president



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Nancy McGraw, MPH, LCSW

of Health Promotion Strategies, LLC in Monticello, a consulting firm to the health, public health and the mental health fields. She agrees that there are a number of positives that could come out of the crisis.

“As with any challenge we face individually or as a society, there have also



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Carol Ryan, RN, MPH

been some important learning opportunities from the pandemic,” she says.

“People more or less on ‘lockdown’ at home have a unique opportunity to re-evaluate how important many activities and habits are in their lives, and to reprioritize. Many people have expressed a new grati-

tude for health, for life, for sunshine, simplicity, sleep, pets and our families. Many have also gained a new perspective from comparing the usual frenetic and generally unhealthy pace of everyday life to this new slower and healthier pace.

“The cessation of public gatherings has opened the way for new solutions and creativity to maintaining our society: it has been interesting to watch conferences become virtual Town Halls, support groups like Weight Watchers and others switch to virtual platforms like Zoom or Google Hangouts and the annual RISE walk become a virtual walk, for example.

“Our society has always valued physicians. But it has been heartening to see a new appreciation for public health and for all kinds of others who make up the backbone of our society: nurses and other health care workers, teachers, housekeeping staff, grocery clerks, utility workers, trash collection staff, restaurant workers and so many others who keep everything important running smoothly.

“It has been uplifting to see the acts of kindness and the sheer humanity displayed by so many people and organizations, whether delivering food to the hungry, reaching out to vulnerable neighbors in need or

providing free services such as car washes for health care providers. All kinds of free online concerts are popping up, the Metropolitan Opera is streaming operas for free, there is a nonstop online music video “peace channel”, and the New England aquarium is live streaming virtual visits with activities for kids, to name a few things.”

To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, every crisis is made up of both danger and opportunity, and the current national crisis has presented plenty of both.

The key, officials agree, is to acknowledge the danger, but to focus on the opportunity.



## The Inquiring Photographer

by Kathleen Sullivan



*Q, "How are you reacting to the pandemic?" (Inquired at a "social distance")*

### BREAD OF LIFE FOOD PANTRY



KATRINA JAYCOX

I'm working on small projects at home. I'm keeping in touch with the community and other food pantries to help with distribution of much-needed food supplies. And, of course, I'm staying in touch with family and friends.



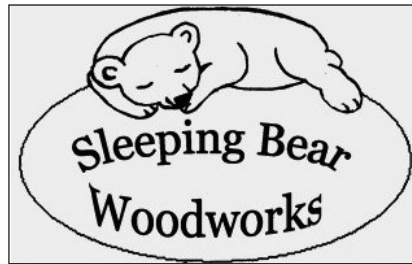
BONNIE MAKOFISKY

I'm not trivializing it...I love it. I'm a hermit by nature. Psychosocially I'm doing fine. I'm a nurse and I understand the need for it. I wish the White House and some of the media had not minimized the situation.



HEATHER QUAINANCE

I'm practicing social distancing while making sure I get fresh air. AND I'm making sure that I'm out of my daytime pj's and into my nighttime pj's at 9pm.



LES WITHEREL

I live on the mountain. I'm taking all the precautions that I can. I'm taking it very seriously. I don't want to be part of the problem.

## Hamlet Happenings

by Kathleen Sullivan



### Hurleyville-Sullivan First

Watch for work dates! The members of Hurleyville-Sullivan First will soon need help to get gardens, planters and barrels ready for planting.

Find information about Hurleyville-Sullivan First at [www.hurlevillenys.com](http://www.hurlevillenys.com) or on Facebook.

### The Sullivan County Museum and the Sullivan County Historical Society

The Sullivan County Museum is closed for now. The First Sunday Concert in April featuring the Dirty Stay Out Skiffers will be rescheduled.

All research requests have been placed on hold. Access to the Historical Society's email account is not available at this time. Please contact Suzanne Cecil at [seecil@hvc.rr.com](mailto:seecil@hvc.rr.com) if you have any questions. Photos of the BOCES Elementary Student Art dis-



PHOTO PROVIDED

play have been posted on [www.scnyhistory.org](http://www.scnyhistory.org).

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

### Hurleyville United Methodist Church

The Hurleyville United Methodist Church is closed for the time being. Pastor

### Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance

The members of Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance continue to keep an eye on news about the proposed Gan Eden Estates project on Columbia Hill.

As reported last month, the developer of the project has

to schedule a new site plan review with the Town of Thompson Planning Board, submit a draft scoping document and plan a public information session.

Visit Columbia Hill Neighborhood Alliance at [www.columbiahill.org](http://www.columbiahill.org) or on Facebook to learn how you can help to protect your community.



PHOTO PROVIDED

## The Scene

Music and Entertainment in and around Hurleyville



by Jane Harrison

Obviously, with all of the venues closed now, I can't let you know who I've seen. Being at high risk, I've self-isolated since mid-March, BUT this does not mean I haven't found ways to amuse, entertain and remain creative.

For those who enjoy fiber arts (knitting, crocheting, weaving, etc.), Annie of FIBER ON MAIN has created a page on Facebook called OPEN STUDIO where you can show off what you're working on and interact with other fiber artists in much the same way we did at her Open Studio on Wednesday nights. The picture that accompanies this column is of a project I've been working on for a while, only because I haven't had a lot of time. Now that I have time, I've been able to finish the front and back and am ready to start the sleeves!

By the same token, many musicians, even though they are forced to play solo, are putting up videos of either new songs or "feel good" covers also on Facebook. Search out your favorites and enjoy.

In addition, search out your favorite restaurants to see if they offer take-out. Just because there's a "stay at home" doesn't mean you can't treat yourself!

As for me, let me assure you, I am well. And going from 50-



PHOTO BY JANE HARRISON

60 hours a week between everything I was doing to zero has been quite an adjustment. I have chosen "self-awareness" over all the other things I could be feeling.

Let me share what I have learned so far:

Exactly how much (actually how little) dry food my three cats eat in a day

They have self-chosen their 'feeding spots'

They have coordinated with each other for "lap time."

Certain people call to check on you, followed by "Now that you have the time, can you.....?"

I automatically pick up the TV remote when I go to another room, even if the TV isn't on

Then I have to search for the TV remote

I haven't lost the ability to cook from scratch

I really enjoy knitting and crocheting, even though I've been using these as stress-reducers for years

If I must go out (groceries only – forget the laundromat for right now!), I time it with a sunny day. I hang my "outside clothes" in that sun upon returning home

Sitting outside in the sun is comforting

And watching only 15 minutes of news is good for my mental health

After I finish sanitizing my apartment (I have faced a crunch in my "work at home" responsibilities):

I plan to learn the camera I received from a photojournalist friend

*Stay safe and mentally positive and we'll all get through this.*

*Until next time.....*



GRAPHIC BY DEAN MCMANUS

## MILK TRAIN TRAIL TAKES ON NEW ROLE

*Exercise in the Age of Social Distancing*

by John Conway

HURLEYVILLE – Local hiking trails have seen increased traffic in recent weeks, not just because of the arrival of spring, but in response to the relative isolation the Coronavirus pandemic has brought about for many.

Experts agree that fresh air and sunshine and moderate exercise are essential elements in staying healthy during these challenging times, and local trails pro-

vide excellent opportunities for these things without compromising the concept of social distancing.

The Milk Train Trail is no exception.

And the Milk Train Trail offers the advantage of alternating directions from the center of town in order to avoid the monotony of taking the same walk every day. Both directions feature interesting sights that change almost daily-- certainly weekly-- this time of year, as well as informative

interpretive signs that enhance the experience.

Rail trails are popular with people of all shapes and sizes, all ages and abilities because they provide flat, level surfaces with delineated boundaries and defined beginnings and ends. The Milk Train Trail ups the ante by providing three miles of paved surface, two miles heading west (toward Ferndale) and a mile heading east (toward South Fallsburg). That added feature makes the trail accessible to everyone, even those with mobility issues.

The editors of Prevention magazine write that "with the right precautions, exercising outside is one of the best ways to feel better during a stressful time." Remember to maintain the

recommended six feet between you and others while walking or biking on or otherwise using the Rail Trail, and be sure to wash your hands before and after your walk, and to disinfect frequently-used items on a regular basis.

One other piece of advice from Prevention magazine: leave the mask at home.

"Healthy exercise requires plenty of access to oxygen, and wearing a surgical mask or N95 respirator makes it much harder to breathe," they write. "For now, the CDC 'does not recommend the routine use of respirators outside of workplace settings.' Leave the mask behind and enjoy the fresh air instead."

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# THINC DOES ITS PART

## Lab Busy Helping During Crisis

by Denise Sullivan

HURLEYVILLE – The Digital Media Lab at the Technology Hub and Incu-

bator (THINC Lab) is bright with studio lights and green screen, a camera ready to film sits on its tripod.

Julie Palmer, the Digital

Media Lab Project Coordinator, is either actively filming or quietly editing videos of staff members from The Center for Discovery (TCFD). In three short weeks since residents of TCFD have been confined to their houses amid the Corona Virus outbreak, she has recorded videos almost non-stop. Music therapy, dance classes, sound healing sessions, recreation / integrated arts activities, yoga and nursing “how-to” videos are just some of the content that will be uploaded to the TCFD network, with more sessions on the schedule. She will also “burn” DVDs of all the recorded content, so that videos can be viewed on old – school televisions. This is one of the many ways the THINC lab has switched gears to help the TCFD family adjust to a new reality.

In the American Portfolios Assistive Technology Lab down the hall, Mark McNamara, Design and Fabrication Coordinator at THINC, is discussing the production of medical

grade face shields for medical staff. The 3D printer near his workstation moves endlessly, printing four headgear pieces at a time. Each headgear piece will get a clear sheet of acetate attached, and then a rubber band that will hold it onto an adult head. The process is working, but one 3D printer by itself is painfully slow during a fast – spreading pandemic. Only four face shields per day can be made using the single 3D printing process.

What do makers and innovators do when faced with a problem? They keep on problem-solving, no matter what happens. Senior Assistive Technologist Vinnie Collura brings in a different version of the face shield that they have collaborated on, this one made with a closed-cell foam headgear piece that is quick and easy to pre-cut. This iteration of the face shield will allow many clear acetate guards to be laser cut at once on a very fast machine. Spray glue and elastic bands finish the personal protective

equipment (PPE) in minutes. Director of Innovation Jason Kean oversees the process, facilitating the purchase of materials while maintaining open communication with senior leadership at TCFD.

The THINC team obtained, and then modified, the 3D print file for face shield from a worldwide group of makers sharing solutions to the shortage of PPE items. The website getusppe.org explains the effort:

“Fueled by a desire to help in the fight against COVID-19, makers, hackers, engineers, and manufacturers from around the world have joined together with medical professionals to get frontline healthcare workers the necessary protection they need to stay safe.”

The Integrated Arts team at TCFD, comprising Recreation, Music Therapy and Dramatic Arts, Therapeutic Dance, and Therapeutic Horticulture, are pivoting in order to deliver activities to homebound residents in creative ways, using the



PHOTO PROVIDED

Julie Palmer (left) films an instructional video at THINC.

THINC Lab for the creation of portable kits and games.

Sam Rose, Director of Recreation Therapy, assembled bird house making kits with pre-cut wood pieces, tools, paint and, of course, a video to instruct as well as remind residents of a friendly, familiar face. He

enlisted Mr. McNamara’s help to design the tabletop sock hole game, a smaller indoor version of the corn hole game. It comes to residents and house staff as two flat, cardboard puzzles to be assembled and painted before balling up socks used in place of beanbags.

By the time of publication, many more shifts, pivots, and problem – solving sessions will have taken place at THINC and at TCFD as a whole. What will not change is the caring, dedicated work and innovation that provide hope for all.

## THE STATE OF SUNY SULLIVAN

LOCH SHELDRAKE – SUNY Sullivan President Jay Quaintance has issued the following statement on the state of the college:

“While we are all focusing on the expanding COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our community, I wanted to take an opportunity to let you know of some of the things that are happening at SUNY Sullivan to support our students and our county now and in the future.

“Contrary to what you might have heard, SUNY Sullivan is not closed; instead we are operating in a new way. While the campus buildings are not accessible to the general public, the entire College has pulled together to support our students and local community. Our amazing faculty and staff are working with the entire SUNY system and our community partners such as Sullivan County BOCES, local school districts, Catskill Regional Medical Center and Sullivan 180 to provide high quality educational opportunity and social support at a time when it is needed most.

“Currently enrolled students can rest assured that they will be able to continue in their program of study uninterrupted. Spring semester classes resume on Monday, March 30 using online and distance learning tools. Students will continue to have access to all the educational and emotional support systems they would normally have if the buildings were open and are being notified of how to access these. Online registration for summer and fall 2020 courses is open at [www.sunysullivan.edu](http://www.sunysullivan.edu). “In order to ensure that



PHOTO PROVIDED

SUNY Sullivan President Jay Quaintance

emergency personnel in the county can do their jobs at this critical time, we are working with BOCES and the school districts to provide temporary daycare for their children. And, we have donated equipment from our Nursing and Respiratory Care programs to CRMC to help serve patients and protect staff.

“As we increase social distancing and move our lives on-line we may find that we explore and experience our community in new ways. For instance, in an effort to support the mental, physical and nutritional wellbeing of the community at large, we are partnering with Sullivan 180 to offer free distance learning classes to the community. Sullivan 180 Community Health Champions will be utilizing SUNY Sullivan’s distance learning platforms to offer classes such as mindfulness, nutrition and fitness. Classes will be open to all ages and abilities.

“The impact of COVID-19 will last. This situation presents many opportunities to address students’ needs in innovative ways. We recognize that many people will need retraining to participate in the inevitable economic recovery in which many

employment sectors may no longer provide the jobs they once did. So, in addition to offering our current two-year degrees and certificates, SUNY Sullivan is looking to the future by building new professional development and certification programs, in the fields of Healthcare, Sustainability, and Business and Entrepreneurship for example, which will be both accessible and affordable.

“At times like this I’m reminded of words recited by kids all across the country: the 4H pledge. As a person from a family with a long history in 4H, I think about what an impact this simple pledge has had on me and my life. It really sums up how I think about my job as a community college professional. Now more than ever:

“I pledge my head to clearer thinking,

My heart to greater loyalty,

My hands to larger service,

and my health to better living,

for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

“As we move forward we will all look for ways to better educate ourselves, engage in professional development programs, and expand community engagement; I remain optimistic that the members of our community will emerge from this trying time as better prepared citizens. While we don’t yet know how long we will be working and living in this new way, I am confident that we will come out stronger, more skilled, and smarter than when this started. SUNY Sullivan is here and we are #sunysullivanstrong.

## Out Divine Corners Way

by Jonathan Shimkin

A queasy spring sets in. All the eagerly anticipated signs are there, earlier than usual this year. Geese are resettled and honking in the pond along the Milk Train Trail in Hurleyville. On March 2nd (I noted the date, it was so far ahead of schedule), a squadron of awakened squirrels ran riot around our lawn, engaging in the squirrel version of team sports, clusters of two or three of them chasing one another in complicated zig-zag patterns, carrying on for hours. And, of course, the landscape looks as serene and timeless as ever: mountains, fields, forest, softened in the balmy air and light.

Yet a sense of disquiet has infiltrated the very air. The landscape looks the same but is pervaded by a sense of difference, like a subtle shadow over everything, giving rise to doubts about what might be circulating in those warming currents of air. Is it safe to go out? Should we risk a trip to Shoprite? We dutifully track the numbers: morbidity rates, stock market gyrations, case loads per nation, per state, per region. We keep tabs as the surrounding counties register their first cases: Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, Delaware. Something is drawing closer and its arrival in these quarters is only a matter of time.

This is usually a season of glad tidings: spring forward! with the clock dial. Instead, I worry; when that seems futile, I stop worrying – until I start again... This toggle switch of concern goes on and off and on with a news cycle that continually provokes my reaction and determines my mood. This cycle won’t resolve anytime soon.

Neighbors and others have been extra solicitous and gentle, asking after health and how we’re weathering

The Emergency (a designation that arrived, way behind schedule, on Friday the 13th). Emergencies usually draw people together, yet we’ve been enjoined to practice “social distancing” as a practical necessity. After three years of savage shredding of the standards of civility and comity in public life, “social distancing” sounds less like a clinical practice and more like the inevitable conclusion of our ruinous politics. The virus arrives with an awful and irresistible sense of metaphorical aptness, even as one resists the tendency to indulge in moralizing about it.

And so a certain sense of morbidity comports with the fresh signs of spring. This is a mixture not unfamiliar to art or philosophy or any act of imagination that stretches to encompass the vicissitudes of human experience. Nature’s fluidity contains all possibilities, as Wordsworth knew when he devoted a sonnet to the theme of “Mutability”: “From low to high doth dissolution climb, / And sink from high to low, along a scale / Of awful notes, whose concord shall not fail...”

One can do worse than turn to the Romantics in times like these! They knew a thing or two about the changes nature and flesh are heir to, and placed their faith in a concord surpassing such disquiet as afflicts our springtime. Wordsworth concludes his poem by invoking “the unimaginable touch of Time,” capitalizing “time” as if it were the tonic resolving all discordant notes: weal and woe, health and sickness, growth and dissolution. I take a bit of comfort in the thought that, though we change the clocks in March, time (or Time) remains untouched and keeps on flowing in its own unimaginable serenity.

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The Hurleyville Market is a warm and welcoming gathering space on Main Street. Open 7 days a week, the Market offers artisan breads, baked goods, locally roasted coffee, specialty and organic items, and a variety of handmade gifts.

**238 Main Street, Hurleyville, NY | Phone: (845) 707-8434**  
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**(845) 436-9111**

**WISHING YOU A SAFE SUMMER SEASON**



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

I have used the above paragraph since I started writing this column. Today because of the Cornoravirus things have changed.

All of the State Training and County Training has been suspended until at least April 19.

As with most fire departments, our firehouse has been closed to the public until further notice. Our Monday night drills have also been suspended. Small groups led by a line officer are checking on and maintaining the firehouse and equipment. It may take a couple of days to do what we did on a Monday night drill.

This is so that all of our firefighters and officers are not in the same room at the same time. Should any health problems occur it could shut down our whole fire service.

Rest assured that ALL EMERGENCIES will be handled just as before the outbreak.

I have been working in the Sullivan County Emergency Operations Center delivering supplies the last few weeks, and the amount of goodness that I am seeing throughout the County is heartwarming. Many, many citizens are listening and doing what is right, some are offering help and what little supplies they have to others.

Don't forget to check on your neighbors. And those of you who have enough toilet paper for the next ten years see if you elderly neighbor who didn't get to the store needs any.

If you do have an emergency and call 911, let the dispatcher know if you are quarantined, under mandatory isolation or are showing any systems of the Cornoravirus. We are a still coming to help you, but will take additional precautions to prevent our members from becoming exposed and possibly infected.

My next fear is "Brush Fire Season." It has already



started. We get a couple of nice days in a row and we have had a number of brush fires on those days. Then we get a break with snow, sleet and rain. Then it gets windy and things dry up and we get brush fires. I know that you are

going to be home and on a nice day you will clean up your lawn and end up with a "burn pile."

The "Burn Ban" is in effect until May 14. **NO OPEN BURNING.**

Be safe and smart out there.

FROM THE FILES OF...

## THE HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL.

The Only Newspaper Published in the Town of Fallsburgh

COMPILED BY **Sullivan County Historian John Conway**

April 9, 1913

### Obituary of John S. Prince

John S. Prince, one of Hurleyville's oldest and most highly esteemed citizens, passed away last night at his home here at the age of about sixty-six years.

The cause of death was acute congestion of the lungs.

Mr. Prince had been in poor health during this past winter for the for the past two weeks had said he was feeling much better. Sunday he was taken with a heavy cold which compelled him to take to his bed.

John S. Prince was born in the town of Thompson on September 16, 1846, the son of William S. Prince and Jane Hill Prince, his wife of Mongaup Centre, which is about three miles from Hurleyville. He remained at home until he became of age, and then followed the lumber business, and managed Kilbourne's Mill for a number of years.

In September, 1884, he with his brother Wilber J. established the feed, lumber, and coal business at Hurleyville under the firm name Prince Brothers.

In 1906, he was elected Supervisor of the Town of Fallsburgh, which office he held for two terms.



HURLEYVILLE SENTINEL FILE PHOTO  
**Businessman John S. Prince, dead at 66**

a fellow roomer at a Mongaup Valley bungalow in the summer of 1934.

Mrs. Great was represented by attorney Ellsworth Baker of Hurleyville.

### First Public Affair Held in New Sheldrake Bar & Grill

Enthusiastic approval of the newly opened Sheldrake Bar and Grill was expressed by the crowd of Loch Sheldrake firemen and their wives at the first public social gathering held there on Tuesday evening.

A regular firemen's meeting was held in one of the lodge rooms on the second floor of the large new log cabin type building during the earlier part of the evening while the feminine members of the party enjoyed card games in the downstairs dining room. After the meeting, the crowd enjoyed bingo, followed by the serving of refreshments. Prizes were won by Mr. and Mrs. Max Berman, Mrs. John Bullock, Mrs. Wm. McCarthy, Clifford Moore, Leo Mentnech, Ernest Porter, Ike Fraley, Joe Sabinsky, and Phil Miller.

April 23, 1937

### Jury Indicts Ross for First Degree Murder After Arrest in Mtdale

A claw hammer with a

April 9, 1937

### Jury Acquits Woman on Larceny Charge

Mrs. Madeline Great, twenty-eight, was acquitted of grand larceny on Tuesday by a Supreme Court jury before Justice Sydney F. Foster in the first criminal case heard in Supreme Court at Monticello in five years. The jury deliberated less than two hours.

Mrs. Great had been indicted for theft of \$500 in bills from the luggage of

## FROM THE FALLSBURG LIBRARY

by Kelly Wells & Amanda Letohic



We hope you are all doing well during this crazy and trying time. As you are surely aware by now, we are sadly closed until further notice. Although we are not in our building, and not offering any programs currently, we are still hard at work trying to best serve all of you!

We have talked about our digital resources before, and now seems like the perfect time to remind you all of that. You can download the OverDrive or Libby apps, which will give you access to thousands of e-books, e-magazines, e-audiobooks, and even some e-videos. All you need is your library card number and PIN (should be the last four digits of the phone number you gave to us when you registered for your library card). If you do not have a library card – you can get a temporary e-card through OverDrive by just entering your cell phone number.

Another option is you can email us at [fbr@rcls.org](mailto:fbr@rcls.org) and give us your name, address, and phone number and we can make a temporary library

card for you so that you can access all of our digital content until we are able to be fully open again. Please note that processing time may take 24-48 hours, we will send you an email with your library card number and pin number when we complete the set up process. If you do not know your pin, you can email us as well and we will look it up for you.

Your library card will also give you access to the Consumer Reports Database and Rosetta Stone online software – so you can make the most of your time and maybe learn a second, third, or fourth language!

If you have little ones at home – we do a live story time on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 2 p.m. on our Instagram. Be sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date on our status. Also, please be sure to complete your 2020 Census – make sure you're counted!

Thank you for your continued support and we hope to see you all again real soon! Until then, be well!

## SPOTLIGHT ON A HURLEYVILLE TREASURE

by Kathleen Sullivan

### Joseph LaRuffa

Described as "a legend" by his nephew, Joseph LaRuffa was born on March 19, 1922 in Oyster Bay on Long Island.

He was the fourth of eleven children-- two boys and nine girls-- born to Frank and Angelina LaRuffa.

A graduate of Oyster Bay High School and a clarinet player, Joe received a scholarship to study music at the University of Miami. His studies were interrupted by his service in the United States Army during World War II.

He was awarded the American Service Medal, the European, African and Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal in recognition of his participation in campaigns throughout Europe during the war.

Joe completed his education after the war. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from New York University in 1950, and a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University in 1954.

He began his career as an educator in 1950 in Clinton County, NY. In 1954, Joe began a 30-year career as the music and band director at the Fallsburg Central School District.

Joe married the love of his life, Jeannette (Jenny) Andresky, in 1957. They made their home in the house in Hurleyville that Jenny was born in. Their children, Mary Ann, Angela and Frank, became musicians and played in Joe's concert bands.

The Fallsburg concert bands' performances were outstanding under Joe's di-



PHOTO PROVIDED  
**The LaRuffa family (left to right) Angela, Mary Ann, Frank, Joe, Olivia and Jenny.**



PHOTO PROVIDED  
**Joe LaRuffa doing what he loved**

rection. The bands played at the 1964 World's Fair and the 1965 commencement ceremony at SUNY Sullivan. A memorable performance was at the opening ceremony of the hospital in Ellenville in 1966, where the audience included President Lyndon Johnson.

Joe served as chairman of the Hertz Scholarship while teaching in Fallsburg. The fund has been renamed the Hertz-LaRuffa Scholarship

and provides financial assistance for graduating Fallsburg students.

He represented Clinton County schools and later Sullivan County schools while serving as a delegate to the New York State School Music Association.

Joe also served as president of the Clinton County Music Education Association and the Sullivan County Music Education Association.

During the 1960s, Joe helped create the Empire State Music Camp in Hurleyville. The camp enabled young people to grow their knowledge of music in the beautiful Catskill Mountains.

Joe's dedication as a teacher earned him the Outstanding Secondary Educator Award in 1975. He was the second person inducted into the Fallsburg Central School District Hall of Fame in 2014.

A member of the Hurleyville Fire Department for more than 55 years, Joe served as the department's secretary. He also served as secretary and treasurer of the Hurleyville Fire District. A Town of Fallsburg Councilman for 16 years, Joe was a member of the Town of Fallsburg Lions Club, and a two-time president of the Hurleyville Chamber of Commerce.

Retirement didn't slow Joe down. He gave music lessons in his home in Hurleyville during the summer. He taught for more than 20 years in the Pinellas County Middle Schools while spending time in his winter home in St. Petersburg, Florida. Joe helped his retirement community become resident-owned and he served as the community's first president for four years.

Joe passed away on October 6, 2019. His memory is cherished by his wife, Jenny, his daughters, Mary Ann and Angela, his son, Frank, his daughter-in-law, Jennifer, and his grandchildren, Olivia and Joe.

Joe is certainly one of Hurleyville's special treasures.

Visit [www.hurleyvillenyny.com](http://www.hurleyvillenyny.com) to find more treasures in Hurleyville.

strand of hair held fast with blood clinched a first degree murder indictment on Wednesday against Mischa Ross, Broadway booking agent who was taken into custody at the home of his father-in-law, Nathan Nesselowitz, at Mountindale by Sullivan County authorities early Monday morning as the man who had followed Tania Lubova, twenty-five, night club violinist, into the sound proof studio in which she was beaten to death with a hammer. Identification was made by an elevator operator in the studio building at Times Square, New York, in which the girl's body was discovered Sunday. The hammer was positively identified as one that disappeared from a hotel room which the suspect had used an hour before the murder.

### Slander Suit Defendant Gets Particulars Order

Judge Sydney F. Foster has granted the application of Mrs. Rachel Penski of Hurleyville for a bill of particulars from Dr. Harry Jacobs, Hurleyville physician, who has begun a \$25,000 slander action against Mrs. Penski for alleged defamatory remarks made in Hebrew in March, 1935 at the Hotel Sunset in Hurleyville.

The motion for the bill of particulars, filed by Mrs.

Penski's son, Samuel, an attorney, sought information as to the time of the alleged slander, and the names of the witnesses reputed to have heard the remarks. Justice Foster denied a motion to dismiss the complaint.

### Town of Fallsburgh Established 111 Years

This month marks the 111th anniversary of the Town of Fallsburgh, according to time-yellowed records on file in the offices of Town Clerk Mortimer Michaels.

The Town of Fallsburgh was first established on Tuesday, April 4, 1826 at the first town meeting, held in a school house near Neversink Flats. An act had been passed the previous week to erect a new township from parts of the Towns of Thompson and Neversink.

At their first meeting, the few citizens present elected their entire board without dissension. Herman Hardenburgh was chosen Supervisor; Rachel Reading, Town Clerk; James Brown, John Crawford, and Cornelius Eller, Assessors; Harvey Ludington, Henry Misner, and John Eller, Commissioners of Highway; Elmarter Starr, Thomas Lawrence, and James Hill, Commissioners of Common Schools.

## Online "COVID-19 Information & Resource Guide" Available

ALBANY – The office of NYS Senator Jen Metzger (SD-42) has assembled an Information & Resource Guide to provide constituents with accurate, up-to-date information on the COVID-19 outbreak and actions being taken at state, federal, and local levels that are important for residents and businesses to know about.

The guide, which is continuously updated, covers a range of topics, including prevention and closure updates, COVID-19 testing information, school meal availability, relief to homeowners and renters, and more.

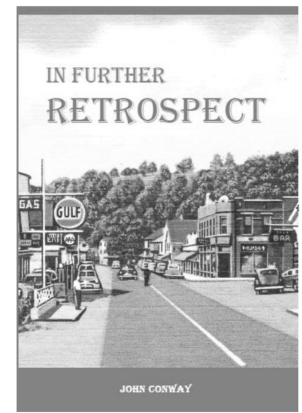
"At a time when we face an unprecedented public health emergency, the safety and well-being of New Yorkers depends on getting timely, accurate informa-

tion about what they can and should be doing, the actions government is taking, and the resources that are available to constituents to help them," Senator Metzger said. "The facts on the ground are changing daily, and it can be hard to keep up. My office is seeking to make it easier by providing an accessible, easy-to-read, and regularly updated online resource."

Constituents can access the COVID-19: INFORMATION & RESOURCE GUIDE at [bit.ly/SD42-COVID19-GUIDE](http://bit.ly/SD42-COVID19-GUIDE) or by visiting Metzger's Senate website, [metzger.nysenate.gov](http://metzger.nysenate.gov).

For information, assistance or to submit tips, constituents can reach Senator Metzger's office by phone at (845) 344-3311, or by email at [metzger@nysenate.gov](mailto:metzger@nysenate.gov).

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# THE SECRET

An Original Short Story by Jack Robbin

Part III

**Fallsburg Constable Bronco Kelly has taken his dying relative, the aged Mavey O'Toole to Monticello Hospital where she asks to speak privately to him. Mavey is in the middle of telling Bronco something she promised would be life changing when she lapsed into unconsciousness. That's where we pick up our story...**

Sarah and I sat silently in the small waiting room at the Monticello Hospital for what seemed like an eternity. Sarah had closed her eyes, but I could not get comfortable. Obviously, the hospital's chairs were not intended for someone of my size. And I could not quiet my mind, but kept mulling over what Mavey had been telling me before she passed out. My family had never really talked about our ancestors, and I knew very little about them, so most of what she had said, while not particularly earth shattering, was new to me. The big question that kept com-

ing up in my mind was just where the story was headed.

She had said that my great-great grandfather and my great grandfather had gone out one night to investigate a strange howling in the woods near their home and what they found changed their lives forever. What could that have been, I wondered.

Nothing that came immediately to mind made much sense. Was Mavey just being dramatic, perhaps? That didn't seem likely at this stage of her life. Surely she must realize that she didn't have much time left, otherwise, why tell the story at all? No, it had to be something significant.

I had totally lost track of time, and was startled when the nurse returned to let us know that Mavey had regained consciousness and although extremely weak, wanted to see me again. I turned to Sarah, who had obviously been napping, and indicated I would be back.

Mavey was actually sitting up when I entered the room, and her eyes were

alert, reacting when she saw me. I even detected a slight smile on her lips as I approached the bed.

"I'm sorry, Bronco that I passed out on you. I'm sure you must be wondering about what I was going to tell you."

"I am very curious, Mavey. Please tell me the rest of the story. What did Declan and Diarmait find when they went out to investigate the wolves howling?"

"They found two men surrounded by a pack of wolves. But the wolves were unsettled because these men were quite different from anything they had ever encountered."

"Different?"

"These men were giants. At least 10, maybe 12 feet tall."

"What?"

"Declan and Diarmait were amazed. They were able to chase the wolves off with a few rifle shots and approached the men, who stood their ground and met them face to face... well, sort of," she managed a chuckle at her own little



The Cahoonshee soon introduced Declan and Diarmait to their wives and children.

joke.

"The two men were very grateful, and soon began to tell their story. They were Native Americans, members of the Cahoonshee tribe, most of whom had been driven underground by the Lenape many, many years before. There were a

handful of men and women who lived in a remote cave in the wilderness and came out only at night, not only so they wouldn't be seen by others, but because their eyes were sensitive to the sun from generations spent underground."

"I remember reading

about the Cahoonshee."

"There were few people living in this area back then, but those that did live here were not very hospitable to outsiders. The Cahoonshee avoided contact as much as possible, and although some of the locals used to repeat legends about the giants who once lived here, no one ever reported seeing one and certainly never had anything to do with one. So their existence remained a legend, nothing more."

"So our family might have been the only ones to actually get to know them?"

"That's right," she said, and paused to catch her breath. "I am going to skip over a lot here, Bronco, because I can feel myself fading. The important part is that these men became very close friends. Soon, Declan and Diarmait met the other members of these giants' family, men and women, wives, even children. And soon, because of the isolation both groups lived in, they were intermingling, even marrying."

"Marrying? You mean... Are you telling me that we are descended from these

giants?"

"Exactly. Of course, you and I are the only ones left. There weren't many children, largely because of the problems of an average-sized woman trying to carry and deliver a giant-sized baby. It worked better for the giant women carrying the child of an average-sized man, but still, the process was difficult and did not very often result in a healthy baby."

I was stunned, and could manage only to shake my head.

"Neither side ever told anyone of the relationship, even after many years had passed," she continued. "They were afraid the people around here would shun them because the Cahoonshee of the legend were not friendly. Some locals even believed they were cannibals. Though they were actually nurturing people and very intelligent, they were feared, so this has remained a secret for all these years."

"And no one else knows this other than you?"

"And now you," she smiled weakly. "And you are to tell no one other than your first child when the time comes. That was our agreement, right?"

"Yes, Mavey, that was our agreement," I said, deciding against mentioning to her that several years ago, after an extremely difficult pregnancy, my wife, Irene, had lost our only baby just before her due date.

"Good. Then this shall remain our secret. Thank you, Bronco, I'm glad we had this little talk."

Before I could respond, I watched her mouth form a little smile, and she closed her eyes for the last time.

**That concludes our story. Remember, that the adventures of Jack Robbin's fictional character, Hurleyville resident Bronco Kelly, Fallsburg Town Constable in the 1930s, appear exclusively in the pages of The Hurleyville Sentinel.**

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND SO HAS THE PANDEMIC!

### SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR SURVIVING THESE HORRID DAYS

By Elaine Corrington

It is quite possible to be a person who loves beauty and flowers, and decorative elements inside and outside of the house and to be totally incapable of keeping plants alive. I have proven that. I can purchase a plant and enjoy it every time I pass it... and then one day I pass this drooping crusty thing that has taken over a perfectly good flowerpot, the sad remainder of the once glorious plant- gone long before its time. And this can happen again and again, in the house and in the yard. Shameful, but true... and repeated for 72 years.

Quite a few years passed before I realized that I could create a yard that could be enjoyed by others. You can enjoy fake plastic flowers and plants and if they are ten feet or so away from whoever is spying at your garden, the viewer cannot tell they are fake! You can enjoy fabric flowers in your house and change them seasonally and put them by your window to be spotted by passers-by. There are a great number of fake plants online that are fabulous and cheaper than continuously replacing real plants that have died.

If you put your change in a mayonnaise jar each day, your pockets and purses will be lighter, and you can afford a couple of new fakes every season and you can hide them away until the same season rolls around again and you add to your collection and your garden gets bigger and bigger. If you have proven that you are incapable of keeping even succulents and air plants alive, there are even beautiful plastic versions of those for weird vases and terrariums.



PHOTO PROVIDED

I have found that there is one flower that lasts from the end of March until August--the humble pansy (25 cents per plant), which provide lots of color and are very forgiving of the bad gardener. They are not able to protect themselves from the deer that come to Main Street in the dark, however. You have to get netting and/or deer repellent pods that smell bad to deer (but you don't want those around little kids).

Some of the pansies reseed as they grow, and show up blooming in new places, and some have even come up through the early snowfalls pre-winter. People will comment on what a GREAT gardener you must be. Then you have to look very humble and say the plant did it without you, and the admirer will secretly think you are just being humble.

Anyway, by the end of August we will hopefully be experiencing a marked decrease in immediate pandemic threats, and you will be busy with many things you can't do now and the garden will quiet down. It's almost winter, you will explain.

The horrible gardener, their friends, kids, and community can also enjoy a yard that is amusing, historically suggestive, celebratory, inclusive, and has secrets

their yard is WRONG! Time for a little lesson about the earth and the sun.

Old yarn can be woven on a fence as a modern work of art, a butterfly, a person, an animal. You can write a message in stones, punctuated with pieces of fallen branches that look like punctuation marks.

Do you want other people to amuse you? On the Rail Trail, or a sidewalk, make chalk games. You will be surprised at how many people cannot resist a hopscotch game, or even three different sized hopscotch games in a row for people of different sizes or who want to see if they can do all of the sizes. You can curve them and make weird patterns that make them harder and harder to hop to success.

You can also write supportive messages on the sidewalk for everyone that passes by. Beauty, support, a good laugh, exercise, it's all good. And you will have a hoot glancing out your window and watching people jumping around like maniacs thanks to your efforts!

Chris Kilgore from the Art Department at The Center for Discovery pointed out that there are tons of free online activities available during these challenging days. Singing together while maintaining social distancing and putting pictures of rainbows in your windows are two that have followers. There is even a Chalk-the-Walk. Now THAT we can do in Hurleyville!!

The best gardener for a hard time in a small town is not necessarily the one that has an elaborate and beautiful set of plants. The best gardener can be the unexpected person who cultivates joy.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Left to right are students Yenessa Cruz, Mikalah Ballard, Aisha Darboe and SueAnn Boyd from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County.

## FALLSBURG HIGH SCHOOL HOSTS CCE'S HEALTHFUL COOKING AGAIN

FALLSBURG -- For the past two years, Fallsburg High School's after-school program has held cooking classes given by SueAnn Boyd of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County (CCE). Her purpose has been to introduce healthful foods cooked with healthful recipes. Because of a revised schedule, the class has been reduced to one day a week, but that day is very full for the three girls who are participating.

On March 9, ninth graders Mikalah Ballard and Aisha Darboe, and seventh grader Yenessa Cruz were very involved preparing chicken snap wrap, colorful pasta salad and creamy Italian herb dressing. CCE provided the rotisserie chicken breast, with skin, visible fat removed, deboned and meat chopped. The girls then followed the recipe.

The pasta salad was indeed

quite colorful, with peas, cucumbers, tomatoes, green peppers, red onions, corn kernels, and green beans. The dressing's ingredients were plain yogurt, non-fat mayonnaise, skim milk, dried Italian seasoning and fresh garlic. All very healthful ingredients in recipes provided by Eat Smart New York and USDA's SNAP program.

Ms. Boyd's husband, Richard, has been on hand this year to assist her, and he gets to sample the food, as well (think official taster). By 4:30 in the afternoon, clean-up of the Home and Careers Kitchen was underway as part of Mikalah, Aisha, and Yenessa's completion of the class. Thanks to CCE and FCSD's Wellness Committee, the lessons they learn about healthful food and preparing it will be brought home to each family by their children.

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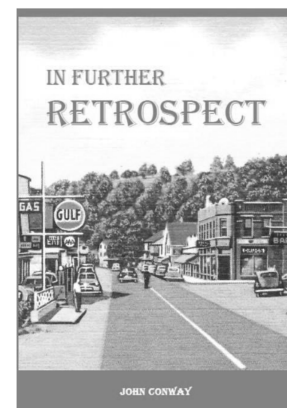
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Earth Day Events all Weekend and our Hugely Popular Annual Clothing Swap at Gallery222

MAY 7 - 6PM

The Official HPAC Ribbon Cutting with Entertainment & Refreshments in the HPAC Lobby



MAY 10 - 3PM

North Indian Classical Vocal Concert for Mother's Day

Featuring Acclaimed Hindustani Classical Vocalist Smt. Sanhita Nandi accompanied by Vivek K. Pandya on tabla and Keval Kavle on harmonium. With an introduction to the vocal style and instruments by Ray Spiegel of Simla House. Chai Tea and Masala Coffee compliments of The Arati Store

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# SENTINEL SPORTS



## BASEBALL SEASON CANCELLED!

### COMES TO ABRUPT END AFTER SULLIVAN OPENS WITH TWO WINS

by John Conway

**LOCH SHELDRAKE** — It was a promising start to the 2020 baseball season for the SUNY Sullivan Generals, who swept their opening day doubleheader, but it came to a screeching halt when the NJCAA cancelled its entire spring sports schedule.

The Generals opened the season with a sweep of the two games with Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, winning 14-0 and 9-5 on Sunday, March 8. Julian Minaya got the win in the first game, giving up just two hits in five innings while striking out eight. Jeremia Bueno drove in four runs for Sullivan in that contest.

In the second game, Jordan Kazen got the win, while Giovanni Diaz and Jeremie Goyer drove in two runs apiece for the Generals.

On March 10, the Sullivan nine travelled to New Rochelle to take on Monroe College in what turned out to be the final game of the abbreviated season. Monroe claimed a 5-4 win with a run in the bottom of the ninth inning. Seven different Generals managed hits in the game, and four different players drove in runs.

Sullivan was then to have embarked on a southern swing that would have seen the team play nine games in four states from March 13 thru 18, but the



SUNY Sullivan hurler Julian Minaya in action.

PHOTO PROVIDED

trip was called off as the result of the COVID-19 outbreak. On March 16, the NJCAA issued the following statement, cancel-

ling all spring sports:

“Following the recent recommendations from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the

NJCAA has made the difficult decision to cancel all upcoming basketball championships as well as spring competition, effec-

tive immediately.

“In light of the progressive evolution of the COVID-19 situation, the NJCAA has decided to end

all competition for the remainder of the academic year,” stated Dr. Christopher Parker, NJCAA President & CEO. “As an association, the NJCAA exhausted all possible avenues to potentially postpone competition for both upcoming basketball championships and spring sport competition. We believe following the recommendations of the CDC is in the best interest of our member colleges and our student-athletes.”

Spring competition includes all practices, regular season, postseason, and national championship play.

Regarding eligibility for spring sports, no spring sport student-athlete who

was enrolled at a member college in 2020 will be charged a year of participation.

Along with the cancellation of competition, all on and off-campus recruiting for all sports will be halted until April 15 with further evaluation to be assessed at that point in time.

The NJCAA will explore the opportunity to expand allowable Letters of Intent for spring sports for both the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years under the recommendation of the NJCAA Eligibility Committee.

The NJCAA will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as more information becomes available.”

## GENERALS MEN’S BASKETBALL ENDS SEASON ON HIGH NOTE

*Finish 28-2; Capture Region and District Championships*

by Win Hadley

**LOCH SHELDRAKE** — Eighteen wins in a row, a 28-2 overall record and a perfect 16-0 mark at home are just a few of the accomplishments of the 2019-2020 SUNY Sullivan men’s basketball team.

Coach Brent Wilson’s Generals were on a roll heading into the NJCAA tournament, having captured the Region XV and District championships, but their hopes for a National Championship were dashed by circumstances beyond their control. The championships were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

“It was a very difficult ending for what was such a great season,” Coach Wilson said. “Our kids worked so hard. Our five sophomores had been together for two years and really built up to a chance to play for a National Championship. Having it abruptly end has been difficult for them. However, there are so many people struggling globally and across the country that it really puts it in perspective for our program - this is much bigger than basketball.”

The Generals seemed to really gel as the season went on, and were barely tested in any of the Region or District tournament games. They won their Region XV semifinal game by nearly 50 points over Rockland Community College, 112-63 and then handled Orange County 77-66. Two six-point victories followed in the District Championships, 78-72 over Erie Community College and 76-70 over Essex County College.

Despite missing out on what was likely a legitimate chance at the NJCAA title, and losing five play-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Coach Brent Wilson

ers, Coach Wilson believes the Generals have laid the groundwork for another successful season next year. Besides key returnees from this year’s squad, he said he will have the benefit of a couple of players who missed the current season with injuries.

“We return Jalen Reneau and Jordan Drain, both of whom started for us,” he said. “Darvin Lovette and Ty Rivers both sat last year out due to injury and had started several games during the 2018-19 season. Our expectation is to continue to compete for championships. However, we are always actively recruiting. It is still pretty early in the spring and in the recruitment process. Especially now with Covid-19, I expect we will continue to recruit until the day classes start.”

Still, there is much to remember about the 2019-2020 season besides the thought of what might have been.

“My highlights were really just the time spent with the student-athletes,” Coach Wilson said. “They knocked down obstacles every chance they could. We had a great group of kids, and they continued to overachieve. Having the chance to see them now go through the recruitment process is fun. Darius [Lee] has some Division 1 schools recruiting him, and will graduate in May. I am excited for all of them to continue their careers.”

## MILESTONE SEASON FOR SULLIVAN WRESTLERS

*Coach Ng Excited About Next Year*

by John Conway

**LOCH SHELDRAKE** — SUNY Sullivan head wrestling coach Anthony Ng says the disappointments the team experienced this season were plentiful, but he would prefer to focus on some positive takeaways from the year.

The Generals finished 6-6 in dual meet action this year, the first time the fledgling program has ended a season at .500 or better. Two Generals qualified for the NJCAA Championship tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa—the third year in a row the team has sent multiple wrestlers to the tourney-- and more wrestlers—13-- are expected to return for next year than ever before.

Those are just some of the highlights Coach Ng says leave him optimistic about next year.

“We lost half a dozen wrestlers to injury and more to academic ineligibility,” he says. “I truly believe we should have had 5 or 6 qualify for the national tournament if we didn’t get hit so hard.

“We will be stronger next year. I am excited to have more than a dozen returners who all hold the program to the same standard that I do, a great group of kids who believe it can continue to grow and are enthusiastic to get another go at it.”

Coach Ng says he was particularly pleased with the “impressive performance” of freshman 125-pounder Liam Bullock at the national tournament.

“He went 0-2 as a first-time national qualifier, but he lost two close decisions,” Coach Ng says. “In the first round, he lost to the number 6 seed by decision and in the first round of the wrestle-backs he lost to the eventual third place finisher in another tight decision. But he won the third period in each of those matches. out-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Coach Anthony Ng

scoring those two opponents 8-0 in doing so. It was great watching him dominate the matches in the third period.”

Coach Ng says he is in the midst of an aggressive recruiting process, and already has some great new talent coming on board for next year. “We have Division 2 (small schools) Section IX 285-pound champion Devin McGovern from Chester, New York State finalist and two-time All-State selection Ryan Ellefsen from Goshen, All-Section Rob Estevez of Monroe-Woodbury, and 2020 Section IX finalist at 145 pounds, Gabe Galarza from Pine Bush.”

In addition, Coach Ng says he expects major improvement from this year’s freshman 157 pounder, former Mo-

roccan National Champion Anas Samir, who found it difficult this year adapting to the collegiate style after wrestling only international style previously.

“It was tough on him transitioning to folkstyle, particularly in the top/bottom position, as would be expected,” he says. “He has been working hard on basics and we look forward to having him as part of our program for another year.”

All in all, Coach Ng says, he feels as if things are trending upward, and the positive milestones achieved this season portend better things for the future.

“I still have high hopes for this program and I look forward to meeting the challenges along the way,” he says.

## SULLIVAN WOMEN HAD IMPRESSIVE SEASON

*Win 24 in a Row, Finish 29-2*

by Win Hadley

**LOCH SHELDRAKE** — SUNY Sullivan women’s basketball coach Derek Marchione says his first season at the helm of the Lady Generals was a “great experience” and says the team is “set to have another great year” in 2020-21.

In a storybook season, the Sullivan women finished with a 29-2 record, including 24 victories in a row, and captured the Mid-Hudson Conference, Region XV, and East District championships, earning themselves a number eight seed in the NJCAA tournament. They led the entire nation in scoring and finished second in the country in steals.

Unfortunately, the NJCAA canceled both its men’s and women’s basketball tournaments before play began in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, but even the missed opportunity to play for the national championship could not diminish the accomplishments of this year’s Lady Generals.

“The most impressive part to me was how hard these kids played every single night. It didn’t matter who we were playing or how much we were up,” Coach Marchione said. “I thought we had a legit chance to make a run at the title if we were able to play the games.”



PHOTO PROVIDED

Coach Derek Marchione

There were so many superlatives throughout the season it is difficult to single out highlights, but the Coach said he is pleased that the team achieved the goals it had set for itself at the outset.

“For us, success for the season was going to be defined by if we earned a bid to the tournament, so winning that District semifinal and the way we did it was the highlight for me,” he said. “To see the happiness on the kids’ faces in the locker room was something I will never forget. This team accomplished every goal we set besides winning a national title, and unfortunately that was something we ended up having zero control over.”

Offensively, the Lady Generals were led by phenomenal freshman guard Infinity Hammonds, who averaged 22.3 points per game, fourth best in the country among Division II

NJCAA players. Defensively, guard Kadiyah Britt led the NJCAA Division II in steals. Both players are expected to return next year, along with other key members of this year’s team.

“We will return four starters and a majority of our bench [next year]” Coach Marchione said. “We return Infinity Hammonds, who was one of the best shooters in the country, and arguably one of the best defensive backcourts in the country in Kadiyah and Kanayah Britt. We will lose just two sophomores, Adrienne Graves and Hope Harris, but I believe we have the pieces to help fill that void on the roster and kids we are looking to bring in. Adrienne Graves will be missed, and our returning bigs will have big shoes to fill.”

In 18 games for Sullivan this season, Ms. Graves averaged 19.7 points and 13.8 rebounds per game.

Sullivan has signed two new players for next season, and additional signings are anticipated. Coach Marchione says it could well be even better the second time around, and he hopes more people will get to see the Lady Generals play.

“We play an exciting brand of basketball and have some players that you don’t often see at this level,” he said.

## SULLIVAN’S ANTHONY NG HONORED

by John Conway

**WALLKILL** — SUNY Sullivan head wrestling coach Anthony Ng, who also heads up the wrestling program at Wallkill High School, has been recognized for his accomplishments by the booster group, Friends of Section 9 Wrestling.

Coach Ng was named the recipient of the group’s President’s Award for 2020.

The President’s Award is presented each year to “that person who flies under the ra-

dar but whose contributions have been significant and represent the core principles” of the organization.

Besides coaching at SUNY Sullivan and Wallkill High, he is a coach with the Hudson Valley Wrestling Academy and was formerly the head coach at Monticello High School. His high school wrestling career came at Monticello, after which he wrestled collegiately at both Boston University and the University of Buffalo.

“Coach Anthony Ng has

worked to grow both high school programs and the college program at SCCC, and we could not think of a better recipient for this award given all his efforts,” the group said in a statement announcing the award.

The Friends of Section 9 Wrestling was organized in the 2002-03 season. The primary goal of the organization is to support Section 9 wrestlers with time, money and partial scholarships.

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